

Jan 2021

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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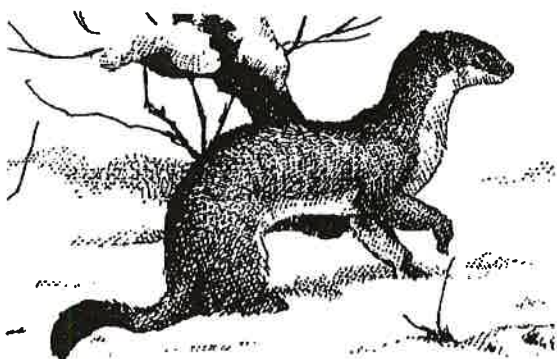
♦♦♦ in Stansted  
all on a winter's day ♦♦♦



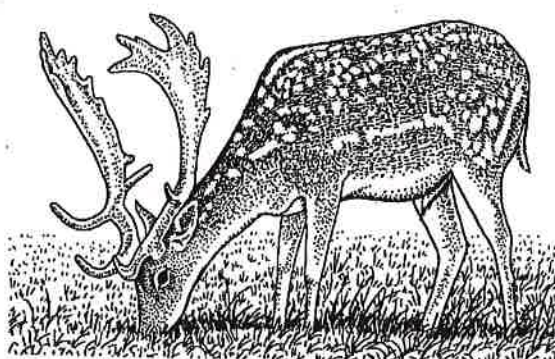
Muntjac Deer



Fox



Stoat



Fallow Deer

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All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel 01279 812593

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**editor.thelink@stansted.net**  
11th January for publication on 28th January  
8th February for publication on 25th February

## 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

### TAKE TIME ...

Take time to think; it is the source of power.  
Take time to play; it is the secret of eternal youth.  
Take time to read; it is the foundation of wisdom.  
Take time to pray; it is the greatest power on earth.  
Take time to love and be loved; it is a God-given privilege.  
Take time to laugh; it is the music of the soul.  
Take time to give; it is too short a day to be selfish.  
Take time to work; it is the price of success.

These words by an unknown author are relevant at any time but have a special meaning at the beginning of a New Year - time can be a blessing or a curse, but time properly understood and used is one of God's most precious gifts.

Worrying over what has been and gone or what is to be can only take away our pleasure in living now and enjoying life as God intends we should - the time we have is now and is God's ceaseless gift.

A Happy New Year to all.

Eileen Quinn

Thank you everyone who contributed food, toys and gifts for the British Aid for Deprived Children appeal.

We were overwhelmed with the response and know that your kindness and generosity will have made many families in the Ukraine very happy and given them a good start to the New Year.

God bless.

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting** 11 am

### ARCHIVES

Early *this* year I went to Saffron Walden to help with the Archive group, working on the history of Quakers in this area. The group of Meetings in the local area is known as Thaxted Monthly Meeting, even though there is no longer a meeting at Thaxted. Felsted, Stebbing and Bishop's Stortford have all suffered the same fate. Stebbing still has its Meeting House, which is used by the village, and by Quakers once a year for a Monthly Meeting. The largest Meeting in the local group is Saffron Walden, and there are Meetings at Dunmow, Great Bardfield and Stansted.

I was looking at old records of Meetings held in the 1870's. Each Meeting appointed representatives to meet together and hold business meetings. These meetings were held at the various Meeting Houses every Month, hence "Monthly Meeting" The same arrangement still takes place today. The dates of Meetings were interesting for two reasons, firstly, they were written as "Third day of the Second Month 1874" or as "Twenty-fifth day of the Twelfth Month 1876" and secondly, yes, they did Meet on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, if the Meeting Day fell on those dates. The dates were used, as shown, to avoid using the days and months that had pagan associations.

Quakers believe that all life is sacramental and therefore Holy, and that no time should be marked out as more Holy; that what God has done for us should always be remembered and not only on the special occasions named Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. So, therefore, it would have been the correct thing to do to meet on any day of the year. My imagination runs wild as I imagine those doughty Quakers, meeting monthly. All the representatives were men, though women were allowed to attend the meetings. Those Victorians would need to travel by horse, horse drawn trap or even walk; they would travel in all weathers, and only occasionally would it be recorded that they "were prevented" because of inclement weather. They saw themselves as going about God's work, and they took their responsibilities very seriously indeed.

Today, life is easier, travel is relatively simple and there are both men and women representatives at Monthly Meetings. We would not have business meetings on Christmas, New Year's nor Easter Day's, and most of us will celebrate those Holy days.

This article goes out in the New Year, so may I wish you all a fulfilling New Year.

Peter Burgess



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

The Parishes of  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
with Birchanger  
and Farnham

# St John's, Stansted

## More famous than Jesus

I can't believe it is twenty years since John Lennon was shot dead outside his hotel in New York. I am not a great Beatles fan, but I cannot hear one of Lennon's songs without it taking me back to a place or a person in the past.

Music marks our days and evokes memories, *Telstar* reminds me of my grandmother's house, the Beatles' *She Loves You* of diving behind the sofa at the sight of a Dalek, anything by Slade recalls school dances, Fauré's *Requiem* of being in love in Paris. Whatever else we are, music is a point of reference by which we measure our past and, by extension, so is cinema and television.

It was Lennon's "We're more famous than Jesus" that sticks in so many minds. Thirty years ago it sounded almost blasphemous, yet today's teens would find nothing unusual about it, though they would probably debate whether Oasis, Britney Spears or Radiohead are more popular than the Beatles.

These days modern culture is not just a point of reference, as it has been for my generation, it has become all absorbing. I'm reluctant to admit that I probably know more about the wedding of Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta Jones than I do about the effect of Western sanctions on Saddam Hussein. Celebrity news has replaced 'real news', entertainment has conquered reality. Culture no longer sim-

ply marks our lives, it commands our attention and magazines like *Hello* and *OK* reduce us to being spectators.

It is easy to be angered by the way our world appears to trivialise real life and to walk away depressed, discouraged and wanting to turn the clock back. But we don't have the luxury to do that in the church.

The church was founded by people who also felt alienated from the world around them. When St. Paul considered which gods were on display in Athens, he did not retreat from them, but sought to understand the heart and mind of the culture they symbolized. In so doing, he could debate with Athenian elders using language they already knew. Paul entered their conversation using their images and their idols.

In the same way the church needs to look into our culture to see if, to use Paul's language, "God is already there by another name". I may not like the thought of the unbridled hedonism in Ibiza's discos, but underneath it is the despair of a generation which has been saddled with apocalyptic warnings about global warming, famine and AIDS; enjoy today as there may not be a tomorrow. Films like *The Matrix*, *The Truman Show*, *Contact* and *The Fight Club* are where issues of ultimate truth and meaning are being addressed. Ethical debates about sexuality among our young people are sparked by TV shows like *Queer as Folk*, *Ellen* and *Will and Grace*.

There is a young generation which has been lost to the church, but I don't think necessarily that they have been lost to God. If we use church as a hot water bottle, for nostalgia and comfort, then we will continue to grow old and tired. If we are true to our vocation and look for God in the marketplace, then we may be able to join our young people in making sense of this strange world we have become, and they and we will be so much the richer for it.

Andrew Spurr 11.12.00

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  
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Cambs, CB3 7HH  
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<church.music@stansted.net>

### St. John's Diary

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

Laser Group is a 12-16 youth group which meets fortnightly on Sunday evenings at 8:00pm for activities in the church hall. The evening concludes with candlelit Night Prayer in the chapel in church. Contact Mrs Katy Dockerill 812997.

## 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 January

7th. Jerry Heyhoe1  
14th. Rev. John Graham – Annual covenant service  
and Holy Communion  
21st Joan Kennett  
28th Bernard Engel  
4th February - Michael Render

Fellowship meeting – Friday 12 January



CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
in STANSTED

### CHRISTIAN UNITY

On Wednesday 17 January in St. John's Church at 7.30pm there will be a time of prayer and reflection for the **Week of prayer for Christian Unity**. All are invited.

### CHEVETOGNE QUIZ NIGHT

A 'Quiz Night' in aid of funds for the Chevetogne visit to Stansted will be held on Saturday, 3rd March in St John's Hall at 7 pm for 7.30. Tickets at £4 include refreshments but you are invited to bring your own drink. There will also be a raffle. Please ring Eileen Quinn on 812109 for tickets.

### REGULAR AID FOR THE POOR (R.A.P.)

I am pleased to report that we have been able to send a further £175 to each of our three Charities in December. This makes a total of £675 this year to each of them. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing generosity in supporting Regular Aid for the Poor (R.A.P.) and to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Dave Morson, Chairman of Regular Aid for the Poor

## UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

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

**Contact**  
Mrs Janet Townsend  
58 Chapel Hill  
Tel 01279 812593

### Preachers for January

7th	10.30am	Mr I Roper
14th	10.30am	Rev D Simpson Communion
21st	10.30am	Mr A Berry
28th	10.30am	Rev L Rapkin

### Other Meetings

15th	2.30pm	Monday Club
25th	8 pm	Social Evening
28th	10.45am	Pilots

Following further discussions regarding our re-building, it has been decided with regret not to continue with our monthly cake stall for the immediate future, therefore there will be **No Cake Stall** on February 1st as advertised in last month's Link. We do thank our customers most sincerely for their support and hope to see them at any future events we might have.



SHALOM

meetings

8th January – Prayer and Praise led by Alan Wheeler at the home of Marion and Michael Dyer, 7 Blythwood Gardens.

22nd January – an evening of poetry led by Rev. Harold Fisher at the home of Eileen and Brian Quinn, 4 Greenfields.

**MEN WANTED** to spend a few hours on a Sunday morning helping at Whitechapel Mission, London. Teams leave Stansted at 7a.m. and are usually back in Stansted at 10.30a.m. Duties are supervising showers and handing out clothes.

If you can help please contact either David Morson on 01279 850209 or Jim Collins on 0860 835 731.



# Grand Millennium Bonfire & Fireworks



Mountfitchet High School

6.30 pm Saturday 6th January - Fireworks at 7.30 pm

Admission £2.50, Concessions £1 - Refreshments

For details please telephone 813214



Mountfitchet High Sch PTA

## Jumble Sale and Table Top Sale

2 - 4 pm

Sat 20th January

For table bookings please  
telephone Margaret on 816718

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### January

3	Wed	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
<del>6</del>	<del>Sat</del>	<del>Bonfire &amp; Fireworks</del>	<del>Mountfitchet School 6.30 pm</del>
8	Mon	Shalom Prayer & Praise	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
8 Mon - 11 Thu		Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
11	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
13	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
15	Mon	WEA commences	Day Centre 7.30 pm
18	Thu	Carers' Support Group	Quaker Meeting Hse 2 - 4 pm
20	Sat	Jumble & Table Top Sale	Mountfitchet School 2 - 4 pm
		Junior Football Club Quiz	Mountfitchet School
22	Mon	Shalom Group	4 Greenfields 8 pm
28	Sun	Village Music Club	St John's Church 3 pm

### February

1	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Mon	Shalom Group	
7	Wed	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
8	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
10	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
15	Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 2 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



THE VILLAGE  
MUSIC CLUB

## THE CANTATE YOUTH CHOIR

Winners of

**Choir of the Year 2000**

3 pm Sun 28th January

St John's Church

Tickets from

Stansted Carpets Chapel Hill 812019

Nockolds Bishop's Stortford

Sonia Levy 815282 and at the door  
£7.50 adults £5 conc £3 school children

Early booking recommended

Special event for next month? Please submit details by 11th JANUARY  
to 58 Chapel Hill or by email to editor.thelink@stansted.net  
Please note, all items are subject to the editor's approval.



UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

**AMENITY SKIP 7.30 am - 3 pm**

Mon 8 - Thu 11 Jan

Sat 17 - Sun 18 Feb

Mon 12 - Thu 15 Mar

**NOTE: WEEKEND SKIPS ARE ATTENDED**

**Green Waste** resumes in March

Utlesford Carers &  
Alzheimer's Disease Society

### CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

A discussion of carers' issues  
over a cup of tea & biscuits

2 - 4 pm Thursday 18th January

Quaker Meeting House

**Everyone welcome**



**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

# STANSTED PROFILE

## NO.30

### *Mrs Rene Sanders*



Rene, although not strictly a Stansted native, has lived her whole life between Thaxted, where she was born, and Bishop's Stortford. When aged four she moved to Elsenham where her grandfather was the licensee of The Crown Inn. She remembers both King George and Queen Mary's Silver Jubilee and the 1937 Coronation which put the whole village "en fete", and has memories of her grandfather, a staunch Labour party supporter, leading a party of villagers to the station where they embarked on the Thaxted Flyer for a day of festivities based on Thaxted Vicarage, then in the occupation of the legendary Conrad Noel. Another abiding memory is of her and her sister careering down the hill in an antique bath chair. No traffic problem then! Her grandmother was given to making spontaneous purchases at sales - anything from a cheap item of furniture to a dilapidated cottage, a trait which she is pleased to have inherited. When she was aged 9 the family moved to Bishop's Stortford where she lived until 1956. Rene attended the Herts & Essex High School during the war years, much of it for half days as the buildings were shared with evacuees from Clapton. In 1953 she organised a dance to raise money for the victims of the East Coast floods. Her first job was with Millars, the engineers occupying the site now known as Twyford Business Centre. She assisted the advertising manager and found the work to her liking, so it was not surprising that she moved to more rewarding posts with "Woman" and "Good Housekeeping" in London. Rene well remembers the daily journey from Stansted where everyone on the platform knew everyone else and the waiting room with its fire was one of the cosiest places in the village. By that time she had met Irving, married, and moved to Stansted (1956). The high point in Rene's working life was joining ATV where she was in at the beginning of commercial television. She worked with, among others, Lew Grade and Val Parnell and thoroughly enjoyed those early formative days.

Irving, her husband, was, to the many who knew him, one of Stansted's leading citizens and the local historian. Among his many contributions he was a Governor at Bentfield School, founder of Stansted Millers, chair of both the Sports Association and the Carnival Committee in its heyday, and was a member and chairman of the Parish Council. His name lives on, not only in many memories, but in the Windmill where he has a memorial plaque and where the publications which carry his excellent draughtsmanship are still used and sold. Another plaque is at the Fountain where the refurbishment was done in commemoration of him. Rene remembers organising the children's Fancy Dress at the Carnival when over 100 children keenly competed for the trophies. An important and memorable day for Rene was the celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, led by Irving as Chairman of the Village organising committee. Rene and Irving started the day at 4.30 a.m. setting out Irving's local history exhibition. Then followed many activities including street parties and finally the grand bonfire and firework display on the Recreation Ground. The day finished at 2 am. Rene hopes that the public concern over the state of the two village signs, put up at that time, will be recognised by the Parish Council.

Rene Sanders was also a founder and first President of the Evening WI in 1960. In 1958, Tim was born, followed by Lesley and Louise. They and their families now all live in Bishop's Stortford. Much of Rene's time is now taken up with four grandchildren, Katy, Rebecca, Mathew and baby Sophie, who enjoy her company, her house and the opportunity to play on the "Rec" like their mothers before them. She is grateful for the many good neighbours on Recreation Ground, where the children played happily in each others homes and where the households became a big "family" in those years when young mothers seldom went out to work, and she is delighted that the "Rec" continues to be a happy community.

Rene is justly proud of her Antique and Secondhand furniture business started by her in Stansted, later joined by Irving in his later years and then Tim after a career in retail management. Following a serious fire in 1982, the family business moved to Takeley where it has developed into a well-known and successful enterprise. Tim has now taken over but Rene continues to assist, enjoying the stimulus of customer contact and being a well known face at local auctions.

She is a loyal and active member of St. John's church where she has many friends.

Although she misses the days when families tended to stay in the village, Rene is determined to face at least one challenge of the 21st century by mastering the computer, thanks to the class "Computing for the Terrified" which is held at the Peter Kirk Centre. Although Rene has in later years travelled to the Rhine and the Nile, she is very home-oriented and still lives in a house that has been in the Sanders family since 1929. The "Rec", and indeed Stansted, would not be the same without her.

Derek Honour



## Essex County Council



## Nature Notes

An issue which is very much under discussion in County Hall and elsewhere at the moment is that of the case for the expansion of the Airport beyond 15 million passengers per annum to 25 million, and perhaps more in the longer term.

Many readers will be aware that BAA, in the name of the Stansted Airport, is anxious for the expansion to take place, and in an attempt to avoid a long and costly public hearing have, at their expense, caused a number of surveys and investigations to take place, which are designed to answer the numerous questions likely to be raised so that planning permission may be given for the expansion in the near future and without delay. In addition, as many will have seen, money is being spent by BAA now to expand the terminal building and to develop roads and facilities in anticipation of such an agreement.

Part of the development scheme includes a public relations exercise, where members of the Airport staff carry out briefing meetings in local villages to outline their proposals and to answer whatever questions may arise.

Readers are encouraged to attend these and to raise any questions they like. They should do this against the background that already the Government, in the form of the Civil Aviation Authority, has given permission for 185,000 take-offs and landings in any one year to take place with immediate effect. Simple mathematics would inform those interested that with a passenger load factor of 80 per landing a total of 14.8M is now a fact and, should the passenger load factor increase as aircraft become larger and larger, the increased targets will be a matter of fact, again sooner rather than later.

It is clear the airport is likely to expand. It is for those concerned to decide whether they wish this to happen or not, but it is important also in the national interest that the decision is taken on reasonable grounds. Thus it is for all to investigate for themselves the facts and listen to the briefings so they can properly decide.

Should any reader wish to know more, they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace  
County Councillor  
Stansted Division



### AT THE TURN OF THE YEAR

Low and cold the early morning, winter light glints on the hoar frost woodland. Not a stir or a murmur to be found, until we announce our presence with sound of frosty crispy beech leaves as we make our way through the new gate to the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve. (The old crooked stile was always a challenge). The sighting of the first snowdrops beckons the New Year in. (The snowdrop has been spread by man from its natural habitat in woodlands in the west country).

Splashes of colour - aconites - can also be seen. (leaves do not appear until flowers have faded).

A pine cone jammed in the bark of the tree shows that a great spotted woodpecker has been eating the pine seeds.

In the same way the presence of Nuthatches can be detected. (Tree creepers go up the bark of a tree whilst nuthatches go down). Birds from the woodland tend to move into gardens to sample the takeaways when the going gets tough. Whilst grey squirrels always keep a good store of nuts, they still raid bird tables. (The grey squirrel has almost wiped out the red squirrel population in this country). Conservationists are still striving through initiatives such as Red Alert to halt the spread of greys in Cumbria and Northumberland. The battle in the south, apart from Thetford Forest, the Isle of Wight and Brownsea Island, is already lost.

We edge our way through the woods and out to an open ploughed up barley field. A robin sings sweetly near by. (They actually commit murder among their fellows; does this explain its remarkable affinity with man?)



Maureen Davies

## Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices  
Crafton Green  
Tel 813214  
Fax 813964

### REMEMBER, REMEMBER .....

Having had to postpone our Bonfire and Fireworks in November, we are hoping to welcome in the New Year by holding the event on Saturday 6 January 2001 (subject to the rain abating!). The venue remains the same, the Mountfitchet High School playing field. Gates open 6.30pm, the bonfire will be lit at 7pm and the firework spectacular will commence at 7.30pm. We have a much larger budget than usual this year to spend on the fireworks, as it was supposed to be part of our Millennium Events - some would say it still is!

Please do your bit to help make this event a success - refreshments will be available. Further details from Ruth Clifford - 813214.



# Huw Johnson Club

As we go to press we have just completed our final rehearsal for our Concert. It's a good job that I believe the saying "It will be alright on the night". At least everyone had a good laugh as often the mistakes were funnier than the original. We will let you know next month if all went well.

Everyone in the Huw Johnson Club wish you all, especially our many benefactors, a prosperous 2001. This is a good opportunity to say a big thank you to our loyal drivers who give their time and petrol to bring our members to Club and transport them safely home again. They do a great job but they have a heavy load to carry as we need at least three more drivers to complete our rota. Please think about this in the New Year.

Marion G Johnson

## TOY STORY - 2

Thank you to all who kindly donated toys for refugee children. These have now been delivered to the Medical Foundation, from where they will be distributed.

## COUNTDOWN

At 4.15 on any weekday afternoon, time to get the kettle on and toast the teacakes. Settle in the armchair, turn the TV on to Channel 4 for Countdown. A harmless programme offering gentle cerebral exercise for viewers and competitors alike. As always, the programme is preceded, punctuated and followed by advertisements. Nothing unusual in that you may say. However, it is the tone and content of these I find disquieting. At 4.28 we are encouraged to think about making a Will; then we have an anxious lady with stress incontinence whose life is about to be transformed, followed by the virtues of a magical salve to relieve all those aching joints. Great.'

4.30 and the programme begins.

4.43 more ads. A stair lift, should the ointment have lost its magic; a cure for revolting earwax that puts one off a second cup of tea; a 'Home Plan' to release capital locked into one's bricks and mortar and provide a steady income.

4.45 and the programme resumes

4.55 and the denouement. Thora Hird extols the virtues of an electric folding bed and an electric chair. (If she's not careful she will end up completely enfolded). Lastly, you are advised to take out life insurance to help your 'Dear Ones' (their expression, not mine) to cover the inevitable final expenses.

How do the advertisers and programme planners see the afternoon audience? Obvious isn't it? Still, they'll be old one day.

P.S. If the 'Dear Ones' suggest you need an electric chair - be wary!

Jeannette Griffiths (*nee* Pitkeathley)

*(Article submitted by Margaret Arnold and reproduced, with the author's permission, from this year's Queen Elizabeth Hospital Nurses' League Magazine [Birmingham])*

# 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.

Please contact Mrs Susan Bone on 01279 814052 for bookings or more information.

## Uttlesford District Council Report

### The Museum Service - Death by a thousand cuts

Unlike schools, rubbish collection and libraries, museums are not a statutory requirement for local authorities. Consequently, they represent an easy target for budget cuts. Most cuts are so gradual that the scale of the problem is only gradually becoming apparent. It is death by a thousand cuts. Britain's regional museum service is facing a "catastrophe" of under funding, falling visitor numbers and deteriorating collections. Yet, even those who do not visit museums benefit from their existence, in the education services they offer, in the inspiration they provide in the works of art, books and films which are indirectly sparked by museum collections.

We are fortunate in Uttlesford in having Saffron Walden Museum, which is located in the grounds of Saffron Walden castle. It has been described by one visitor as "a real gem". It is the only registered museum, which preserves the district's archaeology, natural history and local history. Stansted residents will find it of particular interest, as it will be taking on the large and important archaeological finds and records from the excavations at Stansted Airport. In planning for the future care of and public access to the Stansted material the Curator, Carolyn Wingfield, would be interested to hear from residents about their views. She can be contacted at Saffron Walden Museum, Museum Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1JL. Tel: 01799 510333.

Museums have perhaps in the past had a dreary image. The new generation of curators have done much to challenge this perception. There will be an exhibition running from the 22nd January 2001 to June 30th 2001 entitled 'Victorian Values'. This will be a special exhibition marking the 100th anniversary of Queen Victoria's death. Admission charges are modest at £1 for adults and for children under 18 there is no charge.

In view of the excellent work the Museum does, I was saddened that the Leader of the Council had proposed that it be subject to a 10% cut in its budget. Fortunately, following representations made by myself and Councillors from all political parties this suggested economy was withdrawn. Instead, there will be a Best Value service review in 2002.

### Car Parks Review

In March 1999, the Council opened two Pay and Display car parks at Lower Street and Crafton Green. Uttlesford entered into a partnership agreement with the Parish Council for Crafton Green. This provided for the District Council to manage it as a Pay and Display car park following work to upgrade it with joint funds provided by both the District and Parish Councils.

Following a survey of the car parks by the Parish Council, which clearly showed that they were under-used, representations were made that the 6 hour limit was no longer appropriate. The Community Services Committee of the District is being asked to approve a new tariff of £2 for all

day parking to be introduced in both car parks. If agreed, this would take effect from 1 April 2001. Other charges for periods of up to 1 hour, up to 3 hours and up to a maximum of 6 hours would remain unchanged.

May I take this opportunity, of wishing all readers of The Link a Happy New Year.

Geoffrey Sell  
District Councillor  
Tel: 01279 815925

### A PHEASANT'S LOT IS NOT A HAPPY ONE!

They fatten up the pheasants, about this time of year  
They scatter lots of grain around and wait till they come near,  
Then they shoot them by the dozen, and take them home that night-  
Where they hang them till they're ready, which doesn't seem quite right.  
Then they pop them in the oven, till they're brown and looking fine,  
And serve them up with sauces and lots of lovely wine;  
But next weekend they gather, of that you can be sure  
Pick up their polished shotguns, to go and shoot some more!

Judy Collover

### 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



### Grand Draw

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Tickets go on sale in the new year**



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**St Clare**  
**Hospice**

Happy New Year from everyone at S.J.F.C. And welcome to another S.J.F.C. page. If you wondered what happened to last month's page, well unfortunately it too was subject to the bad weather! Virtually all of the club's games were called off and therefore we had no news to tell you. This month is similar, as we have just had our Christmas break. So I have listed what dates are coming up within the club.

Firstly on **January 20th** the club are to hold their 'Quiz Night'. This proved hugely popular last year so we have decided to move our venue to the High school in the village so there is plenty of room for everyone. There will be a prize for the winning team and of course food, drink and a raffle will all be running. Everyone is welcome and there will be an entrance charge of £1.50 per person.

Next we have the club trip. **April 28th 2001** Crystal Palace v Wolves. As I write we have 95 booked and there are a small number of tickets left. This promises to be a great day for both the boys and their parents. The day includes training for the children followed by a lunch supplied by Crystal Palace and then a ticket to the match. Crystal Palace have kindly said that each child will receive a 'goody bag' and a matchday programme. So at £19 per person we think this is an excellent day out and really good value for money.

Finally, Presentation Nights. This year the club have decided that we shall hold two nights: one night for the 'mini soccer' teams and the second night for the 11-a-side teams. This is because the club has grown over the past year and we feel that as it is the boys' biggest night of the season they deserve a little more time with their presentations. Again we will be holding a raffle and an auction of football memorabilia. They promise to be both exciting and rewarding nights for everyone connected with the club. **May 18th & May 19th 2001** respectively.

Should any local companies wish to donate a prize then please contact me on my number below. As you can appreciate money is always tight and any donation is gladly received. So I close our page wishing you all the best for the New Year and great success to all of our boys and their teams.

Until next time all the best and good health.

Luke Pearman  
 Chairman  
 01279 813769

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT'S INTERVIEWS**

Friday 12th January 2001 5.45pm-6.30pm  
 at Crafton Green

St Clare Hospice's annual Christmas Craft Fair at The Posthouse Hotel, Bell Common, Epping, was a fantastic success once again. Visitors began to pass through the doors at 11am and the stream was constant.

The stalls produced an array of colour with a vast variety of wares and Christmas gifts. Everyone who attended agreed that the Fair was a great success with the proceeds exceeding past years' totals at £3,000.

All at St Clare Hospice want to thank The Posthouse Hotel for their hospitality, all the exhibitors and a particular thank you to all those who went to buy and thus support the hospice

Certainly a great time was had by all.

**OBSERVATIONS FROM  
 THE STATE OF THE DIMPLED CHAD**

It was predictable that we could count on Mr Gore to take every possible measure in his campaign to become president. The *Collins English Dictionary* defines "algorism" as "the skill of computation using any system of numerals".

Not only does the Sunshine State have a totally flawed voting system, their public notices seem to leave a little to be desired as well.

Seen on placard on a building of Church of Christ, Scientist -

"Try our healing - you won't get better"

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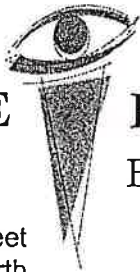
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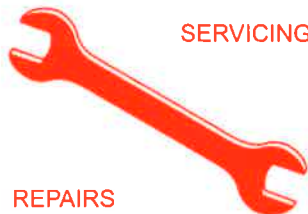
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