

Aug / Sept 2001

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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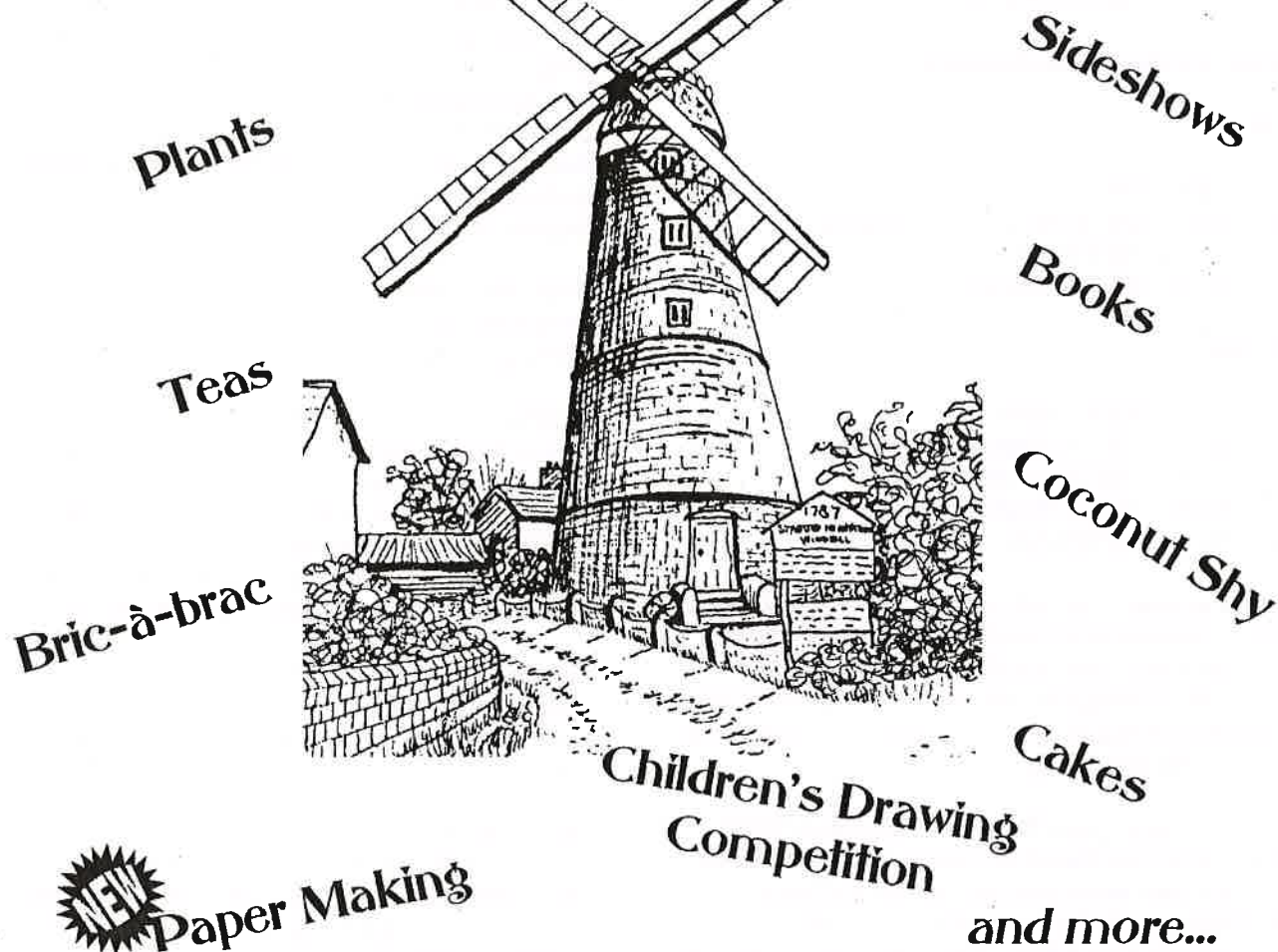
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STANSTED WINDMILL ANNUAL FÊTE



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2 - 5 pm**

"all around the Mill and inside too!"

The Link (price £3.50 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted
Advertising enquiries (temporarily) Tel 01279 647213
All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel 01279 812593

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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 August and September

August

5th	10.30	Rev M Cressey
12th	10.30	Rev D Simpson Communion
19th	10.30	Mr I Roper
26th	10.30	Rev D Simpson

September

2nd	10.30	Dr P Cressey
9th	10.30	Dr J Tollington Communion
16th	10.30	Mrs M Kendal
23rd	10.30	Rev D Simpson Harvest
30th	10.30	Mr M Dyer

A number of years of my life were spent on the west coast of Africa. Sometimes on our day off we would wander down to the harbour area and there you could see in the walls of some buildings the iron rings to which slaves had been shackled during the time of the slave trade that existed during the 17th and 18th Centuries.

Sailing ships would leave the ports of Liverpool, Bristol, London, Lisbon and Marseilles loaded with pots and pans, kettles, iron-bars, beads, guns and alcohol and catch the North Easterly winds that took them on their southerly journey towards West Africa. There they would barter their cargoes for people, mainly young men, women and children who had been captured and taken from their homes and villages. They were chained and shackled and fastened down to the lower decks of the ships that had been specially prepared for them allowing about 18 inches per person. The ships were crammed full of slaves with up to 340-360 or so per ship.

When all was ready, the ships would take the trade winds that drove them west to the Americas and the West Indies. For the duration of the journey the slaves remained shackled to the decks and when storms blew up, one can only begin to imagine just what they endured. Many did not survive the journey. Meanwhile on Sundays the crew would assemble on the upper deck for worship and ask God to provide them with a successful journey and return them safely to their loved ones as 350 people writhed in disease and agony on the decks below. Because you see, nobody

thought there was anything wrong with that. Indeed, in Britain, few thought there was anything wrong with that.

When the ships reached the West Indies the slaves were auctioned off for the best price and spent the rest of their lives on the tobacco, sugar and cotton plantations. Of the thousands that were dragged from their homelands and forced to live in a foreign land only 50% survived the ordeal to tell their stories. Once the human cargoes were discharged the ships would return to the UK loaded with cotton, tobacco and sugar, for Britain was booming with sugar and tobacco to lubricate the elegant conversations in the Tea and Coffee Houses. Shipbuilding was booming in ports all round the coast and the cotton mills in Lancashire were ticking-over like well oiled machines and no one thought there was anything wrong with that; in fact anyone who dared speak out was accused of being a traitor. Eventually the still small voice of the Quaker movement in America began to be heard in Britain and the momentum gradually grew until the slave trade was finally abolished in England in 1804.

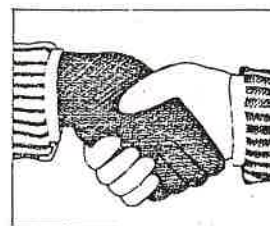
Today we all recognise how terrible, how despicable the slave trade was, yet at the time, very few thought there was anything wrong with it.

Tomorrow we will visit our supermarkets and see the shelves bursting with food from all over the world in order to satisfy our insatiable taste for something new and exciting. While our shopping malls tick-over like well oiled machines and there's nothing wrong with that - except we are aware that in many, many countries on this small planet people remain undernourished, deprived and exploited.

So today in the 21st Century people still remain chained and shackled while we have everything and only a few think there is anything wrong with that, if indeed, we think about it at all.

On a local theme, the planned extensive refurbishment of Stansted United Reformed Church was described in the March 2001 edition of "The Link". This month we are very pleased to report that the work is now around 70% complete. All things being equal, we will soon be in our new building and we are very excited about it. We now prepare to take the next step along our Pilgrim journey and look forward to sharing Worship with you in new surroundings.

David Simpson



SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting 11 am

Spring seems a while ago already but this year it seemed to me especially verdant, richly green - perhaps this was the compensation for all the wet weather we'd enjoyed complaining about, or perhaps I just imagined it or noticed it more than usual. Whichever is the case I have been struck more than ever this year by the loveliness of the trees in spring and summer. We're very lucky that our local landscape offers us so many opportunities to admire them, my own favourites being the solitary giants in the centre of a field. They are great models of dignity, resilience and the potential of life to renew itself - and they are simply beautiful to look at.

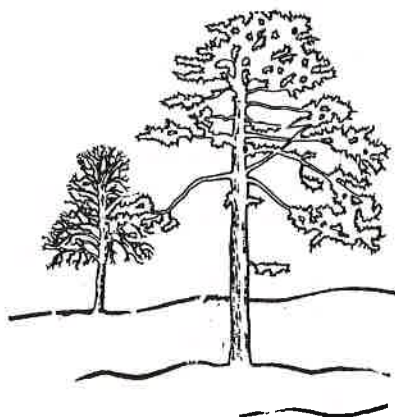
Philip Larkin's poems have the reputation of being pessimistic but some of them are more hopeful. I hope it won't seem too unseasonable to quote this one in August just because it mentions May - after all, it is always spring somewhere!

The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said
The recent buds relax and spread
Their greenness is a kind of grief.

It is that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too.
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In full-grown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.

Carolyn Burch,
Friends' Meeting



ROMAN CATHOLIC

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Sunday 9 am and 10.30 am

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8 am and 8 pm

Tuesday 9.30 am
- Saturday

Confessions
Saturday 10 am
and by appointment

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By appointment

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Stansted
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Email methodists@stansted.net

Service and Preachers for August

5th Rev'd Harry Wood
12th Rev'd John Graham - Holy Communion
19th Betty Kime
26th Rev'd Jim Gill

Service and Preachers for September

2nd Jean Jay
9th Rev'd John Crewes - Holy Communion
16th Kenneth Mark
23rd Michael Render
30th Jerry Heyhoe

Friday 14th September there will be a Fellowship Meeting.

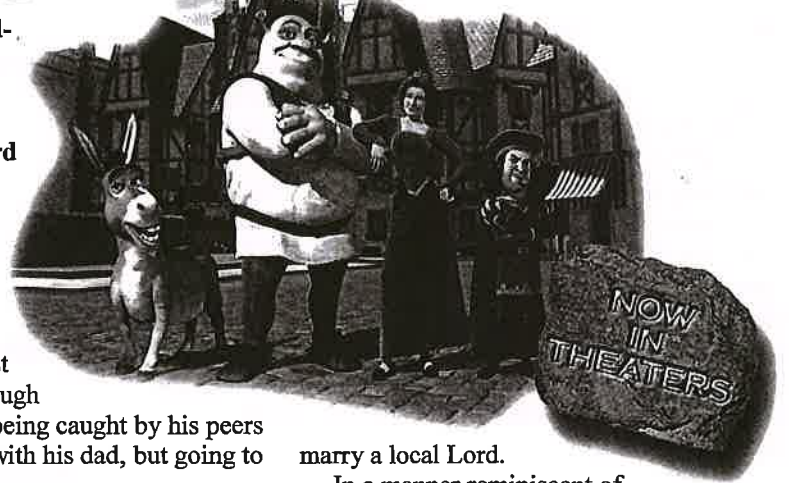


THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham

St John's, Stansted

SHREK



It was with considerable ill grace that my 15 year old son accompanied me to Stortford Cineworld last month to see the movie *Shrek*.

It proves how old I'm getting that I was entirely innocent of the angst a teenager goes through at the possibility of being caught by his peers not only going out with his dad, but going to a *kids* movie.

Shrek turned out to be a heartwarming experience, but not in the schmaltzy Disney sense, in fact it was very un-Disney. This was not simply a hi-tech animation, it was a full frontal assault on the whole Disney world. When, in the opening scenes, you see Snow White and the Sleeping Beauty set to scratch the others' eyes out, you know you're in for some top class subversion.

By the time you read this, no secrets will be given away if I summarise the plot.

Shrek is an ogre who ends up on a quest for a beautiful princess who has to be liberated from a dragon's castle. Having rescued her, the return trek reveals that the princess is under a dark spell and, by night, she turns into an ogre herself. During the journey, her conversations with Shrek blossom into a meeting of souls but not a meeting which can be consummated as she is bound to

marry a local Lord.

In a manner reminiscent of *The Graduate*, the wedding is the point when she realises her true love, the dragon returns on cue and eats the Lord, leaving Shrek and the princess to embrace. The twist in the tale is that the kiss transforms the princess into an ogre by day, and they live happily ever after.

This is not exactly *The Little Mermaid*, and Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks, which made the movie, has raised a question about what we believe is ideal and beautiful.

Remember that Spielberg's animation *Moses: Prince of Egypt* presented cartoon characters with a very definite semitic appearance, and raised a question about the narrow sense of the ideal beauty some of us grew up with.

We saw *Shrek* a few days after I had been told by an ethics professor that, in the United States, so-called physically ideal women were selling their eggs for vast sums to men who wanted to produce genetically 'perfect' children. He confidently told me that silicone implants and liposuction would soon be passé. In ten years time, ordinary people would be able to engineer beauty from the womb. How do we feel about this?

I find the prospect of Disney humans to be horrendous, but it is also upon us. I hear that Dreamworks' success has led to lay-offs at Walt Disney studios. I hope this means that thinking people will also find the concept of the ideal princess as redundant as those who marketed it.

Certainly one 15 year old decided subversion was cool, . . . as kids movies go. AS

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

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<church.music@stansted.net>

Youth Group
Mrs Katy Dockerill
(01279) 812997

Mother & Toddler Group
Mrs Tina South
(01279) 814371

Housegroup
Mrs Joan Freeman
(01279) 813186
<joanfreeman@zetnet.co.uk>

St. John's Diary

Sundays 8:00am Holy Communion *said*
9:30am Parish Communion
6:30pm Evening Prayer *said*
11:00am Open Door Service on the
third Sunday of the month
Wednesdays 10:00am Holy Communion
followed by coffee
7:30pm Intercessions and
Night Prayer

Tiny Tots is a mother and toddler group that meets on the second and fourth Tuesday in the month during term-time.

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.

From the Registers - Funerals

1st June	Kate Hilda Chown	aged 96	19th June	Joseph (John) Milligan Edgar	aged 57
6th June	Dorothy Elizabeth Ingram	aged 71	29th June	Kenneth M Walton	aged 71



St Mary's Church Open

St Mary's (opposite the Mountfitchet High School) will be open 2 - 6 pm
Sundays 5th Aug & 2nd Sept
Everyone Welcome



QUIZ NIGHT

In aid of Bishop's Stortford Mosque refurbishment

7.30 pm

Friday 31st August
Stansted Day Centre

Refreshments provided
Bring your own drink and glass

Tickets £5 Tel 850209



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

AUTUMN SHOW

2.30 pm Sat 8th Sept
United Reformed Church Hall

Raffle ~ Refreshments
Auction of Produce at 4 pm

ADMISSION FREE

VILLAGE EVENTS

August

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
5	Sun	Lib Dem Salmon & Wine Windmill & St Mary's open	7 Blythwood Gardens 12.30 pm 2 - 6 pm
8	Wed	RBL Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10.30 am
9	Thu	Carers' Support Group WI	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm
11	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
11 Sat - 12 Sun		Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
12	Sun	Windmill Open Green Waste Skip	2 - 6 pm Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm
13	Mon	Shalom Walk	Quaker Meeting House 7.30 pm
15	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
19 & 26	Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
27	Mon	Windmill Open & Fête	2 - 6 pm
31	Fri	Quiz	Day Centre 7.30 pm

September

2	Sun	Windmill & St Mary's open	2 - 6 pm
3	Mon - 7 Fri	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
6	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Green Waste Skip Garden Club Show	Day Centre noon - 2 pm Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm URC Hall 2.30 pm
9	Sun	Chevetogne Meeting	Quaker Meeting House 2.30 pm
10	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
12	Wed	HEAL Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon
13	Thu	Carers' Support Group WI	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm
17	Mon	WEA enrolment	Day Centre 7.30 pm
19	Wed	NCT Open House Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
20	Thu	RBL Harvest Sale	Day Centre 7.30 pm
24	Mon	Shalom Group	4 Greenfields 8 pm
29	Sat	The Coffee Ring opening	Youth Centre 1 pm

October

3	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
4	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8	Mon - 12 Fri	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm



COFFEE MORNING

10 am Wed 12th Sept
Day Centre
Cakes ~ Bric-à-Brac
Books ~ Raffle & more!!
Entry 50p to incl coffee



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THE LAST TSARS & THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

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10 - 11.30 am
Wed 19th September
Day Centre

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we do it !!

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THE COFFEE RING

Grand Opening & Barbecue
1 pm Sat 29th Sept

Youth Centre, Lower Street

For details tel 813579, email
youth2000@btinternet.com
or see elsewhere in The Link

Stansted Windmill
Open Days 2 - 6 pm



Sundays 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th August
Monday 27th August (with Fête)
Sunday 2nd September & Sunday 7th October

June/July 2001



Following the recent Elections it is intended to continue to submit monthly reports as was the case previously. This report is the first of the new session. Readers are invited as usual to comment to the undersigned on 01279 812588.

CHEVETOGNE MEETING

On Sunday 9th September 2001, there will be a visit by Rev Greavy from St Mary's Parish, Cambridge, in the Friends Meeting House, from 3 -5 pm. We will be sharing our experiences with our Chevetogne friends with members of his committee who have an exchange with Brussels.

It should be very interesting to compare how our two exchanges work and to see what we can learn from each other. All are welcome to attend.

There will be a short service followed by exchange of views and afternoon tea.

The County Council now has a majority of 19 Conservatives so it is to be hoped they will be able, over the coming sessions, to deliver their manifesto commitments: the principal one being a reduction in Council Tax. Whether it will be possible to do this remains to be seen!

Presently the months of June and July are being spent in forming new committees and allocating duties and tasks to members. Hence, to date there is little to report.

For general interest and with thanks to Mr Ray Franklin of Elsenham P.C., outlined below are some useful points on Rural Bus Services which are commended to users. Those without cars are recommended to make use of the service. The more it is used the better the service will be.

Rural Bus Services

In Elsenham there was, at one time, about four bus services daily. When the cost of providing this form of transport increased there was a resulting increase in fare charges. The result was fewer passengers. Few passengers meant further increases in costs and eventually the law of diminishing returns applied, resulting in all bus services being severely curtailed as they remain today. The "Village Link" is a new initiative in rural bus services devised by Essex County Council using funds from the government's Rural Transport Grant.

This service provides a real alternative to the car, using small buses which link together many places of interest with low fares and special deals available for regular travellers. Village Link services observe all bus stops and in rural areas there is a hail and ride service, picking up and putting down where it is safe to do so. Would-be users can purchase a "Day Villager" ticket. This allows a day's unlimited travel for £3. There is also a Young Person's Bus Card available for £10. This gives half fare for all journeys. Those aged between 16 and 24 will find this ticket is for them. Would-be users are urged to make use of this service. The more it used the better it will be. Please telephone 01245 437249 for an application form. Single and Return tickets are available. Please ask the driver for more details.

R C Wallace CC
Stansted Division

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

£2523 - 53: this is the total given to Christian Aid from Stansted and Birchanger for Christian Aid Week this year. It's a fantastic result and represents a lot of hard work by collectors and helpers and the generosity of Stansted and Birchanger residents. More people signed the tax declaration this year, so the value of our donation will be even higher. Many thanks to all concerned



Shalom

There are no meetings in August.

On Friday 31st August at 7.30 pm, we are holding a quiz at the Day Centre to raise money for the Bishop's Stortford Mosque. The Mosque has been subjected to continuous vandalism since opening in Bishop's Stortford and recently the interior has been destroyed. The quiz will show our solidarity with a vulnerable community. Tickets are £5 available from David Morson - 850209.

10th September - we open our new term with a Prayer and Praise at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

24th September - we hope to have a speaker. Venue to be announced.

Uttlesford District Council

A Quick Guide to Local Government

Three different levels of local government serve Stansted. With all the talk about joined up government you would think it would be quite straightforward but of course as with most things it is not quite like that. Link readers may find it of use to know who does what and where the District Council fits into the picture.

District Councils constitute the second level of government. They are responsible for - planning, council housing, electoral registration, environmental health, leisure, refuse collection, some car parking, some road maintenance and the collection of Council Tax. Uttlesford has 42 members of which Stansted elects 3. Ray Clifford and Alan Dean have been Stansted representatives since 1987 and myself since 1988.

The most local tier of local government is the parish or town council. Stansted Parish Council has 15 members. The Parish Council looks after local amenities such as the cemetery and open spaces. It sets a precept to the Council Tax to raise income to be spent within the Parish. Ray Clifford has been the Parish Council Chairman since 1996.

The third tier of local government is the County Council, which, because of Stansted's location, is the most geographically remote. It is responsible for strategic services - education, social services, transport, highways, libraries, waste disposal. Richard Wallace replaced Melvin Caton as Stansted's County Councillor in 1997.

Never mind if you are not sure which council does what. If you have a query or a problem that is linked to a council service then contact whichever council you think is responsible. If you have got it wrong they will soon put you through to the correct one.

You can contact them direct or often you will find it is better to go via your local councillor.

Essex County Council	01245 492211
Uttlesford District Council	01799 510510
Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council	01279 813214

The New Civic Year

The annual meeting in May marked the start of the new civic year. Councillor David Gregory from Felsted was elected Chairman. He is a keen churchgoer and has expressed his intention to worship in as many churches as possible in the district during the coming year. If any of Stansted's churches would like to invite him please write to him at the District Council offices. The Vice Chairman of the council is Councillor Jim Ketteridge of Saffron Walden. Under the government's modernisation agenda we will be moving to a streamlined committee system in the autumn. The leadership

of the Council and key chairmanships remain in the hands of the Conservative/Independent coalition.

Geoffrey Sell
District Councillor
815925



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

At the July meeting Mrs J Haylock gave an amusing and informative demonstration of home made chocolates which had everyone's mouths watering. She first explained about the different type of chocolate on the market and content of cocoa mass in these chocolates, which differs in the UK from European, as UK chocolate has 50% or under and European chocolate is over 50%. She told us the recipe to make truffles, which you can flavour with your favourite tippie, or simply roll them in coconut. She then made some mint crisps for everyone to have with their coffee, which won the seal of approval from everyone. Everyone had the opportunity to buy some chocolates to take home.

Details of the watercolour painting classes to be held in October were given out.

Members then discussed at great length the WI's constitution and whether it should be changed. This could mean cutting out intermediate annual meetings and having postal votes instead, thus saving money.

Our August meeting on the 9th in St John's Hall is a talk by Dr Peter Brandham entitled "A Camera on India". Visitors are welcome to attend this meeting.

K A Johnson
813225



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Rosi and Jim Sollars

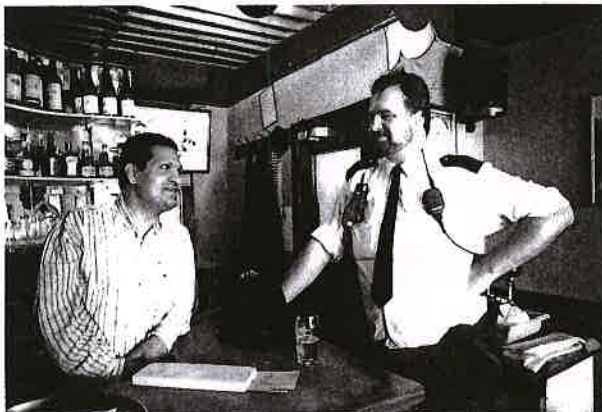
It is very easy to live your life within four or five square miles, venturing out of your metaphoric boundaries only briefly for shrink wrapped holidays or adventurous sojourns to 'London Street'.

You can see the world through the TV eye or soak up the experiences and opinions of others by reading the news whilst dipping buttery soldiers in 3 minute eggs. But then you meet the Sollars' who invite you into their home, the same as many homes in this village, and you see a different world hanging on their walls, sitting on their sideboards and living in their minds.

Jim and Rosi have lived in Stansted for 2 years. Before then they lived on and off in Deptford near the Surrey Docks. The 'off' part was spent in the Bahamas. Both Jim and Rosi were police officers when they decided to take five years unpaid leave to go and live in the Carribean. Getting the leave was difficult, involving written reports and justifications, and assurances of no conflict of interest. Today it is even more difficult to get such leave as police officers are in such short supply.

Whilst in the Bahamas Jim taught people to dive and both he and Rosi learnt to adjust to the laid-back life-style enjoyed there. Although they lived on the largest of the islands many inhabitants had no electricity or running water. People would cook on wood stoves outside and get their water from pumps. A doctor would visit once a year so medical care was administered by nurses. Everything on the island was imported and, as such, was subject to import tax which ensured you made things last. If you bought a car, you wouldn't be trading it in a couple of years later. Jim and Rosi learnt to be less materialistic and more thrifty. They adjusted to the climate well, finding the winters bitterly cold at 60 degrees and the summers pleasant in the 100s.

This slow-burning, lush life had, necessarily, to be



Kamal is the owner of the Maharani Curry House on Berwick Street. Rosi and Jim have been eating there for over 20 years.

Soho streetwalker

Rebecca Carter meets Jim Sollars (and the lady he comes home to)

Photos: Andrew Spurr

cut short after the birth of their daughter Aisha ('gift from God') in Nassau. They returned to Deptford, after a stay in Taunton with Rosi's mother, late in 1998 and cast their eyes towards Stansted shortly thereafter. One feels, however, that the heart of this family beats to a Caribbean drum. They miss the Bahamas and holiday there when they can. When they retire they would like to endure those harsh winters once again.

Jim and Rosi settled in Stansted having been bowled over by: its proximity to both the countryside and London; its affordable housing (no comment!); its facilities and its excellent butchers! Rosi is now a full time mother and child-minder, totally in love with her children (having given birth to Michael 16 months ago) and the life they have together. Jim has returned to policing and is currently a community policeman in Soho.

Soho, as described by Jim and Rosi (they have both worked there for many years), is like that little bottle of mixed spices that lurks at the back of your herb cupboard (well, mine anyway). It seems to encapsulate all things. Bedsits with four to a room rub shoulders with highly desirable apartments, more fashionable than Notting Hill. Many different races and classes are represented in its residents and there is a thriving gay community.

Of course sex sells, and sells well, in Soho. Grubby little sex shows where it costs you £5 to get in and £300 to get out, skulk around under the brighter less dubious lights

of Sunset Strip and the Raymond Review Bar. There is prostitution, but none on the streets. The prostitutes work in blocks of flats one of which had recently been raided because the police had discovered that many Eastern European girls, having escaped grey poverty at home, had found untold riches in the UK.

There is a junior school in Soho, flanked by two sex shops and attended by a rich mixture of children. There is also a church, St Anne's, in which Jim and Rosi were married in 1991, and to which Jim goes when he is working on a Sunday and can't get to St. John's.



The force that polices Soho reflects much of what has been described above. There are police officers who are gay and not afraid to be so. The Soho police force probably has the highest percentage of gay officers in the Met. This means that the gay community in Soho can trust its police force. Racism is not an issue at all in Soho, although Jim expressed concern over the 'institutional racism' tag that the police in general has been given in the past few months. He sees no evidence of it.

*Rosi and Jim
on their front
doorstep in the
Bahamas.*

*The dog,
You-you, was
inherited.*



I was impressed with Jim's dedication to his work. He calls himself a monster (a reference to his size), and I can imagine that the people he serves on his beat are glad to have him around. He talks of Soho with real affection and judges no one. Jim is

a village bobby on first name terms with everyone. His beat is not a country village, it's a patch of 'London Street' that represents all that is good and not so good in all of us.

I thoroughly enjoyed the conversation I shared with Jim and Rosi Sollars. They have done and seen so much in their lives so far, much more than I have put here and much more, I dare say, than they have told me. ●



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society's stand at the Stansted Carnival was a great success with a constant stream of visitors viewing various locally found objects, ephemera and photos. Of particular interest was the documentation from the various projects, which the Society has carried out over the years. We didn't know just how interesting this would prove to two of our visitors.

The first was a gentleman living in Lower Street who asked us if a Victorian button found in his garden and bearing the name "Brindley, Stanstead" was in fact our Stansted. By looking up our 1891 census project we found William Brindley aged 65, a tailor, and his wife Charlotte, both born in Devon, living in Silver St. (Later research has shown the earliest mention of them to be 1878 and the latest 1892).

The second was a couple from Sleaford in Lincolnshire who had a most interesting story to tell. The wife's grandfather, Captain Stephens of the Church Army, had lived and worked in Stoney Common. They had passed through Stansted many times and never stopped. On this day, the wife woke up and felt absolutely compelled to make a special visit to Stansted, being totally unaware that it was Carnival day. In the first documentation she looked at, the history of Rochford's Nurseries, she found to her astonishment and delight, several mentions of her grandfather, and more than one photo of him. She was able to correct our spelling of his name and his identification in some photos. (For those readers with the book "Around Stansted Mountfitchet", he is 3rd [not 4th] from left in the photo on pp.64 and also on the extreme left on pp 128). We are going to exchange a copy of our history for a copy of an unpublished manuscript, which her grandfather wrote of his time here.

Not earth shattering perhaps, but it is events such as these that enables us to accumulate knowledge of Stansted's past.

Paul Embleton, Chairman

Stansted Tennis Club



Junior Coaching

Chris Hollis continues to coach juniors on Monday and Thursday afternoons and also Saturday mornings. There are still a few places available so if you are interested or would like more information please contact Chris on 01279 319155. (The starting age for coaching is usually 7 but several 6 year olds have now started in the Thursday and Monday classes).

Used Tennis Balls

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

Tennis Club Garden

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

Wednesday Evening Club Session

Please note that from 5.00 pm every Wednesday adult members are welcome to come along and join in the club sessions. We would particularly like to encourage new members to come along ! Sunday morning Adult Open sessions continue from 10.00 am.

Club Tournament

The club tournament is now up and running with the largest entry for many years. Finals Day this year will be on Sunday 2nd September.

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

Answers to puzzles on page 16.

A Nose, hair, ear, shoulder, eyebrow

B 2 & 6

C Sheep, horse, pig, ass, goat, bull,
dog, cow

D B

E 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8



St Clare Hospice

St Clare Hospice is indebted to everyone who has made a donation to our annual Sunflower Appeal over the last month. Although we are yet to collect all our boxes of badges placed in retail outlets across the area, I can report on the amount raised by our recent sunflower street collections. Thanks to the generosity of local people and the time given by our wonderful volunteers, the following amounts were generated.

Friday 8th and Saturday 9th June	
Tesco supermarket, Great Dunmow	£1,427.52
Tesco supermarket, Saffron Walden	£544.95
Friday 15th and Saturday 16th June	
Safeway supermarket, Loughton	£776.00
Tuesday 26th June	
Streets of Saffron Walden	£530.70
Friday 29th and Saturday 30th June	
Sainsburys supermarket, Harlow	£557.80
The High, Harlow	£1,079.51
Friday 6th and Saturday 7th July	
High Street, Epping	£844.45
Grand Total	£5,760.93

Special thanks to the various supermarkets which allowed our volunteers to collect outside their entrances, the Saffron Walden, Dunmow, Loughton and Harlow Friends of St Clare, plus Abbey National in Harlow. All the proceeds from the Sunflower Appeal will go towards the cost of funding our much-needed Hospice Services. We provide these free of charge to people in West Essex and adjacent parts of East Hertfordshire, so every penny raised from fundraising is very gratefully received.

Jo Price,
Fundraising Administrator

Ugley Village Hall

The Village Hall on Cambridge Road, Ugley is available for hire throughout the year, for children's parties, functions, clubs, classes and social meetings.

For bookings or further information please call Susan Bone on 01279 814052



STANSTED CARNIVAL

A Visitor's View

Although the Lower Street car park is not ideal, it does provide a compact space and a feeling of "togetherness" which larger areas cannot do. That a larger number of stalls and sideshows cannot be accommodated is a down-side to this but the hard-working committee did well to get a good proportion of village organisations on parade.

The Committee members deserve our thanks and the village wishes them well in their quest for a greener site. The item from the Local History Society on another page provides a new viewpoint which shows how unexpected benefits can arise. Good luck to the Carnival!

The Editor



Photographs : Revd. Andrew Spurr.



At the end of the Summer Term we were very sorry to say goodbye to Lyn Inston. Lyn had been on the staff of St Mary's since 1990. While with us she had been responsible for IT, History, Music and RE for much of the time. In 1995 she was appointed Deputy Head and ably deputised for Mrs Cashman on many occasions, especially last year, when she became Acting Head to cover Mrs Cashman's illness. We are very grateful to her for her dedicated hard work and commitment to the school and wish her well as the new Head of Doddinghurst Junior School.

Next term we welcome Mrs Julie Gibbons and Mr Craig Arbuckle. Julie will be taking over as Deputy Head and Craig is replacing Louise, who left at Easter, as ICT/PE co-ordinator.

We wish all the Year 6 children well as they move on to their respective Secondary Schools.

Rosemary Minshull

WEA WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Our autumn course will be "The Last Tsars and the Russian Revolution". The lecturer will be Mrs Valerie Morse and she explains that the aims of the course are: "To understand the developments of Russian History between 1855 and 1917 and to understand the role of the Russian Tsar and his relationship with the rest of Russian Society. This will lead us on to the major social and political problems facing Russia during this period and the basic ideas behind Marxism. We shall learn of the causes and events of the Russian Revolution and will discuss the role of Lenin during this time".

The course will consist of ten lectures and as usual we will meet on Monday evenings at the Day Centre beginning on 17th September, the first evening enrolment between 7.30 and 8.00 pm. Lectures start at 8.00 pm. The fee for the 10 week course is £26 but the concessionary charge will be £16.

If you would like more details please contact Harold Thistle on 813250.



Royal British Legion Women's Section

After normal business had been completed at our June meeting the speaker for the evening was Miss Nancy Woodley on "Stansted Airport in Past Times".

She began in July 1942 when the USA took over Stansted Airfield. The Land Army helped the Americans to clear away trees, etc. and by November 1942 two runways had been completed. An RAF Stirling, the first aircraft to land at Stansted, unfortunately crashed on arrival but no-one was killed. On 19th March 1944, 37 B26 Bombers flew from Stansted and raided the French coast; and on D-Day the mission was to bomb Cherbourg.

The US Air Force left in August 1945. During the following years Stansted became a civil airfield with Freddie Laker and Kearsleys as the first operators; and in 1947 the airfield played a prominent role in the Berlin Airlift.

We have no branch meeting in August but our Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 8th August in the Day Centre from 10.30 am - Bric-a-brac, cakes, tombola, raffle. EVERYONE WELCOME!

Our September branch meeting will be on Thursday 20th September when we shall have our annual harvest sale in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm.

Pat Clower

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Huw Johnson Club

In spite of a weather forecast promising rain, our sports evening turned out to be sunny and dry. We say thank you to all the Lenton family for their hospitality and the use of their lovely garden. Our sporting activities were not very strenuous and a bit of friendly competition between the competitors made for a very happy evening.

Once again we must say a big thank you to our many benefactors and especially once again to the Stansted Mountfitchet Lodge of Instruction for their donation of £100. We can only carry on our Club activities, especially the holiday, because of the generosity of so many people.

A big thank you to all who attended our Coffee Morning. Look out for the date of our next event.

Would you like to put December 14th in your diary? That is the date of our Christmas Concert at St Mary's School. We would love a large audience.

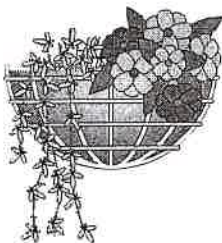
Marion Johnson



Once again we were blessed with sunshine! Stansted was invaded by people clutching maps visiting fourteen lovely gardens. It was the second "Open Gardens Day" in aid of HEAL, our local cancer charity. We would like to thank everyone who took part and especially all the visitors who helped to raise in excess of £1,000.

We hope to repeat this event next year with old and new gardens. See you then!

Sue Hitchmough



THANK YOU TO A COMMUNITY

JOHN EDGAR

Ann, Gordon and family would like to thank everyone for all the beautiful floral tributes to John at his funeral. For all the cards, letters, visits and phone calls received at the loss of my brother. To our neighbours around us for their flowers and special kindnesses and to all those, too numerous to mention, who have been so kind, caring and thoughtful. However, a very big thank you goes to Val White, our dear friend and next-door neighbour for her help and friendship, especially over the past two years.

It has been nice to know that there has been so much help, support and friendship always available in dear old Stansted during these past years. Help offered may not always have been taken but knowing that it was there for the calling was so appreciated.

We would like to thank Tom and Marion (Johnson) for giving John so many happy years enjoyed in the Huw Johnson Club, also to Derek Honour and all those members involved behind the scenes who make that club work so well.

Church was also a big part in John's life. He made so many friends there both past and present. John is now at peace with all those he loved and with Our Lord who was always first in his life.

John as you may know, had not been the old John for a good while now, but we always hoped against hope that he would pick up. Unfortunately that was not meant to be. He now leaves a big gap in our lives and we have all lost a dear friend in him.

Best wishes to all,

Ann, Gordon and family
(Dockerty)

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**MOUNTFITCHET
GARDEN CLUB**

July was an active month for the NCT with lots of outdoor events to keep us busy. Amongst other things, we painted faces at the Stansted Carnival, went berry picking, had a family barbecue and a Naughty but Nice puddings evening, went to Hatfield Forest for a Scavenger Hunt and to Audley End miniature railway to picnic and ride with our teddy bears.

Our busy schedule continues with a vengeance during the school holidays with entertainment for the grown-ups as well as the children. There is something going on every single weekday during August and many weekends too. There are family trips to Hatfield Forest, the gardens of Little Easton and to Frinton beach; the regular pub night for the dads, a pub night for the mums, an evening barbecue and, of course, pub lunches at child friendly venues.

The children will be kept busy with a host of events including a paddling pool party, which they always enjoy come rain or shine, picnics and playgrounds, an outdoor messy morning and, hopefully, trips to Wimpole Hall and Mole Hall.

Our weekly coffee sessions where the children play (outside we hope) and the parents and carers chat, continue throughout the holidays, although the times have changed slightly for the holiday period. Tiddlers and Tums, for expectant mums and those with babies and children not yet walking, are held every Monday from 2-4pm; Toddlers are Wednesday mornings from 10-11.30am and Pre-school sessions are every Friday afternoon from 2-4pm.

Anyone with pre-school children is welcome at all our events. You do not have to be a member to join in with our activities (although we hope you'll like it so much you will want to join). New faces are always made welcome.

However, the hectic social life is not the only good thing about the NCT. The NCT is a national charity and offers information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood and is run by parents for parents. For more information about our activities, antenatal classes or membership, please call Wendy on 813387.



Our August meeting was an evening visit to Beeches Nurseries at Ashdon. From the entrance it looks very small but first impressions are deceiving for it widens out and goes back a long way and is packed with plants. Well worth a visit especially if you are looking for something unusual.

At our September meeting Mr Louis Drake will talk on Aquilegias and our Autumn Show will be held in the Lecture Hall at the United Reformed Church on September 8th. It will be open to the public from 2.30 pm with an auction of produce at 4 pm.

On October 3rd, "A close look at Garden Wild Life" is the subject of Mr John Court's talk. Sounds interesting, everyone is welcome.



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A TIMELY WORD

I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" - a very big "Thank you" to all the folk who have helped me, and indeed who are still helping me, whilst I was, and still am, somewhat disabled whilst waiting to get hip-joint replacements.

Claire Francis



**STANSTED &
DISTRICT LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS.**

From 12.30pm onwards on Sunday, 5th August, a Salmon and Sparkling Wine Party will be held at 7 Blythwood Gardens (courtesy of Michael and Marion Dyer). Entrance £6.00.

For further information please ring 813432 or 814222.

Our next Ploughman's Lunches are on Saturday, 11th August and Saturday, 8th September at the Stansted Day Centre, 12.00 to 2.00 pm. All are welcome.

Robin Scarr

Coming in September!

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FROM THE EDITOR

We are not publishing a recipe this month but would be pleased to hear from any of our readers who would like to see the series retained, or from anyone who has a favourite recipe that they would like to share.

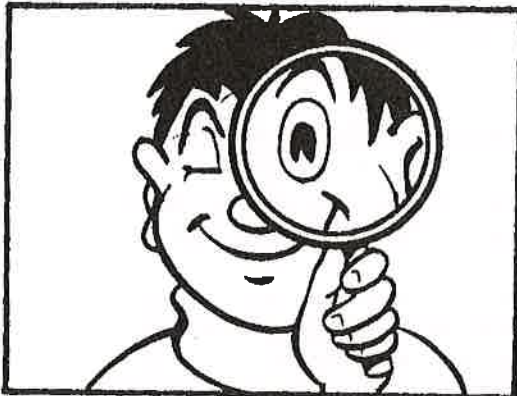
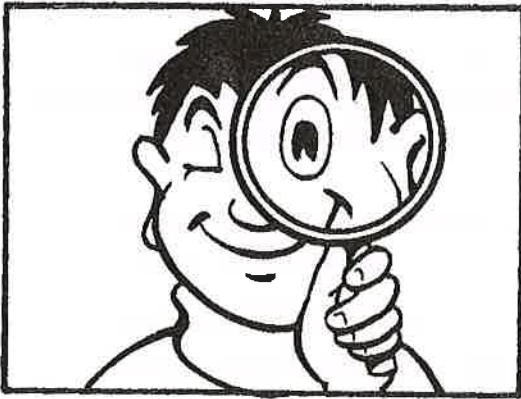
The Link Committee is immensely grateful to our Secretary, Katherine Hurford, for consenting to serve also as Acting Advertising Manager. We are still looking for someone to assist with production so if you feel that you have talents which are presently under-used please ring Derek, Katherine or Janet on 647213, 654945 or 812593 respectively.

The Link has no claim to infallibility and we have to apologise that the Helpline telephone number was wrongly quoted in one of the entries in the July issue. The correct number is 07659 550127.

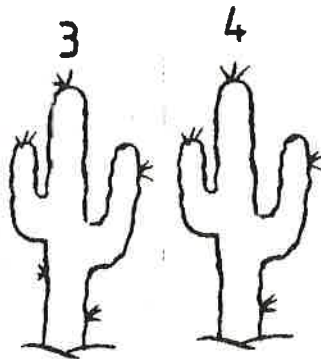
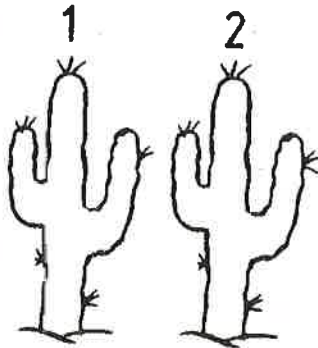
We attempt to include in each issue an advance notice of events which are due to take place during the next six weeks. There are invariably some events for which we receive no notification either directly or through the Village Diary (which lives in the Library). The Link and indeed the Village Diary is open to all organisations, so ideally we would like to hear from all secretaries and organisers. Both diaries are free, even our display notices; there is no better value anywhere!

SOME PUZZLES TO DO IN THE HOLIDAYS

A
FIND FIVE DIFFERENCES



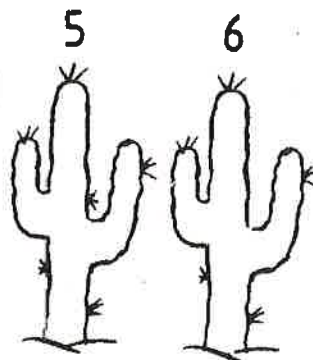
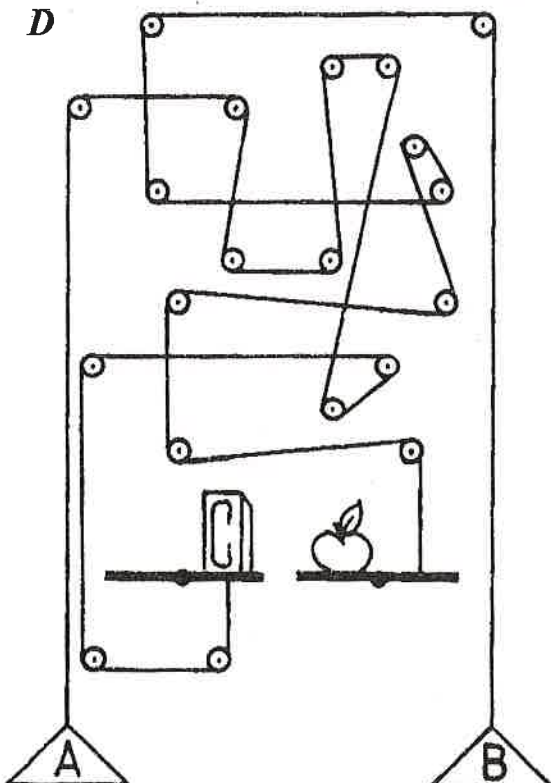
B
Which two are the same?



C
MOVING IN ANY DIRECTION, IN A STRAIGHT LINE, FIND EIGHT ANIMALS

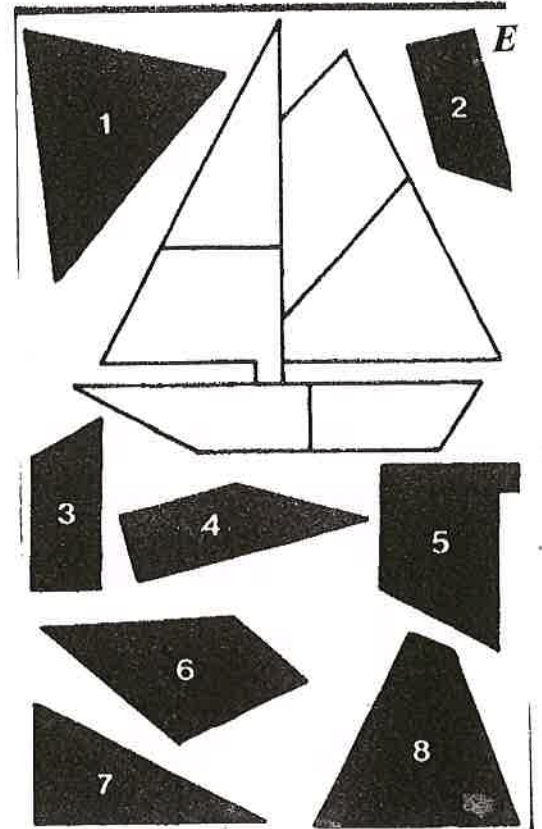
S	G	A	O	T
H	O	R	S	E
E	A	L	L	S
E	T	L	D	E
P	U	C	O	W
B	P	I	G	L

WHICH HANDLE MUST BE PULLED TO GET THE APPLE?



Answers on page 15

WHICH SHAPES MAKE THE YACHT?





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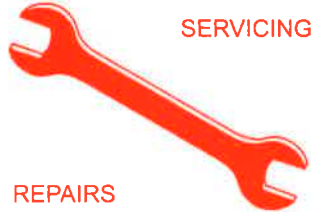
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