

Nov 2001

# The **LINK**



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Mountfitchet*

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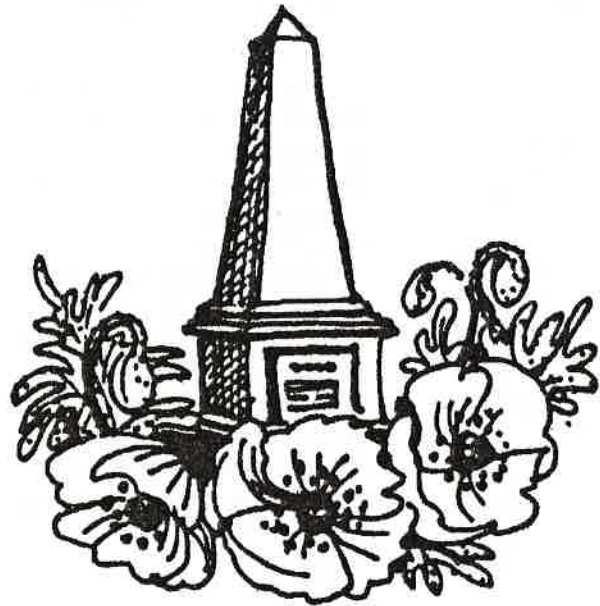


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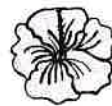
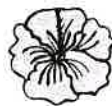
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**November 11<sup>th</sup>  
2001**

**WE WILL  
REMEMBER  
THEM ...**



... and strive for  
understanding  
and justice for the  
world's peoples



10.45 am Laying of wreaths at the War Memorial  
11 am Memorial Service in St. John's Church

**The Link (price £3.50 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted**  
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by 6<sup>th</sup> December for publication on 29<sup>th</sup> December  
(Note early copy date for January issue)



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

The Parishes of  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
with Birchanger  
and Farnham

# St John's, Stansted



## The need go back to tradition

**I've known Yusef since he was five. He is now about to turn eighteen. At six feet two, he is an impressive all-American teenager. An almost straight A average, he plays for his high school football team and looks set to have it all.**

One fallout from the September suicide bombings, which was unexpected for me, was the news that Yusef's grandmother called to cancel his visit to her in Indiana. This was because the bombings had unleashed dormant white supremacist groups out there. Despite Yusef appearing like any other son of the midwest, her fear was that his Arabic surname would make him conspicuous.

Pig-headedly, and to his credit, Yusef made the trip and was scrutinised and delayed at each airport he passed through and his baggage went missing for two days. He let it all pass with quiet dignity and patient irony.

This is a tame account compared to some, but it's about one of mine, separated only by miles.

Nearer to home, even before the bombings, local Muslims have been made to feel that they don't belong, as the long-boarded up windows of the mosque in Bishop's Stortford testify. In these uncertain and changing times, easily identifiable minorities are ready targets. Yet I wonder how many of us know the difference between Sikhs and Muslims, Sunnis and Shi'ites, and how many of us even care?

In the wake of the bombings an American priest went to a local mosque attended by American Muslims. It was there she heard the sermon she so badly needed. She writes:

"The red, white and blue is good," said Imam Plemon El-Amin, "but it is not good enough. The Qur'an teaches us that the world started out as one and will end as one, with one single soul called humanity." Before Tuesday, he said, Americans saw buildings being blown up all over the world and we looked upon that as something that happened to other people. Now we know that we are those people, and that when any of us is harmed we are all harmed. As costly as this lesson is, it is one that can bring us together instead of tearing us apart—if we will let it.

These sentiments have echoes in the Christian tradition as well. Most obviously, John Donne's *No Man is an Island*, a sermon excerpt which we used in the vigil at St. John's, a few days after the bombings

No man is an island, entire of itself;  
Every man is a piece of the Continent,  
A part of the main;  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less  
As well as if a promontory were,  
As well as a manor of friends or of  
thine own were;  
Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in Mankind;  
And therefore never send to know  
for whom the bell tolls;  
It tolls for thee.

A few weeks ago some Stansted Christians held a quiz night for no other purpose than to contribute to the costs of repairing the mosque in Bishop's Stortford. This is one among the signs of hope I cling to.

A long time ago Jesus told parables in which the hero turns out unexpectedly to be from the ethnic minority. The same stories relate encounters between Jesus and infidels which conclude with him praising their faith.

The road to Imam Plemon El-Amin's new world is closer than we think. Christians only need to look for the path in their own tradition, churchgoers need to become traditionalists.

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
Wednesday	9:00am-
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Housegroup  
Mrs Joan Freeman  
(01279) 813186  
<joanfreeman@zetnet.co.uk>



### Remembrance Sunday/ Armistice Day

*As our forces are  
once again engaged in war, so it  
becomes ever  
more crucial that the stories of those  
who suffered at the hands of deadly  
combat be honoured, and not allowed to  
fade from our sight.*

**Service of Remembrance**

10:50am 11th November  
in the Memorial Gardens  
and the Parish Church

Preacher: The Revd David Simpson of  
Stansted United Reformed Church

# St John's, Stansted

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

(continued)

### Services for November:

#### Sundays:

8.00am	Holy Communion	Rite B
9.30am	Parish Communion	Order 1a
11.00am	Open (Family) Service	3rd Sunday only
10.45am	War Memorial Service in the Memorial Gardens	11th November
11.00am	Remembrance Service	11th November
	Preacher - Rev'd David Simpson (URC)	
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	1662

#### Wednesdays:

10am	Holy Communion	Rite B
7.30pm	CTS Prayers	CW Night Prayer

### From the Registers:

#### Baptisms:

16th September	Charles Mayhew Truscott Holly Megan Salmon
23rd September	Daniel Michael Morrow William David Morrow

#### Marriages:

1st September	Sean Kevin Brown and Gemma Mohr
	Gian - Domenico Rozzo and Elaine Frances Fellowes
8th September	Andrew Michael Jennings and Emma Louise Brain

#### Funerals:

10th September	James Osborne Gemmill, aged 75 years  Ethel Gyx, aged 75 years
18th September	Nancy Emily Doe, aged 84 years
25th September	Hilda Nellie Seymour, aged 97 years

### MISSION LUNCH

With regret, this event has had to be deferred until early next year

### CHEESE AND WINE PARTY

The Rector's Cheese and Wine Party (an event not to be missed !) will take place on Friday, 14th December at 7.30pm in St John's Church.

More details in the December edition of The LINK.

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

Meeting Sunday, 11 am

I have been brought up short by the tragedies in New York and Washington and by my feelings in the aftermath. I have been thinking more deeply than I have ever done before about our country's relationship with peoples overseas and about how we may be perceived in their eyes. I haven't reached any profound conclusions and the more that comes to light from the media, the more the contradictions of the situation multiply. I am left full of bewilderment and questions - why, what if we did this or that and so on.

It is uncanny how human nature does not change much over the years. When I hear President Bush using terms such as "Infinite Justice" and "Enduring Freedom" in his speeches, my mind goes to a passage I read at college 20 years ago written by a Greek historian, Thucydides, in around 410BC during the war between Athens & Sparta.

"Even words lost now their former significance, since to palliate actions they were quite distorted. For truly, what before was brutal courage, began to be esteemed that fortitude which becomes a human and sociable creature; prudent consideration, to be specious cowardice;..... Revenge upon another was a more valued possession than never to have suffered injury." It seems to me that we are sliding in the wrong direction with "Operation Infinite Justice". Nothing justifies the terrible grief and loss created on 11th September. But creating similar grief and loss in return in another country does not feel just either.

In our meeting this morning the following passage was read from Quaker Faith & Practice. It was written by William Penn in 1693. "A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it....It is as great presumption to send our passions upon God's errands, as it is to palliate them with God's name...We are too ready to retaliate, rather than forgive, or gain by love and information. And yet we could hurt no man that we believe loves us. Let us then try what Love will do: for if men did once see we love them, we should soon find they would not harm us. Force may subdue, but Love gains: and he that forgives first, wins the laurel."

I do not know how the World's leaders bear the responsibility placed upon them; at times like this, the burden is unimaginable. I felt sorry for President Bush that this has occurred whilst he is still learning the job. We must all give clear messages to our leaders who we entrusted with power to help them through this crisis. I pray that wisdom and a spirit of peace comes to envelop them and those advising them as this crisis unfolds.

Richard Raggett

# 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 Reccation Ground  
Stansted  
Tel 01279 813579

**Email** methodists@stansted.net

**All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated**

## Preachers and services for November

4th Kenneth Mark  
11th Remembrance Sunday – 10.45am at the  
Memorial Gardens followed by service at  
St John's, preacher-Rev'd David Simpson  
18th Christine Heyhoe  
25th Rev'd John Graham – Holy Communion

Friday, 9th - Fellowship Meeting at the home of  
Arthur Law, 56 Rainsford Road

## Mount Sinai

There are two ways up Mount Sinai; the biblical Mount Horeb, where Moses received the tablets of the law with the Ten Commandments. One of them entails climbing 3750 steps, built with rocks by pious monks and this is the short but difficult ascent. The other easier way and that chosen by us, was carved by the Egyptian authorities in the 19th Century and can be traversed by foot or on animal back. Even so, animals have to be abandoned nearer the summit when 750 irregular steps have to be climbed.

The aim of our group, a party of 13, was to reach the summit in time for the sunrise on Monday September 17th. This required trekking through the night armed with torches and warm clothing. I chose not to use a camel for the ascent but was well aware of their proximity as they made their way at a greater speed than I could achieve on my boot-encumbered feet.

We were in good time for the sunrise. It felt rather chilly as we sat waiting. There were others there, some wrapped in blankets who may well have spent the night on the summit. But there was a stillness and quiet amongst us and a great feeling of anticipation as dawn lightened the sky and the mountains around us took on an almost eerie presence. Then, gradually, the colours of the rainbow suffused the sky above the horizon. Would Moses, one wonders, have been here on this spot at this breath-taking time struck between night and day?

The appearance of the sun was sudden. We were in a new

day in a very strange landscape. This very quickly became revealed to us as we stood there, feeling already some warmth from Sinai's hot sun.

Before we made our descent we were invited into the little chapel dedicated to the Holy Trinity which stands on the summit. It was erected in 1934 with the material of an earlier church founded by the Emperor Justinian in 532. Behind the chapel, to the north, there is a cave. To this we were not invited but tradition holds that this was where God put Moses: ....'while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by' (Exodus 33:22).

I felt as we made our descent that we had had a taste of that glory.

Margaret Sylvester

# 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 November

4th	10.30am	Mr R Friday
11th	10.45am	Memorial Gardens followed by Remembrance Day Service in St John's Church, preacher the Rev'd David Simpson
18th	10.30am	Mr P Preston
25th	10.30am	Rev D Simpson Communion

## Early December

2nd	10.30am 6.30pm	Mr I Roper Ecumenical Advent Carol Service
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## Dates for Your Diary

Nov 3rd	Annual Bazaar, 10 am
Nov 6th	Christmas Shoe Box Coffee Evening, 7.30pm
Nov 19th	Monday Club Outing to Scotsdale Garden Centre
Nov 22nd	Social Evening, 8 pm
Dec 8th	Coffee Morning, 10 am A chance for everyone to come and see our refurbished church building

# ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux

**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

## St Therese of Lisieux

Last month we celebrated the feast of St Therese of Lisieux, our patron, on 1st October with a special mass followed by a shared supper. Although she was only 24 years old when she died in 1897, St Theresa's life and writings have continued to influence and inspire many people. One of the things she stressed was the need to adopt a loving and childlike approach to God, so perhaps it is appropriate that the Sunday after her feast day 10 of our children made their first Holy Communion at a mass crowded with families and friends. It was a very happy occasion, and they will be able to celebrate it again when we move to our new site in High Lane, hopefully the first Sunday in Advent, when they will dress up again and hold their delayed party.

October is also the traditional month for Harvest celebrations. But especially at the present time, when world events are unfolding at dizzying speed, literally in front of our eyes on our television screens, celebration is accompanied by remembrance both of those far less fortunate than us, and of the fragility of our existence. This is strikingly symbolised in the rituals of the Jewish harvest celebrations – Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles. People build a tent of branches in their gardens, where they try to spend some time, perhaps having a meal there (or even sleeping there in warmer climates), to remind them that they are on a journey or pilgrimage to their true home.

This year people from all the churches in Stansted were invited to the synagogue at Harlow to take part in the opening service for Sukkot. It began with many beautiful prayers and readings both in English and Hebrew, including the Kadish – the great Jewish prayer for the dead. The Rabbi explained that all the collections during the seven days of celebration of Sukkot went to a local charity chosen each year by the

synagogue – this year it is a charity for the homeless in Harlow. The service concluded when we all went outside to the Tabernacle which had been put up in the garden. Wine and bread were blessed as the first fruits of the harvest, and then we went back inside for coffee and delicious cakes. All those who went felt it had been a very enriching and stimulating experience.

Ruth Rawlinson

## British Aid for Deprived Children

This month our covenant for the poor beneficiary is the Charity - British Aid for Deprived Children

We will be collecting throughout November in order to send supplies with the lorries that will go out in time for celebration of the Christmas Season in Rumania and the Ukraine.

Urgently needed are Rice, Pasta, Coffee, baby oil, toothpaste, soap, toothbrushes, cooking oil, sanitary wear, tins of biscuits, dried milk and anything that will make a Christmas present for the children and the Doctors in the hospitals who work so hard for them.

If you are able to make a donation towards diesel fuel for the lorries this would also be gratefully received - cheque made payable to British Aid for Deprived Children.

Gifts can be brought to St Therese's Church Millside during November, and following our move to our new building in High Lane on 1st December, can be brought to the Parish Centre or dropped off at my house, 4 Greenfields, Stansted (off Chapel Hill). If you would like more information please ring me Eileen Quinn, on 812109. If everyone is as generous as last year, we will almost fill a lorry on our own!

Thank you all very much.

Eileen Quinn



# SHALOM

## November Meetings

Monday, 5th – tape and discussion at 7 Blythwood Gardens

Monday, 19th – continuation of tape and discussion at Jim Collin's house, Bentfield Causeway.

# Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

## AFGHAN CRISIS APPEAL

As this edition of The LINK was being compiled, the following appeal letter landed on the editor's desk

"Dear friend,

I'm sure you will have seen the news coverage showing tremendous suffering in Afghanistan. I have seen this for myself having recently come back from working on Christian Aid's programme there.

Two decades of war have left Afghanistan in ruins. Three years of drought have devastated food stocks. **At least seven and a half million people face starvation.** Their surest hope of survival is the supply of food aid from outside the country to their homes - but millions cannot wait and are leaving their homes in a desperate search for food. Others are already too weak to move. They cannot face the arduous journey across the mountains.

Now these innocent families are being driven by hunger and uncertainty to escape being caught up in a war they do not want. Millions are on the move. This is a tragedy of vast proportions and your help is needed urgently. Christian Aid has been working to support these people in their time of need.

Christian Aid is still there, working through a field office near the western city of Herat, and through ten local partner organisations who are determined to carry on the work in these difficult times. But they need your support.

Their task is now urgent. The harsh Afghan winter is almost upon them and food is running out. **Unless we can distribute food to families in these remote areas in the next few weeks many women, men and children will starve.** That is why we need your help now.

We are doing everything we can to meet their needs. Our partner organisations in Afghanistan are well placed to distribute the aid to those in greatest need. They are doing whatever they can to help.

In Pakistan and other surrounding countries huge numbers are already in camps. Conditions there are becoming critical, with cholera and malaria already taking lives. More refugees are arriving every day.

Assisted by Christian Aid staff, our partners in Pakistan and beyond are already working around the clock to get much needed supplies to these people. But we need your gift to help them to continue to do this. Please help Christian Aid now while there is still time. Your gift can make a real difference.

**£20** will buy enough food for a family of six to survive for a month

**£60** will buy six thick woollen blankets to enable that family to survive the sub-zero temperatures in the camps.

Christian Aid is also appealing as part of the joint Disasters Emergency Committee. Should you wish your gift to be shared between the DEC agencies you can indicate this.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Morton-King, Emergencies Co-ordinator.

PS Temperatures in Afghanistan can fall to as low as -20 degrees centigrade. Funds to buy thick blankets and food are needed urgently. Please don't delay. Thank you.

PPS I apologise that because of time constraints, it has not been possible to ensure that we have not already written to you about Afghanistan."

The LINK Editorial Team suggests that any reader wishing to support this appeal should send their donation to:

**Christian Aid**  
**FREEPOST MID 16425**  
**Moulton Park**  
**Northampton**  
**NN99 1AJ**

Thank you,

Derek Honour, Editor



### Harvest Celebration

On Sunday, 7th October, there was a good gathering of people from across the denominations to give thanks and to celebrate for the blessings of the harvest. The evening started with a service of thanksgiving, and afterwards we celebrated with a shared supper and lively hymns of praise supported by the Stansted Music Group. During the homily, we were reminded of the Jewish beginnings of the festival and how this was the happiest feast of the year. All had been gathered in, but we were not allowed to forget those who have no harvest to bring in, and this was remembered in our prayers of intercession.

The evening was a sharing, in our thanks, in our intercessions, in our fare and in our hymns of praise. It was a happy meeting of peoples from different traditions and backgrounds coming together in mutual respect and delight to share a common love of God and our fellow worshippers. We enjoyed a beautiful spread of food donated by all participants.

A note of sadness was introduced when news of the bombing in Afghanistan was announced. This only served to reinforce our own vulnerability in God's creation, to thank Him for all of His blessings and to pray for peace in the world.

This was a truly spiritually and communally enriching celebration. Many thanks to all who participated.

David Morson





## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

10 am - noon  
Sat 3rd November  
URC Hall

Refreshments and lots to buy - including the cakes!



## Grand Fireworks & Bonfire

Elms Farm  
(park in Lower St Car park)  
7 pm Sat 3rd November

See other pages for further details



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

### Christmas Flower Arranging Demonstration

by Jean Crane

8 pm Wed 7th November  
Day Centre

All Welcome - non members £1

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### November

1	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Sat	Christmas Bazaar	URC Hall 10 am - noon
		Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm
		Bonfire & Fireworks	Elms Farm 7 pm
5	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
8	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
10	Sat	W I Outing	Sworders 8 am
		Lib Dem Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
11	Sun	Act of Remembrance	War Memorial 10.45 am
15	Thu	RBL Women	Day Centre 7.30 pm
17/18	Sat/Sun	Amenity & Green Skips	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
18	Sun	Craft Fayre	Mounfitchet School 10 am - 4 pm
19	Mon	Shalom Group	Jim's, 21 Bentfield Causeway 8 pm
21	Wed	HEAL Coffee Morning	49 St John's Road 10 am
		Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
24	Sat	Christmas Market	St John's Hall 10 am - 1 pm
29	Thu	Stort Valley Forum	Elsenham School 8 pm
30	Fri	MP's Interviews	Parish Council Offices 5.45 pm

### December

1	Sat	Christmas Bazaar	Manuden School 1 pm
		Music Quiz	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
5	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Thu	Blood Donors	St John's Hall 2 pm & 5 pm
		Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
9	Sun	Village Music Club	St John's Church 3 pm
		RBL Carols	St John's Church 6 pm
10	Mon - 14	Fri Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm

## Mountfitchet High School

### CRAFT FAYRE

10 am - 4 pm Sun 18th Nov

All goods by local craftworkers

Admission £1

Hot & Cold Refreshments  
Tombola ~ Free Car Parking



## COFFEE MORNING

10 am Wed 21st Nov  
49 St John's Road

Cakes ~ Bring & Buy  
Tombola ~ Weekenders

## St John's Church Christmas Market

10 am - 1 pm Sat 24 Nov  
St John's Hall

Grand Draw ~ Gifts ~ Stalls  
Refreshments & lots more ...

plus

FATHER CHRISTMAS



## Stansted Village Association (formerly Carnival Committee)

### MUSIC QUIZ

7.30 pm Sat 1st December  
St John's Church Hall

Tickets £6 incl hot supper  
Tel 812310 or 815904

## Manuden Primary School Christmas Bazaar

1 pm Sat 1st December  
Father Christmas ~ Grand Draw  
Nail Decorating & Hair Braiding  
Mulled Wine ~ Children's Games  
Homemade Cakes & Sweets  
Refreshments ~ Crafts ~ & more ...

Come & join the fun - entry free!



## STORT VALLEY FORUM

8 pm Thurs 29th November  
Elsenham Village School

Hear the Council's intentions,  
and contribute your views on:

**Rights of Way**  
**Footpaths ~ Signposting**

## Mary Rice

We regret to announce the sudden death of Mary Rice on 5th October. Mary had been an active member of Stansted Friends Meeting for nearly 20 years and her unexpected death has shocked and saddened us all. She had also been involved in ecumenical affairs for many years. Her funeral took place at St James, Thorley, on 16th October and we shall be holding a Memorial Meeting for Mary at Stansted Meeting House on 1st December at 2pm. We hope Mary's friends of all denominations will be able to join us then.



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

At our October meeting, Mrs Sheila Elliott gave a demonstration of Silk Ribbons and Fine Embroidery. Her first example was to give out four ribbons to members and show us how to fold them in a certain way; when they were pulled out of their folds they formed a sort of plait and when one half of the ribbon was pulled the ribbon gathered up to make a rose at the other end - simple but effective. She then showed us various types of embroidery done with narrow ribbons, these ranged from decoration on baby clothes to ballet shoes, embroidery on sweatshirts and tee shirts to make them more attractive and even an embroidered teddy bear. There were also needle cases and small cushions, as well as greeting cards. Mrs Elliott then did some actual embroidery to show us how to start and make a small rose - it all looked quite simple but effective.

In the coffee break, the Millennium books with photos of all organisations, churches etc, which make up our village were on display courtesy of the Parish Council. We all had an enjoyable time finding faces we knew among the photographs.

The issue of the village signs, whether to refurbish or renew, is still under discussion with the Parish Council and is to be considered at their next meeting.

The Christmas shopping trip on 10th November is full, and there is a waiting list. All monies due to be paid to Pearl Wellings before the day.

Our next meeting on Thursday, 8th November is our AGM but we also have a speaker, Mrs J Crane who will speak on 'A Time To Remember'. The meeting is, as always, 7.45pm in St. John's Hall.

Kath Johnson



## Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

Poppy Appeal

The Poppy Appeal Collection will start on Saturday 27th October. Please give as generously as you can. Thank you for all your generosity and help in the past.

The Remembrance Service will be at St John's, Stansted, on Sunday 11th November - the Parade leaving the Crafton Green Car Park at 10.40 am.

John L Segar



## Royal British Legion Women's Section

On 20th September we were delighted to welcome David Challis and his wife to our branch meeting.

Our treasurer listed donations totalling £650 which we had agreed to make to various Legion charities.

We then held our annual harvest sale with a wide variety of fruit and vegetables etc, ably auctioned by Jean Fuller, which resulted in a profit to our funds of £47. Our thanks to everyone.

On Sunday, 23rd September about 80 members from Women's Section Branches in Essex attended a Rededication Service in St. John's Church. The address was given by the Rev'd Andrew Spurr and afterwards refreshments were served in St. John's Hall.

Our Social Evening will be on Thursday, 15th November in the Day Centre from 7.30 pm - fish and chips and ploughman's - no Bring and Buy that evening.

The Royal British Legion Carol Service will be in St. John's Church on Sunday, 9th December at 6.30 pm. Everyone to be seated by 6 pm.

Pat Clower

## Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices  
Crafton Green  
Tel 813214  
Fax 813964



The National Childbirth Trust  
Education for Parenthood

### REMEMBER REMEMBER .....

Our annual firework event will take place on **SATURDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER** with the bonfire being lit at about 7pm and the firework display starting at 7.30pm. Thanks to James Gemmill we shall be holding the event at **Elms Farm, Church Road** this year. The change of venue is designed to beat the weather ... in the past we have had to cancel at the High School because of the waterlogged school pitch and the damage that would be caused. Please keep your fingers crossed for a fine weekend!

For anyone who has to drive to the event, please note that free parking is available in the **LOWER STREET CAR PARK**. It is only a short walk up over the railway bridge to the farm entrance. Whilst the field itself has quite a good stony base, we do advise that wellies are worn!

The cost is the same as in previous years, £2.50 per adult, £1 for children from 5-14 years and Senior Citizens, and under 5's free. Refreshments will be on sale.

The event this year should be super - the fireworks are the ones which were ordered for the Millennium celebrations at a cost of just under £2,000 but were never used due to the cancellation of the event in 2000.

Our sincere thanks go to the organisations who help to stage this event - the Stansted Millers, Scouts, ATC, Carnival Committee (now re-named the Village Association) and Rainbow Pre-School.

Parking for the disabled will be available on the site and a steward at the farm entrance will point you in the right direction.

### 11th NOVEMBER

The annual Parade and Service for Remembrance Sunday will be held on 11th November at the War Memorial followed by the Service in St John's Church at which Rev'd David Simpson of the United Reformed Church will preach. The Parade will leave Crafton Green for the Memorial Gardens at 10.40am.

All are welcome in the Gardens and in Church.

### GOLDEN JUBILEE 2002

Individuals and organisations are beginning to let us know of their thoughts and plans to commemorate Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee in June 2002. In 1977, a Village Committee was established to handle the Silver Jubilee celebrations and we believe that this is the right approach for 2002. To this end, a meeting will be convened in the near future, and all organisations will be invited to send a representative to discuss what, how, when and where the Golden Jubilee is marked.

Ruth Clifford  
Clerk

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Nearly New Sale of children's clothes, toys and equipment last month. It was hard work for everyone involved but we raised £235 which makes it all worth while.

Everyone with pre-school children is invited to come along to our Open House this month which is being held on Wednesday 14 November. It will take place at the Crafton Green Day Centre in Stansted from 10am to 11.30am. There are toys for the children to play with; books, wooden toys and hand-made fleece cot blankets to browse and buy (ideal for Christmas!); and refreshments on sale. Entrance is free and there's no need to let us know you're coming - just drop by and stay as long as you want.

In addition to our weekly coffee events, we'll be out and about as usual this month keeping the children and ourselves amused. On the agenda are playground trips (don't forget the wellies), a swimming trip to Saffron Walden, a ride-on-toys session in Henham (if you imagine lots of toddlers haring round on trikes and little cars and pushing anything with wheels, then you'll get the picture), a Body Shop night for the mums, a pub night for the dads and family photos, just in time for Christmas.

The coffee events take place three times a week, one for each age group. There are afternoon sessions from 1.30pm to 3pm (and sometimes later) for bumps and babies on a Monday and for pre-schoolers on a Friday and our toddlers get together from 10am to 11.30am every Wednesday morning.

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

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

### WASTE NOT WANT NOT

Local authorities frequently find themselves under criticism for a variety of reasons or no reason at all, but it is a pleasure to congratulate Uttlesford District Council for its comprehensive re-cycling facilities. All households will by now have received an explanatory leaflet of the services provided. The importance of re-cycling cannot be exaggerated so please make that little extra effort to sort out your 'rubbish'.

Editor

# Stansted Profile No. 39

## Paul and Sandra Embleton

Paul and Sandra are now well established members of the Stansted community, but they both have their origins in South London. Paul was born in Anerley and owes much of his education to Beckenham and Penge Grammar School. Before that he was a wartime child. One of his earliest recollections was the sight of a shot-down Dornier bomber which he passed on his way to school; he remembers the VIs passing over and the day he got a hole in his hand from picking up hot shell splinters, the scar from which is still evident today. The academic side of school life had less appeal for him than the cricket field. His early ambition was to be a professional cricketer for Surrey but although he did not achieve those heights he did represent Kent schools at cricket and Beckenham and Penge schools at football. His first job was with the Midland Bank at Purley, this being terminated in 1957 by National Service. Paul spent his two years in the RAF, where a principal occupation was guarding the giant Princess flying boat prototype at Calshot. Older readers will remember that this aeroplane brought our flying boat era to its conclusion for it never flew in commercial service and, like the Brabazon airliner, became an expensive monument to a splendid period in aviation history. Guard duty was fortunately punctuated by hockey and, of course, cricket, where he rose to play at Group and Command level. When not guarding and playing sport he was engaged with the station's pay accounts.

He inherited an ability for mental arithmetic from his father and in 1959 this expertise with figures marked him out for accountancy training with BP. This aptitude led Paul into data processing - then in binary code - and he progressed over the ensuing 30+ years to Divisional Manager with 2 year secondments to South Africa and Portugal. On his retirement in 1990 he spent several years as a consultant on information systems and strategy studies. Paul is a Fellow of the British Computer Society, chaired its membership committee for many years and is a member of the Investigating Panel for BCS Awards. He is a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman in the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists. In 1994 he started freelance book research which developed into him becoming a bookseller, an occupation that he still pursues with enthusiasm. His hobby of collecting postcards is well known in Stansted and, indeed, wherever postcards are traded, so it should be no surprise that Paul's collection became the basis of his book in the Archive Photographs series entitled "Around Stansted Mountfitchet" of which many copies stand on local bookshelves.

Sandra was born in Streatham and her schooling took place at Loughborough Central School. She, like Paul, remembers the frequently broken windows and nights in an Anderson Shelter which characterised her early years. Sandra's attributes tended to be on the playing field where running and

high jump were her speciality. She met Paul when a typist at BP and they were married in 1962. They have three children, the first Gillian was born in 1963. Sheelagh followed in 1966 and Andrew in 1976. Their first flat was in London but they moved first to Harlow in 1966, thence to Bishops Stortford in 1968. After ten years there, interrupted by 2 years in Cape Town, they moved for four years to Farnham before arriving in Greenfields, Stansted, in 1982.

Since then Sandra's practical bias took her first into some 4 years as a Home Help before spending several years in school catering where she became Unit Manager with Essex Catering Services.



Between them Paul and Sandra have become well integrated into Stansted life. Paul had a demanding time as governor and chairman of the Peter Kirk Association during the School's latter years and did much to alleviate the problems caused by the closure. He is now chairman of the Local History Society and a frequently sought-after speaker on postcards and on "A VC in the family". He continues to research the life of his great uncle who won the VC in 1882 and who was one of only 8 VC's to lose the award through subsequent misconduct! His other interests include Crystal Palace Football Club. Sandra has for years been a stalwart helper with the Huw Johnson Club and it would be difficult to envisage the Club without her weekly contributions in time, driving, and just about everything else that makes it tick. She is also a member of the local WEA committee. Her other interests are their delightful garden, of which she is now firmly in charge, as well as helping with Mencap and the British Epilepsy Association. They both enjoy their caravan and as much travel as school holidays permit.

Their daughter Gillian lives at Elsenham and grandson Robin is a frequent visitor to the family home; Sheelagh is now in Braintree and Andrew, whilst being a regular attender at the Adult Resource Centre, remains a Stansted resident and is a great supporter of Cliff Richard. Steps and Abba and, by contrast, the Red Arrows. Summer months revolve around air shows, concerts and the like. Sandra's parents have recently moved to Stansted and they too are frequently seen at local events. All in all we are fortunate to have the Embleton family in our midst and hope that they will remain with us for many years.

Derek Honour

## Uttlesford District Council

September was an eventful month.

### Young People's Coffee Bar

The end of September saw the opening of the young people's coffee bar in Lower Street. After the official opening there was a barbecue and the first evening opening of the bar. It's been an instant success, with high attendance. The old school room has really been transformed. The walls are decorated with many excellent paintings by students from the High School. The Italian coffee machine is probably the best in town.

The bar will be open for young people by the SY2000 group on Thursdays from 7-10 pm. If more volunteer adults come forward, it will open more often. If you want to support our village youngsters, please call 813579 or email <youth2000@btopenworld.com>.

### Scrutiny System

Uttlesford's new scrutiny system started in September. One subject to be addressed is how to exploit our wonderful countryside more for informal leisure. There is an excellent network of footpaths but many are in bad condition and poorly signed. I've discovered lots of walks that can be combined with a bus or train ride and include a village pub. We are going to look at how this can be marketed better to local residents and tourists.

### Standby Runway

A major controversy has blown up over the airport's plan for a standby runway. Can a standby runway become a second operational runway? Should BAA sign a legal commitment not to use it for extra planes? Did the council refuse or simply postpone the planning application? September was also a confusing month.

### Changing Times

Uttlesford commenced in September its new streamlined committee system. This has involved councillors in significant changes, serving on new policy committees and also for some of us on scrutiny committees. For myself, I am now the Liberal Democrat spokesman on the Community and Leisure Committee. Its responsibilities include Arts Development, Community Safety, Drug Awareness, Day Centres, Emergency Planning, Meals on Wheels, Saffron Walden Museum, Sports and Tourism. If readers have any suggestions or comments to make on any of these areas, I shall be pleased to hear from them. These services are valued by the public, as the following statistics illustrate:

Every working day your Council

- Delivers 205 meals on wheels (in the space of two hours)
- Deals with 93 enquiries in our Tourist Information Centre
- Welcomes 1256 people to our leisure centres.

## Uttlesford is No.1

In a survey of all the 376 local council areas in England and Wales Uttlesford came out top in a quality of life index. In a study by business information group Experian, Uttlesford was named as the best place to live. The free morning newspaper Metro described the area as Essex but not as you know it. The schools in the district were described as excellent with 71% in the best performing category. Our crime rates were significantly below the national average. We also benefit from low unemployment rates currently standing at 1.06%. The Saffron Walden parliamentary constituency, Experian states, is one of the most affluent in the whole country. Of course, there is a price to be paid for being such an attractive area to live. Our house prices are 35% above the national average, making it difficult for young people to get on the housing ladder. Although being named as the No.1 place to live helps to put Uttlesford on the map, it may serve to increase the development pressures, which threatens the quality of life we enjoy.

### Saffron Walden Museum

From the 13th October 2001 to the 22nd February 2002 the Museum will be holding an exhibition entitled 'Flight into the Past'. This will look at the finds and settlements excavated from under the Stansted Airport site.

On a different theme on the 1st December there will be a Viking day. This exhibition will complement the BBC TV history series. There will be an opportunity to meet some Vikings and find out what evidence we have for Vikings in NW Essex. Drop-in sessions will be held from 11am - 1pm & 2pm - 4pm. Further information on both these exhibitions can be obtained from the museum on 01799 510333 or Email museum@uttlesford.gov.uk

Alan Dean  
District Councillor  
Tel: 01279 813 579

Geoffrey Sell  
District Councillor  
Tel: 01279 815 925

## Meet The Ancestors...

### A Unique Christmas Gift

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

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## STANSTED VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the Stansted Village Association (formerly the Stansted Carnival Committee). Our name has changed to avoid the misconception that this is all we do. It isn't!

The annual village event for 2002 is a celebration for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, although not on the official day. Ours is planned for Saturday 8th July. We are currently investigating possible, more appropriate venues within the village and we will let you know as soon as we have any more news. Our aim for the main event is to provide a venue and framework for village organisations to raise funds for their own purposes through stalls and sideshows that they run themselves. Throughout the remainder of this year we will be contacting the leaders of these organisations to let them know how we can do this and assist in and co-ordinate events to give maximum effect to all village fund raising efforts. To enable us to hold the main event, we must, in turn, run our own fund-raising events (a list of which you can find below).

Without your support, we cannot support you!

We hope that as villagers, you will share the same view as we do, that an annual village celebration is not only welcome, but a necessary part of village life.

Thank you to all previous members of the carnival committee, your continued support of our fund-raising efforts is much appreciated.

### Fund-raising events

**Saturday 3rd of November 2001** - we will be manning the Barbeque at the Village Fireworks at Elms Farm, Church Road -weather permitting. Come and see the fireworks and have a hot dog and warming drink.

**Saturday 1st December 2001** - Music Quiz at St John's Church Hall, 7.30 for 8pm, £6 per person, max 8 people per team. Hot dinner provided!! Bar. (Book your tickets early to avoid disappointment) Telephone Simon Clifford on 815904 or Kirsten Burgoine on 812310.

**Sunday 7th April 2002** - Spring Car Boot at Lower Street Car Park - bacon butties, hot and cold drinks available. Pitch £5 per car. Pay on the day. Other vehicles by negotiation.

**Saturday 11th May 2002** - Grand Quiz Night at Mountfitchet School, dinner included, £6 per person. Bar & Raffle. Book early to guarantee a table (we were full to capacity last time!) Telephone as above.

### **Saturday 8th July 2002** - The Main Event

We look forward to seeing everyone at our future events and at the culmination of our efforts, the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebration.

If you want to make a difference join us! Telephone Simon Clifford on 815904.

Many thanks.



## Nature Notes

Missing from our skies now are those masters of aerial agility, swifts, house martins and swallows. They all depend on a diet of flying insects which they catch on the wing and therefore have to travel south to warmer climates during our winter. The swifts left first, at the end of August, setting off for tropical Africa. They are amazingly streamlined and spend most of their life in the air, even sleeping and mating on the wing. You never see them on the ground or perching on trees and, in fact, they have very short degenerate legs with four claws adapted to clinging to walls. One bird can collect 10,000 individual insects a day at a cruising speed of about 30 mph, but swifts *can* achieve a top speed of over 60 mph. (Starlings, although larger, reach speeds of 40 mph).



Swallows and house martins, which unlike swifts are both perching birds, left at the end of September and beginning of October. Martins in particular could be seen in large numbers flying over Stansted during the autumn, making twittering calls as they swirled round the sky. It is not really known where exactly in Africa they spend the winter, partly because they feed so high up, but they have been found in the whole area south of the Sahara. Swallows on the other hand have been tracked on their migratory routes so more is known about them; flying by night and day in flocks they eventually find their way to South Africa, an incredible distance for a small bird. They mostly return to the same nesting sites in April and can even occupy the same nests for several years.

The majority of these autumn migratory birds are first-year birds travelling for the first time. The migratory instinct is triggered by the release of hormones from special glands; these are activated by the changing hours of daylight. The birds' sense of direction is part of their genetic makeup and they use a variety of navigational aids: the position of the sun and stars, the earth's magnetic field and natural features such as mountains and rivers. The day-flying birds have to have a very precise sense of time to allow for the changes in the sun's position. Scientists are still trying to unravel the mysteries of bird navigation.



Rosina Kirkwood





## ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2001  
10AM TO 1PM ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

**COME AND MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS**

Plus

GIFTS GALORE    TOMBOLAS    BOOKS  
TOYS    GRAND RAFFLE    HANDICRAFTS  
FACE PAINTING    CAKES    TOILETRIES  
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



and much more!



Refreshments available - Come along and join the fun!



## STORT VALLEY FORUM

A Meeting to be held on

Thursday, 29 November 2001,  
at

Elsenham School Hall at 8.00 pm

We have had a good start to Nursery this term, all the new children (and staff!) have settled in well, and have been working hard. Our main topic has been Autumn Festivals. We made bookmarks for Grandparents Day, we have made percussion instruments and danced to Bob Morley to celebrate the Ethiopian New Year, made honey biscuits to celebrate the Jewish New Year, and have been painting, tasting, feeling, counting and measuring fruit and vegetables for Harvest Festival, By the time this goes to print we would have performed a Harvest Song to the parents and pupils at the 'BIG' school!

After half term we will be looking at some Indian and Japanese festivals, as well as all the excitement that goes with Christmas!

We were very lucky this term when Birchanger School gave us two of their old computers. The children have enjoyed learning how to control a mouse and playing with some toddler computer games.

If you are interested in coming to look around the nursery, call us on 07773730754 between 9:15 am and noon.

Carol Bullot

This is an opportunity for the public to discuss local footpaths in relation to Uttlesford District Council leisure strategy and related problems of sign-posting, clearance and whistle-boards.

An open invitation is extended to all Parish Councils, Uttlesford District Councillors and Members of the Public.

**PLEASE ATTEND AND HAVE YOUR SAY**

David Morson  
Uttlesford District Councillor  
Henham Ward

## BLOOD DONORS

Do something amazing !

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

Hospitals across the country need about 10,000 blood donations every day for life-saving operations and procedures. Only 6% of the population give blood regularly. Even taking into account that only people between the ages of 17 and 70 can give blood, and then only those who are healthy and are not suffering from particular medical conditions, that's still too small a percentage. The National Blood Service is always looking for new (or lapsed) volunteers.

You don't have to go far to join in the fun. Sessions are held in St John's Hall, Stansted, on a regular basis and, once registered as a donor, you get invited each time the vans are in town. There's a buoyant air about the process because everyone donating knows that they are doing some good. The nursing staff are very considerate, particularly to new donors who may need reassuring. And they make it a pleasant experience because they want us to come back again and again. If you are squeamish, then don't be immediately put off by the thought of blood and needles. Given judicious averting of the eyes, it is possible to give blood and not see a needle or drop of blood the entire time. Braver souls can watch the whole goings on and quiz the nursing staff about the ins and outs of blood to their hearts content.

If you want to know more, you can call the National Blood Service on 0845 7711 711 or visit its web site at [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk). Or just turn up at the next session at St John's Hall on Thursday, 6th December between 2pm and 4.30pm or 5.00pm and 7.45pm. Bring a good book, have a lie down and a free cup of tea ... and do something amazing.

Daphne Carter  
25-time blood donor



## Huw Johnson Club

We are so pleased that our energetic President, Derek is now fighting fit once again. He was sorely missed on our holiday.

A big thank you to all our drivers who once again have risen to the occasion and filled all the gaps on the drivers' list. This means that all our members can attend every Thursday evening up to Christmas. To anyone who is thinking about volunteering, please don't hesitate. Our drivers obviously get a lot of pleasure out of collecting and returning our members, as once they start, they keep driving for us for many years. Why not try it yourself and find out what you've been missing. Contact Marion on 812284.

Please put December 14th into your diary as that is the date of our concert. Each year our audience has grown and this year our members would love to perform in front of a packed hall. 7.30 pm in St Mary's School, although if you come early you will be able to enjoy a mince pie.

A big thank you to the "Woodwind of Stortford" for their generous donation.

Marion Johnson



Ages 2½ - 5 years

Mornings 9.15 am - 12 noon

Own building in beautiful village school grounds

Excellent facilities & outdoor play areas

Well qualified staff

Outstanding OFSTED Report (Nov 1999)

Come & visit - you will be made very welcome

For further information tel

814037 or 0777 3730754



HIRE THE NEWLY REFURBISHED

## Ugley Village Hall

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

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



## Essex County Council

October 2001

Many readers will have noted that under the direction of this Government, actions are being taken to reorganise local government to make it more attractive and reactive to the local electorate, the intention being to let the electorate as a whole participate in discussions which affect them as individuals and allow them to express their opinions and points of view. Whether this is a wise policy remains to be seen and whether it will encourage local participation in the process is as yet not clear: time will tell!

Essex County Council has taken note of the Government intentions and in advance of the legal requirement has implemented a new system. This entails a Leader, elected by the majority party, and nine portfolio holders. These form a Cabinet which is responsible for setting policy and implementing the same, whether they be individuals, Members or the collective body. The theory is that decisions can be made quickly and with clear lines of responsibility.

Additional to these changes and at the same time, each portfolio holder is shadowed by a Select Committee whose task is to investigate the decisions of the portfolio holder, to study such matters which the portfolio holder thinks fit and in general to observe and pass judgement on the work of the executive in the particular areas of that portfolio.

Clearly this new system is radically different from the previous one, especially as these new committees sit in public and so must conduct themselves and their sessions under that sanction.

How the system will work in practice, and whether it will engender greater participation, remains to be seen. The new county administrator is committed to making it work. It is for the public to join in and make their contribution.

Should any reader wish to know more about the arrangements and to pay a visit to County Hall to sit in on a committee meeting they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace  
County Councillor  
Stansted Division

### RT HON SIR ALAN HASELHURST, MP MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT INTERVIEWS

Friday, 30th November 2001

Parish Council Offices  
Crafton Green  
STANSTED

5.45 - 6.30pm

The Old Armoury  
3 Museum Street  
SAFFRON WALDEN

7 - 7.45pm



St John's Hall  
Stansted

Hello again.

Here we are into October, autumn weather, and only 12 weeks to Christmas!

The theme for this half term is all about Stansted Airport, aeroplanes, buses, coaches, trains, etc. and the work people do there. Unfortunately our trip to the airport by train has been postponed due to the dreadful events on 11th September.

It was lovely to welcome new faces this term, new 2½ year old children, new members of staff, Karen and Shirley, and lots of new parents on the committee.

Fund raising has started in earnest with an excellent evening at Julie's demonstrating and selling Pampered Chef equipment. Over £60 was raised for nursery school funds.

Once again Elaine Lockerby, the photographer, visited us so we look forward to seeing super pictures of the children. These make great Christmas presents for friends and families.

In December we hope to have a Disco (date to be confirmed) for the children. All siblings and friends are welcome. A Quiz Night is to be arranged for the New Year. More details later.

If you want any more information about Sideways Pre-School Nursery please call in any morning, Monday to Friday, between 9 o'clock and 12.15. You will be made most welcome by friendly staff and happy children, or you can phone 816600 - 813828.

Auntie Helen



## GRAHAM SCHOOL OF DANCE

R.A.D. Ballet Classes held in Stansted

Also at Bishop's Stortford  
Classes in Ballet, Tap & Modern Dance,  
Drama & Singing

For details & prospectus please  
tel 01371 878410 or visit us at  
[www.grahamschoolofdance.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.grahamschoolofdance.fsnet.co.uk)  
email: [philip@grahamschoolofdance.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:philip@grahamschoolofdance.fsnet.co.uk)



# GUILDHALL STRINGS

Directed By Robert Salter

A concert of well loved works by  
Mozart, Elgar, Grieg, Barber and Tchaikovsky

Sunday 9th December 2001  
at 3.00p.m.

St John's Church,  
Stansted Mountfitchet

Tickets: Adults £8, Concessions £6, Children £3

from:

Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill Tel: 01279 812019

Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford

Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted Tel: 01279 815282

Options Hair Salon, Elsenham



## St Clare Hospice

**'Light Up the Life'  
of someone special to you this Christmas**

Each year St Clare Hospice, along with many other hospices in the country, runs 'Light Up a Life'. This uses Christmas trees at various locations in the district and we ask you to sponsor one or more of the tree lights in memory of a loved one. Some people sponsor a light every year, for others it can be a help to have a memorial of someone who has died recently and to know that others share their feelings at what can be a very difficult time of year.

There is a short service when the Christmas tree lights are turned on, and anyone who has sponsored a light is welcome to attend. This year we are able to use the lovely tree outside Tesco in Saffron Walden. The tree lighting ceremony will take place at 6 o'clock on Wednesday 5th December and this will be followed by refreshments in the store's cafe. Thereafter the lights are usually on each evening from dusk.

Each person who sponsors a light also receives a card dedicated to their loved one and their names are entered in the Book of Remembrance, which is kept in the Sanctuary at St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood.

St Clare Hospice provides all its services free of charge to patients but we need to raise £800,000 every year to keep going. We have been able to do that over the years with the help of you in the community.

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If you would like to Light Up a Life this year, please contact the hospice for a leaflet on 01279 413590.

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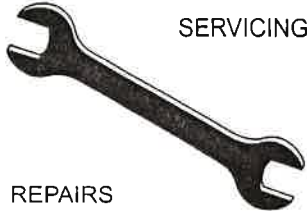
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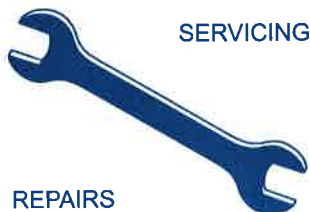
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