April 2002







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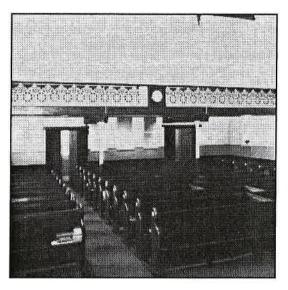
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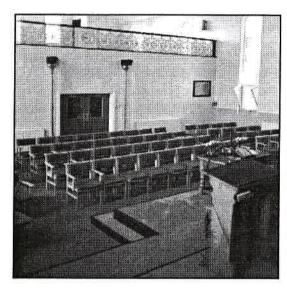


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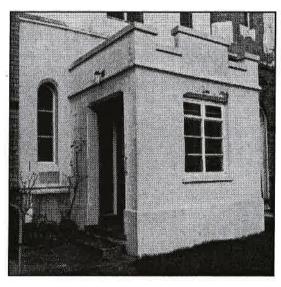
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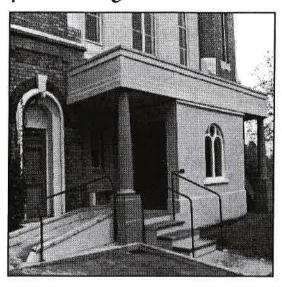


AFTER



Re-dedication Service Report on Page 3





The Link (price £3.50 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted
Advertising enquiries Tel 01279 654945
All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel: 01279 812593

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Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill or email to stanstedlink@aol.com

by 11th April for publication on 27th April by 9th of May for publication on 25th May

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk

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

Meeting

Sunday, 11 am

Live Adventurously

Soon my wife and I will be going to New Zealand for a holiday. On the way out and back we are stopping off for two nights in Singapore. This will be interesting because we will leave U.K. at the end of Winter and the beginning of Spring, and we will arrive in NZ at the end of Summer and the beginning of Autumn. Briefly we will be in Summer whilst in Singapore. Not only will we have to contend with jet-lag, but also we will experience seasonal changes. Will this upset our body clocks, how will our bodies react? I have always wanted to go to the antipodies and see if it is all true! Does the water swirl out of baths the other way round, and does everybody walk upright, with their feet on the ground, in the same way as we do! What does the night-sky look like and where will the Pole star be, and will we know where the Milky Way is, these are some of the things that I worried about when I was a young lad at school. At last I will be able to verify everything and learn by experience, and not just learn by being told, or by reading books.

Life is like that, it is no good being told what will happen or being told to go and read a book about it. You need to experience most of it for one's self. At all times along life's journey one comes to cross roads or to forks in the road and you have to make decisions, so how do you decide which road to take? Mistakes will be made and wrong choices taken. What is important is that you don't look back and spend the rest of your life regretting any of the decisions that you made, anyway you never know, to make the other choice, may have been worse. You must not go on for the rest of your life saying to ones self "If only"

Quakers do not have a creed to follow, or to live their lives by, but we do have a book called "Quaker Faith and Practice" and in it there is a section called "Advices and Queries". Parts of these are often read in Meetings for Worship and in our Business Meetings. They are all relevant, but one part seems more appropriate in relation to the above than others, it is:

"Live adventurously. When choices arise do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community? Let your life speak. When decisions have to be made, are you ready to join with others in seeking clearness, asking for God's guidance and offering counsel to one another".

Peter Burgess

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux High Lane

Priest

Father Joe White The Presbytery St Therese of Lisieux

High Lane Stansted

Tel 01279 814349

Masses

Saturday

6.00 pm

Sunday

9 am and 10.30 am

Holy Days of Obligation

8 am and 8 pm

Tuesday- Saturday 9.30 am

Confessions

Saturday

10 am

and by appointment

Baptisms

By appointment

By the time you are reading this April copy of Link, the days of the passion and death of Jesus will have been remembered anew.

The Gospel writer Luke saw the misery of the passion as a must before the glory of the resurrection. With the coming of Jesus, forgiveness came into the world and with this coming a transformation happened. He changed selfishness into generosity and on Calvary he changed despair into hope.

On Easter morning He changed death into Life.

Happily we have glimpses of this glory through life, in our everyday meetings with our fellow human beings.

In the weeks before Easter, through our Lent Group meetings we have been discovering how much we have in common with our fellow Christians.

It is these initiatives, taken by ordinary people that prove most effective in healing the wounds of disunity. Local groups doing simple things together is the most effective way to overcome fear or suspicion, and this co-operation deepens the bonds of unity that already exist.

Thank you to all those who gave so much of their time and effort to make these Lenten meetings so successful.

"May they all be one, just as Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the World may believe it was you who sent me" (Jn 17-21)

Eileen Quinn

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St John the Evangelist, St John's Road, Stansted

Rector

Rev'd Andrew Spurr The Rectory

5 St John's Road Stansted Mountfitchet

Essex CM24 8JP Tel: 01279 812203 rector@stansted.net Assistant Curate
Rev'd Rhys Martin
34 Gilbey Crescent
Stansted Mountfitchet

Essex CM24 8DT

Tel: 01279 817513 curate@stansted.net

Hon Assistant Priest

Canon Derek Jackson 88 Stansted Road Bishop's Stortford Herts CM23 2DZ Tel: 01279 652664 **Director of Music**

Mrs Glynis Morris
"Wakeley" Leetes Lane
Eversden, Cambs CB3 7HH
Tel/Fax: 01223 263640
benefice.music@stansted.net

All Enquiries welcome at the Church Office

Located in the Upper Room

Administrator:

Mrs Elizabeth Jennings Tel: 01279 815243

St John's Church Hall Stansted CM24 8JP

Open: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9 am-12 noon

Services for April:

Sundays

8 am Holy Communion - said CW Order 1B 9.30 am Parish Communion - sung CW Order 1A 11 am Open Door Service (Third Sunday only) 6.30 pm Evening Prayer - said 1662

Wednesdays

10 am Holy Communion - said CW Order 1B

followed by coffee

7.30 pm Intercessions and Night Prayer

Children's Church meets at 9.30am on Sundays in the church hall. Contact Mrs Marion Johnson, phone 812284.

Housegroups meet on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. Contact Mrs Joan Freeman, phone 813186, joanfreeman@zetnet.co.uk

Tiny Tots mother and toddler group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons during term-time. Contact Mrs Tina South, phone 814371. tinytots@stansted.net

Lazer Group is a 12-16 youth group meeting fortnightly on Sundays at 8 pm in the church hall. The evening ends with candlelit Night Prayer in the chapel in church. Contact Mrs Katie Dockerill, phone 812997. lazer@stansted.net

Church Hall Bookings - Mrs Joy Lambe

Tel: 01279 817937

joy@stansted.net

From the Registers

Baptism

17th February Frederick George Tiquet Jonas

Funeral

5th February

Phyllis Florence Watts

aged 100 years

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 April

7th 10.30am 14th 10.30am Mr Ralph Friday Rev'd David Simpson

- Communion

21st 10.30am 28th 10.30am Rev'd Martin Cressey Rev'd David Simpson

The Rededication

Following years of dreaming, talking and fund raising, and six months of hard work by the Builders, the transformed Church building was rededicated by the Moderator of the Eastern Synod, Rev Elizabeth Caswell on the 16th February. Over 120 people packed into the smaller sanctuary, which has had its black wooden pews replaced with comfortable chairs, with new heating, lighting and flooring to make a more welcoming and flexible space. In the foyer are new toilets, kitchen and a large circulation area. The outside porch has been redesigned to include access for the disabled.

All these improvements and the enlarged car park, we hope will enable us to meet the needs of the Community in the 21st Century.

Janet Townsend

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 Receation Ground

Stansted

Tel 01279 813579

Email

methodists@stansted.net

All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated

Services for April

7th

Bernard Engel
Don McGregor

14th 21st

Rev'd John Graham - Holy Communion

28th

Doug Coulton

Fellowship Meeting - Friday 12th at 8pm.



SONGS OF PRAISE

As part of the Village Golden Jubilee celebrations, it is planned to hold a "Songs of Praise" on the Recreation Ground on Sunday 2nd June 2002.

If you have a favourite Hymns/Song, old or new, that could be included, please let Janet Townsend know at the address below by 20th April, and, if possible, your reason for choosing it.

> 58 Chapel Hill Stansted 01279-812593

> > Janet Townsend

Committee Meeting Reminder

There will be a meeting of the executive committee on Tuesday 16th April at 8pm in the URC Hall.

Ruth Rawlinson



April Meetings

15th April -- Prayer and Praise at 7 Blythwood Gardens 29th April -- Bible Study at Chantry Hall, Henham

All meetings start at 8p.m. and all are welcome.

Christian TAid We believe in life before death



Agree to collect in Christian Aid week (12th – 18th May) – come to the market (Saturday 18th May) – man a stall – take part in the sponsored walk in London on 19 May – give regularly to Christian Aid by direct debit or standing order – leave a legacy to Christian Aid in your will. If you are interested in any of these, please contact me or log on to

More details of Christian Aid week next month.

Catherine Dean 813579



Mr B C Morrison was the speaker at the March meeting of the Club, when more than 35 people enjoyed his talk and demonstrations about the growing and showing of Fuchsias; the evening was very interesting and amusing. He showed us the best way to take cuttings from the best material. He also spoke about pests and diseases, including the dreaded Vine Weevil, which can attack a wide range of plants, including the Fuchsia. He brought along some of the Vine Weevil grubs and told us what to watch out for. Another tip he gave was how to clean white salts off the side of clay pots using a spot of vegetable oil. He finished by showing some slides of beautiful Fuchsias taken at the National Fuchsia show held in London each year.

The next meeting will be on 3rd April when Dr Peter Brandham (remember his fantastic slides of Kew gardens) will show his slides of the high Country of America, This will be followed by a short AGM.

Brian Townsend



SPRING SHOW

2.30 pm Sat 6th April United Reformed Church Hall Auction of Produce at 4 pm

Children's Competition (flowers in an egg cup)

Tel 812593 for entry form

April

29 Mon



Nearly New Sale

Clothes ~ Equipment Toys ~ Books 3 pm Sat 13th April St John's Hall

Entry by donation at the door

Chantry Hall Henham 8 pm

Club House 6 pm

St Mary's C of E School CHILDREN'S FASHION SHOW

7 - 10 pm Mon 15th April

Tickets £3 on the door £2.50 in advance from the school

Bar ~ Raffle ~ All Welcome Modelling by St Mary's children

VILLAGE EVENTS

1	Mon	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm		
3	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm		
		Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm		
4	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm		
6	Sat	Stansted Hall CC Juniors	Stansted House 10 am		
		Garden Club Spring Show	URC Hall 2.30 pm		
10	Wed	RBL (Women) Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10.30 am		
11	Thu	Carers' Support Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm		
		WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm		
12	Fri	MP's interviews	Council Offices 5.45 pm		
13	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm		
		NCT Nearly New sale	St John's Hall 3 pm		
14	Sun	Cricket Club Car Boot	B S Station Car Park 8 am		
15	Mon	Children's Fashion Show	St Mary's School 7 - 10 pm		
		Shalom Prayer & Praise	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm		
15 Mon - 19 Fri Amenity Skip Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm					
17	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors outing			
18	Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm		
21	Sun	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm		
24	Wed	WI Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10.30 am		
27	Sat	Cricket Club Jumble Sale	Hargrave Ground 2 pm		
		Rainbow Quiz	St John's Hall 7.30 pm		

May	,		
1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
2	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Sun	St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
		Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
9	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
11	Sat	Medieval Fayre	Bentfield School 2 - 5 pm
12	Sun	Christian Aid week commences	·
15	Wed	M'fitchet Seniors Clothes Show	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

Stansted Evening WI COFFEE MORNING

10.30 am Wed 24th April Day Centre Raffle ~ Bring & Buy Entry £1 incl refreshments Proceeds to the refurbishment of the Village Knight signs

Stansted Cricket Club **Jumble Sale**

2 pm Sat 27th April Hargrave Ground

Teas ~ Tombola ~ Entrance 25p PLUS please bring & buy at our stall in Bishop's Stortford Station Car Park 8 am - noon Sun 14 April

Tel Sandra 814471 or Gill 814701 Proceeds to pavilion refurbishment



QUIZNIGHT

7.30 pm Sat 27th April St John's Hall

Tickets £5 incl Ploughman's Bring your own drink & glasses

Tel Tina 814371 / Yvonne 813071

Uttlesford District Council

Shalom Group 29 Mon / 30 Tue Bowls Club Intro Evenings



Skip Dates

Mon - Thurs 7.30am - 3pm Fri am only	Weekends 7.30am - 3pm	Green Waste 1 - 4 pm
15 - 19 April	(also Green Waste)	Sun 21 April
13 - 17 May	25 - 26 May	Sat 18 May
24 - 28 June	10 - 11 Aug	Sun 16 June
15 - 19 July	16 - 17 Nov	Sat 13 July

Bentfield CP School Medieval May Fagre

2-5pm Sat 11th May

Falconry Displays ~ Archery Maypole Dancing Greasy Pole Contests Medieval Fancy Dress ~ Stalls Refreshments ~ Grand Draw

STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Stansted Bowling Club has been part of the village since the early 1900's with its four rink green and clubhouse situated in Recreation Road.

Many see lawn bowls as a pastime for old folk who are unable to partake in other sporting activities due to their age and maybe having mobility problems.

It is more of a fact that these people are able to play this sport even if they are older than others and a bit slower on their feet but does not mean it is just for them.

There are more and more young people taking up the game who see it as a sport and are very much encouraged by the seniors.

Stansted Bowling Club is seen as quite a young club with many members in their early fifties and some even younger.

If you have never even contemplated trying bowls then you could be missing out on a very enjoyable sport, which you could play for the rest of your life.

Most bowlers say that they wished they had started bowling much earlier in their life.

At Stansted we want everyone to enjoy the sport but obviously encourage members to become competitive and take part in serious bowling as well as the weekend friendly games and fun games.

We have members who are instructors and also have a qualified Coach who are only too pleased to help you learn the game but having said that, the basics of the game are quite simple.

It's not just bowls, bowls, bowls though, we have a good social side to the club, holding quizzes, theme nights, trips out and general social evenings which usually means getting together for a drink, a chat and normally a good laugh. Unlike many other clubs we open every Friday evening through the winter so we keep the club spirit going.

We would welcome ladies and gentlemen of all ages to join the club and to help you have an insight into bowling we are holding two introductory evenings - Monday 29th April and Tuesday 30th April 2002 starting at 6pm.

Just bring a pair of flat-soled shoes or trainers and maybe a couple of friends.

This could be just what you are looking for.

For more details about the club and the introductory evenings call 01279 817388 or call in on a Friday evening for a chat.

We look forward to seeing you.

Rex Turner, Captain. Ro Turner, Ladies Captain



We have all enjoyed the topic of Traditional Stories and Rhymes this term; the children have acted out the story of the 'Three Little Pigs', made papier mache bowls in different sizes for 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', dressed up as 'Sleeping Beauty', cooked and eaten 'Gingerbread men' (and women!) and wrote their own version of 'Cows in the Kitchen'. Before the end of term we hope to grow beanstalks, (will they be strong enough for 'Jack' to climb?) We also had a very successful trip to the library, where every child took a book back to nursery. (A big thanks to all the library staff for being so welcoming)

The children have made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday (they gave a big cheer when they were tossed successfully!) and will be doing a variety of activities to celebrate Mother's Day and Easter.

Our AGM was on February 28th. The meeting was followed by cheese and wine to welcome new members of the committee. The AGM was well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by all present.

We have had approval from Birchanger School governors to start work on our own enclosed outside area, which we are all looking forward to, especially as Summer is just around the corner.

The things they tell us!: "When you put a metal detector on my Grandma's leg - it makes a noise!"

If you are interested in Birchanger Nursery please call 0777 373 0754 (Nursery) or 01279 814037 (Admissions secretary) to put your child on the waiting list.

Carol Bullot



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email: philip@grahamschoolofdance.fsnet.co.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Following the January report, the Council has settled down to business and on 19th February met to decide the Council Tax for the coming financial year. This Report outlines the principles on which the tax is set and outlines the level of charge.

Keen readers will remember the Report of December 2001 which outlined how the Council Tax is developed and how the final result depended on the SSA, which is set by the Government and dictates all other charges. In the event, the SSA was set at an overall increase of 6.2% which is well below the increase which is required if services are to be properly funded.

Below are the essential details:-

- A. What is needed to maintain and develop public services in Essex £1084M.
- B. What the Government assumes should be spent (SSA) £1008M.
- C. Key services provided by Essex County Council 581 schools, 90 libraries, 4,536 miles of roads.
- D. The Essex County Council budget Education = £592M, Social Services = £266M, Roads
 Maintenance = £58M, Fire = £43M, Capital Finance = £26M, Other Services (inc. libraries, environment, bus subsidies, recycling etc) = £99M.
- E. The implications All services require increased amounts of money, to cope with the increased costs of providing the service (eg. inflation, greater numbers of school children, greater numbers of older people needing support, etc.)

It was agreed that <u>Social Services</u> should receive the largest increase because what the Government allocated is not enough to provide what is actually needed. The Government allowed an increase of 5.9%. The County propose an increase of some 13.5%.

The Education budget will be increased by 6% to a total of £592M. Although that sum is just short of the Government SSA figure, Essex schools presently have in excess of £40,000,000 in reserves. This, it was decided, can be utilised if required over the coming year to meet shortfalls.

Outside of these figures, the following increases were agreed

- * Community Care is increased by approximately 16%. The SSA allotted little cash in this area. More money is essential if older people can continue to stay in their own homes to be looked after there.
- * Waste and Recycling is increased by approximately 12%. Here again, the SSA was insufficient. With landfill tax continuing to rise, the

amount of waste produced increasing, and increased pressure from European legislation, it was judged essential that alternative forms of waste treatment facilities are developed and funded.

* Transport and Planning - is increased by approximately 3.5%. Owing to years of under-funding, the County road network requires substantial improvement. As a result, a small but welcome increase has been made.

As a result of all these charges, the Council Tax for 2002/2003 will increase by 9.8%. This means that an average (Band D) household will receive a bill of £767 for the year; an increase of £68.40 on last year's bill (approximately £1.30 per week).

Readers should note that to the Council Tax charge must be added the District Council charge and also the Parish and Police Precepts. Thus the increase including all these charges will be somewhat greater than the increase mentioned.

It is to be hoped that readers now will at least understand the reasons why there is an increase.

Should anyone wish to know more about this subject, they should contact the undersigned on - 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace County Councillor Stansted Division



Our next Ploughman's Lunches are on Saturday, 13th April and Saturday, 11th May at the Stansted Day Centre, noon to 2pm. All are welcome.

Ruth Rawlinson

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT INTERVIEWS

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst, Member for the Saffron Walden Parliamentary Constituency will be available for interviews with local constituents at the Parish Council Offices, Crafton Green House on Friday, 12th April from 5.45pm until 6.30pm. Appointments are not necessary.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CHILDREN'S EVENTS COMMITTEE

Here's news of how the plans are shaping up for the special children's celebrations of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

We recently invited all the local school children to enter an Art Competition to design a logo for advertising the event. The many entries we received were fantastic – so good in fact that we were unable to select an outright winner or runner up.

However, after much deliberation, we chose 2 outstanding and deserving winners plus 3 runners up. Jo Jones (10) is a winner with a clever design – a very traditional logo to be used on all the programs and literature (see advert in this Link). Our other winner is Max Gardener (9) - his fun design will look great on posters and catch your eye I'm sure. The runners up are Laura Brett (8), Rosie Chatto (10) and Sophie Carter (9). They now own a fine set of pastels or colouring pencils and sketchbook, so a big thank you to them and all the children who entered.

The day to mark in your calendars is Monday, 3rd June (Bank Holiday), and as for the Millennium, there will be 3 Pied Piper walks around the village - all will rendezvous on the main Recreation Ground in Stansted. There follows a traditional tea party plus games (and prizes!) for the different age groups and if the children have any energy left, there will be a Family Disco until 9pm plus bring-your-own picnic.

Please keep the date free and hope to see you there!

Claire Jonas



Spring is in the air and the bulbs that we planted in pots are now coming through. We all enjoyed our pancake races and Chinese New Year and continuing our Village theme, the children have visited the Post Office and climbed the Windmill.

Our Easter concert on 22nd March, was closely followed by the family Easter party on the 24th March, where the children enjoyed games, face painting, music and songs before going home with their Easter eggs.

We are holding a Quiz night on Saturday, 27th April in St Johns Hall. Tickets are £5 each which includes a ploughman's supper. It should be a good night so book those babysitters now.

Transport is our topic for this term and Auntie Ann and Auntie Teri will be keeping the children busy looking at the fire station, the railway, buses, aeroplanes, police cars etc.

If you would like more information about Rainbow pre-school, call 07996 506997 or why not come and visit us Monday to Friday between 9.15 to midday in The Quaker Meeting Hall..

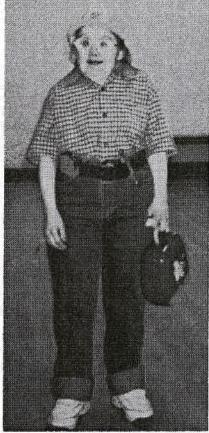
Tina South



HuwJohnson Club

We celebrated Joanne's birthday with a fancy dress. Almost all our members turned up as a TV personality or programme. Michael Aspel alias James and Crocodile Dundee alias Simon were there. The first prizes went to Alice as Bob the Builder and Stephen as "The Bill".

The following week Gary arrived with his Disco and we all congratulated him on gaining a much deserved Uttlesford Achievement Award. Our members always give Gary a tumultuous welcome. They were also very pleased with his success in gaining his award..



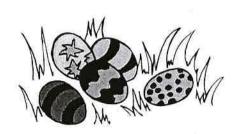
A big thank you to every one who came to the Coffee Morning. We raised a very welcome £136 for our funds.

The AGM went with a swing helped along by a glass or two of wine and a variety of cheeses. Thank you to every one who joined us on this occasion.

Our next major event will be our trip on the London Eye and a visit to the London Aquarium. We hope that our more courageous members will walk the Millennium Bridge.

All our members hope that you had a very happy Easter.

Marion Johnson



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS TEACHERS FRIENDS ASSOCIATION



The children of St Mary's rounded off a busy last half term with a very successful visit from Firehorse Productions, who staged an excellent production of 'Bully's Paradise'. The performance, sponsored by the PTFA, tackled the serious issue of bullying and its negative effects on victims. The audience was an integral part of the show, interacting with the performers, and joining in a discussion at the end. Thankfully bullying is a rare occurrence at St Mary's and this show reinforced its antisocial side, proving a talking point with the children and, fingers crossed a preventative measure. The Observer was there to cover the event - hope you managed to see the ensuing photo.

Following the forthcoming end of term Easter Disco, the children return to St Mary's with some exciting themes to look forward to. April 15th sees the start of a Healthy Eating Campaign, in which Tesco have kindly agreed to contribute exotic fruit for the children to sample during the week's breaks. Expect some unusual additions to your shopping list! Children will be encouraged to bring healthy snacks and lunchboxes to reinforce the tasty and positive health benefits from fruit and veg.

Certificates will be awarded to those who regularly bring in healthy foods. In recent years the school has foregone its Tuck Shop, and the kitchen staff have won Healthy Eating awards for their lunchtime menus - setting a precedent for future positive eating habits. The staff and committee members are in the midst of planning speakers and classroom projects to coincide with this theme, from which we could all learn a lesson or two, I'm sure! A big thank you to Tesco for supporting us in this campaign.

Preparations are well in hand for our Fashion Show on Monday, 15th April. This is your chance to buy well known high street brands at a fraction of their retail prices. Tickets will be on sale in advance at £2.50, or £3 on the night - children free. Refreshments and raffle prizes will be available on the night. Look out for posters, which will be put up around the village nearer the event. In the meantime, make a note of the date in your diaries.

Many thanks to all who contributed or bought items at our recent Uniform Sale, which raised £70. Our next Uniform Sale will be just before the end of term (date tbc). If anyone has any uniform items/PE Kit they wish to donate, the school office will be happy to relieve you of it!

On a final note, children in Reception and Years 1 and 2, are busy preparing for their annual, and much looked forward to Grannies and Grandads Day on Friday, I5th March. For those of you lucky enough to be invited, have a wonderful afternoon, enjoy the show and your time in St Mary's.

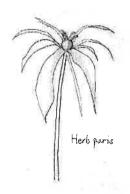
Have an enjoyable and restful Easter break.

Jane Granger PTFA Secretary



Nature Notes

Woodland flowers have to produce leaves and flowers in early spring before the trees above cast too dense a shade. Botanists have calculated that, based on average first flowering dates of certain plants, spring moves northward across flat ground at about 2 miles an hour; so if you were to walk slowly northwards you should see the same species flowering. Here in north-west Essex spring is well on its way. We have lost many of our wild flowers to modern farming practice but there are a number of ancient woods in this area in which you can still find a good number of woodland species.



The nearest to Stansted is Turner's Spring near Burton End. This small wood and wet meadow is managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. Situated only a few hundred yards from the M11, it is a tranquil oasis and particularly lovely during the spring months. Dog's mercury, a common plant which is highly poisonous, forms a bright green carpet under the trees amongst the bluebells. Both

this plant and the much rarer herb paris are indicators of ancient woodland and, indeed, parts of this wood date back to the middle ages. Herb paris bears its yellow star-like flower above four broad leaves arranged like a Maltese cross. It is used as an emblem by the Coppice Association as it spreads more easily in woods that are coppiced or thinned out.

Another uncommon flower which grows in this ancient wood is the oxlip. With its pale yellow cowslip-like flowers drooping from a single stem, this plant is found mainly on the boulder clay of north Essex, south Cambridgeshire and west Suffolk. It was formerly regarded as a hybrid of the primrose and cowslip, but in the 1840's two Essex botanists working in the Great Bardfield area, established that it was a distinct species. It was actually named 'the Bardfield Oxlip'; sadly it is no longer found there. We are very fortunate that we can see it flourishing in a wood so near Stansted.

Rosina Kirkwood

LADIES' KEEP FIT FOR THE OVER 40s

Fully Qualified Teacher Thurs 2.30 - 3.30 pm

URC Hall

For further details please telephone Brenda on 812725

Note this class is in addition to the Tuesday class

Stansted Profile No 44

Richard and Ann Wallace

As our local County Councillor, Richard is well known, and Ann's family have lived in this area for several generations. What is perhaps less well known is the very varied experience that Richard brings to his work and his broadness of outlook.

Richard's family were originally from Northern Ireland, but, following the family tradition, Richard's father moved to work with his uncle in South Wales - where the jobs then were; and he settled there in practice as a doctor. After his childhood in Wales Richard went to a school in Epsom, where many children from medical families were educated. He then went straight to Sandhurst in 1950 and into the Army. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps - as it was then called - for more than 30 years. Following his official retirement he stayed on for another 10 years as Clerk to the Military Court.

Ann provides the local connection, having been born at Croft House in Stansted. She attended Miss Pegram's Nursery School in Station Road - now the Chinese Take-away. Her family moved to Clavering in 1944 and she went to Dame

Bradbury's School in Saffron Walden, and then the Royal Naval School in Haslemere. She has a Service background as her father was in the Royal Navy; so the many moves of Army life in her marriage were something she was quite used to. After a period in Switzerland after school she did a secretarial course at Cambridge Technical



College, and worked in various jobs in Cambridge and London. She also spent some time in Canada visiting her mother's relations, who live all over Canada; then in 1961 her marriage to Richard took place.

Much of Richard's early service in the Army was in the Middle East - initially in North Africa and Palestine, but soon after his marriage he was attached to the Trucial Oman Scouts in what is now the Arab Emirates. Unfortunately wives were then not allowed to be with their husbands there because of the health risks. It is now a favoured tourist destination! So Ann spent two years at home in Clavering with their baby son, Charles. During the following years they travelled widely - mainly in the U.K. and Germany. Ann never minded the constant house moves, but would have liked them to go to more exciting places!

After leaving the Army the family first settled in the family house in Clavering and in 1989 they moved to Stansted to Hillcrest on Chapel Hill. The adjoining half of the house - Beverley House - had been the home of Dr.Gabb and his family. His widow, Ann's aunt, lived there on her own, and still does. So Richard and Ann are near at hand if she needs help.

When they moved to Stansted, Richard joined the local branch of the Conservative Party and soon became Chairman,

and in 1997 his name was put forward for the County Council. He was elected (rather to his surprise) and since then he has worked as Stansted's County Councillor. In fact the area he covers includes 11 other parishes in a wide area round Stansted. He is also a member of the Stansted Parish Council. His County



Council work includes being Chairman of the Select Committee covering Transport, the Environment, Waste, and the Countryside; quite a wide brief. He spends about four days a week at County Hall in Chelmsford, and many evenings attending meetings in the 12 parishes he represents.

He is also a Governor of Clavering Primary School. The knowledge he gains of school work at ground level is very valuable for his County Council work.

Ann does not get involved in political work but she obviously provides a very supportive and understanding base and a network of local connections. Her father was a Saffron Walden Rural District Councillor for many years, so she is used to all the activities involved.

Richard has little time for other pursuits, but keeps the garden tidy, and follows cricket with great interest - having been a cricketer, and he is still a member of the MCC.

Ann and Richard's son, Charles, followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Army, and is with a Scottish Infantry Regiment. At present he is Second in Command of the Highland Fusiliers, so he and his wife and three children are living in Scotland. The grandchildren, aged 10, 7 and 5 are a source of great interest and pleasure to the Wallaces.

There is much disillusion about politics and politicians at present, and a feeling that we cannot affect decisions made. I think that Stansted residents should take heart because there appears to be a real commitment to local issues by our local politicians, and an openness to all points of view. Richard regards himself as representing all the residents, whatever their Party, and I would feel confident that he does so with commitment and courage.

Katharine Hurford



"THE VMC SUMMER JUBILEE PARTY"

The Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations are now fast approaching and The Village Music Club invites everyone, young and old alike, to come and enjoy a Concert by young talented musicians. Relax with a glass of wine from our licensed bar and listen to jazz while you eat a delicious buffet supper; and have lots of time to meet and greet your friends.

These are the ingredients for our "SUMMER JUBILEE PARTY" to be held in conjunction with Stansted Parish Council on Saturday, 1st June 2002. It will be a family event and will be in St John's Church and Grounds from 6pm.

Tickets are £7 Adults, £5 Concessions, £3 Children at school, and are now available from:-

Stansted Parish Council, Crafton Green; Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill Stansted; Options Hairdressers, Elsenham; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford; or from Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill Stansted (01279 815282)

Tickets must be bought in advance (essential for catering) and we encourage you to buy your tickets early as numbers are obviously limited. It will be a memorable evening of celebration!

Saturday, 1st June 6pm AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED

Alan Corbishley

Stansted Hall Cricket Club

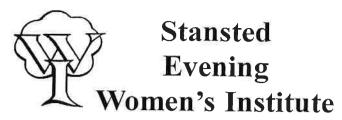
This local club, champions of the Herts & Essex Observer League last season, will be putting two senior teams in the league in 2002, the 2nd XI playing in Division 4. We therefore need more experienced players to support the youngsters who will make up the majority of the 2nd XI.

Net practice has already started at Bishop's Stortford College on Wednesday evenings from 8pm.

The club also has a thriving junior section, the U/15s and U/13s playing in the West Essex League and the U/11s and U/10s playing friendlies.

Come along to our Junior Open Morning at the club ground, Stansted House, Elsenham Road, half-mile from Grove Hill traffic lights on the right, from 10am on Saturday, 6th April. Please contact David Brown, Chairman on 831011 (Seniors) or Allan Love on 817620 (Juniors).

Dave Mickelborough



"A World of Discovery on your doorstep" was the title of our February talk at the WI, given by Carolyn Wingfield. Ms Wingfield, who works at the Saffron Walden Museum, brought with her slides of the museum and artefacts from their collection and gave us a potted history into how the museum was started when it opened its doors in 1835 to hold collections of the Saffron Walden Natural History Society. This is now called the Saffron Walden Museum Society; it still owns the buildings and its collections today. The fourth Lord Braybrooke - R C Neville of Audley End - gave the land for the building. Other important people involved were Jabez Gibson and John Dane Player. Benefactors and collectors were George Stacey Gibson, William Murray Tuke and Dr Henry Steare who gave collections of fossils, ceramics and glass. George Nathan Maynard was the first paid curator from 1880 to 1904. He helped reorganise many of the collections. He also catalogued the beautiful illustrated early registers of the collections. He was succeeded by his son, Guy Maynard. Today, the Museum Service is run by Uttlesford District Council; the buildings and the collections are leased to them by the Museum Society.

This was a most interesting talk and enjoyed by the members. During business, members agreed to hold a Coffee Morning on Wednesday, 24th April at 10.30 am in the Day Centre. This is to raise funds towards the renewal or refurbishment of the Knight Signs which stand at either end of the village. It is hoped that these will be back in time for the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

One of our members, Mrs Wellings, who is on the village's Golden Jubilee Committee, informed members about the plans going ahead to celebrate this event in June. It is hoped that members will get involved in these events. Our April meeting on the 11th in St John's Hall will be a talk by Paul Stevens on the history of the "Romany Gypsies". Mr Stevens is himself a Romany. Visitors are welcome.

Brenda Ryan

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STANSTED FUN RUN

Jubilee 10K Fun Run 11 am 23rd June 2002 (please note change of date)

This year we shall be breaking with our usual tradition of supporting three different charities, and all the money will be going to Sport Relief.

This is a joint venture between Comic Relief and BBC Sport, and a wealth of famous sporting stars have already pledged their support. In addition to local fundraising events, all money raised on Red Nose day will go to this cause.

The money will help children and young people, both in this country and in the poorest countries in the World, using sport and play to unite and heal those living with violence. More information can be found on

www.comicrelief.com/sportrelief or on our website.

Entry forms for the run will be available from May.

Marion Dyer 814059 email: funrun@stansted.net



Royal British Legion Women's Section

After normal business at our monthly meeting we discussed what we might do to celebrate the Queen 's Jubilee.

We were then treated to a delightful evening of slides and commentary by Edna and Alan Wright. Their subject was a boat trip from the Orwell to the Thames. There were beautiful shots of Flatford Mill, Pin Mill and the marina at Burnham-on-Crouch; then the Medway with Chatham and Rochester and on to the Thames Barrier, the Dome, 'Cutty Sark', St Katharine's Dock and Tower Bridge. There were scenes of beautiful sunrises and sunsets and of many London landmarks.

Our coffee morning will be on Wednesday, 10th April in the Day Centre from 10.30am - Bric-a-Brac, Cakes, Raffle, Tombola Everyone welcome.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 18th at 7.30 pm. in the Day Centre when our speaker will be Frances Spalding.

Pat Clower



Many thanks must be given to those who so far have been able to help with ongoing Village projects. The information you are able to share is of course extremely valuable and enables a far wider picture to be drawn.

Many thanks also go to our February meeting speaker the subject being 'A well ordered Town - Saffron Walden' where members and guests enjoyed a fascinating and most informative evening. The talk was accompanied by slides of old Saffron Walden. An incredible amount of research and time must have been required to present such a well ordered subject.

Hopefully, a report of the March meeting, Members' Day will be included in next month's report.

The subject for April's meeting takes us a little further away. In fact, far away to distant shores where we will be 'Bound for Australia'.

Peter Brown

ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Fine Music, Made Locally

"As usual, an excellent evening's entertainment" was how one member of the audience summed up the Royston Choral Society (RCS) concert last November.

Discover for yourself the delights of an RCS concert in the beautiful surroundings of Royston's Parish Church - mark Saturday 27th April in your diary now!

That evening, starting at 7.30pm, the choir will perform Faure's wonderful *Requiem* and Durufle's lesser-known, but equally serene *Requiem* setting.

Tickets - £7.50 (Concessions £5) - are on sale in advance from Royston Library or at the door on the night.

Further information about the concert and choir is available from Chris Lee (01763 245413) or Caroline Franks (01920 822723)

Uttlesford District Council

Council Tax and the 2002/3 Budget

Local Government taxation, whether it be the rates, community charge (poll tax) or now council tax tends to be an unpopular tax. This is because it is a very visible tax. Unlike most central government taxation, council tax has to be deducted from net income. Council Tax is essentially a property tax which is levied on the broad capital value of domestic properties. The Inland Revenue's Valuation Office Agency is responsible for the valuation of domestic properties, which are placed in one of eight bands. Properties have not been revalued since the Council Tax System came into operation in 1993, but the Government have announced plans for a revaluation. Work is expected to start in 2005 and the new valuation lists are expected to come into operation in April 2007, ie after the next general election.

Local tax levels depend on a number of factors including:

- The level of central government support to local authorities (Almost half of Uttlesford £7.8 million budget requirement is met by central government)
- The spending decisions of individual authorities
- The level of income the authorities recover as fees and charges
- The extent to which authorities finance expenditure from reserves or balances

The level of individuals' council tax bills depend on:

- The level of the council tax for the area
- The value of the property, ie. the tax band to which the property has been allocated
- Whether or not the taxpayer qualifies for a discount
- Whether or not the taxpayer is entitled to Council Tax Benefit

The new District charge at Band D is £101.11. which represents a 6.5% increase. Factors such as changes to housing finance, lower interest rates and pension fund shortfalls have all contributed to the increase. Only just over 10% of your total Council Tax Bill goes to the District. As billing authority it collects the Council Tax for Essex County Council, Essex Police Authority and Parish/Town Councils. The County Council and Police Authority together account for over 85% of your total Council Tax Bill.

The District Council is currently politically evenly balanced. This was reflected in the passage of the budget by one vote. A minority of councillors including myself wanted to see provision of £30,000 per annum on flood relief projects.

In the Council's capital programme for 2002/03 there is £30,000 set aside for surfacing the coach park at the Railway Sidings car park. There is also £19,000 allocated for skateboarding once a suitable site has been established

Geoffrey Sell District Councillor Tel: 01279 815925

Stansted Tennis Club



Chilli Tournament

A successful round robin mixed tournament was held in February. There were 14 entrants who played four rounds amassing points. The eight highest scorers then proceeded to the semi-finals. Sue Sebley and Chris Hollis came from behind to beat Martin Nankivell and John Bitten 6-5, while Tim Hollis and Howard Buckley defeated Richard Mott and Roger Loveday 6-4. The final was a very one-sided affair with Tim and Howard seeing off Sue and Chris 6-1. A warming and delicious chilli lunch was enjoyed by all the competitors.

Hospital Cup

The Annual General Meeting took place at 105 Cambridge Road on Tuesday 5th March and was represented by 5 local clubs who were keen for the competition to proceed this year. Janet Hollis agreed to continue as Chairman and Sandra Ayres will become the representative for Stansted Tennis Club. The finals will be held at Henham Tennis Club on Saturday, 21st September and we are optimistic that we can put forward a lot of entries to secure the future of this popular competition.

Coaching

After Easter Chris Hollis will be starting midweek junior coaching as well as the Saturday morning sessions. There will also be a junior match practice slot between 5pm and 6pm on Tuesdays. If you would like to find out more, please call Chris on 01279 319155.

Used tennis balls are still available at £1 per tube of 4 from Janet Hollis (01279 812073).

If you would like to join Stansted Tennis Club, please contact the Membership Secretary, Kate Rutter (01279 813053). For any other enquiries, please contact either Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 812073 or Richard Mott (Secretary) on 01279 466348.

Chris Hollis

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As usual we have been keeping busy and the Easter holidays saw lots of activities for all age groups (both with and without chocolate eggs).

For April we are hoping for some good weather for our lake walk, playground trips, ride on toys session and for our first pub lunch of the year!

Our main event for April will be our Spring Nearly New Sale. This is the time to come and buy really good quality baby, children and maternity clothes, baby equipment, toys and books, all at terrific prices. This time we will also be having a plant stall too. The sale is on Saturday, 13th April at St John's Hall, Stansted, from 3pm to 4.30pm. Entry is by donation. Please do come along as you are sure to pick up some bargains. And if you have items to sell, you can contact Tracy on 01279812587 to register for a seller's number.

All parents or carers with babies, toddlers or pre-school children are most welcome at any of our activities, coffee events. We love to see new faces and you can be sure of a warm welcome. There are 3 coffee events each week, one per age group, held in members' homes in Stansted, Elsenham or Henham. See noticeboards for details or call Wendy on 01279813387 for a free diary sheet listing of events.

The NCT is a national charity offering information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood and the local branch is run by local parents for local parents. You do not have to be a member to come along to any of our activities, although joining helps to fund our core work.

For membership enquiries or information about any of our activities or services, please call Wendy on 01279813387. For antenatal class bookings and enquiries, call Rachel on 01279718632 and for breastfeeding support from a qualified counsellor, 8am to 10pm, 365 days per year, call 08704448708.

Tracy Todman

PETER KIRK CENTRE

In early March I attended the opening of a new computer centre at the Peter Kirk Centre. I recommend it to anyone who wants to try out computing for the first time or who needs to practice and get special support in informal surroundings. The following panel gives more details.

'COFFEE & COMPUTERS'

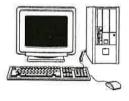
The North & West Essex Adult Community College has launched a new 'Coffee & Computers' project at the Peter Kirk Centre in Stansted. An array of specialist computer hardware and software has been provided by Abilitynet.

The software includes a remarkably effective capability for speech recognition ('DRAGON') and screen magnification ('MAGIC'), while the 'JAWS' software can assist even totally blind users by speaking what is on the screen. Also available is a range of hardware devices that have been specially designed to assist those with physical disabilities in making full use of computers. All of these are available at the centre, along with standard software such as word processing, spreadsheets, Internet etc.

The aim of the Coffee & Computers project is to provide computer access for all. The college wants to encourage as many people as possible from all backgrounds and capabilities. From absolute beginners who are terrified of computers, physically disabled or those who just need FREE access to computers and the Internet will be welcome. Tutors will also be available for help and advice.

For further information on the times these computers and tutors are available, call the college's head office at Rivermill in Harlow on (01279) 427711.







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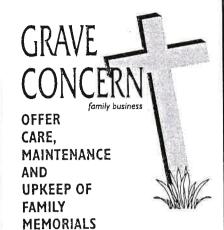
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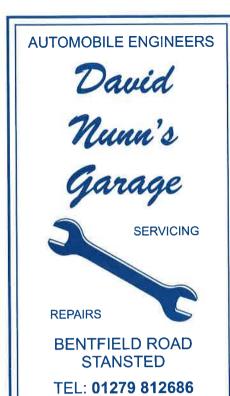
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