

Feb 2001

The *LINK*



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Mountfitchet*

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Photograph: Peter Brown

'In the Bleak Mid-winter'
An afternoon in Lime Kiln Lane

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

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editor.thelink@stansted.net
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15th March for publication on 1st April



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchchanger and Farnham

St John's, Stansted

Team Spirit

Rhys Martin takes a lighter view of our leisure commitments



With the strains of Auld Lang Syne now but a distant memory, I wonder how many of us have broken our new year's resolutions already?

There has been a lot of talk over the past few years about the decline in committed Church attendance, and the figures for this are undeniable. As we approach the new year, it is expected that this decline will continue.

Hearing this leaves me with the question: why is this happening—what are we doing wrong? So when I was given this slightly tongue-in-cheek challenge about "commitment" in the *Dover Methodist Messenger*, I felt I would like to share it with you, since I recognised so much of my own attitude in it that I felt it might also strike a chord with you.

Are the Footballgoers really taking over from the Churchgoers as the most committed worshippers in the country? Read on and see whether you agree.....

Car Parking: For the Footballgoer, this is expensive and often a long walk, but they never complain. The Churchgoer expects it to be free & right next door to the church.

Seating: For the Footballgoer, small, narrow, uncomfortable seats often with no choice as they are pre-assigned. The Churchgoer hates hard pews, and expects to be able to sit in the same place each week.

Time: A football game lasts for an hour and three quarters, including interval, extra time is a bonus. A service lasts one hour, with complaints if it goes over.

Weather: For the Footballgoer, any climate - rain, hail, sleet or snow. For the Churchgoer, any hint of bad weather is a good excuse for non-attendance.

Heating: The Footballgoer sits outside in cold weather, while the Churchgoer complains, even if the heating is on.

Cost: Football tickets at £10-20 plus £2. for

programme. Season tickets are several hundred pounds. The Churchgoer objects, to the mention of money—an appeal for extra funds can generate anger.

Atmosphere: For the Footballgoer, noisy, and lively with jostling and loud cheering. Churchgoers often sit in grim silence and complain of too much noise.

Singing: For the Footballgoer, loud (regardless of ability) and means every word, even if abusive to opposition. The Churchgoer sings at the same volume as (or quieter) than their neighbour. Often does not read or mean the words.

Actions: Footballgoer raises arms in salute, claps, sways, and waves a scarf—anything goes. The Churchgoer objects to unnecessary hand-waving, arm-raising, even clapping.

Away from match/church: The Footballgoer talks incessantly about team performance, relives action, expresses real faith in team, wears team colours to show allegiance & is willing to get involved to help & support the team. The Churchgoer keeps quiet, often does not admit to Christian faith because of "others" comments & is often not willing to get involved except for an hour each week.

Away matches: The Footballgoer will travel the length of the country to follow their team. The Churchgoer avoids having to travel (i.e.. to joint services, deanery or diocesan events).

Midweek matches: For the Footballgoer, it's a bonus to be able to "worship" the team in midweek. The Churchgoer often feels a midweek service is unnecessary.

All right, so this is a bit of fun. But perhaps we can learn something from the dedication of these Footballgoers. Some food for thought over the next 12 months, perhaps? Or maybe even an opportunity for a different kind of new year's resolution.

Rhys Martin

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>

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Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

Church Hall Bookings
Secretary
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(01279) 817937
<joy@stansted.net>

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

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Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex, CM24 8DT
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Mrs Glynis Morris
Wakeley
Leetes Lane
Eversden
Cambs, CB3 7HH
phone/fax (01223) 263640
<church.music@stansted.net>

Services for February

Sundays:
8 am Holy Communion - *said*
9.30 am Parish Communion - *sung*
and Children's Church in
the Hall - *except on 18th*

11 am 'Open Door' Family
Service- *18th only*
6.30 pm Evening Prayer - *said*

Wednesdays:
10 am Holy Communion - *said*
followed by coffee
7.30 pm Intercessions and
Night Prayer

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 February

4th	10.30 am	Dr P Cressey
11th	10.30 am	Rev'd D Simpson
18th	10.30 am	Rev'd M Cressey
25th	10.30 am	Rev'd D Simpson

Pilots and Junior Church

The Junior Church meets on the second and third Sundays of each month.

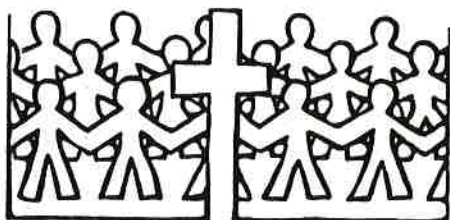
The children join with the main congregation in the church at 10.30 am and leave for their own meeting in the Lecture Hall. At the end of their meeting they return to the church to share the work that they have done with the minister and congregation.

Our children range from ages three to eleven at the moment and we would very much welcome any newcomers.

The Pilot Group at Stansted meet on the fourth Sunday of every month. Meetings take place in the Lecture Hall and begin, at the moment, at 10.15 am and continue to 11.45 am.

Pilots range in age from six to eleven at present and they follow a very varied programme during the year. New members will be very welcome.

If you wish to know any more about the above activities please contact: Michelle King (01279 758611) or Valerie Trundle (01279 813433)



Social Evening

We meet in the Lecture Hall every fourth Thursday in the month at 8 pm. Come and join us for an enjoyable evening, meeting friends old and new.

Contact; Peter Trundle (01279 813433)

A Church, Shops and a Cinema

By Peter Trundle

For those readers interested in the local and social history of the village, I have compiled and produced a booklet tracing the transition in 1946 of Stansted Airport from a former military base to a civil airport, all in a matter of months immediately after the second world war.

Much of the information for this project was obtained when I recently discovered amongst old family papers a leaflet (torn and almost completely destroyed) that had been distributed by the former London Aero and Motor Services (LAMS) who were the first company to operate out of Stansted in 1946.

The booklet includes details of how the airport was to be a self supporting unit, with employees living in converted nissen huts (there was an acute shortage of housing immediately after the war). Also an unusual feature of the development at Stansted Airport was the setting up of it's own farms within the airport boundaries.

In addition, schools, shops and a church and cinema had been put forward for planning permission, enabling the airport community every amenity for their everyday needs.

The booklet is available now from:

Peter Trundle (01279 813433)

Price: £2-50

In aid of the United Reformed Church Redevelopment Fund.

METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Secretary Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Reception Ground
Stansted
Tel 01279 813579

Email methodists@stansted.net

Services and preachers for February

4th	Michael Render
11th	Margaret Richardson
18th	Jean Hay
25th	Rev'd John Graham - Holy Communion

Fellowship meeting – Friday 9th

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting 11 am

Over the Christmas holiday, I heard a part of "Desert Island Discs" and then a few days later, I heard part of the repeat. The "stranded" guest was Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell, and she was particularly interesting, as she was talking about how difficult it had been to go against stereotype in the 1950s and 1960s – she is a physicist. Towards the end, Sue Lawley asked her about her beliefs, for she is a Quaker. The usual question was asked: "What do you *do* at Quaker meetings?" And of course we are often defined by what we *don't* do compared with other churches – we don't have the bread and wine, we don't have liturgy, we don't even sing hymns (and yes, I do miss the last bit.) Professor Bell Burnell explained that Quakerism is not about knowing the answers, but about seeking them. She explained that meetings are not usually entirely silent, but that often, two or three people will speak during the hour. "What do they speak about?" asked Sue Lawley. The reply was given: "All sorts of things - it might be about something that has happened during the week, or people might bring in something they want to read." In other words, these are prayers, readings and sermons. It is in this way that we help each other with our "seeking". What someone says in meeting may well strike a chord, and help us to view things differently.

Probably many of us who attend church are seeking. This is not restricted to Quakers. However, some people find that the liturgy and the ritual is the best way to do it, while we Quakers find the route we need in the silence, and wisdom from among our own group.

Jane Mitchell

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 2nd March at 2pm in the URC Lecture Hall.

This year's service is compiled by the women of Samoa and is entitled "Informed Prayer, Prayerful Action" Our speaker is Pat Kern, a Unitarian minister.

All are welcome – men and women.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Theresa's, Stansted with St Anthony's

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

Masses Saturday 6.00 pm
Sunday 9 am and 10.30 am

Holy Days of Obligation
8 am and 8 pm

Tuesday 9.30 am
- Saturday

Confessions
Saturday 10 am
and by appointment

Baptisms
By appointment



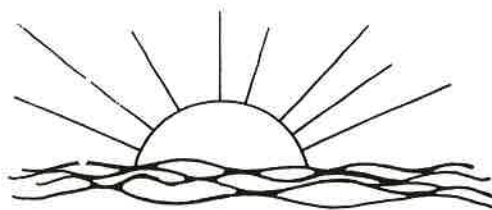
Shalom

Meetings are at 8pm All are welcome.

Monday 5th February – Video and discussion at the home of Rita and David Morson at Henham.

Monday 19th February – Tape and discussion at the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

Shalom Retreat is to be held this year on 23rd to 25th February at Hengrave Hall, Bury St.Edmunds. The leader is Elizabeth Brown from the Society of Friends. Her theme is "Walking and abiding in the light" The cost of the weekend including full board is £58. If you wish to go please let Harry Goreing know on 503764 as soon as possible.



Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

Christian Aid Supporters' Morning

This will be on Saturday 10th March 9.30am to 1.15pm at the United Reformed Church, Water Lane Bishop's Stortford. The new "Trade for Life" campaign will be launched and there will be news about this year's Christian Aid Week. Anybody who wishes to attend please let Catherine Dean know on 813579.

There is no charge and lunch will be provided.

GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT

Remember last year?



The year 2000 saw the return of the Good Friday Holiday Project. It proved so popular that we plan to run it again this year. Last time we were transported into the future, this year we go back in time to Rome in AD 50 and, in the company of Ben the Baker and his friends, we become:

Storykeepers

We have a plan,

We have resources,

We need volunteers.

Please call Lyn Inston on 816226 if you would like to join us, or email her on <storykeepers@stansted.net>

THE CHURCH 2001

The signs, they tell us, are not good. Church attendance is falling and young people are leaving the Church in droves.

Various programmes are initiated to try and turn things round. All our efforts are of no avail and we are discouraged. As older generations pass to their reward the Church shrinks and becomes impoverished till only a faithful remnant survive.

A sad but hardly exaggerated picture of the church in the year 2001? But then what did we expect?

We cannot equal our Lord's programme of crowds flocking. Miracles of healing, and, most of all, the divine personality of Jesus. Yet our Lord was rejected, hated and crucified. Why do we expect better results from our own poor efforts at spreading the gospel? We will not be crucified, probably not hated. We will simply be ignored. The body cannot expect greater success than the head. But then we wouldn't want to be better than the master... would we?

Church 2001! A remnant ignored by the world? A pathetic handful of people still clinging to a lost cause? Rather like the birth of the Church delivered from the wounded side of Christ, a handful of women and St John gathered round the cross, too full of love to go home.

Church 2001 - sounds like a return to its beginnings.

Laurence Hobbs

(Reprinted with additional edits from The Sunday Link, 24th October, 1999)



STANSTED

**STANSTED FUN RUN
PRINTER CARTRIDGE
RECYCLING PROJECT**

Yes - we are still collecting!!

A big **THANK YOU** to all those who have donated cartridges. Please keep them coming - both laser and deskjet/inkjet. 20% of the money raised will go to the Link, the remainder towards the Fun Run administrative expenses.

Please telephone Marion Dyer on 814059 or email funrun@stansted.net - collection can be arranged - or leave in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. **Thank you!**



IN MEMORIAM

BASIL IRWIN MC TD DL

After a long and rewarding life, Basil died peacefully at home on 18th November aged 81. As the subject of a Profile in *The Link* in November 1999, some of his distinguished wartime exploits and his business life became better known, but to most of us he was a much respected elder citizen who had played his part in local activities, notable among them being those of the Royal British Legion. His Rolls Royce and his Mini - were familiar sights in Stansted for many years. The Thatch remains one of our best surviving large gardens and is a fitting memorial to one who had a deep appreciation of his village community.

Derek Honour

THE REVEREND THOMAS STANLEY DAVIES

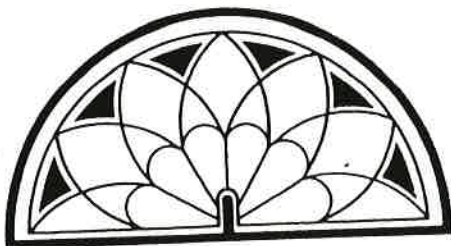
Many of you will remember the former Vicar of Stansted, the Reverend Stanley Davies who died during the first week of January. He was the incumbent in the 1970s until he retired to live in Thaxted. His retirement was in name only since until very recently he was taking services regularly in Thaxted and neighbouring villages. Personally a quiet and retiring man, his pastoral skills were appreciated on a one to one basis and he gathered around him a committed and enthusiastic group within the church. He and his wife, Christine, formed a very strong partnership, which served the parish well.

A Funeral Mass, attended by a number of Stansted parishioners, was held on Wednesday, January 10th at Thaxted Parish Church followed by a private cremation.

In a fine eulogy, the Rural Dean of Saffron Walden spoke of the role of the priest as one who draws aside the veil between man and God, and then hides himself in its folds. This makes a fitting epitaph for Stanley for whom prayer was a cornerstone of his life, and self-effacement his natural manner.

We send Christine and the three children, Diana, Nicholas and Cathy, our love and condolences.

Derek Honour and Joan Freeman



Nature Notes

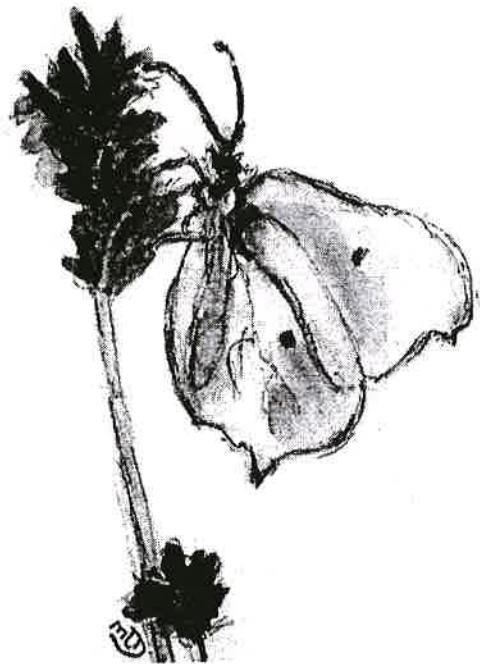
According to the old Yorkshire saying, if Candlemas Day (2nd February) is calm and fair, half the winter is still to come; whereas if it is murky and foul, then the worst of the winter is already over.

The most common waterside tree in the British Isles, the Alder, can be seen growing in clumps around the pond at Bentfield Green with the first signs of catkins (male) appearing.

'Alder' comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'aler' and is a common element in place names. 'Aldershot' for example means Alder Wood.

The ducks on the pond are Mallard interbred with farmyard ducks (slightly larger than usual and partly white). They occasionally nest in the tree holes lined with duck down feathers.

On sunlit days the first butterfly of the year can be seen on the wing. It is most likely the Yellow Brimstone, which has hibernated through the winter (in adult form) having rested out of sight within a clump of ivy or evergreen bushes where its closed wings provide effective camouflage. It is likely to be the male of the species emerging in February/March to mate. The female usually emerges a little later and is sometimes mistaken for a white butterfly.



Maureen Davies



Jumble Sale

2 - 4 pm
Sat 10th February
St John's Hall

Please call Gill on 814701
(jumble can be collected)

Refreshments

Bentfield CP School CAR BOOT SALE

Sun 11th February
10 am - noon (sellers 9 am)

£6 in advance ~ £7 on the day

Please call
Mandy 816895 Michaela 815796

St John's Church Chinese Auction

7.30 pm

Saturday 10th Feb

St John's Hall

Fundraising with a difference
Lots of laughter and fun
Tickets £5 including hot supper

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or the Benefice Office 815243

All profits to local charities

VILLAGE EVENTS

February

1	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Sat	Lib Dem Cheese & Wine	Churchmead, Widdington 8 pm
5	Mon	Shalom Group	Chantry Hall, Henham 8 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
8	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
10	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughmans Rainbow Jumble Sale Chinese Auction	Day Centre noon - 2 pm St John's Hall 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.30 pm
11	Sun	Car Boot Sale	Bentfield School 10 am - noon
15	Thu	RBL (Women) Carers' Support Group	Day Centre 7.30 pm Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
17	Sat	The Entertainers	St John's Hall 7.45 for 8 pm
17	Sat - 18	Sun Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
19	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
21	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
23	Fri	HEAL Talk on Roses	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm

March

1	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
2	Fri	World Day of Prayer	URC Hall 2 pm
3	Sat	CTS Chevetogne Quiz	St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
5	Mon	Shalom Group	URC Hall 8 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
8	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
12	Mon - 15	Thu Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
21	Wed	Annual Parish Meeting	Day Centre 8 pm



Stansted Evening WI

The Entertainers

(Part of Bishop's Stortford
Operatic Society)

return with

Songs from the Shows

old and new

7.45 for 8 pm

Saturday 17th February

St John's Hall

Tickets £5

Light refreshments ~ Raffle

Tel 814433 / 812470 / 813542



QUIZ NIGHT

CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in STANSTED

in aid of
Chevetogne
Exchange Visit

7 for 7.30 pm

Saturday 3rd March

St John's Hall

Refreshments provided - Prizes - Raffle

Bring your own drink and glass

Tickets £4 from Eileen Quinn 812109

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**Informed Prayer -
Prayerful Action**

2 pm Friday 2nd March

URC Hall

Speaker Pat Kern

Everyone Welcome (ladies & men)



ROSES

A talk by Colin Homer

7.30 for 8 pm

Friday 23rd February

Day Centre. Entrance £3.

Raffle & Refreshments

For details tel Sue 814265

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Flooding in Stansted

A meeting on flooding in Stansted took place in early December. It was organised by the district council and attended by people from the Environment Agency, county highways, plus representatives from the Lower Street and St. John's Road areas.

The outcome was an undertaking by the various authorities to work much more closely together to manage the Lower Street problem. The main job is to stop the culvert becoming blocked near the Dog & Duck so that it is less likely to overflow into the street. Greater efforts will be made to keep drain grates in the highway clear from leaves. A practical tip for keeping floodwater out of homes is to place plastic sheeting against doors in addition to sandbags. The plastic is sealed against the door by the water pressure and is a well-tried method. The District Council is producing a leaflet of tips, which includes advice to drivers not to drive at great speed through floodwater. This creates a bow wave that overwhelms sandbags.

There was also a useful dialogue about the St. John's Road problem that will hopefully lead to a practical solution.

Youth Coffee Bar

The Stansted Youth 2000 coffee bar in Lower Street is getting closer to fruition. Work should begin early this year after further fundraising. If you can help the young people, please contact me.

Stansted Leisure Centre

The Council has appointed Linteum Leisure as the Preferred Bidder for the project, which is scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2002. Detailed designs are being developed for the new centre. The project is being overseen by the Council's PFI Leisure Board, on which my colleague Cllr Ray Clifford is a member. The new 'stand alone' facility at the Mountfitchet High School will include:

Fitness Gym with 40 pieces of equipment
Activity Studio for 30 people for dance, aerobics, martial arts, functions, etc
Sports Hall for badminton, 5-side football, basket ball, etc.
Cafe area
Creche for 20 children
Refurbishment of the existing Tennis Courts

Financial Assistance for local organisations

Stansted Cricket Club, which was established in 1860, received a grant of £350 from Uttlesford towards the cost of a replacement lawn mower whilst the Village Music Club which has held a number of successful concerts in St John's Church was awarded £500.

Community Achievement Awards

Congratulations to Margaret Gibbs who was successfully nominated for an award for her services to the elderly. Also to Thomas Johnson for his services to people with disabilities. The awards will be presented to Mrs. Gibbs and Mr. Johnson by the Chairman of the Council, Cllr David Miller at a reception in February.

Last-gasp change spares districts

The Government has accepted an eleventh hour change to new legislation on executive structures for councils. District Councils with a population under 85,000 (this includes Uttlesford) will be excluded from needing a split between executive members and those who carry out scrutiny. Instead, they will be able to choose a fourth option of a revamped committee system, so long as they ensure proper scrutiny of their decision-making structure. Hopefully, Uttlesford will be spared going down the road of elected mayors or cabinets.

Political Balance Alters

The Chesterfords by-election in November has changed the political complexion of the Council. Of Uttlesford's 42 councillors, 18 are Liberal Democrat, 15 Conservative, 6 Independent, 2 Labour and one Independent Liberal Democrat. The Conservative/Independent Alliance, which has been running the council no longer has an overall majority. This may result in all parties having to work together in order to push policies through. An outbreak of consensus politics may be no bad thing.

Alan Dean
District Councillor
Tel: 01279 813 579

Geoffrey Sell
District Councillor
Tel: 01279 815 925

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Profile No. 31

Dallas and Geoffrey Snow

In 1920 when the Fuller Maitland estate was sold off, Mr Walter Snow bought the little cottage now known as No. 2, The Thatch, Burton End for £60. His son Dallas ("mother saw the name in a book") who had, like his father, been born in Woodfields, was then two years old; brother John was born some two years later and Geoffrey in 1924. John died young, in his thirties, but 'the boys,' as so many know them, still live in the same cottage.

The mile and a half walk to the Church School in Lower Street was a long one - accompanied by Miss Crane who taught there. Young Dal enjoyed his schooldays under the Headship of Mr Dearch and in later years Geoff remembers Mr Enoch teaching there - who later became the Headmaster of the Secondary School on Chapel Hill. "He was a vicious man even then". Did they get the cane? Of course they did - but neither of them will let on the reason why ...!

Dal won rewards for learning poetry - the long epic verses beloved by the Victorians and the curriculum was still the same in the 1920s. The "reward" was being let out of school 15 minutes early - not much fun for a boy who had to wait to take his little brother home to Burton End. More tangible awards were in the shape of medals for essays on "The British Empire". Dal still has both the medals and the prize-winning essays. Later in life he was to win further prizes at County level for chess. Geoff was not as competitive as his elder brother - in fact he had to spend a whole year off school following a football injury to his ankle - causing great anxiety in the family; before anti-biotics there was a possibility he would lose his foot - he didn't but it did stop him from playing games. Dal played cricket for Burton End for a good many years, before the motorway closed their ground and the team became Stansted Hall. Both brothers are still supporters of the Football Club - the great highlight of their attendance at "away games" was Stansted's victory in the F.A. Vase match at Wembley in 1984.

In the 1920s a boy from a working class background needed a sponsor to get to Grammar School - so both left school - Dal at 14 and Geoff at 15. Dal's first job was to take a horse to be shod at Jim Brett's Forge in Chapel Hill - terrified that in the mile or so from Burton End the great beast would tread on him. Dal rode a "trade bike" for Mr & Mrs Dyer, who managed the Mica factory. Mrs Dyer made cakes and young Dallas had to deliver them all round the villages - "There was no sampling my wares - she'd counted every one". His first proper job - and venturing out of Stansted was for 5 shillings a week - riding with a lorry all round London, collecting wood, then chopping and bundling it for firewood.

Dal was much more interested in the new engineering works coming to the area and joined the Ernest Lake factory in Bishop's Stortford - hours 8 am till 8 pm - and soon advanced to "setting up" machinery. 1938 saw the Military Training Act - and in World War I uniforms - puttees and

breeches - Dallas was sent to Oswestry where he trained with a searchlight battery before being told he was to return for training in a reserved occupation as an engineer - back to Lakes - and then followed years in Liverpool and Chester working on aircraft engines for Typhoons and Wellingtons. Still far from home when the end of the war came - when men returning from war service forced him out of a job - labour relations were not good and Dal is sure he was "black-listed" for his part in a dispute - he came back home after a spell with Rolls Royce in Crewe and marine engineers in Bedford and it was back to Bishop's Stortford and his old firm of Lakes; he was there until his retirement in 1980.

Geoff was determined to join the RAF though he served his apprenticeship with Bill Robinson as a plumber on leaving school. He joined the local Air Training Corps and volunteered for service when he was 18 - "Mother wouldn't let him go" - he spent the war years as an armourer on several airfields in the U.K. before being posted from 106 Squadron to Gibraltar. In 1946 he was "demobbed" so it was home to Burton End and plumbing for the Robinson brothers until the firm closed down - many houses in Stansted still have some of Geoff's pipework in good working order !

Geoff has always enjoyed driving and still does. Together they have travelled the surrounding countryside - Geoff always accompanied by his camera, an abiding hobby for many years. Dallas won't go abroad but they have seldom missed a holiday with the Saffron Walden Over Sixties to many places in the U.K.

They are a good team - sharing most of the chores - "when he's not got his head in a book" - "when he's not in the garden". Mr & Mrs Walter Snow lived on in The Thatch well into their nineties - I can't see "the boys" moving out now, though like so many men of their age, the war years gave them an experience far away from their home. Truly Essex men.

Audrey Rodgers





STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Members and guests were given a special warm welcome to the Society's December meeting where our speaker, Valerie Jevans, presented "Toy Museum - Dolls" which proved to be a most enjoyable evening full of pure nostalgia, with many members recalling fond memories of their toys, dolls, games, etc. accompanied by "We had one just like that".

"Members Day" being the programme of January's meeting where members were invited to give a presentation on their chosen subject, the evening again proving to be very enjoyable and our thanks must again be expressed to all speakers. Peggy Honour began the evening by telling of the progress made so far by the working party with regard to the Society's Millennium Project, great news for those who may in future years wish to research Local History and Village photographic records, etc. Doris Thistle then spoke of her memories when the Telephone Managers Office was transferred from Southend to Stansted and being accommodated at Gorsefield c1940. Ralph Phillips told of the once some-time ago fabulous Flying Serpent, the arrival and sightings of which drew much interest and no doubt a little fear for local inhabitants. John Hollis then gave an account of National Service days which certainly brought many memories back especially to those who have ever polished buttons and boots, etc. Francis Spalding told the meeting a very interesting story concerning her family history. Pearl Wellings followed with a reading from an event in Little Hadham c.1911 recalling just a little of what life was like in days gone by.

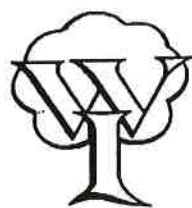
Tony Wellings completed the evening with a magic lantern showing postcards and pictures and invited members to lend their knowledge to identify locations, etc. The assembled gathering was able to throw a little light on such matters which is more than could be said for the gas lamp on the fountain.

The Society's next meeting is on February 1st, the subject being John Constable.

P Brown

ERRATUM

We apologise for the omission of two pages from the January issue. We have no excuse - just blame the Editor. We have attempted to include the missing copy in this issue.



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

At our December meeting Lorraine Love who lives in Stansted showed members how to make their Christmas cakes look more professional with her demonstration of flowers and leaves made from a special icing paste. The flowers and leaves looked so real and also easy to make, but, of course, when an expert is making them it looks quite simple.

Members were able to handle these samples and also look at photos of different cakes that Lorraine has made. She was a most enjoyable speaker and demonstrator and I'm sure many professional-looking Christmas cakes will be seen around Stansted this year.

During business members were reminded of future events. The first is a return of the "Entertainers" on Saturday February 17th in St John's Hall. This group had proved very popular on their last visit. Tickets are already on sale at £5 each which includes light refreshments.

The other fundraising event is our Jumble Sale which includes a cake stall and raffle to be held in St John's Hall on Saturday 7th April.

We finished the evening having a social time with members reading poems, short stories, an extract from a Pam Ayres Christmas-past story and a hilarious article from a 1960's home economics book on how a good wife should make her husband comfortable after his return from a day at work; we leave it to your imagination.

January's meeting saw us swinging into the New Year with the Tartan Reelers, a group of Scottish dancers who entertained us with their dancing and encouraging our members to join in with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves. Halfway through the evening a buffet provided by the committee was served accompanied by wine. With our spirits raised even more we continued with more dancing from the group and also among our members.

Our February meeting is more down to earth with a talk by Mr Keith Gibbs, F.C.I.D. entitled "Fifty Three Years in Decorating". His work however is much more interesting than the title suggests !! - this is not your ordinary paint and wallpapering. So if you wish to come along to hear this talk you are most welcome. We meet in St John's Hall, Thursday 8th February at 7.30 for 7.45 start.

Brenda Ryan
812725



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

Poppy Appeal

Once again we have had a record year for donations to the Poppy Appeal with the total so far being in excess of £9000. Thanks must be expressed to all who gave so generously and particularly to the House-to-House collectors who had the worst two weeks weather to contend with in their endeavours. We do try to visit every house in the District but this is not always possible. Many households are out working during the day - we do not expect our collectors, particularly those not so young, to go out in the dark - we do not expect the elderly to answer the door after dark. We are also short of volunteers for some areas.

It is appreciated that most who do not receive a 'house call' donate to the Appeal when visiting shops, public houses and through school and works collections. Our grateful thanks to all.

In 2001 (an unbelievable thought) we will be seeking more helpers as some dedicated collectors do not feel able to continue for ever - dare I say these are mostly in the region of their eighties. If you feel you can give a few hours next November please contact me.

Thanks again;

John L Segar
Hon. Poppy Appeal Organiser
Tel. 01279 813289

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS

We meet at 2 pm on alternate Wednesdays at the Day Centre.

Feb 7th	Members "Quiz"
Feb 21st	Meeting Mountfitchet Seniors
Mar 7th	Mountfitchet Seniors Guest Speaker Mr T Pretty - "My Time at Audley End"
Mar 21st	Meeting Mountfitchet Seniors
Apr 4th	Meeting Mountfitchet Seniors
Apr 18th	Half Day Outing Mountfitchet Seniors to Audley End Mansion
May 2nd	Guest Speaker - Mountfitchet Seniors
May 16th	Mountfitchet Seniors - Jeff's Clothes Show

Any queries please contact Secretary:
J. W. Robinson, 812755



Royal British Legion Women's Section

In November members of the Royal British Legion joined the Women's Section in a very enjoyable social evening with fish and chips or ploughman's for supper, washed down with our favourite white wine. Mrs Kathleen Stevens and Mr David Challis said a few words to round off the evening. A generous raffle was drawn by Mrs Jean Fuller as a very successful evening drew to a close.

We do not meet again until 15th February when we hope to welcome Mr and Mrs Alan Wright.

(This entry cannot go to print without my apology for stating in December's issue that Mrs Vera Levey had completed 48 years as our Treasurer. In fact Vera has completed 52 years of matchless service - surely an all-time record).

Pat Clower



Our Spring course is entitled "Vikings and Volcanoes", an introduction to Iceland. As the tutor writes in her syllabus, "Iceland, situated halfway (literally) between Europe and America, is geologically one of the youngest territories in the world, and its violent origins have given rise to one of the world's most dramatic landscapes. Its inhabitants, descendants of the original ninth-century settlers (many of whom went there from the British Isles), are proud of their ancient traditions and speak a language which has changed little since the Viking Age. This course will survey aspects of this fascinating island - geological, geographical, cultural and social from its first emergence from the Atlantic to the Cod War and beyond." The lecturer is Dr. Rosemary Williams, (Morris), who has been to us for two previous courses, and, as we know, has a wide knowledge and is a popular speaker.

The ten week course began on Monday, January 15th, at the Day Centre but it is still possible to join us and enjoy the rest of the course. Lectures start at 8 pm with a break halfway through for free refreshments. Reduced rate for pensioners. If you would like further details, please ring Jean McBride 01279812214.

Stansted Art & Craft Market



Huw Johnson Club

The 20th Art and Craft Market, which took place in late 2000, was held for the first time in St. John's Church and Hall. The new venue was popular with nearly everyone and the committee were most grateful to St John's for all their support and co-operation, and to St Mary's School for the use of their car park.

Both the crafts and paintings were of a very high quality and more sales of each made than in the previous year - people busy buying for Christmas! There was a good turn-out despite the atrocious weather. St John's Church was an excellent backdrop for the art exhibition, beautifully set off with flower arrangements and a tranquil atmosphere. The Hall, by contrast, was filled with craft stalls and demonstrations, along with the marvellous work of the WI and kitchen helpers serving home-made refreshments.

Although some time has passed since the event, the committee would like to say a public thank you to everyone who was involved in making the weekend a great success. The Market would not have happened at all without all our willing volunteers, old and new!

We have now sent out donations amounting to £1,300 to various local causes and groups, some of whom are involved in specific fundraising projects. The profits have been split between the Venture and Tortoise Scouts; Riding for the Disabled; St Mary's, Bentfield and Mountfitchet Schools; Sideways and Rainbow Pre-school; St John's Church Hall refurbishment project; Helpline, The Link and Stansted In Bloom. We are always keen that a wide cross section of the village should benefit from our efforts and are always delighted to consider any group or individual requests for funds.

We are already planning the next Market, to be held again at St Johns, on 28th and 29th October, 2001. For information, contact Rachel Mortishire-Smith (01279) 816837.



**STANSTED &
DISTRICT LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS.**

Our next Ploughman's Lunches are on Saturday 10th February and Saturday 10th March at the Stansted Day Centre, 12.00 to 2.00 pm. All are welcome.

On Friday 2nd February at 8.00 pm there will be a Cheese and Wine Party at Churchmead, Church Lane, Widdington. For further information, please ring 813432 or 8130380.

Robin Scarr

A big thank you to all our drivers who give so willingly of their time and petrol to bring so many of our members to Club. We now have 34 members and our numbers continue to grow. We transport 19 members from the surrounding areas. Unfortunately, because of the shortage of drivers, some members do not have a permanent place on the transport list and are therefore unable to attend some of our meetings. Every organisation seems to suffer from this problem and we are very fortunate that we have drivers who have driven for us during our 26 years existence. Ideally we try to give drivers a one way journey once a month. The pick up from Saffron Walden is 6.30 pm. The return journey is at 9 pm. Two more drivers would go a long way towards solving our problem; three would be ideal. Can you help? If so, contact Marion Johnson on 812284.

Stop Press: Our New Year party on January 12th was the usual jolly event. Sandra and her team organised a splendid spread and Garry produced his ever popular disco. Father Christmas made a special end-of-season visit from Lapland to all the members' benefit

SCARY BUT TRUE

This is a transcript of the ACTUAL radio conversation between a US Naval ship and the Canadians - off the coast of Newfoundland dated October 1995.

CANADIANS: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid collision.

AMERICANS: Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid collision.

CANADIANS: Negative. You must divert your course 15 degrees South to avoid collision.

AMERICANS: This is the Captain of a U S Navy ship. I say again - divert YOUR course.

CANADIANS: Negative - I say again, YOU MUST divert your course.

AMERICANS: THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS LINCOLN - UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY 3 DESTROYERS, 3 CRUISERS WITH FULL AERIAL SUPPORT. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH- I SAY AGAIN, 15 DEGREES NORTH OR COUNTERMEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS GROUP.

CANADIANS: We are a lighthouse - your call.



ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE SOCIETY

The Uttlesford Branch of the Alzheimer's Society are seeking volunteers to assist in the running of a "Yellow Ribbon Club" in the Dunmow area, which is in essence a drop in centre for carers and people with dementia. Following initial training volunteers would offer support and active involvement for those using the service.

The Alzheimer's Society, is a national organisation with more than 300 branches and support groups. It is also the leading care and research charity in the United Kingdom

If you are interested and can spare a few hours a week please contact Pauline Bauckham - Drop in Centre Organiser on 01371 872519.



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Recipe of the Month

South African Chicken Pie

8 chicken portions (skinned & boneless)
2 level tablespoons seasoned flour
2 oz / 50 gm butter
3 level tablespoons sage
4 cloves
5 whole allspice
4 peppercorns
1 mace leaf
4 oz / 100 gm cubed ham
2 hardboiled eggs, sliced
1 egg yolk, beaten
2 tablespoons lemon juice
8 oz / 225 gm puff pastry

- (a) roll chicken pieces in the seasoned flour
- (b) melt butter in a heavy saucepan
- (c) brown the chicken pieces
- (d) put sage and spices into a muslin bag
- (e) add bag to chicken & cover with water
- (f) simmer gently until chicken is very tender
- (g) remove chicken & bag of spices, but do not throw away the juices
- (h) mix chicken with hard boiled eggs & ham
- (i) place pie funnel in dish and spoon in mixture
- (j) heat the juices with the beaten egg yolk
- (k) add lemon juice & seasoning if required
- (l) pour juices over chicken & cover with pastry
- (m) cut slits in pastry to allow steam to escape
- (n) bake for 15 - 20 mins at 230° C / 450°F / Gas Mark 8 to set the pastry
- (o) reduce heat to 180° C / 350°F / Gas Mark 4 and cook for a further 15 minutes

Serves 8

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

AN APPEAL WITH A DIFFERENCE

From time to time The Link wishes to publish photographs of local scenes. Various friends have lent/given us photographs in the past but we now need to extend our coverage.

If any readers have access to views of local buildings, features, street scenes, natural history or attractive locations we would be pleased to hear from you. Just ring 812593 or 647213. Full attribution for any published item would be given.

Thank you.

Editor



WHAT'S IN A NAME NO. 7 Occasional Series

Many Stansted roads bear the old field names, e.g. **Coltsfield, Loates Pasture, Long Croft, Cannons Mead and Wetherfield.**

Perhaps **Burnells Way** would be better named Sanders Meadow after the old field on which it was built. The Manor House of Burnells stood on a site near the railway station. The name derived from Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells. The estate had been conveyed to him by two daughters of Hugh de Bolebec and when Robert died in 1292 it was inherited by his nephew Philip Burnell.

Stansted Brook flows at the rear of the older houses in **Brook Road** and **Water Lane** and in front of **Waterside.**

Silver Street. Derivation not known but probably very old. It has been suggested that it could be from "sylvan," that is, tree lined.

Spencer Close was built in the grounds of Spencer House.

Grand Draw

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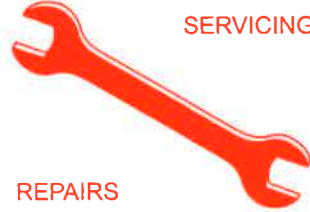
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