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The *LINK*



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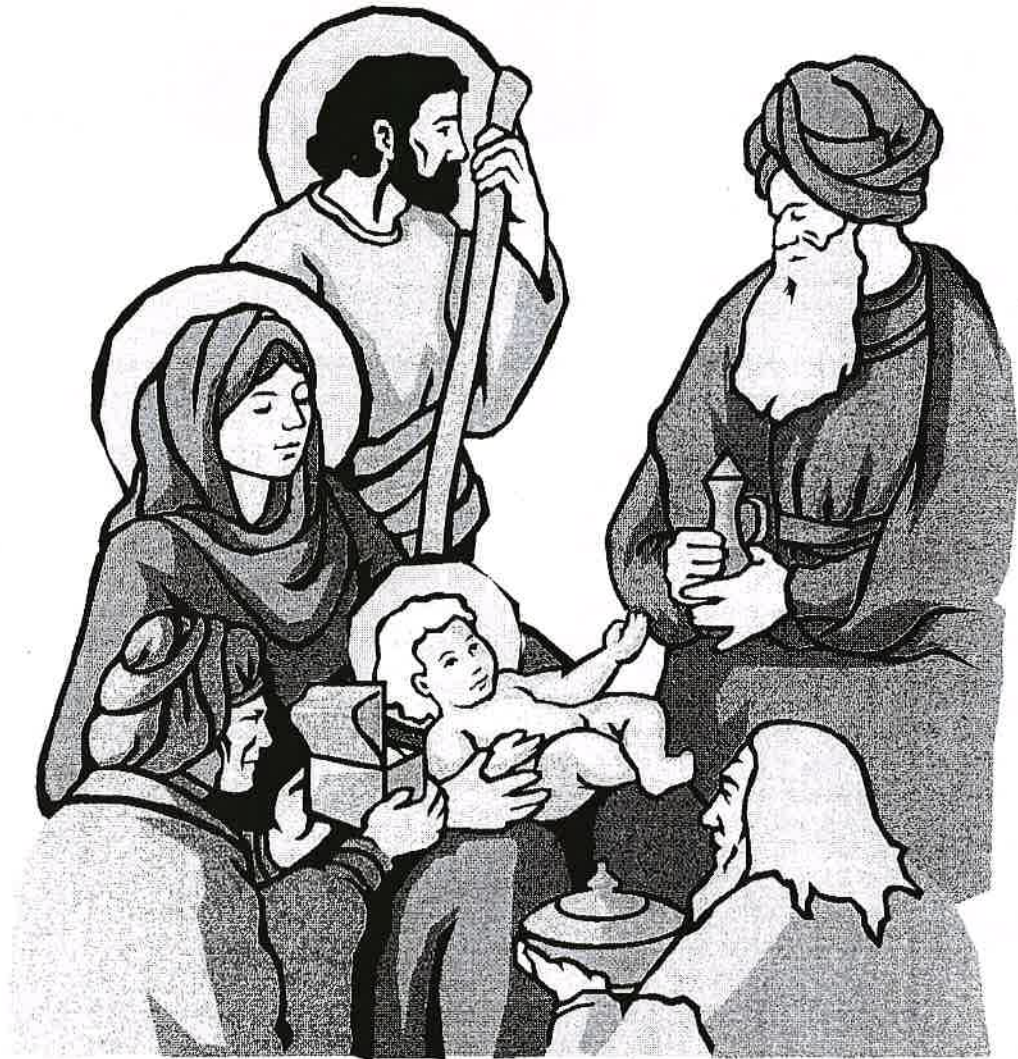
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A leaflet with details of Christmas Services is being distributed to all homes in Stansted

The Link (price £3.50 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted
Advertising enquiries Tel 01279 654945
All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel 01279 812593

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by 6th December for publication on 29th December
by 10th January for publication on 26th January
(Note early copy date for January issue)

Pastures new

This week sees the opening of the new St Theresa's Catholic Church. Andrew Spurr asks what it will mean for their parish priest.



Fr. Joe with plans for the interior of the new church. The final design has been the fruit of ongoing dialogue with the artist. The backdrop will be of a risen Christ to focus on new life.

I can remember first visiting Father Joe White six years ago in his flat above St Theresa's in Millside. The living room was a neat well-appointed space looking south over the road and west over Silver Street. It had originally been built as servants quarters, Joe explained, for the Blythwood estate across the road. It was delightful, but Joe had a longer view, 'Well its here to have and it's here to lose'. He lived there, but he was not attached to it.

"Wherever I am, it rests lightly with me. Like St Augustine said, 'what is our ultimate home?'"

Last month I made my last visit to him there. Last week, he moved for the seventh time in thirty years in the priesthood to his new home next to the new church between High Lane and Cambridge Road. It's an historic move for the Catholic community, as well as for their friends of other Christian churches, who watch with a mixture of joy and envy. I can't be the only one of his colleagues who would love the opportunity to start afresh.

St. Theresa's began in 1958 and St Anthony's, Henham was built in 1933. There were fewer Catholics in the area back then and Millside was bought and considered adequate for the congregations in those days.

The growth of the worshipping community was a steady trickle through subsequent decades. As the numbers grew, so it became apparent that Millside would soon be inadequate as

a space. "It's like a big cul-de-sac," Joe observes, "you get a big funeral there and there's nowhere for the traffic to flow. On a Sunday morning you have to go through all sorts of congestion in Silver Street just to come to mass, that's not the way it should be."

The final push to make a move came in 1998 when rot set into the Henham church building and it had to be sold. Whenever a church building ceases to be used, there is a period of adjustment and reflection. Now St Theresa's was a worship centre for Catholics from Stansted to just north of Clavering and Manuden in the west to Broxted in the east, a congregation of something in the order of 500. A desirable move now became a necessity.

"It wouldn't have happened without the gift of the land," said Joe, "The Braeckmans were very generous in giving us the site, and then we got a very good price for Millside which meant we could do a lot more than we originally thought."

St John's, Stansted

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

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 Tuesday afternoons once a fortnight in 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.

A **Housegroup** meets fortnightly. For details of any of these, call the Church Office, 815243.

Journey

Journey is a course exploring the essentials of Christian faith particularly for those who are curious and are suspicious of churchy language, and for those Christians who keep their faith, sometimes in spite of the church.

We will be running an afternoon Journey courses on Tuesdays in the New year. If you are interested in joining the group or would like to be told about future Journey courses, please call the Church Office 815243 or the Rector on 812203



It doesn't hurt to dream. The Good Friday march paused at the new site while Fr Joe described a vision which would soon become a reality.

The design had to be the right one. The Church of Reconciliation in Walsingham, built in 1982, was the inspiration, fashioned as it was after a Norfolk barn. The new St Theresa's would be an Essex barn, and they engaged Jim Boutwood, an architect from Thaxted, an Anglican and an authority on Essex barns, to design the exterior. The interior would be a modern church and has been designed by the artist Stephen Foster of Ware whose ideas have evolved in discussion with representatives of the congregation.

The move is an historic one and will be a new start for the congregations of St Theresa's, Stansted and St Anthony's, Henham who will move into a new space with a new beginning. It is a heartening sign in an era more associated with decline in the church than growth, and where the church has often been seen to be too backward looking rather than investing in the future.

The new St Theresa's will be open for worship this week, in Advent, the season of new beginnings. ●



St Therese's New Church Hall

At 5.45pm on Advent Sunday, 2nd December, there is an opportunity to see St Therese's new Church Hall in High Lane before going on to the Advent Carol Service at 6.30pm.

Advent Carol Service

Initiated and hosted by the members of the United Reformed Church, the Advent Carol Service takes place on Advent Sunday, 2nd December at 6.30pm in the newly refurbished United Reformed Church building in Chapel Hill.

Carol Singing Around Stansted

This year we shall be carol singing around the village on the weekend before Christmas, in aid of the **CHRISTIAN AID - AFGHANISTAN APPEAL**.

We meet at 7.30 pm on Saturday, 22nd December at the corner of Croasdaile and Cambridge Roads, and on Sunday, 23rd December outside the doctors' surgery in St John's Road. Everyone is most welcome to join us for a good sing followed by seasonal refreshments.

A Celebration of Christmas

A concert of congregational carols, Christmas music, readings and poetry will be held in St Mary's Church, Stansted on Saturday, 22nd December at 4 pm. Admission will be free. There will be a retiring collection in support of the **CHRISTIAN AID - AFGHANISTAN APPEAL** and The Churches Conservation Trust.

Car parking at St Mary's is limited, additional car parking will be available at the Mountfitchet High School.

Seasonal Diary

All at the parish church unless otherwise indicated

2nd December	6:30pm	Advent Carols at Stansted United Reformed Church
9th December	6:30pm	Royal British Legion Carol Service
16th December	10:00am	Confirmation Service
	3:30pm	Christingle Service
23rd December	9:30am	Parish Communion
24th December	3:00pm	Crib Service
	11:30pm	First Communion of Christmas
25th December	8:00am	Holy Communion
	9:30am	Parish Communion

From the Registers:

Baptism

14th October Lewis Matthew Gandy

Marriage

20th October Lissa Jane Collin and Rowland Godfrey Smith

Funerals

16th October Lilian Bush, aged 92 years
31st October Ida Miles, aged 91 years

Cheese and Wine Party

An event not to be missed takes place on Friday, 14th December in St John's Church at 7 for 7.30pm. Tickets, £6 Adults, £3 Children from Church Office, Church Wardens, Rosemary Thomson, Steph May and Lyn Inston.

St John's Christmas Market

Many thanks to all those who helped at, and supported, this year's Christmas Market at St John's. At the time of going to print, the total raised is not yet known but, hopefully, will be a good match for previous years and a worthy result for all the effort put in by so many people.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

Priest Father Joe White
The Presbytery
12 Millside
Stansted
Tel 01279 814349

Masses Saturday 6.00 pm
Sunday 9 am and 10.30 am

Holy Days of Obligation
8 am and 8 pm

Tuesday 9.30 am
- Saturday

Confessions

Saturday 10 am
and by appointment

Baptisms

By appointment

WE ARE MOVING !

At the end of November, we shall have left Millside and moved to our new site in High Lane, where at first we shall be using the Church Hall for a Church. Our first Mass will be at 6pm on Saturday, 1st December, followed by Masses at the usual times of 9am and 10.30am on Advent Sunday, 2nd December. More about these changes in a future issue of The LINK.

THE GOD I DON'T BELIEVE IN

Some time ago, the late Cardinal Maximos IV, the Eastern Patriarch, said, "The God that many atheists don't believe in is a God I don't believe in either." This was taken up by the Spanish priest and writer, Juan Arias, who put into words the God he didn't believe in either. The following is a shortened version of his thoughts:

No, I shall never believe in:

the God who catches man by surprise in a sin of weakness,
the God who condemns material things,
the God who loves pain,
the God who flashes a red light against human joys,
the God who sterilizes man's reason,
the God who is a magician and sorcerer,
the God who makes Himself feared,
the God who makes Himself the monopoly of a church, a race, a culture,
the God who doesn't need man,
the God incapable of smiling at many of man's awkward mistakes,
the God who 'sends' people to hell,
the God adored by those who are capable of condemning a man to death,
the God incapable of loving what many people despise,
the God incapable of forgiving what many men condemn,

the God who prevents man from growing, and conquering, transforming and overcoming themselves until they almost become gods,
the God who does not accept a seat at our human festivities,
the God who is not feared by the rich at whose doors lie the hungry and the wretched,
the aseptic God thought up by so many theologians and canonists in their ivory towers,
the God who says "You will pay for that",
the God who regards war as good.

Yes, my God is the other God.

As we approach Christmas, a time of plenty for some, a time of deep sorrow and pain for others, let us remember that God is with us in all things, in our joys and sorrows, loving us and grieving with us, with us in our goodness and in our weakness. It is a time of thinking of others, of sharing and it is also a time of festivity and gratitude. God is with us whatever our circumstances, made manifest in the birth of Christ.

Rita Morson

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

All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated

Preachers and services for December

2nd Betty Kime
6.30pm United Advent Carol Service
at the United Reformed Church

9th Jim Gill

16th Jerry Heyhoe

22nd (Sat) CTS Christmas Concert at 4pm in
St.Mary's Church

23rd United Christmas Service with Friends

30th Rev'd Harry Wood

Our Christmas party will be held on Friday, 21st at 7.30p.m. in the Day centre.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 11 am

Need a Cuddle?

On bonfire night this year our three-year-old granddaughter announced that she was going to be brave, and was going to stay and watch and not cry and need to go home. She bravely watched the first few fireworks, and then came a big rocket that exploded high in the sky with a very loud bang. She turned away and with a bit of a wail ran to her Mother, saying that she needed a cuddle! Once in the arms of Mum, she quietened down, and was soon watching again. She needed to get back to the familiar to find comfort and reassurance. We all need the familiar in times of stress and difficulty. My elder Brother, who lives in the U.S.A. not long after 11th September, rang me up, I asked him why he had phoned, and he simply said that he wanted to touch base. I think he was seeking comfort in the familiar.

My family seem to like a typical, well - our family type of Christmas, following the pattern set by ourselves, which was in turn set by our parents. I will not go into the details, as they will probably be similar to many other people's Christmas, but with our own quirky details. We all seem to like the familiar form of celebration.

If I find troubled times in my own life, or have to face changes, I like to retreat to the familiar and I seek out our Quaker book of Faith and Practice, and read familiar passages. These passages I have heard or read all my life. Two of my favourites are "We are called to live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars" and "Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone."

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and may you have Peace and Comfort in the familiar, whilst thinking about all those who are not so fortunate.

Peter Burgess



UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

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

Contact Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel 01279 812593

Preachers for December

2nd	10.30am	Mrs H Kent
	6.30pm	Ecumenical Advent Service
9th	10.30am	Rev'd D Simpson Communion
16th	10.30am	Group Christmas Gift Service with Rev'd Elizabeth Caswell, followed by coffee & mince pies
23rd	10.30am	Rev'd D Simpson
25th	10.30am	Group Christmas Day Service with Rev'd Janet Tollington
30th	11.00am	Group Service at Newport

Come and see our redeveloped Church Building and join us in a cup of coffee on Saturday 8th December at 10 am.

Our recent annual Bazaar raised over £700 for the general running expenses of the church and at our Shoe Box evening over 70 boxes were collected for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to everyone who helped to reach this magnificent total.

The rededication service of our church building will be on Saturday February 16th 2002 at 3 pm when the presiding minister will be the Rev Elizabeth Caswell, the Eastern Province Synod Moderator.



SHALOM

December Meetings:

Monday, 3rd	An Advent Meditation at the Dyers, 7 Blythwood Gardens
Monday 17th	Christmas party at Jim's, 21 Bentfield Causeway

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

Trade for Life – Christian Aid’s new campaign is calling for a major overhaul of the rules that run the international trading system.

What’s wrong with the rules at present?

It’s a rich man’s world.

- Trading regulations made by the World Trade Organisation tend to favour rich nations at the expense of the poor. Poor countries have policies imposed on them that are detrimental to their economy.
- Cheap food imports damage local markets. Rich countries are able to protect their own markets from poor countries’ exports to them.
- The activities of some transnational corporations lead to environmental degradation, the undermining of human rights and threats to the livelihoods of the most vulnerable.
- What does Christian aid want to achieve?

New rules which

- have poverty eradication as a key objective
- are monitored to check their impact on poverty
- are decided by a democratic and transparent process
- are enforced to make sure the rich as well as the poor abide by them
- cover the activities of large transnational companies as well as governments.

What can we do?

- Find out more by logging on to or ask me !
- Sign an Action Pledge card to send to politicians
- Keep on buying products that show the fairly traded logo
- Watch this space in Link for more information.

Catherine Dean



Save the Children

On Monday, 22nd October Francis and I were privileged to attend the Save the Children’s Fund Volunteer Conference at Kensington Town Hall. The theme of the conference was ‘Let the Children Speak’ - and listen to them.

One in four children worldwide live in poverty. What is the S.C.F. doing to alleviate their distress?

The S.C.F. originated in the 1920’s when Eglantyne Jebb and her sister Dorothy Buxton were moved by the plight of starving Russian children and in 1919 S.C.F. was launched

to send them food. They also campaigned to end the economic blockade of Germany and Austria and in 1923 pioneered the world’s first charter on children’s rights. In 1989 this charter formed the basis of the U.N. Convention on the rights of the child.

We were told how, in the early days, an enterprising Scots branch bought up surplus army kilts and made them into dresses for the Russian children.

Then followed four speakers focusing on the main areas of need and what is being achieved. The areas covered were health, work and education, young asylum seekers and HIV/AIDS.

“Following a Global Strategy to promote children’s right to health”, we were reminded that over 11 million children still die every year from preventable causes and highlighted the need for clean water and sanitation.

Work and education, as it is estimated that 250 million children under the age of 15 are at work, some in dangerous environments such as the gold mines of Burkino Faso.

Working with young asylum seekers - a talk given by a young man who had been helped through S.C.F., there are approximately 6000 asylum seeking children in the U.K. under the age of 18 without either parents or guardians.

The fourth was responding to HIV/AIDS. Approximately 3500 children worldwide are infected with HIV/AIDS every day.

The afternoon began with a ‘pageant’ of S.C.F. volunteers from the 1920’s and how it ‘grew’ from flag days to shops, from nurseries and free school meals. This was followed by presentations by the President, HRH the Princess Royal, to long serving volunteers, both to those who had spent many years fund-raising and for work in the field, including a trio who work in the Palestinian refugee camps.

In her address the President told us of the successes of the Fund, how she was privileged to see both the fund-raising and organisation here and to visit the volunteers in the field, and to see for herself all the difficulties that have to be overcome.

She also spoke about other projects where it was possible to forecast the emergency, provide food and shelter, so that there was the least disruption to families, especially children’s lives. These projects, however, did not make headlines in the daily press!

Sadly there is still much to be done, here and abroad, and especially in places like Afghanistan. We were urged to appreciate our successes and carry on with the good work.

A very rewarding day, Stansted is much appreciated by our “own” contact Mrs Sue Jegelman, who is now a Trustee of the Save the Children Fund.

Francis and Joan Mercer

Stansted Profile No. 40

Councillor R A E Clifford

Ray Clifford needs no introduction. Anyone who lives in Stansted knows that during his long service on the Parish Council he has given an enormous amount of time, thought and passion to the affairs and well-being of the local community. He may have a political label but he thinks in terms of getting things done and not wasting time in political wrangling.

He was born and brought up in Reading - the youngest of a family of four, with two brothers and a sister. His father was the Superintendent of the Wesleyan and General Assurance Society, and his mother a nurse and midwife. His schooling took place at Reading School. Air raid warnings interrupted everyday life at the height of the Blitz, but despite the restrictions Ray achieved academic success as well as a great interest in sport - particularly gymnastics and distance running. Spare time activities included forming a youth drama group, and fishing on the Thames at Sonning.

Leaving school in 1946, he became an assistant at an old-established philatelic auctioneers. Their office was next door to the Windmill Theatre, Piccadilly, which gave a view of a more worldly side of life. A longing to explore the world led him to leave the firm after a year and to join a shipping company as an apprentice navigator. He set sail in the S.S. Paporoa with a cargo for Canada and thence round the world unloading different cargoes in countries from Panama to the Middle East. During one of his round the world journeys he was able to take extended leave in Australia to join his geologist uncle, and tried his hand at panning for gold in Tasmania - and found it! He had the opportunity to stay there, but decided to return home.

After some years at sea he joined a Greek family-owned shipping company, and became a Ship Manager, based at the Baltic Exchange, though still travelling widely.

In 1951 his marriage to Mieneke took place in Holland, and his family life began. His eldest daughter, Joanna, was born in 1957, followed in due course by Sarah, Zoe and Simon. The family moved to Stansted from Epsom in 1958 and settled in Ryders at Burton End, wanting the children to be brought up in the country.

It was during his fourteen years at the Baltic Exchange that his episodes of clinical depression began, and for many years he had to undergo times of hospitalisation, drug treatments and various therapies. He finally had to leave his job at the Exchange, and it was not until 1970, when he was prescribed Lithium Carbonate (as part of a small test group) that his condition dramatically improved and has not recurred.

Having left the City his next post was as Bursar at Saffron Walden Teacher Training College. This meant a big drop in salary and a move from Ryders to Cannons Mead, where Ray and Mieneke have maintained a happy family home ever

since. Their four children are now grown up and married, and they both get great pleasure from their nine grandchildren.

When the Saffron Walden Teacher Training College closed Ray was appointed Project Co-Ordinator for the charity "Outset" and conducted a survey in Harlow on the needs and aspirations of the handicapped and their families. The survey, carried out by eight full-time staff and three hundred volunteers, covered a population of 85,000. When it was completed Ray went on to be Bursar of Waterside School, first in Bishop's Stortford and then at Hassobury Park, Hazel End. He was there until 1983 when he resigned on a matter of principle.



Apart from his obvious devotion to his family, his main interest and concern is for the Stansted community. As well as having been Chairman of the Parish Council for six years, he has been a member of Uttlesford District Council for twelve years. He established the Stansted branch of the WEA., is a member of the Day Centre Management Committee, and was an active member of the Carnival Association.

I think that Ray's wide variety of career experience, as well as the suffering his illness caused, has enabled him to appreciate and understand the differing views and needs of people at a grass roots level. He thinks of himself as a man of action and it gives him great satisfaction that the nineteen projects on the Council's 'wish list' for 2001/2002 have a good chance of being achieved. He is particularly anxious that the project for a Joint Use Sport and Leisure Complex at Stansted Mountfitchet School should succeed. I hope that Stansted is long served by this cat-loving, art-loving, committed Councillor.

Katharine Hurford



STANSTED MILLERS

Windmill goods make
good Christmas presents -
*but where to get them
when the Mill is closed?*

Mill Goods Stall

under the porch of
Savages, Lower Street
by kind permission of Kay & Peter Jones

9 am - noon
Sat 1st December

If you cannot get there or want a last
minute gift, ring Peggy Honour on
647213, who keeps some items at home.

The Link Editorial Team ...

... wish all our readers a very
happy Christmas, and hope
you will be able to enjoy the
many and varied activities
which are taking place in
and around the village.

Stansted Village Association (formerly Carnival Committee)

MUSIC QUIZ

7.30 pm Sat 1st December

St John's Church Hall

Tickets £6 incl hot supper

Tel 812310 or 815904

The Link Village Events Page

Closing date for items for
January edition

Thursday 6th December

Note this is earlier than usual

See front page for details

December

VILLAGE EVENTS

1	Sat	Windmill Goods Stall Christmas Bazaar Christmas Fair Village Association Quiz	Savages, Lower St 9 am - noon Manuden School 1 pm Bentfield School 2 - 5 pm St John's Hall 7.30 pm
3	Mon	Shalom Advent Meditation	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
5	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
6	Thu	Blood Donors Local History Society	St John's Hall 2 pm & 5 pm Day Centre 8 pm
8	Sat	Coffee Morning Liberal Democrat Ploughmans	United Reformed Hall 10 am Day Centre noon - 2 pm
9	Sun	Christmas Mini-fair Village Music Club RBL Carols	Broome End Care Centre 3 pm St John's Church 3 pm St John's Church seated by 6 pm 7.30 am - 3 pm
10-14	Mon-Fri	Skip at Railway Sidings	Day Centre 10 am - 4 pm
11	Tue	Age Concern toe-nail cutting	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
13	Thu	W I	St Mary's School 7.30 pm
14	Fri	Huw Johnson Concert Cheese and wine	St John's Church 7.30 pm St Mary's School 11 am - 1 pm
15	Sat	Christmas Fayre	21 Bentfield Causeway 8 pm
17	Mon	Shalom Party	St Mary's Church 4 pm
22	Sat	Celebration of Christmas	see display
22/23	Sat & Sun	Village Carol Singing	

Bentfield Primary School

CHRISTMAS FAIR

2 - 5 pm

Saturday 1st December

Everyone welcome



Christmas Trees
Poinsettias for Sale
Santa's Grotto ~ Craft Stall
Cake Stall ~ Refreshments
Games Galore ~ Tombolas

PLUS

Raffle with Great Prizes
including a Hamper and
a Dolls' House

Admission 25 pence ~ Family £1

Manuden Primary School Christmas Bazaar

1 pm Sat 1st December

Father Christmas
Grand Draw
Nail Decorating & Hair Braiding
Mulled Wine
Children's Games
Homemade Cakes & Sweets
Refreshments
Crafts
and much, much more ...

Everyone welcome
Come & join the fun
Entry free!



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

KATHERINE SPENCER

Clarinet

SAM HAYWOOD

Piano

3 pm Sun 13th January
St John's Church

Tickets from Stansted Carpets;
Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;
Options Hair Salon, Elsenham;
or Sonia Levy 815282

£8 adults, £6 concessions
£3 children

Sponsored by the Countess
of Munster Musical Trust



Coffee Morning & Cake Stall

10 am - noon
Saturday 8th December
URC Lecture Hall

All welcome

In aid of the continuing Development
and Refurbishment Fund

Broome End Care Centre Pines Hill

Christmas Mini-fair
3 pm Sun 9th December

Residents' Craft Work ~ Tombola
Bric-à-brac ~ Raffle ~ Toys etc

In aid of Residents' Activities Fund
Come and meet us - all welcome!



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

GUILDHALL STRINGS ORCHESTRA

A concert of 'popular classics'

3 pm

Sunday 9th December
St John's Church

Tickets from Stansted Carpets;
Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;
Options Hair Salon, Elsenham;
or Sonia Levy 815282
£8 adults, £6 concessions
£3 children

*Festive mince pies served
during the interval*

VILLAGE EVENTS

January

3	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
7-11	Mon-Fri	Skip at Railway Sidings	7.30 am - 3 pm
10	Thu	W I	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
12	Sat	Liberal Democrat Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
13	Sun	Village Music Club	St John's Church 3 pm

For further details of these and other events in
January, please see the next edition of The Link,
which is due out on Sunday 30th December.

If you would like your event included, be sure to
submit details by 6th December to 58 Chapel Hill,
or email to stanstedlink@aol.com

Note: all items are subject to the editor's approval

AGE CONCERN

TOE-NAIL CUTTING

Tuesday 11th December
10 am - 4 pm
Cost: £5
Day Centre, Crafton Green



Carol Singing

You are warmly invited to join
in singing round the village
Meet at 7.30 pm

Sat 22 corner Cambridge Rd/Croasdaile
Sun 23 by doctors' in St John's Rd

Followed by refreshments
All are welcome
Hope to see you there!
Collection for Christian Aid
- Afghanistan Appeal

Recorder, flute & clarinet players
also welcome

Please tel 814059 to arrange music



A Celebration of Christmas

Congregational Carols,
Christmas Music, Readings,
and Poetry



4 pm Sat 22 December
St Mary's Church
(parking at Church & Mountfitchet School)

Everyone Welcome
Admission Free

Retiring collection for Christian Aid
- Afghanistan Appeal



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

11 am - 1 pm
Saturday 15th December

Santa's Grotto ~ Face painting
Spectacular Prize Raffle
Mulled Wine ~ Christmas Crafts
Homemade Cakes ~ Hotdogs
Children's and Adult Games
Uniform sale & much more ...
we've something for everyone
Do come along - you'll be most welcome!



STANSTED JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1986 Affiliation No. MY00969 Essex F.A.

Welcome to another S.J.F.C. page. Unfortunately we have not been keeping you up to date in the Link recently due to the re-structuring of the running of the Club. Our previous Chairman Luke Pearman has had to resign due to ill health. May I take this opportunity of wishing Luke well and thanking him for all the hard work he has put in for S.J.F.C. over the past years. Luke has stated he will still play an active role within the Club and we look forward to working with him again in his new position as President of S.J.F.C. He has little choice but to stay involved as his youngest son is an up and coming player of the Stansted Spitfires U8s.

Sadly our U13s side the Scorpions were unable to continue this season due to a lack of players. Belated thanks to Manager Tony Matthews for all the hard work he has put in over the previous years and good luck to all the players who will hopefully continue their careers elsewhere.

Currently we are running teams at the following age groups.

- Under 7 Stansted Cyclones
- Under 8 Stansted Spitfires
- Under 9 Stansted Sharks Blacks
- Under 9 Stansted Sharks Blues
- Under 10 Stansted Spartans Blues
- Under 10 Stansted Spartans Blacks
- Under 12 Stansted Swifts
- Under 14 Stansted Comets

Our Under 7s team is currently being managed by John Turner and are enjoying their first season of competitive football in the U8s League. He is ably supported by Gary King and Phil Fortune as they work towards a successful team. They are training with a squad of about 24 to date.

The Under 8s manager is Garry Pickering, who together with Tom Williams are also in their first season of competitive matches and so far have had a very solid start to their campaign.

We run two teams at Under 9s managed by Paul Palmer and Peter Telford. Both teams have had mixed fortunes this season; good luck to both for the rest of the season. At Under 10s we also have two teams - the Blues managed by myself Glyn Warwick and the Blacks whose manager is Ken Makepeace. The Blues have started the season very brightly while the Blacks have struggled to begin with but having recently signed some new players: things are looking more positive for them. The Under 10s teams will either form one squad for next season at 11-a-side or if we could attract a few more players there is a strong possibility of running two sides next year. Any budding Beckhams out there, then give me a call.

Mike Moralee is managing our Under 12s as he has done since they began many years ago. They have started this

season extremely well and are, as I write this, very near the top of their league.

Finally our Under 14s who have had an indifferent beginning to this season are managed by Dom Siracusa with his coaches Conor and Tim. It is harder to coach the boys as they get older so credit to Dom and the lads for keeping the boys together, many of whom have been playing for Stansted since the age of 7.

We also have set up within the club a Social Committee ably run by Elaine Bright and all her willing helpers. This really helps the managers so they can concentrate more on the managing and coaching of the boys and leave the fund raising event organising to the Social Committee.

We will be having our usual Quiz Night some time February/March 2002 - more details nearer the time. Once again we hope to have a club trip (probably in March / April) to a league side which involves quality coaching and a match to watch.

Also our Presentation Night will take place in May and we will also be running a Mini World Cup tournament in May/June 2002; again more details nearer the time.

Finally we are on the lookout for a manager to get our next team of U6s up and running, so if you are the parent of a football loving child you may well like to be involved in the managing / coaching of a team. It's not as hard as you may think, the club has everything in place to make a manager's job an easy one. Honest.

Don't forget, if your son isn't playing football at the moment we are only a phone call away

All the Best and Good Health

Glyn Warwick,
Chairman / Manager / Fixture Sec.
Tel : 815851

Meet The Ancestors...

A Unique Christmas Gift

For that unusual present this year, why not drag out your old, or not so old, family or special photographs and restore them to their former look. No matter how torn or faded, they can be reproduced in the presentation condition they enjoyed before the "archaeologists" were called in.

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The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood



December is a busy month on the NCT calendar for all members of the family. As usual for the time of year, the under 5's will soon be having their Christmas party with food, games, craft and a visit from the man in red. There will be a songs and stories session with lots of singing and music to get us in the festive spirit and we are hoping that the Ride on Toys in St John's Hall will help the children to get rid of all that surplus energy.

We will also be taking the little ones on the Santa Express train ride at Audley End where they hope to find Santa in his grotto and we hope someone remembers the sherry and mince pies! The mums will be having a well earned girls' night out with a 3 course meal at the Mill House with no doubt a tippie or two (taxi home for the Elsenham and Henham members then!) and the dads will also be getting together for a pre-Christmas drink.

Our coffee events continue to take place three times a week, one for each age group and there is a monthly Saturday morning event to which all parents with children under 5 are invited. Mince pies and, if we're lucky, perhaps mulled wine will be served at the last coffee event for each age group before Christmas. There are afternoon sessions from 1.30pm to 3pm (and sometimes later) for bumps and babies every Monday and for pre-schoolers every Friday and our toddlers get together from 10am to 11.30am every Wednesday morning. Coffees and activities will stop for two weeks over the holiday period from 20 December, resuming on 4 January.

If you would like a copy of our free diary sheet showing you what is going on, when and where, then please call Wendy on 813387.

All parents or carers with pre-school children are most welcome at any of our activities, coffees or events. We love to see new faces and you can be guaranteed of a warm welcome. You do not have to be a member to come along to any of our activities, although joining helps to fund our core work.

The NCT is a national charity offering information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood and is run by parents for parents. For membership enquiries or information about any of our activities, please call Wendy on 813387.



We have had a good start to nursery this year, all the children have settled in well, we have had our AGM and elected a new committee.

Auntie Ann and Auntie Teri have been very busy with the children. In September we had our own harvest festival service in St John's Church and in October they learned how to make a Hallowe'en lantern; the older group took a pumpkin home to make their own lantern.

Fund raising events have been started already and by the time this goes to print the children will have completed their alphabet square scavenger hunt, and the older group will have been on their visit to Stansted Airport. Other fundraising events so far include selling glow necklaces at the village bonfire night at Elms Farm and Rainbow T-shirts and sweatshirts are again on sale.

The children have already started their preparations for Christmas and have already made their Christmas cake (It was reported that Auntie Ann's kitchen smelt lovely whilst this was cooking) and on Monday, 17th December the children will be performing their Christmas nativity concert.

If you would like more information about Rainbow pre-school call 07996 506997. Or why not come and visit us Monday to Friday between 9.15 to midday.

Tina South

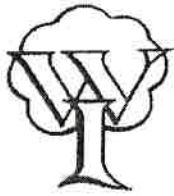


GRAHAM SCHOOL OF DANCE

R.A.D. Ballet Classes held in Stansted

Also at Bishop's Stortford
Classes in Ballet, Tap & Modern Dance,
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For details & prospectus please
tel 01371 878410 or visit us at
www.grahamschoolofdance.fsnet.co.uk
email: philip@grahamschoolofdance.fsnet.co.uk



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Flower arranging for Christmas' was the theme of our November meeting. Jean Crane, a natural flower arranger, demonstrated four different festive arrangements using long-lasting fresh greenery, cones, candles and paper flowers. The title of her talk was "A Time to Remember". While demonstrating she kept us amused with tales of mishaps that had befallen her husband and herself. Her four creations were later put into our evening's raffle with all members hoping they would be winners. She was thanked for a most informative demonstration by Mrs Olive Bunting.

During business members were informed we had sent a letter to the Parish Council with our suggestions for the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations next June, also our ongoing thoughts on the refurbishments to the village's Knight signs which we hope will be done in time for the Jubilee.

Our art classes are going well with members of Ugley WI joining us each week producing what we hope will be masterpieces.

Members who had helped with the refreshments at the Art and Craft Market and those who had made cakes were thanked by Brenda Ryan. She said a profit of £172 had been made which goes towards the funds raised for local charities.

After our coffee break we continued with our AGM. Our treasurer, Sue Holland, took us through the accounts which once again, due to members' and the committee's fund raising efforts, have proved very healthy.

The committee's Annual Report was then given in the absence of our secretary, Judy Colliver, by Brenda Ryan. It showed we had had a very full and interesting year with outings, fund raising, art classes, members taking part in fashion shows and trips to County events.

Prizes were then presented to the winners of our monthly competitions. The first was Kath Johnson who received our competition Cup and a money prize, second and third were Jean Fuller and Judy Colliver, who also received money prizes.

Mrs Marion Pretty then gave her President's address in which she thanked her committee and the members for all their help during the past year. Mrs Pretty and Mrs Holland were then presented with a gift to thank them for all their hard work during the past year.

The meeting was then taken by Mrs Wellings who presented the committee for the coming year to the members. Mrs Pretty was then returned as President for another year.

The meeting closed with the drawing of the raffle, which of course included four Christmas flower arrangements, and the results of this month's competition of "A Vase".

Next month's meeting on December 13th is in St John's Hall, 7.30 for 7.45 pm when we will be entertained by our own members giving two talks. We will also have a bumper trading stall.

Visitors are welcome.

Brenda Ryan
812725



What an opening night we had when Florian Uhlig paid a return visit for the first concert of our new season. Tumultuous applause filled St John's Church and, after two encores, everyone left absolutely elated.

We hope to continue the momentum on Sunday 9th December at 3pm with a concert of "popular classics" by the Guildhall Strings Orchestra directed by Robert Salter. They will be playing - Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, Elgar's Serenade for Strings, the Holberg Suite by Grieg, Barber's Adagio and the Tchaikovsky Serenade. Festive mince pies will be served during the interval.

Tickets, as usual, are available from:-

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

Adults £8, Concessions £6, Children £3.

On Sunday, 13th January at 3pm clarinettist Katherine Spencer with pianist Sam Haywood will be giving a recital to include music by Mozart, Chopin, Horovitz and Rachmaninov. Warming mulled wine will be served during the interval. Further details will be in the next issue of The LINK; please note this date in your new 2002 diary!!

Alan Corbishley



A Trip Down Memory Lane

About 2 years ago, some of you might remember the sight of several 'quite senior' members of the village and beyond trekking round the village, visiting old haunts of yesteryear and reliving golden memories. The organiser of this extravaganza was a highly revered former resident. Keith Turner, whom many of you will remember as a former scout leader and choirmaster in the village.

This year Keith had the notion to set up a much more complicated (in organising) reunion of the former scouts from the 1940's and 1950's 1st Stansted Scout Troop. This was to take place in the Cromer area of Norfolk where the scouts used to go camping. There were two sites, one in the grounds of Felbrigg Hall and the other at the Roman Camp site.

Quite a few 'old scouts' were contacted and eventually seventeen stalwart 'golden oldies' arranged to meet together at Cromer, staying overnight in the Roman Camp Hotel (one of the group, a certain John 'Spud' Murray wanted us to stay overnight under canvas! But it was decided that in our advancing years a hotel was the better bet!)

I will list the seventeen participants, some of whom still reside in the village as I am sure the names will jog a lot of memories - Keith Turner, Malcolm Treacher, Terry Harnetty, Des Winder, Terry Eagleton, Billy & David Brown, Barry Francis, John Murray, John Jay, (both of whom came over from Ireland), Keith Patmore, Geoff Rice, James Rogers, Peter Brown, Richard Pollard, John Salmon and Colin Horner. We were accompanied by a 'younger ex-scout' Keith Ayres as our official photographer - very good of the 'boy' to come. Last of the Summer Wine (Junior Branch) springs to mind.



We duly met at Cromer Pier on Friday 7th September. Some of us hadn't met for over forty years and it was a wonderful reunion. It was as if it hadn't been any time at all since meeting and many memories and one or two pints of ale were shared at the initial gathering.

We then all drove to Felbrigg Hall, which is now under the National Trust. We were given a wonderful welcome by the property manager, had our pictures taken by a photographer from the Trust and then treated to a special tour of this wonderful and historic Hall, culminating in a cream and jam scone tea laid on by the Trust. This was followed by a visit to the Old Camp site near the Sextons Gate Lodge. After this we all walked down a track to Aylmerton Church, which had been specially opened for us to hold a short service.

Canon Atkins and Mr. Mitchell gave us a splendid and warm welcome. This was a feature of our visit; people were genuinely delighted to welcome us. A short and very moving service was held where we remembered absent friends and those of our former friends who had passed away.

We had been told that the church organ in this little church was rather unusual (which meant it was virtually unplayable) but Keith coaxed some very tuneful sounds from it, much to the pleasure and astonishment of Canon Atkins! (Genius at work). After the service and a bit more wandering round areas we wished to remember, we booked into our hotel. In the evening we had dinner in a private room. The combined ages of all those present totalled about 1200 years, a salutary thought! This was a wonderful occasion and many old photos, log books, old gang show programmes, etc. were perused.

It is amazing how one's memory of many years back has an uncanny clarity (when it is often a job to remember what happened the day before). Faces were identified from old school and scout photos etc. It was a great 'wrinklies' get together and we were all reliving our youthful memories and the many tricks we used to get up to. Much hilarity prevailed and several bottles of wine bit the dust. Later we retired to the bar to continue the get together. A rather mild version of men behaving badly and several stayed up well past their bedtime. (Actually we were very well behaved!!)

After a hearty breakfast the next morning we searched for the old Roman Camp site. A lot of it appeared to have been built on - well it was about 40 years on! We all then made our way to what used to be known as the 'Tomato Sandwich Cafe'; it had changed a bit, but was still there. Then many fond farewells were said.

It is difficult to put into words the significance and pleasure of this reunion. Perhaps it can be summed up thus.

It was remarked how genuine the pleasure had been in people welcoming us. Keith Ayres (the lad!!) said he could fully understand this as he viewed it all from the point of view of someone who being quite a bit younger, he had felt privileged to have been part of the occasion, sharing so many memories which had obviously been so special to us.

Those of us who were privileged to have attended the reunion were, for a short period, happily reunited in memorable surroundings, recalling times shared together in fun and laughter.

Richard Pollard

Uttlesford District Council

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF STANSTED AIRPORT FROM 15 TO 25 MILLION PASSENGERS PER ANNUM

Uttlesford are currently considering this planning application and are in the process of consulting with the community. It is up to readers to make up their own minds about the merits of this application. I thought it might be helpful if I set out some of the arguments that have been forwarded to the Council.

The Head of Planning has received 134 letters from members of the public in support and 321 letters objecting. Representations have also been received from organisations such as the CBI, Essex Chambers of Commerce and the House Builders Federation in support, whilst environmental groups such as English Nature and Saffron Walden Friends of the Earth have registered their objections.

SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION ARE:

Employment/economic effects

Provides employment and opportunities for current and future generations. Major contributor to low unemployment in the area.

Gateway for the East of England and the local region. Improved accessibility of businesses to international partners.

Use of airport

Convenience of use. Pleasant and stress free.

Low cost airlines have put air travel within the reach of many.

Transport

The airport is an essential transport hub, responsible for accelerating the much needed unified transport infrastructure

Air Noise

Modern jets are quieter and noise is now more tolerable.

People are free to choose where to live. Those moving here are aware of the consequences.

General

Proven track record of responsible growth.

Decision should not go to public inquiry, increasing costs and delays. Money better spent on community improvement.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE APPLICATION INCLUDE:

Air Noise

More stress caused to those living under flight paths

One aircraft every 90 seconds intolerable

Air Pollution

Doubtful statements that air quality at 25 mppa will be the same as originally proposed for 15 mppa

Employment/economic effects

Low unemployment rates mean more incoming workers needing homes.

Will put strain on infrastructure of Bishop's Stortford

Landscape

Would create urban sprawl from Harlow to Cambridge

"Airport in countryside" concept lost

Decision making

Beyond scope of local planning authority due to far-reaching consequences. Should be 'called in'.

Number of regional airports should be increased and should plan for offshore airports.

Geoffrey Sell
District Councillor
Tel: 01279 815925



Ages 2½ - 5 years

Mornings 9.15 am - 12 noon

Own building in beautiful
village school grounds

Excellent facilities
& outdoor play areas

Well qualified staff

Outstanding OFSTED
Report (Nov 1999)

Come & visit - you will be
made very welcome

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Stansted Art & Craft Market

This year the Autumn sun smiled on us and the event basked in two glorious days of sunshine which helped to draw well over 1,000 visitors through the Market's doors.

Now feeling really at home after two years in our new surroundings of St John's Church and Hall, the Art & Craft Market was hailed another great success by exhibitors and visitors alike.

There were almost 30 craftspeople selling their work and some demonstrating their skills too. The Saffron Scribes also treated visitors to demonstrations of gilding and calligraphy, some of which the children could try.

A record number of paintings were entered into the exhibition and it was quite a challenge hanging and cataloguing them all in time! The standard of art was considered especially good and varied this year and shown off to better advantage by the newly-acquired spotlights on every screen.

The raffle prize of an original painting was won by Mr and Mrs Padbury of West Road, Stansted.

By the time the January 2002 edition of The Link is published we should be able to report on the distribution of profits among village groups and causes, which we hope will total, if not exceed, the £1,300 donated last year.

May we thank all who were involved in the preparation and running of the Market in any way. Without their support and encouragement the event would simply not take place! It was also particularly encouraging this year to receive some responses to our requests for help in the Link and Parish Magazines.

If you would like to be involved in the future please do get in touch. Next year's planning is already underway!

Rachel Mortishire-Smith
Stansted Art & Craft Committee
Tel: (01279) 816837



Essex County Council

An issue which is very much in the public eye at the moment is the problem of flooding, highlighted by the recent rain storms which produced the highest ever levels of water in most of the Essex river complexes. The County Council must, of course, address this problem from a strategic point of view, yet from the householder's point of view this approach does not deal with the problem of today or yesterday, when water is actually in the house, garden or garage. Urgent thought is now being given to this problem and the discussions of the next few months will see some solutions.

The problem is one which is not easily solved because many interests are involved, each with a differing agenda.

County Highways has some responsibilities for the maintenance and development of road drainage.

The Environment Agency has some responsibilities for management of the river complexes.

The Water Boards have responsibilities for water catchment

Farmers and landowners are responsible for the drainage of their land using drains and ditches which interface with the duties of the Authorities and Agencies mentioned above.

Taking the vested interests quoted and comparing these with the efficiency of the field drainage systems which have improved greatly, it is easy to see why flooding has developed into a yearly occurrence.

The County Council has recognised this and is moving to deal with the problem by convening meetings and discussion groups to try to reach a common approach which, with luck and perhaps too late for this year, will achieve solutions during the coming months. Let us hope so.

Should any reader wish to discuss the problems and make helpful suggestions for consideration by the Committees they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace
County Councillor
Stansted Division



Nature Notes

Animals such as hedgehogs need a strategy to cope with the winter months. As the weather becomes colder, their food supply of worms, beetles, slugs, etc. becomes scarcer. Foraging for food uses up energy and if no food is found that energy is not replaced. Keeping the body warm also uses up energy, as do all normal activities such as breathing and digestion. So the hedgehog cuts down energy consumption to a minimum and allows its body temperature to fall from about 35° to 10° or less. The heart rate slows right down and breathing almost stops. This state of inactivity is known as hibernation.

In the weeks before hibernating hedgehogs have to eat enough to build up a layer of 'white' fat under the skin. This can form up to one third of their total weight and will enable them to survive during hibernation. They also develop a store of 'brown' fat around the shoulder area which is used to generate heat on the occasions they wake up. This can happen once a week, although some animals remain inactive for 3-4 weeks.

This year with the warm October and mild weather locally in early November, it is quite likely that hedgehogs were still able to find sufficient food to remain active and only started to use their winter nests (known as hibernacula) once the temperature dropped.

These nests are about 20" across and quite bulky. The hedgehog collects bundles of leaves and perhaps grass or bracken and makes a large pile on the ground (against logs or bramble stems, or under a shed). It then pushes through to the middle of the pile and shuffles round and round until all the leaves are packed flat and facing the same direction. The resulting nest with its 4" thick walls is well insulated and very weatherproof. The temperature inside remains at between 1°C and 5°C whatever the outside air temperature.

The winter nest made up of dry leaves is vital to the survival of the hedgehog so areas where deciduous trees are scarce (such as pinewoods and moorlands) will have low numbers of hedgehogs. Here in Stansted with its numerous trees and shrubs the hedgehog population is hopefully thriving.



Rosina Kirkwood



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

A good number of members and visitors enjoyed an amusing flower arranging demonstration given by Jean Crane of Bishop's Stortford. Her theme for the evening was "Christmas", but as it was still only early November all her arrangements could be adapted for other times of the year. Her stories and skill kept everyone engrossed.

Our December meeting takes the form of a Christmas party with a quiz, and there is no meeting in January.

We wish all Link readers a happy Christmas and a peaceful and good gardening 2002.

Janet Townsend
Chairman



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Members attending the Society's November meeting were given a most informative slide illustrated presentation guided tour of Thaxted. Speaker Roseanna Kirkpatrick was able to provide for us a fascinating evening full of interest and various points of history relating to many of Thaxted's still picturesque houses, of the well known families and people, their Royal and other visitors, the famous Guildhall and Church with its mighty tower and spire, the Windmill - these being just a few of the subjects spoken of that was to make for members a most informative and enjoyable evening.

The Society's next meeting being 6th December, where members and guests hopefully will enjoy a warming Christmas welcome, followed by the evening's presentation of "The English Gentleman and his Country Estates"

Peter Brown

HIRE THE NEWLY REFURBISHED

Ugley Village Hall

With two halls, ample parking, facilities for the disabled and competitive rates, the refurbished Ugley Village Hall on Cambridge Road is ideal for clubs, classes, functions, children's parties and social meetings.

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



Royal British Legion

Women's Section



AGM's are not popular but 20 loyal members came to hear our President, Mrs Gabb, thank our Chairman and Officers for a very successful year with good speakers, two coffee mornings raising £500 and an interesting Rededication Service with County members.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports confirmed that our branch is not only alive and well, but is raising more money than ever for ex-service members. Our Chairman recalled that we had had a particularly busy year; and she gave unstinting praise to the Secretary, Treasurer, Committee and all members, mentioning many and their individual achievements by name.

Officers elected are:-

President:	Mrs. Gabb.
Chairman:	Mrs.Hollis.
Secretary:	Mrs. .Whall
Treasurer:	Mrs.Levey.
Committee:	Mesdames Blyth, Bemment, Clower, Patmore and Thistle.

Our speaker, Mr Keith Gibbs, told us about his years spent in designing and doing specialist decorating work on the interiors of many famous churches and other buildings at home and overseas. He spoke of his drawing and painting in gold leaf and fabulous colours for the King of Saudi Arabia, the Sultan of Oman, the British Ambassador's residence in Tunis, Westminster Abbey, Kenwood House and many famous Churches and Cathedrals - all illustrated by beautiful slides. We could have listened to him for hours.

We have no meeting in December or January and our next meeting will be on Thursday, 21st February 2002 in the Day Centre at 7.30pm.

Just a reminder that the Royal British Legion Carol Service this year will be in St. John's Church on Sunday, 9th December at 6.30pm. Please try to be seated by 6pm.

We wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy 2002.

Pat Clower

Stansted Tennis Club



Court Resurfacing

Having endured a couple of frustrating weeks, without members being able to play on the courts, we are pleased to say that they have now been resurfaced and temporary lines put on until the Spring. Hopefully, by then the weather will be dry and the finishing touches of painting them red and green will take place.

Junior Coaching with Chris Hollis

Lessons continue on Saturday mornings from 9am. If you are interested in lessons or would like to find out more, please call Chris on 01279 319155

Christmas Dinner

If any members would like to come along to this year's Christmas Dinner, please add your name to the list in the clubhouse.

Date: Friday, 14th December
Venue: Prince of Wales, Broxton

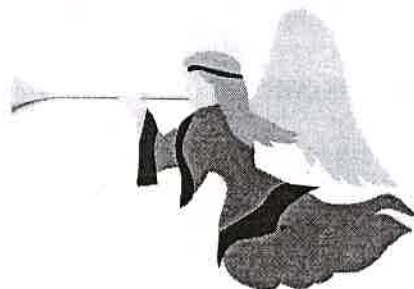
Friday Morning Club Session

Due to the fact that there is now no coaching on a Friday morning, all senior members now have the chance to come along from 9.30am for an open club session. The first of these was on Friday, 16th November, so please spread the word and come along and join in!

Used Tennis Balls

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

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





Huw Johnson Club

We are all overjoyed that we have received £5000 from the Lottery Fund. This will be used to erect a new brick shed for our equipment in St John's Churchyard.

Once again our fireworks party went with a bang. The "oohs and aahs" were a sure sign that in spite of the cold weather, everyone was enjoying the occasion. November 8th started off windy and wet and we began to despair but we wrapped up warmly and headed for Great Easton where by evening the sky was starlit and Hannah, Chris and Joanne gave us a warm welcome. As usual Hannah came up trumps with hot dogs and delicious cakes. We ended the evening with a quick rehearsal for our forthcoming concert.

Everyone is invited to join us at St Mary's School, St John's Road, on Friday December 14th at 7 for 7.30pm and enjoy our entertainment plus a mince pie or two. Put the date in your diary now.

Marion Johnson

BLOOD DONORS

Do something amazing !

If you don't like the thought of going on a first aid course but want to do something to help save people's lives, then giving blood is a pretty good alternative.

You don't have to go far to join in the fun. Sessions are held in St John's Hall, Stansted, on a regular basis and, once registered as a donor, you get invited each time the vans are in town.

If you want to know more, you can call the National Blood Service on 0845 7711 711 or visit its web site at www.blood.co.uk.

Better still, just turn up at the next session at St John's Hall on Thursday, 6th December between 2pm and 4.30pm or 5.00pm and 7.45pm. Bring a good book, have a lie down and a free cup of tea ... and do something amazing.

Daphne Carter
25-time blood donor



THE ORIGINAL BLYTHWOOD GARDEN(S)

This rare postcard photograph comes to us by courtesy of former resident Malcolm Treacher. It would appear to date from the late 1920's or '30's. The stonework in the centre of the picture could be part of a bridge or alcove. Can any reader remember? If so, please ring the Editor on 647213.

STOP PRESS

The Fun Run will return to the Stansted calendar next year. The Fun Run Committee has proposed Sunday June 16th and it is hoped that early notification can avoid any clash with other events.

THE LINK is occasionally able to include historic photographs. If any reader has a local picture(s) which may be of wider interest we would be pleased to consider publication.

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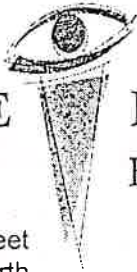
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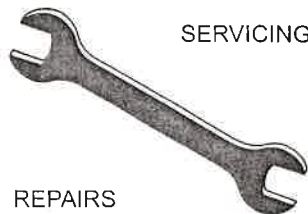
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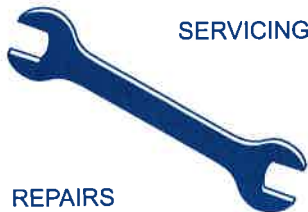
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