

July 2001

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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# STANSTED CARNIVAL

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July  
Lower Street  
Car Park  
12 noon

Fancy Dress Procession  
entrants meet at  
Youth Centre  
at 11.45 am



**FANCY DRESS  
PROCESSION**



**REFRESHMENTS**

**PONY RIDES**



**AMUSEMENTS**

**BAR-B-Q**



**STALLS**

**LICENSED BAR**

**GAMES**

**RAFFLE**

**Fancy Dress Procession**

Theme: 2001 and beyond

Age Groups: under 5's, 5 - 10 years, over 10's, adults (over 16)

Presentation of prizes at 12.30 pm

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

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[stanstedlink@aol.com](mailto:stanstedlink@aol.com)  
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by 13th September for publication on 29th September

# **SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

**Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill**

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

**Meeting** 11 am

## **SULA**

Recently, my wife and I went to visit our eldest son and family; they live in Dunbar on the Firth of Forth. On our way to Scotland we went on a small boat to look at the Farne Islands and their breeding birds. This turned into one of the highlights of our lives. The sea was mirror calm, there were sea birds everywhere, the noise was raucous and the smell was, well, ---interesting. We saw eiders, kittiwakes, cormorants, shags, guillemots, razorbills, terns and puffins. We also had close-up views of seals basking in the warm sunshine. There was one of my favourite seabirds missing from the list, and that was the gannet, not that I expected to see them as The Farnes are not tall enough, and perhaps not remote enough.

Near Dunbar, in the Firth of Forth, is the very prominent volcanic plug, known as Bass Rock; from the cliffs near North Berwick it appears to be painted white. This whiteness is guano deposited by thousands of gannets, who inhabit the rock, and, of course, the gannets themselves. The weather being reasonable, my son and his family joined us and we boarded the boat "Sula" and went on a trip around Bass Rock to see the gannets.

When we got close to the island, the sky was full of gannets and as the huge rock began to tower over us, the whiteness began to resolve itself into individual gannets sitting on their nests, each gannet sitting equidistant from every other gannet. Gannets are communal nesting birds, in some books they are described as social nesting birds. The one thing they are not is social or even sociable. They mate for life, but need to let their mates know who they are, otherwise they will viciously attack each other. They nest just out of pecking distance from the owner of the next nest, and all other surrounding nests. They attempt to steal nesting material from other nests. There is plenty of nesting material, the males picking up floating seaweed, and taking it to their mate to arrange on their nest. That is, they do, if they can get back to the nest without being robbed by other males. Why do they nest in a colony? There is no apparent benefit.

Whilst contemplating all of this, I remembered it was Sunday, and that I would normally be at The Meeting House in Stansted. My thoughts then went back much further, to a Meeting for Worship that was held on another island. This Island was Alderney, and we were a group of students from a Quaker School and we were doing a Biological Field Course; the year was 1955. We sat around on the rocks or grass overlooking The Swinge and the Bird Sanctuary Island

of Burhou. In the distance was another large lump of volcanic rock, Ortac, which was also white with gannets. The Meeting was held with the waves gently breaking on the beach and the raucous cries of gulls and other birds overhead. It was one of the most uplifting Meetings I had ever attended. There is no need to have buildings, Churches, Chapels or Cathedrals to be in the presence of God.

N.B. Why "Sula"--- it is the Latin name for the Gannet--- Sula bassana---at least it was, as I understand it has now changed its name.

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 July**

1st	10.30am	Mr I Roper
8th	10.30am	Mrs M Kendal
15th	10.30am	Rev M Cressey
22nd	10.30am	Rev D Simpson Communion
29th	10.30am	Mr M Dyer

## **Dates for your Diary**

July 14th, 4 pm, Strawberry Tea, 58 Chapel Hill  
July 16th, 2.30 pm, Monday Club, Lecture Hall  
July 22nd, 11.15 am, Pilots, Lecture Hall  
July 26th, 8.00 pm, Social Evening, Lecture Hall

As you will have seen elsewhere in The LINK, Carnival Day is July 7th and we will be having a URC Stall again, this year combining it with our Cake Stall. There will also be Bric a Brac, Book and Souvenirs of Stansted for sale. Come and visit us at the Lower Street Car Park from 12 noon.

There will be Strawberry Teas in the garden at 58 Chapel Hill on July 14th from 4 pm. Everyone is welcome. There will be a charge of £3 per person with all proceeds going to the Repair and Redevelopment Fund.



**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham

# St John's, Stansted

## Faith in a fish tank

**E**ven those of us, like me, who watch little TV cannot escape its catch-phrases that pass into conversation. Before the end of its first series, the TV show *Survivor* has become so established that even I know what it means to be "voted off the island."

Reality TV is The New Thing. The best known is *Big Brother* (and the less compelling *Celebrity Big Brother*). Not surprisingly, these have spawned imitators. An American friend who stayed here recently told me of Fox Networks *Boot Camp* and the more risqué (and, predictably, more successful) *Temptation Island*, where committed couples are challenged to remain faithful under trying sexual circumstances.

Beginning in July, viewers will be able to watch a new incarnation of reality television. This time, rather than cash prizes, souls seem to be on the line, a kind of 'Religious Boot Camp' or 'Surviving Temptation'. On Sunday, July 29, ITV will begin a ten-week series documenting the journey of ten people through Alpha, an introductory course in Christianity. Hosted by David Frost, the show will track a group aged 22 to 37 as they spend time together considering spiritual issues.

Alpha is best understood as a Christian primer, a ten-week introduction to the faith's foundations. Alpha was created in 1977 by an Anglican clergyman called Charles Marnham, at Holy Trinity Brompton Church in London, and it spread quickly throughout this country and abroad. Session topics include "Who is

Jesus?" "Why did Jesus die?" and "Does God heal today?"

Alpha is aimed at religious sceptics and the uninitiated. The early discussions are designed to be free-wheeling explorations of difficult issues; later sessions lay out more concrete answers. There are fifteen total sessions, interrupted in the middle by a spiritual retreat where participants are schooled in, and pray to be filled with, the Holy Spirit.

That last element provides a clue to Alpha's distinctive spiritual flavour. The program's publicity celebrates its ecumenical character, and it has been successful in convincing all kinds of Christian denominations, from Baptists to Roman Catholics, to sign on. But Alpha is offering a clearly conservative Christianity. Its focus is on personal salvation, as distinct from other Christian approaches which seek the salvation of society following Jesus' preaching about bringing in the Kingdom of God.

In this country, fewer than 10% of us attend church, so I can understand why Alpha's organizers have consented to be televised. The opportunity to watch a group of people discuss faith from the safety of the TV may lead those hovering on the edges of faith to become Christian enquirers.

Is there anything for Christians to fear from this kind of television exposure? Part of me has the same fear about watching this process as I do about learning how sausage is made: do I *really* want to know? Maybe less exuberant Christians may shudder at the thought of having nonChristians watch the Alpha retreat and mistake the conservative emphasis on healing and the Holy Spirit for the essence of faith. (A retreat at Holy Trinity in 1994 led to episodes of religious ecstasy and laughing of the kind that have elsewhere scandalized even some religious conservatives.)

But, in the end, it doesn't matter. Even if something unpredictably lively occurs, televising Alpha need not be the end of civilization as more liberally inclined Christians perceive it. How many TV programmes are there where people of faith are shown on television engaging serious religious issues? Even those nervous about Alpha's conservative bent should celebrate this kind of exposure. This Christian will certainly be out in the pub ready to talk about it.

AS

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

Monday	Open from 9:00am-12:00noon
Wednesday	
Friday	

(01279) 815243  
<church.office@stansted.net>

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Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

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(01279) 817937  
<joy@stansted.net>

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Revd Andrew Spurr  
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5 St. John's Road  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
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phone/fax (01279) 812203  
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phone (01279) 817513  
<curate@stansted.net>

Honorary Assistant Priest  
Canon Derek Jackson  
phone (01279) 652664

Director of Music

Mrs Glynis Morris  
phone/fax (01223) 263640  
<church.music@stansted.net>

Youth Group

Mrs Katy Dockerill  
(01279) 812997

Mother & Toddler Group

Mrs Tina South  
(01279) 814371

Housegroup

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

### St. John's Diary

Sundays	8:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i> 9:30am Parish Communion 6:30pm Evening Prayer <i>said</i> 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

#### From the Registers

**Baptisms**

20th May Katharine Molly Wood  
Sarah Anna Beatrice Cartwright

**Funerals**

2nd May Janet Sawkins, aged 54  
10th May Alfred David Chapman, aged 85  
21st May Michael Ketteridge, aged 62

22nd May Olive Joyce Morris, aged 72  
25th May Jessie Marjery Stable, aged 91

# 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 Recreation Ground  
Stansted  
Tel 01279 813579

**Email** methodists@stansted.net

## Preachers and services for July

1st Joan Kennett  
8th Rev'd John Graham – Holy Communion  
15th Bernard Engel  
22nd Church anniversary service at 3.30 pm,  
speaker Rev. Andrew Spurr,  
followed by tea at Phyllis's, Ugley Green.  
29th Don McGregor

Friday 13th July - Fellowship Meeting



# SHALOM

## Meetings

All meetings are Mondays at 8p.m.

2nd July – A talk by Kenneth Cracknell  
at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

16th July – A talk on the Bahai Faith followed by  
a bring and share supper  
– in the Friends Meeting House.

All are welcome.

## Strawberry Tea

On Sunday 29th July we are holding our Annual Strawberry  
Cream Tea and Auction in the Friends Meeting House from  
3 to 5 pm. If you can't resist a bargain this is for you!

# ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Theresa's, Stansted with St Anthony's

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

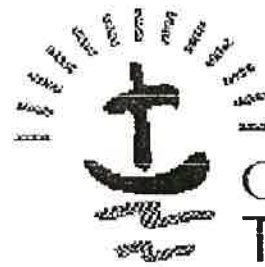
**Masses** Saturday 6.00 pm  
Sunday 9 am and 10.30 am

Holy Days of Obligation  
8 am and 8 pm

Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am

**Confessions** Saturday 10 am and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment



## CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

## Regular Aid for the Poor (RAP)

The Annual General Meeting takes place on Tuesday, 17th  
July 2001 at 8pm in the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill,  
Stansted.

This meeting has been arranged to thank those contributors to  
Stansted RAP and to give an update on present contributions.  
Representatives from each of the three receiving charities  
will be present.

Stansted RAP was set up in 1994 to provide monthly  
contributions to three charities; Oxfam, Save the Children  
Fund and The Red Cross. These charities were chosen  
because of their continuous work and their input in crisis  
situations. Over the past seven years of RAP's existence,  
over £13,000 has been raised. Contributions are given either  
by monthly standing order or by envelope deposited at  
Stansted Post Office.

Anyone interested in joining the scheme would be very  
welcome to attend.

David Morson, Chairman,  
Stansted RAP (CTS)

## Chevetogne visit to Stansted 2001

On Thursday 24th May, the group from Chevetogne arrived. Twenty-four people of mixed ages from 10 to 80 years. Every time it is such a pleasure to see them again, although only about half of the group will have been before. For the rest it will be a new experience and they are never quite sure just what is going to happen to them! For some, it is a first visit to England and this year we had three elderly ladies disembark and huddle together for support, looks of apprehension on their faces. How brave of them I think, to come knowing not a word of English and not knowing where they will lay their heads! And what a pleasure when they leave, but not unusual, to receive hugs, kisses and tears, as if they are leaving dear friends!

Our first day was spent in Norwich. We all fitted comfortably into their large coach. The driver Christophe, a very young man, had never been to England before and appreciated the help and consideration he received in the map reading and parking, etc, which also enabled him to enjoy his first driving job abroad! We visited the Julian Church and Shrine, where we met Professor Brian Thorne from the University of East Anglia. An authority on Julian, he gave a superb discourse in both English and immaculate French and somehow also managed to be humorous on the life and writings of Dame Julian of Norwich, a 14th century Anchorite, who in her reclusive contemplation received spiritual revelations from the Lord which she recounted in her book 'Revelations of Divine Love'. Also the first book written in English by a woman. After a jolly lunch at 'The Larder' and a free afternoon, we met again at Norwich Cathedral for a guided tour in French. They were all very interested to find the memorial and grave of Edith Cavell, who is a heroine of great standing in Belgium. A delightful choral evensong rounded off the day.

On Saturday following matins in French and English at St John's, we headed off to Coggleshall to visit the small, merchant's house called Paycockes, now a National Trust property. One of the delights of organising things for our visitors to do, is finding so many places in the area which we ourselves haven't visited before and which have an interesting but little known history. Paycockes is no exception and we were entranced by the beautiful English garden and the Tambour lacework which it is said was brought over to England from France by a man called Drago who settled in Coggleshall and with his two daughters taught the craft to the townspeople, some of whose descendants are still the only people practising the art in England. The lace which can be as filmy and beautiful as the finest Brussels lace is made on a foundation of net stretched on a frame, which was originally shaped like a tambourine, hence the name!

After a good lunch in the local Brasserie and a walking tour of this very pretty village, we returned to a free afternoon before the excitements of our farewell dinner which is traditionally now, held at the Day Centre. The kitchen was ably presided over by Brenda, Joan and Audrey who do so much during the week to run the centre and who gladly gave up their Saturday night to work and join in the fun, along with so many other volunteers, without whom we would not be able to entertain over 60 people to a delicious sit down meal. Apart from a fine dinner and fine wine we had fine entertainers, flown in from all points of the County, and even some from a greater distance! - Maurice Chevalier, as handsome as ever, the Three Tenors, with Tina Turner almost brought the house down, and, not least, the French Class with their Professor Pascale, who looked remarkably like Edith Piaf! At the end of the evening, Baron Goffiner presented two paintings to the Chair of CTS; one of the Church in Chevetogne and one of the surrounding countryside. The talented artist, Jean-Marie Vingerhoef was also present and it was a great pleasure for us all to be able to thank her in person. She has always supported the exchange but had been unable to come before as she was looking after a very ill husband. Now he is dead and she is looking after a needy ten year old, who came with her and who gave us all a very special joy seeing her delight in new experiences and surroundings.

At the end of the visit as we waved goodbye to the coach, Julian of Norwich's words came back to me - All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well - Live gladly and gaily because of His love.

Eileen Quinn





*Taking a picnic in St. James' Park before hitting the streets...*



*Two found a seat!*



*Gloria started us off  
from Westminster Central Hall*

• Thank you everyone who helped by sponsoring us to raise £336 on the walk

• Thanks to those who helped us raise £220 at the market on the day before

• Thanks also to all those who collected or gave donations during Christian Aid week. The total raised will be revealed in next month's 'Link'!



*Negotiating the steps of  
St. Andrew in the Wardrobe!*



*Still smiling on the way back to the coach after stirring songs from Garth Hewitt, and wise words from Leslie Griffiths*





Stansted Windmill  
& St Mary's Church  
Open Days

Sunday 1st July  
Sunday 5th August  
Both are open 2 - 6 pm

Uttlesford Carers &  
Alzheimer's Disease Society

**CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP**

PLEASE NOTE  
CHANGE OF DATE

2 - 4 pm Thursday 5th July  
Quaker Meeting House

**Everyone welcome**

Mountfitchet High School

**Car Boot Sale**

Sunday 8th July  
8 am to 12 noon

£6 in advance £7 on the day



Refreshments

Tel 813384



**VILLAGE EVENTS**

July

1 Sun	Windmill Open St Mary's Church open	2 - 6 pm 2 - 6 pm
2 Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
4 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
5 Thu	Carers' Support Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
7 Sat	Carnival	Lower St Car Park noon
8 Sat	Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon
12 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Green Waste Skip URC Strawberry tea	Day Centre noon - 2 pm Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm 58 Chapel Hill 4 pm
15 Sun	Junr Cricket Family Match Gardens open for HEAL Music in the Park	Hargrave Park 11 am 2 - 6 pm Bentfield School 3 - 6 pm
16 Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
16 Mon - 20 Fri	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
17 Tue	RAP Annual Meeting	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
18 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
19 Thu	RBL Women	Day Centre 7.30 pm
22 Sun	Lib Dem Garden Party	Churchmead, Widdington 2.30 pm
29 Sun	Shalom Auction & Tea Summer Fête	Quaker Meeting House 3 - 5 pm St Clare Hospice 11 am - 4 pm
30 Mon	Play Scheme begins	St John's Hall

August

1 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
5 Sun	Lib Dem Salmon & Wine Windmill Open St Mary's Church open	7 Blythwood Gardens 12.30 pm 2 - 6 pm 2 - 6 pm
11 Sat - 12 Sun	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm



**GARDENS OPEN**

Sunday 15th July  
14 beautiful gardens in  
Stansted for you to enjoy!  
2 - 6 pm

Telephone 814265

**Stansted Regular  
Aid to the Poor  
(RAP)**



**Annual General Meeting**

8 pm Tues 17th July  
Quaker Meeting House  
*All are very welcome*



**SHALOM AUCTION &  
STRAWBERRY TEA**

3 - 5 pm  
Sunday 29th July  
Quaker Meeting House

*Get rid of all those unwanted  
items and raise money for charity*

The next edition of Village Events covers August and September.

**Be sure your event is included!!**

Please submit details by 12th July to 58 Chapel Hill  
or by email to stanstedlink@aol.com

**PLEASE NOTE We have a new email address!**

All items are subject to the editor's approval



**Uttlesford District Council Skip Dates**

Please note change of date: Mon 16th - Fri 20th July  
Lower Street Car Park 7.30am - 3pm (Fri am only)



**GREEN WASTE COLLECTION**  
(for composting)

Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm

Saturday 14th July  
Sunday 12th August  
Saturday 8th September  
Sunday 7th October

## Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices  
Crafton Green  
Tel 813214  
Fax 813964

### Playscheme

Our main point this month is to let everyone know that the Summer Playscheme for 5-11 year olds will be running, albeit in a slightly different format and venue!

The scheme will operate for 3 weeks, commencing Monday 30th July and finishing on Friday 17th August. The venue will be St John's Church Hall, and thanks to St Mary's School for allowing us the use of their playing field. There will be two sessions daily - 10am-12 noon and 1.30-3.30pm. Due to Social Services regulations, children aged 5-8 will only be able to attend one 2-hour session per day. The cost per session is £1.50 per child. We are currently trying to book the outings, which are likely to be to the Science Museum, Walton on the Naze and Thorpe Park. Watch out for full programme details being posted on noticeboards. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Terri Stockwell and her band of loyal helpers for agreeing to take on the Playscheme again this year.

### Stansted Carnival - 7th July

As we go to print, the final preparations are in hand for what we hope will be a FUN Carnival for everyone. Get your costumes ready, as the event will start with the Fancy Dress Procession from the Youth Centre in Lower Street.

The theme is "2001 and Beyond...". Entrants must be ready at the Youth Centre at 11.45am. There are four age groups: Under 5's, 5-10's, Over 10's and Adult (16 yrs +). Prizes will be awarded for winners of each age group at 12.30pm. Further details from Vanessa Ollier on 812280 or e-mail her at [vanessa@stansted.net](mailto:vanessa@stansted.net).

If you want to have a pitch or stall at the Carnival, but have not yet booked, please contact Richard Simmonds on 815075. If you wish to help by making a donation or giving a raffle prize, please contact Simon Clifford on 815904.

Thanks to support from the Parish and District Councils, as well as others, we are able to run this event with FREE ENTRY again, so we hope to see as many parishioners as possible there to support Stansted's local organisations.

### Skip Dates:

Saturday 14th July (Green Waste)  
Monday 16th - Friday 20th July.  
Saturday/Sunday 11th/12th August.

Ruth Clifford

## Uttlesford District Council

As I write this, I am keeping my fingers crossed that two important projects will get underway in July.

Work is due to begin in July on the young people's coffee bar at the Lower Street youth club. The coffee bar should be running by late summer after almost two years of planning and fundraising. The Stansted Youth 2000 group has been fortunate to raise over £30,000 from a long list of organisations to pay for the work. Thank you to any of the donors who read this article.

Are you willing to help run the bar once every few weeks? If so, please telephone or email me.

In June the district council was being asked to give the go-ahead for the Mountfitchet Leisure Centre. There have been some last minute funding changes that will probably mean the Council has to find more cash to make the books for this Private Finance Initiative project balance. You may have already read the outcome in the local papers before you read this Link column. I hope the headlines were positive ones.

The present Council is now half-way through its four year term. It is likely to be all change on the committee system from September. I am personally sceptical that the new arrangements will bring much benefit to council tax payers, but we will have to try to make it work.

Best wishes for enjoyable summer holidays.

Councillor Alan Dean  
Tel: 01279 813 579.  
email: [cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk)

 **Celebrations** 

**Balloons for that Special Occasion ...**

**Weddings ~ Christenings ~ Anniversaries**

**Adults' & Children's Parties**

**Valentines Day ~ Mothers Day**

**and much more ...**

 Surprise someone with a special delivery of the 'Celebration' In A Box

**Call Carolyn on 01279 814815**



## STANSTED JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB

### Family Fun Cricket Match - Sunday 15th July

Matches will be on from 11am in the morning and some of the afternoon. Mothers will play the younger members of the club; this could be quite hilarious if past years are anything to go by.

The older boys are challenging their fathers; this will be a more serious game of cricket. Mr. Berry has not forgotten that his son gave him out last year, a very dubious decision.

Do come along and enjoy a cup tea with us, you will be made welcome.

### Stansted Carnival - Saturday 7th July

Once again we will be having a craft stall at this event to raise money for the forthcoming cricket tour.

### Cricket Tour

Plans for our third tour of Dorset are well under way. Fifteen of the older boys and their fathers are going. Cricket matches have been arranged over the five days.

If you are interested in joining our Cricket Club, come along on any Sunday morning at 10 45am or telephone Keith Ayres 814471.



## STANSTED & DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS.

On the afternoon of Sunday 22nd July a Garden Party will be held at Churchmead, Church Lane, Widdington (courtesy of Sir George and Lady Moseley).

At mid-day on Sunday 5th of August a Salmon and Sparkling Wine Party will be held at 7 Blythwood Gardens (courtesy of Michael and Marion Dyer.)

For further information on both events please ring 813432 or 813080.

Our next Ploughman's Lunches are on Saturday 14th July and Saturday 11th August at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2 pm. All are welcome.

Robin Scarr

# HELPLINE

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, the Stansted Helpline telephone number has had to change yet again. The Hutchison Paging Service, which we have been using for several years, ceases at 30th June 2001. We have arranged an alternative paging service with Vodafone and there should therefore be no change to the manner in which calls are received and dealt with but, of course, there is a change in the contact number.

## OUR NEW (NEW!) TELEPHONE NUMBER IS NOW:-

0769 550127

New cards displaying the change should by now have been delivered to each house in the village and should be kept in a safe place in case of need. If anyone has not received a card, please contact Francine Cope on 814562, or any other member of the committee who will be happy to provide one.

May we take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to everyone who helped us in delivering the cards around the village on our behalf – without your help it would have been a mammoth task for us!

Finally, if any driver can volunteer their services for providing transport during the week on an occasional basis, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

*HELPLINE – STANSTED'S COMMUNITY CARE SCHEME*



### *Start Saving £'s immediately*

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Interested?

Please call me, your local Representative Barbara on 01279 656245 and leave a message requesting more details; I will be delighted to get back to you.



# St Clare Hospice



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

### Summer Fete

One of the top functions which for several years has been successfully drawing in the crowds and funds, is our annual Summer Fete. This year it is taking place at the Hospice on Sunday 29th July 11am to 4 pm. Please show your support by coming along. Not only does it promise to be a great day out, but it also gives supporters the opportunity to see the Hospice - tangible evidence of the work we do for the local community.

As well as popular regulars such as the craft fair, a wide variety of games and stalls, cream teas, a clown, majorettes, barbecue, Belgian street organ, a floral display, ice creams, and a fire engine, we're also planning a number of new attractions. These include miniature boats, animals from Hobbs Cross Farm, karate demonstrations, a brass band, pony rides, and a miniature railway, to name just a few.

If you find yourself unable to come on 29th July, you may like to make a donation instead.

Jo Price - Fundraising Administrator

At the club meeting in June members heard Mr Mike Thurlow, Head Gardener at Audley End Organic Garden, tell how the walled garden has been restored by English Heritage and the Henry Doubleday Foundation working together. All seeds and plants grown are carefully researched and the latest project, the Fruit House, is nearly completed and will be planted later this year with old varieties of apple and pear trees.

Mr Thurlow's talk made all present want to go and see the garden for themselves and it is hoped to arrange a visit later on.

There will be **NO** meeting in the Day Centre on July 4th as it is this year's evening visit to Beeches Nursery at Ashdon leaving Crafton Green Car Park at 6.30 pm. This nursery has just been featured in the Royal Horticultural Society Magazine "The Garden". It should be a good visit.

At our Carnival Stall on July 7th we hope to have plants for sale and a plant tombola.

See you there.



## Royal British Legion Women's Section


At our May meeting tickets for the lunch at Galleywood in September were again discussed, as was the suggestion by County to arrange transport to enable Group "C" to meet once a year.

Our speaker for the evening was unable to come so we decided to use the time to have a Quiz, organised by Bessie and a celebratory drink. The latter was to toast 9 of our members who have all reached the age of 80 during the past 22 months. The Quiz was won by the table at which Margaret, Janet, Vera and Cath were sitting; and biscuits, cheese and several glasses of wine were enjoyed by all.

Our next branch meeting will be on Thursday 19th July in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm when Olive Bunting will talk on "My Days in the Post Office".

Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 8th August in the Day Centre from 10.30 am.

Pat Clower



Registered charity number 10049801

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contact **Ann Conroy**  
on **07966 506997**  
or **Gill Purslove**  
on **01279 814701**

# Stansted Tennis Club



## Junior Coaching

Chris Hollis continues to coach juniors on Monday and Thursday afternoons and also Saturday mornings. There are still a few places available, so if you are interested or would like more information, please contact Chris on 01279 319155.

(The starting age for coaching is usually 7 years, but several 6 year olds have now started in the Thursday class),

## Junior Singles Tournament

This took place on Sunday 3rd June. There were only 7 entrants, due mainly to the fact that it took place in the half-term holiday. The format of the competition was that each competitor played 5 games against everyone else, the winner being the player with the highest total. Will Pacey finished in 3rd place with 23 points. Just one point ahead on 24 points, there was a tie between Rory Jamieson and George Luther. George was declared the winner, as he had beaten Rory 3-2 in the round-robin stage.

## Boyd Trophy

A full quota of 16 entrants competed for this annual trophy. After a delicious lunch, the semi-finals were played, followed by the final. The winners this year were Martin Sebley and Richard Mott, who defeated club newcomers John Bitten and Roger Loveday.

## 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.

## Tennis Club Garden

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

## Wednesday Evening Club Session

Please note that from 5pm every Wednesday adult members are welcome to come along and join in the club sessions. We would particularly like to encourage new members to come along!

Sunday morning Adult Open sessions continue from 10am.

## Handy Person Required

The Club is currently looking for somebody to maintain the courts, which would involve light sweeping and use of the

leaf collecting machine. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact Janet Hollis on 01279 812073. 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



## Recipe of the Month Lime Cheesecake

### Base

3 oz / 75 gm digestive biscuits, finely crushed  
1½ oz / 40 gm butter  
1 oz / 25 gm demerara sugar

### Filling

20 fl oz / 500 ml / 1 pint lime jelly tablet  
grated rind & juice of 1 lime  
8 oz / 225 gm sieved cottage cheese  
5 fl oz / 150 ml / ¼ pint double cream  
1 tablespoon caster sugar

### To decorate

whipped double or whipping cream  
candied angelica leaves

- (a) melt the butter
- (b) mix biscuit crumbs, butter & sugar
- (c) press evenly into base of an 18 cm / 7" tin
- (d) chill
- (e) make up jelly with 10 fl oz / 300 ml / ½ pint boiling water, stirring until jelly is all dissolved
- (f) add lime rind and juice
- (g) chill until nearly set
- (h) mix cottage cheese and cream
- (i) stir in jelly and sugar
- (j) blend well, using blender if available
- (k) pour on to biscuit base and chill until set
- (l) pipe the whipped cream into rosettes & decorate along with the angelica leaves

### If freezing

- (a) place rosettes on a flat sheet
- (b) open freeze rosettes and cheesecake
- (c) when frozen, place rosettes in rigid container & wrap cheesecake

### To serve

- (a) defrost cheesecake in refrigerator for 4 hours
- (b) place rosettes on top & defrost for further 2 hrs
- (c) decorate with angelica leaves and serve chilled

**For a richer cheesecake use full fat soft cheese**

**THE LINK** is seeking someone to assist with production. Anyone willing to join a small but motivated team is invited to ring 647213 or 654945.



**OPEN GARDENS**

Our 2nd Open Gardens will be on Sunday 15th July, 2pm-6 pm, £3 entrance. It will follow last year's format - but hopefully with more sunshine! We have 14 gardens open. We have a wonderful spread from Stoneyfield Drive through to Bentfield Green. There will be refreshments at some of them, strawberries and cream at another, while plants and raffles will also be available.

Tickets will be on sale before the day at 'Auto & Miniature' (opposite Barclays Bank) and at the Mill House Tea Rooms, Lower Street. On the day they will be available at Crafton Green and the participating gardens.

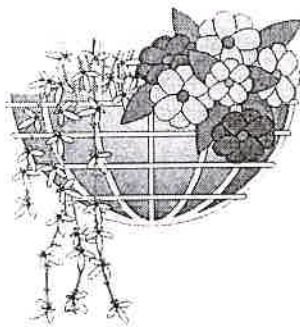
Come and enjoy a lovely afternoon with us!

Quote:

*Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul.*

(Luther Burbank)

Any enquiries ring Sue Hitchmough, (814265).



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**MOBILE PHONE NUMBER CHANGES  
- A REMINDER**

Earlier pagers and mobile phone numbers have now changed to the new numbering commencing 07....

In The LINK, there are two advertisers that are displaying their old pager/mobile numbers; the new numbers are as follows:-

**Aldwych Construction Ltd: 07802 548 471**  
**HELPLINE Pager Number: 07659 550 127**

**Please see the separate item regarding the HELPLINE number change in this edition of The LINK.**

Tony Butcher

**Ugley Village Hall**

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

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



# Stansted Evening Women's Institute



## Nature Notes

At our May meeting we discussed two resolutions that our delegate Brenda Ryan would be asked to vote on when she represented us at our Intermediate General Meeting to be held in Cardiff on 6th June. The first topic was the 'Abuse of the Elderly'. Many older people are abused verbally, mentally and physically not only in hospitals and old people's residential homes but also in their own home. Many carers have no proper training and it is hoped that if this resolution is passed by the WI's the Government will be urged to make sure carers are given proper training and also take a N.V.Q. course which will hopefully stop the abuse that goes on.

Our second resolution was for the 'Provision of School Nursing Service'. The meeting will be urging the Government to ensure that all school age children have access to a dedicated nursing service that is local. Many schools do not have a nurse on call as they did in the past and the WI's proposing this resolution feel this is not an acceptable situation.

After much debating on both these subjects members voted for the second resolution but against the first resolution. Mrs Ryan will vote accordingly. She will also vote on these subjects for three other WI's, Manuden, Elsenham and Barnston who she is also representing at this meeting.

Members were also asked if we should take part in this year's village Carnival. It was agreed to organise a Guessing Games stall.

In June we listened to Wendy Emberson, GRAD Dip Phys. MCSP SRP, talk about her work as a Physiotherapist. She had members walking around the hall doing breathing exercises and answering questions. She also asked us questions and really had us thinking about ourselves. The title of her talk 'From Cradle to the Grave' showed that Physiotherapy can help people of all ages with varying complaints, even asthma and migraines.

Mrs Wellings thanked Wendy for a most interesting and informative talk.

During October we will be holding five classes on water colour painting when hopefully we will be learning the secrets of drawing and painting.

Our meeting finished with members taking part in a Quiz put together by Mrs Dix and Mrs Ryan while in Cardiff at the IGM. Our next meeting is on July 12th at St John's Hall. The speaker is Julie Haylock who will talk on 'Home Made Chocolate'. Visitors are welcome.

Brenda Ryan  
812725

### Garden Plants could Poison your Dog

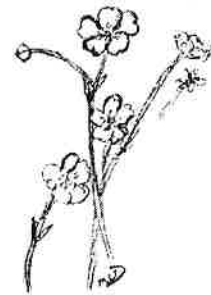
A dog welfare charity has warned dog owners to be aware of the dangers to their pets in gardens this summer. The National Canine Defence League say some common plant varieties, such as the humble buttercup, could kill a dog.

Many dogs become victims of plant poisoning every year. Clematis, foxglove and hyacinth are extremely toxic to dogs, claims the charity, and dog owners are advised not to grow them.

Symptoms of garden poisoning can range from convulsions and vomiting to breathing difficulties and, in severe cases, can also lead to death.

"We advise all owners who suspect their dog is suffering from poisoning to take it to a vet straight away. If at all possible they should also collect a sample of whatever the dog has consumed as the success of the treatment could depend on this."

To find out if there are any problem plants in your garden send for a free copy of the NCDL's list of Poisonous Plants (tel. 0207837 0006).



Maureen Davies

### Fear of Public Speaking?

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# Stansted Profile

## No. 36

### Christine and Bill Stiles



Stansted is full of people with interesting lives and different stories to tell and I am lucky enough to meet some of them. This month Christine and Bill Stiles - step forward.

Christine was born and brought up in Dorset and came to London to train as a nurse at University College Hospital and then did her midwifery training in Edinburgh and Oxford.

She then nursed overseas as a volunteer with the United Nations Association. She was sent to South America and spent 3 years 1000 miles up the Amazon running a health clinic and a health education programme for the local community in the Brazilian jungle. During this time she learned to speak fluent Portuguese. Nursing in England must have seemed very strange after working in a totally different environment and coming from a society where you possessed nothing to one where possessions are deemed so important. She went back to UCH and continued nursing there; during this time she met Bill and they were married in 1971 and lived for 6 years in Enfield.

When their first child was on the way Christine gave up her work until 1989 when she returned to nursing in the Day Surgery Unit - first of all at the Herts & Essex Hospital and

then at Princess Alexandra Hospital, where she is now the Senior Sister of the Day Care Unit. The many changes in the Health Service have not affected her love of the work and the satisfaction she gets from it.

Bill was born in Enfield in 1941 so remembers little of the Second World War although his father was involved with the production of wings for the Mosquito fighter bomber known as the 'Wooden Wonder'.

After leaving school he went to work for Thorn Electrical Industries as a student apprentice - spending half the year at college and the other half gaining practical experience. The firm was founded by Sir Jules Thorn who, as Chairman, made a point of knowing every employee. As a new face in a factory of 3000 Bill was picked out and talked to as soon as Sir Jules saw him: "I just wish that more business leaders could show the same interest in their junior employees" says Bill. As a Chartered Engineer he continued with the Thorn Group until the firm was taken over by the American General Electric Co. in the early 1990s, and eventually most of the manufacturing operations were transferred to Eastern Europe and his job came to an end. Fortunately soon after he left, thinking further management employment unlikely at 55, a steady stream of consultancy work came his way and his career, which he very much enjoyed, carried on until illness led to a second retirement.

Their move to Stansted in 1977 was mainly to ensure that their three children grew up in a country community. Their house-hunting had been surprisingly easy; they collected a pile of house descriptions from estate agents in Bishop's Stortford and their present home in Church Road was on top of the pile - they saw it and knew at once it was right for them so the rest of the pile was undisturbed!

Their three children, Rebecca, Alexander and Lucy attended St Mary's School where Bill and Christine feel that they had an excellent grounding - "they could not have had a better start anywhere". The girls went on to the Herts & Essex High School and Alex to the Boys' High School. All three continued on to Higher Education: Rebecca is now involved in training courses for the food and drink industry and lives in Southend. Alex lives in London and is an Investment Banker. Lucy is still at College in Kent doing an Arts Degree and hopes to make films and videos as a career.

Since his second retirement Bill has become more involved again in local government. He was re-elected to the Parish Council in 1999, having been a Parish and Uttlesford District Councillor from 1979-1987. Recently he was busy canvassing for the Conservative Party of which he has been a member for 40 years. He is also particularly interested in housing and is a voluntary board member of two Housing Associations.

Christine and Bill are inveterate travellers - the United States being a favourite destination. They have visited many parts of the American Continent from New York to Los Angeles, as well as Florida and Las Vegas (but they did not gamble!). High on their list of priorities for the future is India, one of the few countries not yet visited.



Both are keen supporters of the Village Music Club and are willing background helpers. The Annual Art and Craft Fair also receives their help. Bill has recently been trying his hand at outdoor bowls.

They are members of St John's Church and when their children were young Christine ran the Young Wives Group there. Bill has done one spell of duty on the Parochial Church Council.

A day or so after they first moved to Stansted - while still surrounded by packing cases - the Vicar, then Rev'd Stan Davies, came to welcome them into the Stansted community, with which they have been involved ever since and whose warmth they value highly.

Katharine Hurford



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

It is with pleasure that the History Society presents for you their new season programme, the first meeting being on 6th September 2001 with a presentation on "The History of a Printing Firm and the Printing Process", then follows:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 4th October      | "Growing up between the Wars"                           |
| 1st November     | "Thaxted"   |
| 6th December     | "The English Gentleman and his Country Estates"         |
| 3rd January 2002 | "Members Day"   |
| 7th February     | "A well ordered Town - Saffron Walden"                  |
| 7th March        | "Houses in Stansted"                                    |
| 4th April        | "Bound for Australia, Convict transportation 1787-1868" |

Our season concludes on 2nd May with the AGM, and an as yet unknown "Presentation".

We sincerely trust that for your enjoyment and interests the selected programme contains a wide and varied (and on occasions far-reaching) selection of subjects. The presentations will be given by "Invited Speakers" and Members. The Society takes this opportunity to extend their thanks and continued support to existing members and, of course, will be pleased to welcome new or any prospective members. The Society is always looking for local history interests. Many friends welcome the chance to share, show or talk of their interests, be it in the form of family history, old letters, bills, diaries, photographs, parish magazines, collections, etc - all being important in helping to build and preserve a unique and special local history picture of the village and surrounding area in the 20th century or even before.

We look forward to seeing or hearing from you with your interests or ideas that may help to expand our understanding, knowledge and enjoyment of local history

Peter Brown



Huw Johnson  
Club

John Edgar

We were all very sad to hear that John had died and we shall all miss him very much indeed. Over 26 years ago we held a meeting and the Huw Johnson Club was formed. John and his mother and father were at that meeting and they became not only enthusiastic supporters of the Club, but great friends. John was a great character with very strong views on many subjects including politics, the advantages of being Scottish, but above all the difference between right and wrong. However John will be remembered by many for his strong Christian faith and his steadfast belief and love for Jesus. John had his own little prayer corner in his bedroom and he prayed there every day. John couldn't read but he loved to have the Bible read to him and he was delighted when his sister Ann and brother-in-law Gordon bought him tapes of the Bible so that he was able to listen whenever he wanted to.

John had a great sense of humour. Whenever he took the collecting plate up to the altar at Evensong (the service he attended regularly with Joe his father), on returning to his seat he would stop in the aisle and give me a really big wink then give a cheeky grin before continuing up the aisle.



When John reached his 50th birthday the Club gave him a big surprise birthday party attended by more than 100 guests. The Caledonian dancers were there and a Scottish piper. The party took place on a Friday instead of our usual Thursday. John who thought he was going to the usual Club evening said to Ann on the way 'I suppose Marion and Tom had to let those blood people have the hall last night.' John who was always so polite insisted on shaking hands with everyone in the hall.

John lived in Stansted all his life and his father and mother and his sister, Ann, made sure that although he had Down's Syndrome he lived his life as fully as possible. However a special mention must be made of Gordon, who for over a year has given such loving care to both Ann and John.

Once while on holiday with the Club, a little girl asked me if I was in charge of the special children. John, you were one of the special children and one of God's very special children.

Marion Johnson

## Stansted Red Cross Week, May 2001

May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone in the village who gave so generously to the British Red Cross collection. We raised the marvellous total of £1232.98, making this our most successful year! I would also like to thank all those people who so kindly gave their time once again to collect for this very worthwhile cause.

Diana Pelly

## CONTACTING THE LINK BY EMAIL

Although the recent difficulties associated with using the 'stansted.net' portal for routing emails have now been resolved. The LINK editorial team has set up an additional email address to which emailed contributions may be sent.

This alternative address is: [stanstedlink@aol.com](mailto:stanstedlink@aol.com)

We recommend that this address is used in future when you wish to contact the LINK by email.

Derek Honour  
Editor



To celebrate **THE OFFICIAL OPENING** of the new wing of  
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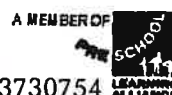
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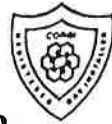
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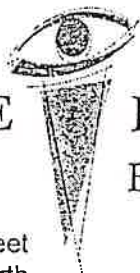
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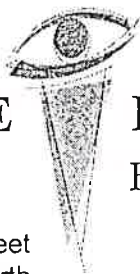
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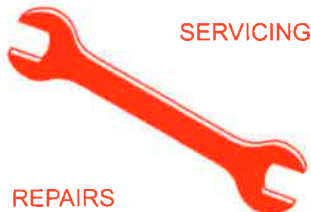
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