

March 2007
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The *LINK*



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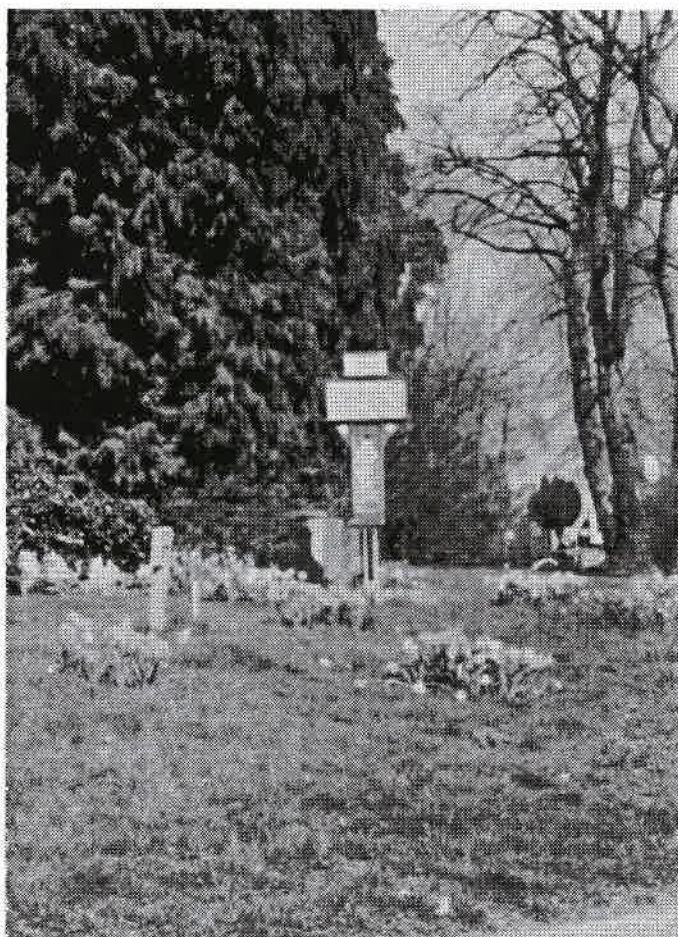
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Photograph: Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

... can Spring be far behind?

The Village Sign ❖ ❖ ❖ Silver Street

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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by 12th April for publication on 28th April**

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 March

4th	10.30 am	Mr M Dyer
11th	10.30 am	Rev'd D Simpson, Communion
18th	10.30 am	Rev'd J Tollington
25th	10.30 am	Rev'd D Simpson

Other Meetings

19th	2.30 pm	Monday Club
22nd	8.00 pm	Social Night
25th	10.15 am	Pilots

Interior Renovations

A very important decision in terms of the United Reformed Church in Stansted was made on 1st February 2001. The governing body of the local church in the form of the Stansted Group of Churches voted unanimously to proceed with the planned building renovations to the interior of the church in Chapel Hill. The decision is a courageous and visionary one because there remains a short-fall in the funds required to accomplish the full renovation, which means that the members will continue the task of fund-raising with increased vigour (more details below).

The work will extensively change the interior of the church, transforming it into a more welcoming and friendly environment with modern facilities and flexible areas for Worship, concerts and meetings. A new car park has already been constructed at the East side of the church.

The plan is to remove the first floor gallery and the fixed dark-stained Victorian pews and build a new entrance porch. The internal building work includes a meeting area, a new kitchen, full toilet facilities with access for the disabled, new heating, electrics, carpeting and decoration throughout. The existing pews will be replaced with comfortable chairs.

On completion of the work, which will take approximately four months, we will have a church sanctuary more conducive to worship in the 21st century and an area that is sufficiently flexible to accommodate other activities and serve the community in all sorts of ways. This will mean that the building will be available for much more than its current use of one and one half hours out of a possible 105 hours in the week. The renovation has been on the cards for some time now but at long last it is finally within our reach, thanks to a

generous grant from the United Reformed Church central funds.

It was a fundamentally important decision made on 1st February 2001 and one we should celebrate for a number of reasons:

First, it is an acknowledgement that we are all on a pilgrim journey, none of us have "finally arrived", and we invite others to join us on our journey because only through them will our journey be enhanced.

Secondly, it is an acceptance that change is something to be welcomed rather than rejected.

Thirdly, it reflects an understanding that a church building is not a museum to be preserved because of its past heritage and because the church is people, not a building, we are always under the process of being transformed.

Finally, the decision demonstrates that people are prepared, in the light of their faith, to take a risk. Taking risks involves moving out of our comfort zone perhaps into deep or uncharted waters, but it is precisely in those circumstances that God may work through our weakness.

David Simpson

Fund Raising

Following the recent Church meeting decision on our Redevelopment, our fund raising steps up a gear with a Quiz Night on 31st March, 7 pm for 7.30 in the Lecture Hall. Tickets £5.00, which includes a Ploughman's Supper (bring your own drinks and glasses to your liking). And a Quiz sheet for you to do in the comfort of your own home.

The Quiz sheet will be available from 23rd February, price £1.00, to be returned by 28th March with the winner being announced at the Quiz Night.

To get your Quiz sheet or to book your seat at the Quiz Night please ring Betty, 814850, Valerie, 813433 or Janet, 812593. Whole teams are 8 to a table, but individuals are very welcome to make up further tables.

U.R.C. Pilots

The children in the Pilots Group at Stansted URC. are doing their best to raise funds for the redevelopment project at their church. Apart from the normal jumble sales that they hope to organise during the coming year, the Pilots have drawn a large picture of the church and have placed it inside the building. The idea is to ask members and visitors to collect one and two pence coins and place them on the picture until the whole area is covered. This amount will then be given by the Pilots to the redevelopment fund. As we hope that the community will use the new facilities when they are completed, and you think that the children's idea is a good one, you might like to participate also. We have a magazine for our Pilots Group called "The Bridge" and this quarter we were delighted to read that

"Pilots continues to enjoy a period of growth as parents and churches choose this organisation for their children and young people. The amount of new companies registering grew from sixteen in 1999 to forty in the year 2000". This is good news for us as we continue to try and give our young people an interesting and varied round of activities within the main body of the church, incorporating away days, holidays, visits to other Pilot groups in the area as well as general and specific badge and crest work.

We will keep you informed of any further fund raising activities by our young people.

Valerie Trundle

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting 11 am

Scientists are apt to receive a bad press. Although working in divers fields they tend to be lumped together as a vaguely threatening species.

There have been quite a number of well known Quaker scientists; botanists, doctors of medicine, chemists, crystallographers and astronomers. Also much work has been done in medical education and public health, which has continued to give benefit and is taken for granted.

A Quaker, John Dalton 1766-1844 known as "The father of atomic theory" became a well loved figure in Manchester and left as his memorial scholarships to Owens College in Manchester. One of the scholars, Arthur Stanley Eddington 1882-1944 went on to become Senior Wrangler in the Cambridge Tripos examinations and from the University went straight on to become a chief assistant to the Astronomer Royal at Greenwich. He later became Plumian Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge and subsequently President of the Royal Society.

Both Dalton and Eddington were from poor homes but had exceptional mothers. Many people have classed Sir Arthur Eddington as the greatest of English Astronomers, he made possible the theory of stellar evolution.

Eddington wrote, " In its early days our Society (The Religious Society of Friends) owed much to a people who called themselves Seekers. I think that the spirit of seeking is still the prevailing one in our faith, which for that reason is not embodied in any creed or formula. We should be shocked if students recited adherence to Newton's laws of motion or the electro-magnetic theory of light ... Rejection of creed is not inconsistent with being possessed by a living

belief. We have no creed in science but we are not lukewarm in our beliefs. If so called facts are changing shadows, they are shadows cast by the light of constant truth. Science aims at constructing a world which shall be symbolic of the world of common experience. It is not at all necessary that every individual symbol used should represent something of common experience. The man in the street is always making this demand for concrete explanation of the things referred to in science; but of necessity he must be disappointed."

There have also been Quaker women making a mark in science. Kathleen Lonsdale (1903-1971, also from a poor background) had a distinguished record at the Royal Society. She went on to London University and from there joined Sir William Bragg's team going with him to the Royal Institution working as a physicist and crystallographer, later she was President of the British Association (1967-68). She married and had children. She always had a keen interest in world affairs and she was also a strong pacifist. Because of her pacifist convictions she had a spell in Holloway and naturally this led to strengthening her Quaker concern for penal reform. During the "cold war" 1953, she went with parties of Quakers to Russia and China.

Finally, we have a contemporary Quaker woman scientist, Professor of physics at the Open University, Jocelyn Bell Burnell. She was formally an astronomer at the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh. As a Cambridge research student she played a key role in one of the great discoveries of twentieth century astronomy. She also plays key roles in the Religious Society of Friends. She is actively involved in attracting more women to science ... but her thought ranges much wider than the topics of her profession. An article was written about her in last month's LINK.

Mary Rice

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 March

4th Kenneth Mark
11th Don McGregor
18th Rev'd John Graham – Holy Communion
25th Rev'd Harry Wood

Fellowship meeting – Friday 9th March at 8pm.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham

St John's, Stansted 

Something in the air

A year ago, Tom Hunt breathed a sigh of relief as he was told that he would remain with his company, but his job would be restructured to accommodate functions which had previously been done by others who were, by now, former colleagues.

Tom has been told he has a bright future if he performs well. His city firm has just set the targets for the next financial year. It will take a little extra work, but Tom thinks they are achievable, as he managed to get through last year.

Three years ago, Tom and his wife Sarah moved out from Hackney to Stansted Mountfitchet. It was time to start a family and Sarah gave up her accounting job to look after their son, Rory who was born two years ago. Housing is expensive in Stansted, but they can manage on Tom's income, and a village community is definitely the right place to raise children.

The commute is not bad, but Tom has to stay later and later at the office. Occasionally he comes in on a Saturday morning to clear his desk and he often has to bring work home and gets to bed later than he would like.

Sarah says they feel like strangers, and she dearly wants time with Tom, and time to herself. She becomes angry when Tom goes to the bar before taking the evening train. He

gets drunk easily on social occasions and shows little interest in her day and should spend more time with his son. Decisions which they should make as a family are now made by Sarah, otherwise things won't get done.

There was a recent push at work to get geared up for a merger with an American company. Tom completed the extra work, but he is now behind on a large contract. It won't always be like this, but its good that Alison in marketing can make time in the bar to hear him unload, before he has to go home and face his wife.

Tom's workload has increased because his managers have been told to make more profit. This has come from the board which has to report to large corporate shareholders, one of which is the pensions company which has to show a good return on its investment, so men like Tom can have a good pension, if they live long enough to enjoy it.

Tom and Sarah got out for a walk in the fields last Sunday. James, their neighbour when they first moved to Stansted, was in the park with his four year old daughter. Since James' marriage broke up, he only sees her once a fortnight when he comes up on an access visit. His daughter lives in Stansted, his ex-wife kept the house where she now lives with her partner, and James hasn't the first idea what to do with this little girl whose life now barely connects to his.

March is the Lenten season, a wilderness time for taking stock, standing back. It is also the time when people expect to celebrate Mothering Sunday whose tone is set, not by the church, or by the experience of young families under pressure, but by the greetings card industry and Interflora, which also needs to make a profit.

The answers only come when we can take time to ask the questions, not bogus religious questions but ones about real life. Thomas Merton came close:

"If you want to identify me, ask me not where I live, or what I like to eat, or how I comb my hair, but ask me what I am living for, in detail, and ask me what I think is keeping me from living fully for the thing I want to live for. . ."

Andrew Spurr

All characters are fictional.

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-12:00noon
Friday	

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

Administrator
Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

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

Rector
Revd Andrew Spurr
The Rectory
5 St. John's Road
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex, CM24 8JP
phone/fax (01279) 812203
<rector@stansted.net>

Assistant Curate
Revd Rhys Martin
43 Gilbey Crescent
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex, CM24 8DT
phone (01279) 817513
<curate@stansted.net>

Honorary Assistant Priest
Canon Derek Jackson
88 Stansted Road
Bishop's Stortford
Herts, CM23 2DZ
phone (01279) 652664

Director of Music
Mrs Glynis Morris
Wakeley
Leetes Lane
Eversden
Cams, CB3 7HH
phone/fax (01223) 263640
<church.music@stansted.net>

From the Registers

Baptisms - 21st January

Joseph William Cridland
Jasmyrn Isabel Pocknell

St. John's Diary

Sundays	8:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i>
	9:30am Parish Communion <i>sung</i>
	6:30pm Evening Prayer <i>said</i>
Wednesdays	11:00am Open Door Service on the third Sunday of the month
	10:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i> 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.

Tiny Tots is our Mother & Toddler group which meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons to which all are welcome. Contact Mrs. Tina South for more information, (814371).



Hall Change !

Back in November 1999, the Benefice Bulletin asked for a volunteer "with a gift for administrative oversight" to get in touch with the Rector. Thinking I might be organising church rotas, I cautiously put my hand up and in the time it takes Father Andrew to greet you after the 9.30 am Sunday Service (be warned!) I found myself in charge of the St John's Church Hall. The good news was that he had already found two enthusiastic young volunteers, Joy Lambe and Tracy Bottalico, to help. We were joined by Lino, Tracy's husband and my wife Elizabeth, to form a small committee of five. There were some immediate jobs to do. With these we were helped by Rob Robinson and his plumbing skills, and many others; even the Chairman was to be seen wielding a screwdriver - not his strong point! We were also lucky to find Gill Willson to take over the Hall cleaning.

At our first meeting we agreed that money had to be raised quickly if we were going to start brightening up the place. Tracy and Joy organised a successful Children's Party in June. This was quickly followed by one of Sonia Levy's memorable parties: a Hill Chilli. We then began to plan for an Autumn Quiz Night and Auction of Promises. Never having organised such an event before, we underestimated just how much work was required. But thanks largely to the heroic efforts of Andrew and Clare Arnold (with a really fun Quiz), Martin West (who confessed to me on the night that he had never auctioned anything in his life - but of course did it brilliantly) and Mandy Telford (who knows a thing or two about organising food for a multitude), it all went amazingly well. In between all these activities we managed to get some money from the Airport STACC Fund. And the Donate-a-Chair scheme was supported by many people including Rosemary Thompson's Tombola Stall at Birchanger, enabling us to buy 60 smart blue chairs. All told, by the Autumn we had raised a total of £3,600 and we could think about refurbishing the kitchen. Not only had we raised the money but, just as important, the events had been fun and brought a lot of the village together. Our hirers, too, encouraged our efforts: Sideways Nursery School led by Helen Pawsey, Wendy Mitchell's dancing school, the badminton & karate clubs, Evening W.I., a new Friday Art Class and many more, not forgetting Church organisations such as the Sunday School and Laser Group, for whose benefit the Hall mainly exists.

In January, Doug Hudgell's firm began work on the kitchen, its first refurbishment since it was built, ably overseen by Elizabeth Wagener as "clerk of works". Now completely redecorated with new units and equipment, it has been transformed. We can now look ahead to the next phase: redecoration of the main Hall, the entrance and the toilets,

and new curtains. Needless to say we don't have the money to do this yet. Tickets for a Spring Grand Draw are now on sale (first prize: two Buzz flights to Europe) but we shall be organising other events too. Anyone with ideas or help? Routine maintenance has to go on in the meantime and Roy Pinner has joined us to help with this. We have some even bigger ideas: storage is a problem for which we should like to create more space; and it would be good to have a smaller room for Church and hirers to use. These needs may call for an extension but that's for another day..... It's been a very busy year but with a lot of help from everyone, we have made a start.

Jeremy Wagener

Missions Committee

We are holding a Grand Spring Sale and Coffee Morning on **Saturday 31st March, 10 a.m. - 12 noon** in the Church Hall. Stalls, at a charge of £10 per organisation, are offered to all locally based registered charities to come along and sell their wares - any items, eg. bric-a-brac, books, toys, cakes, household goods but **no** secondhand clothes.

Further information and bookings may be made via The Church Office, 815243, Stephanie May, 816254 and/or Rosemary Thomson, 834053.

Good Friday

Project Although this is some way off, we need to begin to make plans.



This year we go back to Rome in the year AD46. We join Ben the Baker and his family who are leaders of an underground Christian movement in Imperial Rome. More information can be found by following the

Resources link on:

www.stansted.net/churches/anglican/



We are looking for volunteers, from across the benefice and beyond, who can help us begin to draw the project together. If you would like to help, or know of people who would, please call Mrs Lyn Inston on 816226 or email her on:

[<storykeepers@stansted.net>](mailto:storykeepers@stansted.net)

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

In Memoriam - Laurie Hall

Many of you will remember with great affection Laurie and Paula Hall. Sadly, Laurie died in Spain, his adopted country, which he loved, on Tuesday, 23rd January 2001.

In the early 1980's, Laurie brought enthusiasm and, at times, order into our Parish life. He had an ability to cut through to the heart of the problem, which made him an admirable choice for many of his roles within the church.

Laurie had so many attributes - he was Chairman of St. Theresa's Parish Council for a time, Covenant Organiser and he and Paula supported all the events within the church. They were the instigators of the monthly coffee mornings, which they ran every month, primarily for newcomers and lonely people, who otherwise may not speak to anyone else that day. With the advent of the family Picnics in the summer, the parish social committee was born. They were a couple who, even with a family of five children and several grandchildren, worked tirelessly for the good of others. Theirs was an open house - and all were welcome, at any time.

Later on, when Paula had retired from her job as a teacher at St Elizabeth's School in Much Hadham, where Laurie supported her in all her efforts there, they retired to Spain. They still ran an open house, as many of us can testify who visited them, Laurie was the perfect host. He had been very ill with emphysema, which was to render him always short of breath and prone to illness, so it was felt this was the best option. Laurie loved Spain and the life and sunshine there, and he blossomed. Unfortunately, recently he became ill and was unable to recover.

Laurie Hall will be remembered for what he was, a perfect gentleman.

Mary Warnett

Oberammergau 2000

Last September we joined with Christians from all over the

World who came to see the Passion play in Oberammergau, a small village in Bavaria, celebrated for most of the time for its woodcarvings.

However once every 10 years the men women and children perform a drama of the Passion of Jesus. The backdrop to the open air theatre is the mountains some snow-capped, which dominate this region.

Through this enactment the people of this village fulfil a vow their ancestors made in 1633 when their lives were threatened by the plague.

The theatre seats nearly 5000 and although the auditorium is covered the stage is not but performances take place irrespective of the weather. From May to October the whole village population of 4000 people take part in one way or another.

Visitors are only allowed to stay 2 nights and your host in the village house, restaurant or shop may turn out to be Herod, Pontius Pilot or maybe one of the Apostles! The production is entirely the work of the villagers themselves and the play lasts from 9 in the morning to 5pm with one break for lunch.

Passion plays were common in Europe, having their roots in the medieval mystery plays and were often performed at Easter in celebration of the most important festival in the Christian year. Oberammergau produced its first performance in 1634.

The play depicts the story of Christ's passion, beginning with his entry into Jerusalem and ending with the transfiguration and resurrection. The drama is meant to impress us with an urgent message - let Jesus be your guide and the one to give you strength.

For the 2000 Jubilee Year production, the text of the play had been revised to emphasise the prophetic element showing that Jesus wanted to fulfil the law of the prophets.

The production was not intended to offer a detailed historical account, but we were encouraged to understand Jesus from within his own Jewish faith and tradition. There were numerous references to the historical faith of Israel and to Moses, to show continuity and so that we should realise we are the new shoot that sprouted from the ancient roots.

Ludwig Modl, Professor of Theology at the Munich University who wrote the preface for the play reminded us that neither mourning nor tragedy can extinguish the hope of those who believe.

During this period of Lent leading up to Easter the message of the play is central, that Jesus Christ died for all of us and that the story of Our Lord's Passion challenges us to hope for life in abundance.

Eileen Quinn

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**Informed Prayer -
Prayerful Action**

2 pm Friday 2nd March
URC Hall

Speaker Pat Kern

Everyone Welcome (ladies & men)



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



Mountfitchet High
School PTA

QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 pm Sat 10th March
Tables of 8

Tickets £5 incl ploughman's
Please tel Margaret on 816718

Licensed Bar

VILLAGE EVENTS

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	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
8	Thu	Carers' Support Group WI	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm
10	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughmans Mountfitchet PTA Quiz Village Music Club	Day Centre noon - 2 pm Mountfitchet School 7.30 pm St John's Church 8 pm
12	Mon - 15	Thu Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
15	Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm
16	Fri	Helpline Open House	Day Centre 7.30 pm
17	Sat	Corrymeela Dance	Mountfitchet School 8 pm
18	Sun	Cricket Club Stall Indoor Car Boot Sale	B S Station car park 8 am - noon Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon
19	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
20	Tue	Stansted Millers AGM	Day Centre 8 pm
21	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Annual Parish Meeting	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
23	Fri	Lib Dem Supper Club	Day Centre 7.30 pm
30	Fri	Cricket Club AGM	Hargrave Ground 8 pm
31	Sat	Spring Sale Cricket Club Jumble Sale URC Quiz	St John's Hall 10 am - noon Hargrave Ground 2 - 4 pm URC Hall 7 for 7.30 pm

April

1	Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
4	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
5	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
7	Sat	Garden Club Spring Show	Day Centre 2.30 pm



THE VILLAGE
MUSIC CLUB

DAMIAN GIRVIN Piano

8 pm Saturday 10th March
St John's Church

Tickets from Stansted Carpets, Nockolds
or Sonia Levy tel 815282
Adults £7.50, concessions £5, children £3

ST PATRICK'S EVENING in aid of Corrymeela

**Dancing to Pete Baker's
Crusty Jazz Band**

8 - 11.15 pm Sat 17th March
Mountfitchet School

Tickets £6 Family £15 incl supper
Bar ~ Raffle

Please tel 850209 / 814865

Everyone Welcome



Mountfitchet
High School PTA

Indoor Car Boot Sale

Sunday 18th March

8 am to 12 noon

Tel Mike 812780 or John 813531



Development
Fund

QUIZ NIGHT

7 for 7.30 pm

Saturday 31st March
URC Lecture Hall

£5 (incl ploughman's)

Please tel 812593 or 814850

Bring your own drink and glass

St John's Mission Committee

Spring Sale &
Coffee Morning

10 am - noon Sat 31st March

St John's Hall

Tel 816254 / 834053 / 815243

All profits to local charities

Stansted Cricket Club Jumble Sale

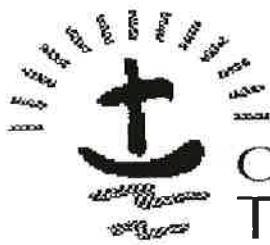
2 - 4 pm Sat 31st March
Hargrave Ground

Teas ~ Tombola ~ Entrance 20p
PLUS please bring & buy at our stall
in Bishop's Stortford Station Car Park

8 am - noon Sun 18 March

Tel Sandra 814471 or Gill 814701

Proceeds to renewal of practice nets



CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

LENT COURSE - FAITH IN THE FIRE

What do the Archbishop of York, Rabbi Lionel Blue, Steve Chalke, Dr. Leslie Griffiths and Ann Widdecombe have to say about Faith? Find out their views and see if you agree in this year's Lent Course.

Venue – **United Reformed Church Lecture Hall**

Please note that these are on different days of the week. All start at 8pm.

1. Faith facing Facts – Wednesday 7th March
2. Faith facing Doubt – Thursday 15th March
3. Faith facing Disaster – Tuesday 20th March
4. Faith fuelling Prayer – Tuesday 27th March
5. Faith fuelling Action – Friday 6th April

All are welcome. There will be a small charge of 50p per session to cover expenses. For further details, please contact Catherine Dean on 813579.

The **Agape Supper** will be on Sunday 1st April at 6.30pm at the United Reformed Church Lecture Hall.



Shalom

Meetings

5th March – A talk about Boy Soldiers by a speaker from Save the Children, at the Friends Meeting House.

19th March – a Lenten meditation led by Rev'd Rhys Martin at the home of Marion and Michael Dyer, 7 Blythwood Gardens.

CORRYMEELA EVENING with an Irish flavour - to be held on Saturday 17th March 8pm to 11.15pm at the Mountfitchet High School. Dancing to **Pete Baker's Crusty Jazz Men**. Tickets £6.00 – families £15.

Whitechapel Mission - thank you to all who responded to the appeal in the January Link for clothes, food etc. for the Mission. Male helpers are still required for Sunday mornings to supervise showers. If you can help, please contact David Morson on 850209.

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

Supporters Morning – Saturday 10th March 9.30am to 1.15pm at the United Reformed Church, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford.

Take advantage of a Christian Aid meeting close to home and find out about the new **Trade for Life** Campaign, hear about Christian Aid partners in Uganda and prepare for Christian Aid Week.

If you would like to go, let me know then I can book lunch, which is **free!**

Catherine Dean
813579



Hello again,

Already we are well into February and the children are busying themselves with this term's topic "**All About the Arctic**". They have been making icebergs and snow patterns, drawing polar bears, seals, etc to make a large collage of the ARCTIC.

They are learning about the weather conditions there and how they keep warm, what they eat and what work the Inuit people do, etc.

After half term we will be busy about the village, collecting and identifying items for our "Sponsored My Village Competition". Red Nose Day will be great fun, making cakes to sell and dressing up. The children enjoy doing things to help others less fortunate than themselves. Mothers Day cards and Easter cards to be made, of course, finishing with a traditional Easter Egg Hunt.

There are still a few vacancies for two and a half year old children. Please call in any time for a brochure. Stay and play for as long as you like. You will be very welcome.

Sideways Pre-School Nursery is open Monday - Friday, 9am - 12.15pm in St John's Church Hall.

Helen Pawsey

JUST THINK

If the wife of the Earl of Sandwich had knitted him a woolly jacket and Lord Cardigan had put his lunch between two pieces of bread, today we would be wearing sandwiches and eating cardigans !



Nature Notes

Rich and mellow, the blackbird's exhilarating song proclaims the days beginning across the land in the rosy dawns of spring. By the time the blackbird population is in full song in early March some pairs of older birds will be feeding their first brood. There may be as many 10 million blackbirds in the British Isles (some are winter visitors). Blackbirds may mimic other birds; sometimes they pick up phrases from other species. One researcher found his garden blackbird copying the dog whistle he used to call his pet! Whilst birds are beginning their concert the overture of another spring chorus is performed. The music swells and is picked up from pond to pond. Common frogs (smooth skin) croak their amorous song to advertise their presence to females.

Possibly only five out of the original 1500-3000 will survive to breed but this still represents progress and compared to some mammals of a similar size frogs have a generous life expectancy of up to twelve years.

Although frogs are not choosy where they breed, toads will often retrace their way to an ancestral breeding pool (even if it is no longer there) choosing deeper more permanent water. Frogs will even lay spawn in day puddles, failing all else.

However, there are still some well known breeding areas for frogs in and around Stansted and, in addition, ordinary domestic garden ponds have now become favoured breeding places.



Maureen Davies

LINK ADVERTISING

Angela Wall has moved to Bishop's Stortford and has therefore relinquished her role as Advertising Manager for The LINK. A temporary enquiry number appears on the front page. We are grateful for Angela's two years with us and wish her, Christopher, Anna and Thomas all happiness in their new home.

Editor



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The Stansted Millers will soon be preparing for the regular summer openings at the mill, commencing on Sunday 1st April 2 - 6 pm. Volunteers are needed for the admission and sales area on the ground floor and to steward on an upper floor, for the first Sunday in each month until October and for the Sundays and Mondays of Bank Holiday weekends.

All interested in the mill are welcome to the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 20th March at 8 pm in the Day Centre when Derek Bayford, the Stansted Fire Station Officer, will be talking to us about safety at the mill and leading an informal discussion on related matters.

Peggy Honour
01279 647213



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Members enjoyed the welcome return of Mr Fred Etheridge of "Wickford Wild Life Trust" at their February meeting. During his talk entitled "Myths and Legends of Wild Flowers", he told amusing stories and tales regarding the healing properties of some of our common roadside flowers, including buttercups, dandelions and nettles. Members were told of three forthcoming club events: the Spring show on 7th April in the Day Centre, the 20th Anniversary Dinner, also at The Day Centre, on 21st April - when Mr Ken Crowther of "Down to Earth" fame at BBC Essex will be the Speaker - and the Annual Club outing on 17th June, to Pashley Manor and Merriments Gardens in East Sussex.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, 7th March at 8pm in the Day Centre when the Speaker will be Mrs Margaret Willis, talking about Japanese Gardens.

Everyone is welcome to join the Club, or just come along as a visitor to our meetings.

Fear of Public Speaking?

When you've tried everything else...

Denise Williams

Tel 07770 272130

Email:
williams.denise@btinternet.com

MORE PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

Over the last few years, we have seen significant changes in the telephone numbers of fixed lines to accommodate the requirements for the continual growth in demand for new lines.

For people living in or phoning to London, the introduction of 0207 and 0208 codes has taken some getting used to. Other areas of the country have also suffered changes.

Fortunately this area, and in particular, Stansted Village has been little affected save for the introduction of 647 ... number series as an addition to the previous 81.... number series for some lines in Stansted.

However, as part of the OFTEL national numbering plan, it is now the turn of pager and mobile phone numbers to change so that in future all such numbers will commence with 07..... For some time now, all new pagers and new mobiles have been allocated 07 ... series numbers. It is now the turn of the earlier pagers and mobile phones with numbers not commencing 07... to change to line up with the new numbering arrangements.

All the new numbers have been working for the past year and will run in parallel with the old numbers until April, after which all the old numbers will cease to work.

Start using the new numbers now.

If you have a pager or mobile phone or you make calls to a pager or mobile phone, you can check what the new number will be by calling BT on Freefone 0800 731 0202.

In The LINK, there are two advertisers that are displaying their old mobile numbers; these should be updated to the new numbers as follows:-

Aldwych Construction Ltd	07802 548 471
Parkins Plants	07976 908 085

A reminder for these advertisers whose old mobile number is shown will be published monthly in The LINK until new or revised advertisements have been placed. This will be of particular concern to the ones advertising on the red cover pages, where the advertisements are committed for the year and the whole year's covers have been printed in one batch.

It is also important to note, as displayed elsewhere, that the HELPLINE Pager Number is now changed to

07641 104 093

This number change also applies for users of HEARING HELP UTTLESFORD who access this service using the HELPLINE number.

Tony Butcher



Stansted Cricket Club

Founded 1860

From the depths of a very wet, dreary winter, it's hard to believe that the cricket season will be just a couple of months away by the time this is published.

Last season, the Saturday 1st XI did well to finish 5th out of 10 sides in Division II of the Herts & Essex Observer League, having been promoted the previous year. This season, we have entered a 2nd XI in a new Division IV, mainly to give our younger cricketers more competitive games. League matches start on May 5th, and there will be regular friendlies on Sundays throughout the season.

We are also very fortunate to have thriving Colts teams, catering for youngsters in the 8-14 age groups, and who enjoyed a second successful tour to Dorset last summer.

The ground and surroundings at Hargrave Park, next to the Football Club, are very pleasant, especially after much work last year renovating the pavilion (which dates back to 1891), while the outfield has improved thanks to a much-needed reconditioned outfield mower. We are very thankful to Stansted Sports Association, who own the ground, for an interest-free loan, and to Uttlesford District Council for a £350 grant, which helped our own fund-raising to buy this. Our project this year is to raise funds for a new equipment shed to replace a very dilapidated one at the top corner of the ground, and which could also be used by the Colts as their own pavilion/store.

Our AGM is to be held in the pavilion on Friday 30th March at 8 p.m. All past, present and prospective players, and friends are welcome.

Other events for your diaries are:-

- Sunday 18th March starting at 7 am - sale of items at Bishop's Stortford railway station car boot sale to benefit our Colts teams. Any donated items to Keith Ayres at 49 St. John's Road (Tel 814471).

- Saturday 31st March at 2 pm - our annual jumble sale at the Cricket Ground. Again, contact Keith with donated items for sale.

There is a constant need for new blood, and anyone interested in playing could contact me (or Keith for the Colts), or come along to Hargrave Park any match day to watch.

Brian Linford, Chairman,
8 Park Road
Tel: 01279-813466



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

"Fifty-three years of painting and decorating". This was the title of Keith Gibbs' talk at the February meeting. Not your ordinary painting and decorating though, but the decorating in gold leaf and the restoration of many grand buildings and monuments in England and overseas.

He started as an apprentice with a company called Campbell and Smith who have been trading since 1873. In those days an apprenticeship took sixteen years. Mr Gibbs time was nine years including three evening classes a week.

Before the war workers in this trade were only paid 6 old pence an hour and worked a 48 hour week, then after the war he helped get this hourly rate raised and is now up to £10 per hour. In 1978 he became a managing director of the company and retired in 1999 but still retains a position there. He has worked on many buildings around the world and remembers vividly the Winery he designed for the Vanderbilt family in North Carolina, which was in the Victorian style. He went to America with his wife for the unveiling ceremony which included several days of buffets, balls and gatherings before the eventual opening event. He has also worked on the Victoria Monument outside Buckingham Palace, the Coronation Coach, a Sheikh's flat with a secret room and Lord Lloyd-Webber's house.

Altogether a most interesting talk and slide presentation with members asking many questions.

At our March Meeting in St John's Hall on Thursday 8th at 7.30 for 7.45, our speaker will be Police Wildlife Liaison Officer, Barry Kaufman-Wright, giving a talk on his work. You are welcome to attend.

Brenda Ryan
812725



WI "SUMMER" OUTING

We shall be going to Winchester for our next outing and this will be on Saturday May 5th. The coach will leave from outside Sworders at 8.00 am and the journey will take a bit more than 2½ hours. There will be a "comfort" stop in each direction! As far as I can tell at the moment, depending on take-up, the cost will be £7.00.

Winchester is a really interesting town, with shops, museums, traditional and modern sculpture, restaurants, ancient buildings and one of the most attractive cathedrals in the country. As usual, we welcome non-members and males on the outing. If you are interested please phone Pearl Wellings on 813614.



For a final flourish to our fifth season we will be welcoming young pianist Damian Girvin, who, before his performance as part of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's complete Beethoven Cycle, was acclaimed by music critic, Gerald Lamer, who said - "An uncommonly promising performer; if Rattle and the BSO can offer anything nearly as poetic as Girvin's contribution, we shall be in for quite an evening"

Damian, a former pupil of Bernard Roberts, is supported by the Countess of Munster Trust and we are grateful to the Trust for their sponsorship.

He will be performing a lively and varied programme of sonatas by Haydn and Beethoven (Pathetique), variations by Brahms, other works by Chopin and Poulenc, and Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody.

The concert is at St John's Church, Stansted on Saturday 10th March and will start at 8pm

Tickets are £7-50, Concessions £5-00, Children £3-00, and children of members £1 -00. Available from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill Nockolds Solicitors, Market Sq., Bishop's Stortford Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282)

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 PROFILE

No. 32

Alastair and Jane Richardson

The Scots have a tradition of influencing and enriching communities well beyond their borders. The Richardson family of Park Road are an outstanding example of this attribute. Alastair was born in the war years, son of an Edinburgh schoolmaster. He attended schools in the city and latterly in Kent, following which he became indentured to a firm of chartered accountants. A fellow trainee accountant in those days was Jeremy Wagener, now of Silver Street; little did either of them expect to spend later years in the same Essex village. What is more, neither of them can be drawn on the social side of their evenings together! After qualifying, Alastair moved to London and then to South Africa for three years. Upon his return to London he joined Trafalgar House. He developed a speciality for pensions and later was invited by Plessey to become their fund manager. A take-over by GEC and Siemens led to several years successfully terminating the Plessey pension fund. When this drew to a close in 1996, Alastair became an independent provider of advisory business support and management services to the small company sector and also interim management to pension funds. His financial expertise is frequently sought by treasurers of local organisations when the time comes for the annual "audit".

Jane was born in Elgin but was brought up in Edinburgh. Her school years concluded with a year in Paris at a language school (where she became a confirmed francophile), followed by a secretarial college in Edinburgh. She then joined the Foreign Office where one of her early assignments was a year in the Embassy at Belgrade during the latter Tito years. The Embassy "family" was close-knit as foreign contacts were fairly tightly controlled. From Belgrade she went for a year to Geneva before a posting to the Consulate in Osaka. Jane lived in nearby Kobe for a happy 2 years and learnt to understand Japanese culture, although she freely admits that a non-oriental can seldom achieve a full understanding. On her return to Edinburgh she took an appointment in the Lord Provost's Office before coming to London and becoming PA to Sir John Methven, then Director General of the CBI.

The family moved to Stansted in 1980, first to St. John's Crescent and then to Park Road. The next generation too have a taste for adventure; Hugo, a graduate of Oxford Polytechnic, was head-hunted for a land agent's post in Lincolnshire, although he is currently on a sabbatical in Australia; Minnie, who gained a First in Russian and French at Bath University spent two years as Business Development Manager in Moscow, a rare experience for one of her years, and is now in Montreal, also on a sabbatical, where, thanks to a chance meeting, she promotes art sales for a private gallery. Of the two younger children, Adrian is currently studying art on a foundation course at Falmouth and recently had a

traumatic experience in an Alpine crevasse where he narrowly escaped death and which is a story in itself. Alexa faces A-levels in the summer and hopes to continue to a language degree. In the interim she plans to complete a school exchange by spending time in Japan, after which she hopes to work in Germany and Canada before going up to University in 2002.

Since coming to Stansted, Jane spent 6 years working in the Audley End Estate office. She is now employed at the Faculty of Economics at Cambridge, which she finds an exhilarating experience.

It is however by their contributions to our community that Alastair and Jane are locally appreciated. Alastair has held several offices in the local Conservative Association, but is now best known for the Stansted Luncheon Club, which was his brainchild and has since grown into a thriving village institution at which members of the business and public community meet in a convivial atmosphere to improve mutual understanding. He also served a term on the Parish Council, on the PCC of St. John's Church and chaired the 1st Stansted Scout Group. A keen fly-fisherman, he frequently casts his flies into Scottish rivers but also visits local waters as a member of the Audley Fly-Fishing Club. Jane has in the past been involved with Meals on wheels, Brownies, Cubs, the PTA of the Bishops Stortford High School, and has been both a governor of St. Mary's School and served on its PTA. For good measure she is currently local Secretary of the National Asthma Campaign Support Group.

They both feel that Stansted makes a good place in which to live and have a fervent wish that the "heart" of the village should be sustained despite the onslaught of further urbanisation. Their example gives us an idea how this can be achieved.

Derek Honour

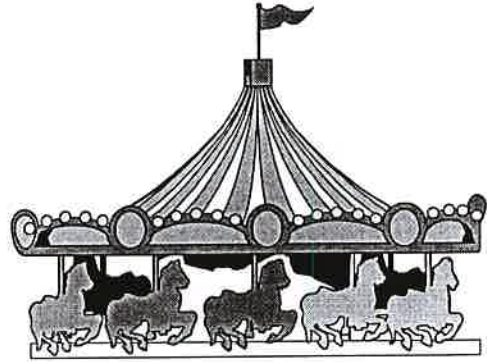


GALLOPING HORSE VILLA

Many of Stansted's older properties have a chequered and interesting past. Thanks to local amateur historians and a good County archive service we can piece together enough to provide a stimulating picture of their earlier days but often insufficient material for a comprehensive history.

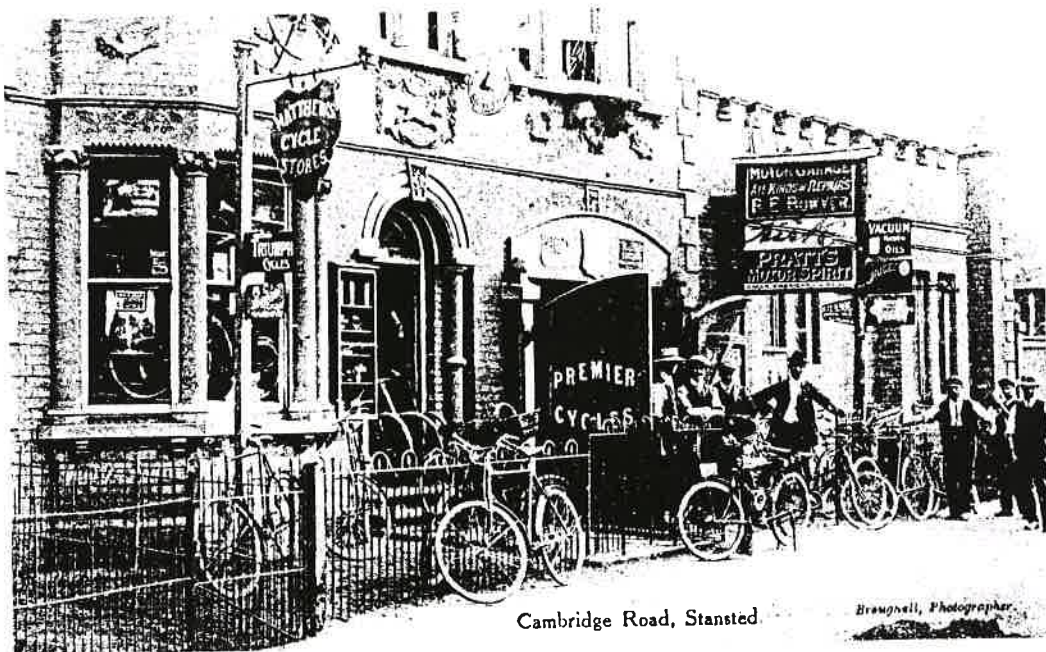
The present Co-op shop on Cambridge Road falls into the former category. It was built for Henry Thurston in the latter days of the Victorian era using the grey bricks commonly found in the north west of the county. Henry, born in 1847, started life as a brickmaker in Cambridgeshire and earned the nickname Froggy, derived from the frog in the bricks. One day he observed that a rag and bone man had a hand-operated children's roundabout on his cart. Henry must have been a skilled negotiator and speculator for he persuaded the owner to sell him the horse, cart and roundabout. Incidentally it may be interesting to note that one of these vintage manual roundabouts is presently in Stansted in the process of restoration. He then went around neighbouring villages and was obviously successful with his rides for he soon had a larger machine made with a horse powering it from the inside. In 1869 he married Esther, the daughter of another fairground equipment owner, William Harris, at Gamlingay. Henry's fairground enterprise went from strength to strength and in 1887 he purchased a set of Four-abreast Galloping horses and ostriches powered by the steam-engine "Emperor". He had an idea for using overhead crank action, which was developed and patented by two of his friends. The original gallopers and engine were beautifully looked after and polished until their sale in 1906. Henry continued to purchase other rides and engines and Thurstons became one of the best known names in the fairground industry. His wife died in 1875 and in the following year he married again, this time to his wife's sister, Sophia. It must have been shortly

after this that he moved to Stansted and built Galloping Horse Villa, behind which he had workshops, engine and organ sheds. His sons were then managing the rides and engines and Henry moved to a bungalow he had built near the Villa. He died in 1917 and his second wife in 1927; both are buried in St. Mary's Churchyard. A galloping horse above the door is now probably hidden behind the shop fascia panel but a horn of plenty, beehive and dove of peace can still be seen over the archway.



The family business moved away some 10 years before Henry's death and the property was occupied by Matthews' cycle shop and Boyer's motor garage. Mr. Matthews was the grandfather of Marion Pretty, a well-known present-day Stansted resident. In the 1920's the cycle business moved to Chapel Hill and in keeping with the times the motor side was taken over by Greens Garage who had workshops at the rear. If any reader knows when the garage closed and what, if anything, became of the building before becoming the Co-op store we would be pleased to know. In compiling this summary we are indebted to Paul Embleton who provided the photographs and some information.

Derek & Peggy Honour



SOMETHING ACHIEVED

Congratulations to the Village Music Club for bringing quality concerts to Stansted at reasonable prices; how much would we have to pay for such entertainment in London?

The latest offering, the Cantate Youth Choir, were winners of the Sainsbury's Youth Choir of the Year Award and have just been asked by BBC3 to represent Great Britain in a European Choir Competition.

Their varied programme was executed with precision and enthusiasm; obviously conductor Michael Kibblewhite inspires young people. St John's Church was packed with an appreciative audience. Keep up the good work!

Peggy Honour

... AND SOMETHING TO BE ACHIEVED

Using the Village Diary which lives in the Library is the easiest way of avoiding clashes of dates and ensuring better attendance at events. Why? Because the Link picks up the happenings for the ensuing six weeks. So please use it and avoid the risk of losing it.

Editor



May 26th - September 3rd 2001

Essex County Council is planning an even greater series of events this year. It will feature all kinds of rural, garden and craft events. Anyone organising fetes, garden open days, flower festivals or any "greenish" occasion should telephone John Curtis on 01245 437548 without delay to reserve an entry in the booklet.

Grand Draw

In aid of St John's Hall refurbishment

FIRST PRIZE: a pair of BUZZ air tickets to any of their European destinations
plus many other exciting prizes

The draw will take place in St John's Church at 10.45 am on **Sunday 22nd April**
Tickets go on sale in the new year



Recipe of the Month

Lemon Surprise

1 lemon
2 oz / 50 gm butter
4 oz / 100 gm sugar
2 eggs, separated
10 fl oz / 250 ml / ½ pt milk
2 oz / 50 gm self raising flour

- (a) *extract the juice from the lemon & grate the rind*
- (b) *cream the butter and sugar together*
- (c) *add lemon rind & beat until light and fluffy*
- (d) *add egg yolks, beating well*
- (e) *stir in milk, lemon juice and flour*
- (f) *whisk egg whites stiffly & fold in the mixture*
- (g) *pour mixture into a greased, ovenproof dish*
- (h) *stand dish in a roasting tin containing water*
- (i) *cook for 40 mins at 180°C / 350°F / Gas Mark 4 until firm to the touch*

Serves 4 - can be served hot or cold

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

When Roses sweet shop in Silver Street closes on March 9th it will be the end for a family business which has spanned three centuries. Audrey Allen who with husband Fred and sister Brenda Prior have run the shop for over 40 years took it over from her mother Annie May Rose, and she in turn inherited the shop from her parents. Countless Stansted children, now parents and grandparents themselves, have rubbed their noses against the window and eyed the glass jars (still there to the end) with joyful anticipation. "Open all hours" was more than just an expression to them. All three of them have had health problems of late although thankfully are now much improved. On behalf of customers past and present we wish them happiness in their richly deserved retirement. Thank you, Audrey, Fred and Brenda, you have served us well.

Derek Honour

Celebrations

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Valentines Day ~ Mothers Day

and much more ...



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Uttlesford District Council

Mobile Phone Masts

For some, mobile phones are a vital accompaniment to everyday living, for others they represent an irritant in an already too noisy world. Whatever one's view, the mobile phone industry has seen huge growth over the last ten years. There are currently almost 35 million subscribers. This has resulted in the proliferation of mobile phone masts without the proper planning controls. Currently residents and councillors have little opportunity to object to phone masts less than 15 metres high, because they are regarded as 'permitted development.' The latest applications received by Uttlesford include one at Littlebury as well as that at the telephone exchange behind Old Bell Close, Stansted. There is significant public concern about the appearance and, in some cases, the health implications of these masts. The long-term concerns of those living or working close to masts have not yet been fully explored.

Last year's government-commissioned Stewart report into the mobile phone industry recommended a precautionary approach be adopted, with exclusion zones around each new installation. Nowhere in the report does it say that these masts are not a potential health hazard, but it does identify that children are at a greater risk of absorbing radiation than adults.

I will be pressing Uttlesford to follow the example of local authorities such as the London Borough of Islington and Kent County Council, which have both moved to stem the rise in mobile phone masts in their areas. Both councils have announced their intentions of citing potential health risks to those living near mobile phone masts as their justification. Uttlesford should also join the campaign to change planning law so that all mobile phone masts are subject to the full planning process.

Flooding

Having this morning just waded through flood water at St. John's Road and Gall End, Uttlesford's recently published leaflet 'Flooding what do to in an emergency' seemed very relevant. Copies are available from the Parish Council offices or from Clive Cooper, the Council's Community Safety Officer on 01799 510436

Council House Rents

As from 1 April rents will be rising by an average of £3 per week (5.8%). This was a unanimous decision by councillors. Although greater than the rate of inflation we felt we had no alternative if we were to protect the level of housing repairs. Some 44% of Uttlesford's tenants receive help in the form of housing benefit towards the cost of their rent.

Geoffrey Sell
District Councillor
Tel: 01279 815925



**STANSTED &
DISTRICT LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS.**

On Friday, 23rd March at 7.30 for 8.00 pm, Lord Andrew Phillips will be the guest speaker at our Supper Club in the Day Centre. As Andrew Phillips, he was our Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for this constituency in the 1970's. He is well known for his appearances as a 'legal eagle' on the Jimmy Young show. For tickets, at £8.00, and further information, please ring 813432 or 8130380.

Our next Ploughman's Lunches are on Saturday, 10th March and Saturday, 14th April at the Stansted Day Centre, 12.00 to 2.00 pm. All are welcome.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Stansted Day Centre on Friday, March 30th at 8.00 pm.

Robin Scarr



Registered charity number 10049801

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on **07966 506997**
or **Alison Thompson**
on **01279 816188**



**STANSTED FUN RUN
PRINTER CARTRIDGE
RECYCLING PROJECT**

STANSTED *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!*

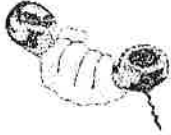


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At Stansted Day Centre



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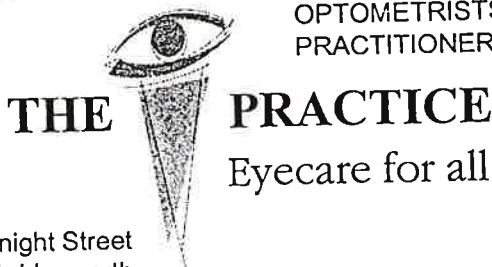
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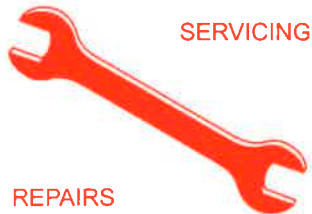
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