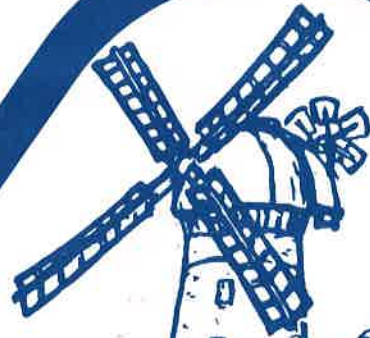


Aug / Sept 2002

The **LINK**



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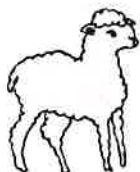
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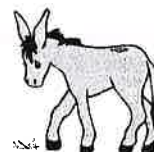
STANSTED PLAYSCHEME



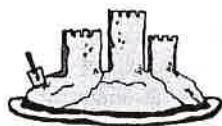
29th July to 16th August
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Specially for the 5 - 11 year olds
Leader: Terri Stockwell



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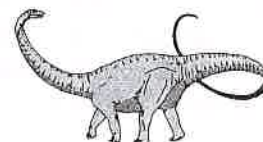


arts • craft • sports
plus



VISITS to:

Harlow Pets Corner
Natural History Museum
Walton-on-the-Naze



Please note that due to Social Services regulations
• under 8s must be accompanied by an adult for visits
• under 8s can only attend the morning sessions

Further details ☎813214 10 am - 1 pm

School holidays boring? Not now! Not here!

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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stanstedlink@aol.com
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by 10th October for publication on 26th October

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 6.00pm
Sunday 9am and 10.30am

Holy Days of Obligation
8am and 8pm

Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

Confessions Saturday 10am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

Be still ...

At this time of the year, everyone is thinking about their holidays, and those with children, how they are going to keep them occupied for the long holiday. Parliament is now in recess and the members are away, only the journalists stay and hope for a story as they enter into what is known as the 'silly season', when a slight whiff or hint of a story gets enlarged into a parliamentary crisis, "Recall Parliament" they cry.

I understand that in the churches something of the same applies, not that I would know, I don't go in for all this church stuff myself, can't see any sense in it. My friends tell me that the clergy tend to go off on their holidays at this time and that you get all sorts of people appearing to take the services, which can sometimes be a welcome change so I am told.

Talking about holidays, I shall be off on my holidays soon, and it is one of the times of the year when I visit churches, particularly if they are old churches, not necessarily for the architecture, for it is the monuments and wall memorials that I find interesting; have you noticed that when you open those heavy wooden doors and enter the church the atmosphere changes? You can feel a strange presence, I don't know what it is, it must be all those prayers that have been intoned over the years. Sometimes when I need a bit of quiet I go into St. John's and sit quietly in that little side chapel you can feel the presence of prayer around you. I nearly always wander around this country during my holidays and in these wanderings I have found it in many places, such as the little chapel at Bradwell on Sea, and going further afield, at Lindisfarne after all the coaches have left, you can stand in the ruins of the Abbey and it is there, it wraps itself all round you, this mystic power of prayer.

I was once very lucky to be taken to Iona and in the quiet of the early morning, or late evening, no matter where you are, in the church or on the sea shore, this mystic power of prayer surrounds you, wraps itself around you as you stand or sit quietly by yourself

Next time that you go visiting some quiet country church, stand or sit still for a few moments and you will hear and feel the presence of prayer. As the hymn says

"BE still and know I am near you
be still, I am the Lord."

Francis Mercer

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

There is a power which is divine, creative and loving though we can often only describe it with images and symbols that rise from our own particular experiences. It's story is greater than any single cultural version of it and yet it is embodied in all stories in all traditions. It is a power that paradoxically needs the human response. Like us it is energised by the reciprocity of love. It wills our redemption, longs us to turn to it. It does not create heaven and hell for us but allows us to do that for ourselves. Such is the terrible vulnerability of love. This is no theological abstraction but a matter of relationship. Worship is the word that I should use to describe my attitude towards this relationship, an attitude that in those rare moments when I'm fully alive, the whole of myself is open to all that exists in compassion, repentance, thanksgiving, intercession, and praise.

In our busy lives we often fail to make space for intercession and fellowship. We yearn to make life better but our technological skills have outstripped our moral development. Living a moral life is rarely easy but in the end what matters is you and me and what goes on between us. The moment we acknowledge this we give up the freedom to make choices based solely on our own desires. If taken seriously it gives a new perspective on moral dilemmas, one that can be different from seeing them in terms of the rights of the different parties involved. As we engage in the world with faith and moral responsibility as individuals and nations we will inevitably find ourselves transformed.

Graham Thwaites



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Wednesday	9:00am-
Friday	12:00noon

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<church.office@stansted.net>

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Secretary
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Revd Andrew Spurr
The Rectory
5 St. John's Road
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex, CM24 8JP
phone/fax (01279) 812203
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(01279) 812203

Mother & Toddler Group
Mrs Tina South
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Housegroup
Mrs Joan Freeman
(01279) 813186

Wonder if you've noticed how many fallacies we readily believe because we really want them to be true? I encounter one or two of them quite often; like the belief that winter is the season for funerals, a view entirely unsupported by statistics. Or, at the end of a dinner party, the idea that a good slug of coffee will render a drunk fit to drive home.

We have a persistent and attractive fallacy in the church which is the assured belief that, if we can get people into the building, under whatever pretext, then they may become regular members of the congregation.

I encounter this one when I discover that 'it has been noted' that I was absent from a concert, or some other function which happened to take place in the parish church. Why would I be there? Apparently because, if I was there, people would feel I was taking an interest in them and they might start to come to church and, single-handedly, I could fill the place to bursting on a Sunday morning.

Or again, in planning for the autumn we were discussing the 'Celebration of Christmas' event in St Mary's church. Although this is not an act of worship, or an event with a Christian focus (it is Christmas which is being celebrated, not Christ), I am told we must have it, as it gets people into church who otherwise wouldn't come, and it may sow a seed in people's minds, which may result in them becoming practising Christians.

The logic begins to look absurd when you state this belief at its most basic: We should dilute, or present the church's purpose in a muted way so we can attract those on the edges, and influence them to become Christians. More likely it acts like an inoculation: expose someone to a weak form and they will be able to build up an immunity to the real thing.

The Revd Dr Jeffrey John, whom I remember preaching forthrightly in my college chapel a few times, when he was chaplain at Magdalen, Oxford, has just written a pamphlet on how to grow churches. He writes:

The truth is that conversion and growth almost never happen osmotically or automatically. They only happen when a deliberate and careful effort is made to invite people into worship, and to equip them with the necessary information and teaching to understand and benefit from what is going on. If you find a way of doing this sensitively but boldly, confident that you are offering something which is actually worth more than amateur dramatics, karate, or whatever, you may get a response. But it is important not to blunt your or your church's sense of mission by imagining that allowing people to use your premises will somehow further the kingdom, it won't.¹

People become Christians because they have been caught by a vision of God, and a way of seeing the world made possible by an encounter with the figure of Jesus Christ. It is a life-changing event and does not happen out of benign, sunny optimism, but from a deep desire to be close to God.

Christians who want to soft-focus their faith to make it more appealing should ask whether this desire comes out of a deep-seated embarrassment about what they believe. It wasn't so very long ago that we used the word 'Christian' to mean A Good Person, and I can't imagine any of us wanting to say that about ourselves. Mercifully, we no longer use the word in that way so Christians can once again be the flawed-people-following-Jesus that they always were. The task is now for us to share openly with others why he is worth following.

St. John's Diary

Sundays	8:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i>
	9:30am Parish Communion <i>sung</i>
	11:00am Open Door Service with Baptism on the 18th of August
	6:30pm Evening Prayer <i>said</i>
Wednesdays	10:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i> followed by coffee
	7:30pm Intercessions and Night Prayer

Children's Church meets at 9:30am on Sundays in the Church Hall in school term-time, so not in August. **Tiny Tots** is a mother and toddler group that meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, again in term-time. **Laser Group** is a 12-16 youth group which meets fortnightly on Sunday evenings at 8:00pm for activities in the church hall. The evening concludes with candlelit Night Prayer in the chapel in church.

¹ Jeffrey John 'Going for Growth', 2002.
I am grateful to the Revd Dr Jane Freeman for the reference.

St John's, Stansted

UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

(continued)

From the Registers

Baptisms

16th June Adam David Fairweather
Liam Michael Fairweather

Funerals

10th June Mary Glasscock age 80 years
17th June William John Gallagher age 82 years
19th June John Edward Jordan age 70 years

FAREWELL TO CAROLINE AND RHYS

After only two years, Rhys and Caroline are moving on with the opportunity for Rhys to take another post in the Harwich area. There will be an opportunity to say thanks and goodbye after the 9.30am service in St John's on 18th August.

As this is being written, Rhys is aboard a Tall Ship with a number of local young people with whom he has been working in the Coffee Bar 2000 project at the Community Centre in Lower Street.

Caroline has been teaching at The Mountfitchet High School where she has made her mark.

So we wish both of them the very best in their future careers and thank them for their contribution to our local community.

Peter Jones

Churchwarden

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHINESE AUCTION

Saturday, 28th September
7.30pm
in the Church Hall

Tickets from thr Church Office,
Clergy and after Church Services
£6 each, consessions and children £4
including supper

Proceeds to our Harvest Mission

Minister Rev'd David Simpson
32 Loompits Way
Saffron Walden
CB11 4BZ Tel 01799 526618

Contact Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill Tel 01279 812593

Preachers for August

4th 10-30am Mr Paul Preston
11th 10-30am Rev'd David Simpson. Communion
18th 10-30am Mrs Faith Paulding
25th 10-30am Rev'd David Simpson

Preachers for September

1st 10-30am Mrs Pat Redfern
8th 10-30am Rev'd Martin Cressey
15th 10-30am Mrs M Kenda
122nd 10-30am Rev'd David Simpson
Harvest Service with Methodists
29th 10-30am Dr Pamela Cressey

Dates for the Diary:

September 14th Friends of Essex Churches sponsored
cycle ride and walk ~ the Church will be open from
10-00am.

September 21st Harvest Supper ~ for tickets ring 814850
or 812593

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 for August

4th Rev'd Harry Wood - Holy communion
11th Jerry Heyhoe
18th Margaret Richardson
25th Ken Mark

Preachers for September

1st Daphne Cornell
8th Rev'd Jim Gill - Holy communion
15th Michael Render
22nd 10.30 a.m. joint harvest service at URC
29th Rev'd John Graham

Fellowship meeting - Friday, 13th September at 8pm.



The **HARVEST SERVICE** will be held at the Friends Meeting House on Sunday 29th September at 6.30pm followed by a Bring and Share supper. All are welcome.

The next meeting of the CTS Executive is at 8pm on Tuesday, 10th September in the URC Hall.



SHALOM

Summer Walk – On 12th August, Margaret Whitelaw will be leading a walk starting at the Friends Meeting House at 7.30pm All are welcome

Our popular **Cream Tea and Auction** will be held on 18th August, 3pm at the Friends Meeting House. Please bring any contributions for the auction on the day.

We start the autumn term with a visit to **Bishop's Stortford Mosque** on 16th September. Meet at Crafton Green at 6.30pm to be at the mosque by 7pm. All are welcome. The programme for the term will be announced at a later date.

There is to be a **Day Retreat** on Saturday, 5th October at St.Mark's College, Audley End. The leader will be Rev. Harold Fisher. The cost will be £10 - £12 including lunch (bring your own if you prefer) Please let Edna Goreing know if you would like to book a place – 503764.

Catherine Dean

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

A very big **thank you** to all who helped raise in excess of **£2,500** in Christian Aid week. This contributes to Christian Aid's work in over 60 countries around the world. Most of this is supporting long-term projects and also responding to emergency situations when they occur.

One key area of work is the **Trade for Life campaign**, which leads me on to **Bananas**. Following Michael Howes' interesting article about the Windward Islands banana trade being under threat, I would like to plug **fairly traded** bananas, which can be bought at all the local supermarkets, except Tesco. The country of origin is on the packet. And I noticed this week that Sainsbury are selling **Geo bars**. These are not only fairly traded, they are **delicious**.

Catherine Dean

ELSENHAM VILLAGE CD ROM

The CD-ROM, "Elsenham Village," is on sale now. 205 photographs on one album software package covering over 100 years of Elsenham's history. Elsenham Hall and the "Gilbey" Estate, The Church, the School and the Village. How it developed, showing pictorially an evolving Community. The CD loads itself, no installing needed, no disc space used. You will be presented automatically with a screen full of thumbnail views to choose from. When you click on one of your choice the picture appears full-screen with an accompanying caption. For more information you can consult the Booklet which is also supplied. The software also allows you to view all 205 pictures as a slide show. All the Computers used to produce the disc are running a fully up to date industry standard anti - virus software. If you purchased the Elsenham Millennium Book, this will make a fine companion. If you had connections with Elsenham, you will enjoy viewing the pictures. **The Price, only £5.00.** There will be a small charge of £1.00 if postage is required. All proceeds are used to maintain the "Elsenham Village Archives" (Parish Council Property). Contact, Ray Franklin (01279) 815088 or email rayf@freeola.net



**MOUNTFITCHET
GARDEN CLUB**

The speaker at the July Club meeting Mr Richard Stephen did not have far to travel, as he has recently moved to the Village from the Gateshead area. In Gateshead he was responsible for the Parks and Gardens. In the course of his work he designed, constructed and organised funding of the Gateshead City Council's exhibit at the Chelsea Flower show in 1999, in partnership with the RNLI, who were celebrating their 175th anniversary. They won a coveted Gold medal. His talk and slides showed the long hours and hard work involved in producing an incredible display showing the launching of a Lifeboat from a boat house into the sea, all created with plants including the sea spray. He was thanked for his very interesting talk by the Chairman, Mr Cyril Stoneham.

Mrs Valerie Day will talk on Ground Cover plants at the August meeting, and in September, Mr Mackay will explain "Pruning"; very topical with Autumn fast approaching.

The Annual Autumn show will be held in the United Reformed Church Hall on September 7th. The show opens to the Public at 2-30pm, when we would like you all to come and see the Flowers and Vegetables for yourselves.

Janet Townsend



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

With the school holidays now upon us, we have a calendar packed full of events for all the family during August and September, catering for the tiniest baby to the biggest dad!

The weekly coffee events continue throughout the holidays with separate groups for tiddlers and tums, toddlers and pre-schoolers. These are held in members' homes and cost just 50p towards refreshments. Do feel free to come along – check the noticeboards for details and just phone the host for directions.

In addition we shall be out and about virtually every single day during August and September, both locally and venturing further afield during the holidays when there are no school pick-ups to worry about for those with older children.

There really is something for every child over the coming two months with outdoor messy play and obstacle courses, another paddling pool party and playground trips. And indoors there will be music, more pizza making and ride on toys.

You will also find us heading for Frinton, Molehall Wildlife Park, Harlow Town Park and Wimpole Farm and you might be well advised to avoid the trains we will take 'to and fro' on our trip to Bishops Stortford to the Castle Gardens paddling pool and playground for a picnic.

We haven't forgotten the grown-ups either. There will be a family Cream Teas afternoon and weekend trips to Linton Zoo and Hatfield Forest. And so we can have fun without the children the mums will be heading out for a pizza one night and the dad's will meet for their regular "last Wednesday of the month" drinks.

The 7th September will see us celebrate our branch 21st birthday at The Ash at Burton End from 4pm to 8pm. Tickets are now on sale to both members and non-members and the price of £15 per adult includes a hefty BBQ tea, bouncy castle, disco and children's games. Children under 10 go free, making it a very reasonable afternoon out for all the family. For tickets call the branch enquiry line on 07020 936 552 or see any member of the committee.

If you think you'd like to join in with what we're up to, please don't be shy. We love seeing new faces and you can be sure of a warm welcome. All parents or carers with babies, toddlers or pre-school children are welcome to all of our activities, coffees or events. Call Wendy on 01279813387 to get your free information pack which includes our free diary sheet listing of events. Or you can check the village noticeboards for details of events.

We also offer antenatal classes to all local parents whether this is your first or subsequent baby. Book early for classes

by calling Rachel on 01279718632. Breastfeeding support from a qualified counsellor, is available by telephone from 8am to 10pm, 365 days per year, by calling 08704448708.

Tracy Todman



What a very busy term we have had. Our first topic was all about transport, from fire engines to pushchairs. Following our successful visit to the library last term, we went to the Fire Station this time, and an excellent time was had by all; sitting in the engines, trying on helmets and holding the water hoses, but perhaps the most fun was had splashing in the puddle afterwards! Thanks again to the firemen who were there to help us.

We also had a visit to the Nursery from two police cars, and of course the drivers. The children found out what all the colourful buttons inside the cars were used for, and were allowed to turn the flashing lights on! Thank you Stansted Police!

Our final visit was a coach trip to Audley End Teddy Train, the children wore crowns they had made, red, white and blue clothes, and flew flags to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. We had fun spotting the teddies around the ride, and although it rained while we were on the train, we were able to finish the visit with a healthy picnic under the shelter of a tree!

We have also made fire engines, hot air balloons, rockets, boats, buses, a police car cake and learnt how to steer a wheelchair, which had been kindly lent to us by Henry Teale.

Our final topic this year has been all about the local environment, including trees, flowers and minibeasts. We had a walk to the local woods and collected lots of bugs to go in our vivarium, we also did some bark rubbing. The displays in the classroom are looking good at the moment with bees and honeycombs, and spiders and webs!

And finally ... as this goes to print, work on our own private 'outdoor classroom' should be well under way.

The things they say: After watching a video about a light-house one child disappointingly said "Why didn't we see the boat sink?"!

We are open Mon - Fri, from 9:15 to 12. Telephone 07773730754 (Nursery) or 01279814037 (Admissions secretary) for more information, or to put your child's name on our growing waiting list.

Carol Bullot



St Mary's Church Open

2- 5 pm on Sundays

4th August

1st September

6th October

Everyone Welcome



Stansted Windmill

Open Days

2 - 6 pm

Sunday 4th August

Sunday 25th August

Monday 26th August (Fête)

Sunday 1st September

Sunday 6th October



Stansted Windmill

ANNUAL FÊTE

2 - 5 pm 26th August
(Bank Holiday Monday)

Plants ~ Books

Stalls ~ Refreshments

Windmill Open 2 - 6 pm

A village family afternoon

VILLAGE EVENTS

August

1	Thu	Playscheme cont until 16th	Yth Centre 10 - 12.30, 1.30 - 3.30 pm
4	Sun	Lib Dem Salmon & Wine	7 Blythwood Gardens 12.30 pm
		St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
		Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Garden Club AGM	Day Centre 7.30 pm
10	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
10	Sat - 11	Sun Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
11	Sun	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm
12	Mon	Shalom Walk	Meet at Quaker Meeting Hse 7.30 pm
14	Wed	RBL (Women) Coffee	Day Centre 10.30 am
16	Fri	Conservatives Pub Night	Rose & Crown 8 pm
18	Sun	Shalom Cream Tea	Quaker Meeting House 3 pm
21	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
25	Sun - 26	Mon Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
26	Mon	Windmill Fête	2 - 5 pm

September

1	Sun	St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
		Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
2	Mon - 6	Fri Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
4	Wed	Mft Seniors Outing	
5	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
7	Sat	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm
		Garden Club Show	U R Church Hall 2.30 pm
11	Wed	HEAL Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon
12	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14	Sat	Sponsored Cycle Ride	See display
15	Sun	Conservatives Lunch	The Ash 12.15 pm
16	Mon	WEA begins	Day Centre 7.30 pm
		Shalom Mosque visit	Meet Crafton Green 7 pm
18	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
19	Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm
28	Sat	Chinese Auction	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
30	Mon	Shalom Group	Venue tbc 8 pm

October

2	Wed	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Sun	St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
		Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
7	Mon - 11	Fri Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
10	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

AUTUMN SHOW

2.30 pm Sat 7th Sept
United Reformed Church Hall

Raffle ~ Refreshments
Auction of Produce at 4 pm

ADMISSION FREE



SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE & WALK

Sat 14th September

Forms available from St John's Church & the Quaker Meeting House

A stimulating day out for a good cause

In aid of church repairs



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in the XIX Century

Tutor Dr Roger Simpson

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Mondays 8 pm for
10 weeks from 16th Sept
(enrolment 7.30 pm)

Cost £26 (concessions £16)

Tel 813250

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BURTON END STREET PARTY A GREAT SUCCESS

Queen's Golden Jubilee

The Day Centre gave members and helpers a mystery coach drive followed by tea in the Day Centre. The WI were the caterers for the splendid tea, served by WI members. There were lots of golden decorations and flowers on the tables and also a beautiful arrangement done by Olive Bunting in the entrance hall. One of the Day Centre members, Mrs Joan Croxford of Farnham, gave the party a very nice surprise when she went to the piano and played popular tunes. She had obviously been keeping this talent a secret!

Mrs Brenda Scarr thanked the organisers and the WI for making this a very successful party.



Royal British Legion Women's Section

In place of our normal branch meeting on 20th June we met at the Mill House to enjoy a dinner of succulent roast turkey with all the trimmings, followed by a choice of delicious sweets - all washed down with lashings of white wine - with small Union Jacks adorning the walls.

Our President, Mrs Margaret Gabb, proposed a toast to the Queen before we sat down to the meal. All agreed that the evening had been a huge success as well as a fitting way for our branch to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

There is no branch meeting in August, but on Wednesday, 14th August, we have a Coffee Morning in the Day Centre from 10.30 am - Bric-a-Brac, Cakes, Tombola, Raffle. Everyone welcome.

Our Harvest Sale will take place at our branch meeting on Thursday 19th September in the Day Centre at 7.30pm.

Advance Notice

Tea Party run jointly by the Royal British Legion and the Women's Section, to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal, will be held in the Day Centre on Wednesday 30th October, 3.00pm for 3.30pm. Please give us your support.

Pat Clower

CAN YOU HELP?

We have been asked if anyone has an old photograph of Stansted Airport in the early 1960s. The lady in question flew out from the airport to Aden at that time with her young son and vaguely remembers a runway and a hut! She would love to show her children what it was like and would be willing to scan a photograph and return it to its owner.

If anyone can help please contact Mrs Polly Sainsbury on 01371 810337 (Finchingfield) or e-mail: eric@eripol.demon.co.uk.

Thank you.

Practically everyone in Burton End turned out for the Golden Jubilee Street Party on Sunday 16th June. The event was held in the gravel drive by the old pump, surrounding houses and hedgerows were festooned with Union Jacks and bunting.

Over 60 people enjoyed a lavish barbecue and generous residents donated copious quantities of Champagne and wine and there was an excellent summer punch.

During the festivities, Sarah Harrison and Igor Utkin of 'Mazaika' entertained on the violin and accordion with a selection of light classical music and Russian songs, culminating in a Toast to the Queen and a hearty rendition of the National Anthem.

The gardens of 'Four Winds' were thrown open for lawn games including croquet, rounders and petanque, whilst the children (aged four to seventy) had a great time in the 'Bouncy Castle' generously provided by Tommy and Beverly of The Ash.

The weather was kind to us being warm enough to sit in comfort but without being too hot. Several people suggested that we could not wait for the Diamond Jubilee for the next Burton End spectacular, so who knows!

David Harrison



Stansted Art & Craft Market

A reminder that the annual Art and Craft Market will be held on the weekend of 26th and 27th October in St John's Church and Hall. Volunteers are always needed to help with setting up. If anyone is interested would they please contact Rachel Mortishire-Smith on 01279 816837.



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

LOOKING BACK - THE WI SCRAPBOOK 1965

In 1965 - the Golden Jubilee Year of the W.I. Movement - W.I.'s were invited to make scrapbooks, records of village life at that time. In that year there were 9000 Women's Institutes in England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and the membership was 461,000 women. Today, nearly 40 years later there are around 7000 WI's and 240,000 members, reflecting the change in the lifestyle of women today. Nevertheless it is the largest national voluntary organisation for women in the UK and as such has an unrivalled reputation as a voice of reason and integrity on issues that matter to women and their communities. There were two WI's in Stansted in 1965, one meeting in the afternoon and one in the evening and between them they made a scrapbook of Stansted Mountfitchet which is full of information and pictures of the village at that time. Sadly, the afternoon Institute closed in 1997 after more than 70 years but the Evening Institute is still thriving after nearly 43 years. In this year of the Queen's Golden Jubilee I thought it would be interesting to look into the scrapbook and see how things have changed since then.

Even in 1965, Stansted was described as a large village, or according to a Local Government Inquiry at that time, could no longer be regarded as a village at all. The number of inhabitants in 1965 was 3,500 and now with the population in excess of 5,700 - this figure being the estimate given by Uttlesford for the year 2000 - it is even less likely to be described as a village. The scrapbook talks of the trunk road - the A11 - running roughly north and south from London to Norwich, as being very heavy with traffic. Now, of course, it has been re-classified as the B1383 and although a lot of traffic still comes through the "village", the advent of the M11 has made a tremendous difference. In 1965 there was much concern about the proposed motorway, especially that the Parish Church of St Mary would be cut off from the rest of the village. The Ministry of Transport was approached - via Saffron Walden Rural District Council - to get the line of the motorway altered to run east of the church. This seems to have been successful as the church did not become cut off from the village, though it is no longer the Parish Church. Apparently also at that time there was some concern about the 'Cast-Iron Fountain of 1871' at the junction of Chapel Hill and the A11 which made the corner very dangerous for traffic. The Parish Council wanted it re-sited on the southern side of its present site, but Essex County Council considered that impracticable. A photograph in the book shows a policeman (P.C. Rickets - now retired and living in Saffron Walden) standing in the middle of the A11 and directing the traffic! I often wish he was still there - but at least we now have a pedestrian crossing further up the road. Also in the picture is the magnificent chestnut tree which eventually had to be removed as unsafe; but whose deep pink candles used to look wonderful in the springtime.

The view down Chapel Hill looks much the same today as it did then, except that the trees in the distance are much smaller and there are no cars in sight on the hill - either parked or moving! The junction of Chapel Hill and Lower Street has seen some changes and mainly for the better. As with the arrival of new businesses the old buildings - one of which dates back to the 16th Century - have been preserved. That particular building now the 'Optometrists' was known then as the Tudor Shop and sold toys, cards and fancy goods. At that time there was a general store on the corner - now D.C. Poulton & Sons, Funeral Directors - called 'Herringtons' It is pictured advertising Lyons Tea, Bev, Will's Woodbines and Goldflake tobacco and in the window are large jars of sweets; apparently the inside of the shop smelt very strongly of paraffin! It was run then by a Miss Stacey and known locally as 'Stacey's'. The book tells us that there were 50 shops in Stansted in 1965 and many of them were in Chapel Hill, Lower Street and Station Road. 'Felicity's', where Goldings is now, was a small woolshop, which also sold baby clothes and ladies underwear and next door was 'Baxter's' the Butchers. Across the road was a grocery shop - J.G. Mumford Ltd. managed by Philip Camp, whose wife still lives in the village with her daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Brian Townsend. Mrs Camp used to work part-time in Felicity's shop. The Mumford family also ran a private car hire and taxi business as well as a fishmonger and poulterer's in Lower Street. John Tucker had a newsagents and confectioners where 'Family News' still plies the same trade and which after more than 25 years is often still referred to as 'Tuckers'. Over the other side of the road was Les Oldfield with his 'Do-it-yourself supplies' in a wooden building which was later replaced by a two-storied brick building. Les retired and closed his business only a few years ago and is still missed by many.

I shall return at a later date to the many other family shops which abounded in the village at that time and to some of the other things that were engaging the people of the area in 1965 - not the least being the expansion of the airport!

Judy Colliver



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

email: philip@grahamschoolofdance.fsnet.co.uk

AFTER THE FUN RUN



STANSTED

Facts ...

- Sunday 23rd June was the day
- The weather was kind to runners and helpers
- Nearly 400 people entered
- Over £3,500 was raised for Sport Relief

- Limbering up on Bentfield Green



- Mike the Clown sent them on their way



- The long haul up to Hassobury House



- The end!



Some feedback ...

- "I ... thank the race marshals for being so encouraging"
- "We thoroughly enjoyed the day ... very well organised"
- "What a nice route ... pretty challenging ... very picturesque"
- "An inspiration to get back to running"
- "The organisation was first class ... just wish there were fewer hills!"
- "It was great the way residents turned out to watch"
- "Thanks for a tough but enjoyable (?) run"

Thank you to ...

- participants
- stewards (all 60 of you!)
- all who helped on the Green
- others who helped in any way



Welcome to our last Rainbow newsletter for this pre-school year. We have to say goodbye to many of our pre-schoolers and our best wishes are with them as they go on to their new schools. However we look forward to seeing many new faces in September and welcoming them to our new venue at St Mary's.

It's been another busy term for the children: the weather stayed fine for our Golden Jubilee celebrations on 31st May as we held our own traditional street party based on the 1953 coronation party. The garden looked terrific, festooned with flags and bunting and all the children dressed in red, white and blue wearing the golden crowns that they made with Auntie Ann and Auntie Terri. They enjoyed traditional 1953 food such as marmite and jam sandwiches and homemade fairy cakes and cookies and there was a wonderful cake made by Auntie Jenny in the shape of a number 50 followed by games such as pass the parcel.

As a special keepsake, Rainbow Pre-school presented the children with a commemorative Jubilee mug to remember the day.

The Willows Farm Village at St Albans was the venue for our summer outing and what a day we had. It is a really good day out and something to consider for entertaining the children during those long summer holidays.

We all enjoyed meeting the animals, from Shire horses, sheep, pigs to goats and not forgetting the guinea pig village. Our ride on Tristan the Tractor was also good fun, if a bit smelly. The children's play area was very well maintained and very clean and most importantly there were many places for the children to wash their hands after touching and feeding the animals.

Our sponsored assault course exceeded expectations this year raising over £600 for Pre-school funds. Thank you to everyone, we appreciate your efforts.

Rainbow will be very busy during the summer holidays moving to their new home and we start our new term on 9th September at St Mary's School. See you there.

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.

Tina South

RAINBOW TOTS

'RAINBOW TOTS' is a new mother and toddler group which will be held every Wednesday morning, during term time only, between 10am and 11.30am at the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill, Stansted. Children between the ages of 18 months and 2½ years are welcome to attend with a parent/carer. The sessions will be run by myself, Gill Pursglove and Tina South.

There will be a range of creative activities including playdoh and painting, puzzles, books, toys and possibly a little 'home corner' as well. The lovely garden at the rear of the premises will provide scope for outside play - ride-on toys, a slide and water play. After biscuits and drinks for everyone we will finish off the session with story time and singing.

The price per session will be £3.50, payable each half term in advance and includes refreshments. If you are interested then please give me a call on 813071 to register your name or for any further information. We are planning to hold our first session on Wednesday 18th September.

Yvonne Hardy



STANSTED &
DISTRICT LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS.

From 12.30pm onwards on Sunday 4th August, a Salmon & Sparkling Wine Party will be held at 7 Blythwood Gardens (courtesy of Mike and Marion Dyer). Entrance £6. For further information please ring 814222 or 813432.

Our next Ploughman's Lunches are on Saturday 10th August and Saturday 14th September at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2pm. All are welcome.

Ruth Rawlinson

IN-STEP REFLEXOLOGY

Feel generally out of step with life?
Get-up-and-go, got up and gone?

REFLEXOLOGY could be the answer

An holistic therapy designed to aid deep relaxation, reflexology promotes the body's own powers of healing and gives an enhanced sense of well-being.

Beverley Davies Assoc. AoR is now practising from Fancy Fingers, Silver St. Stansted every Thursday. To book phone 01279 647646 or 07866 553524 to arrange a home visit.

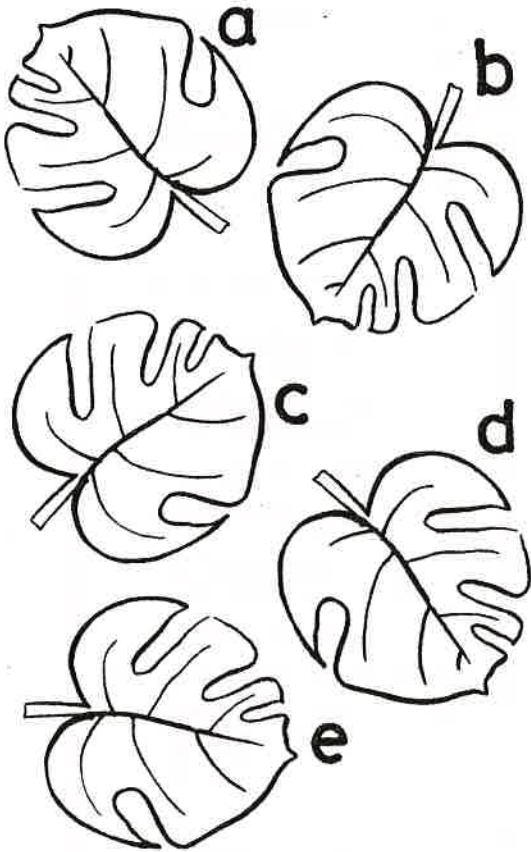
1. CAN YOU FIND THESE HOLIDAY WORDS?

They go backwards or forwards and up, down, across or diagonally. The left-over letters spell out in 3 words what this puzzle is.

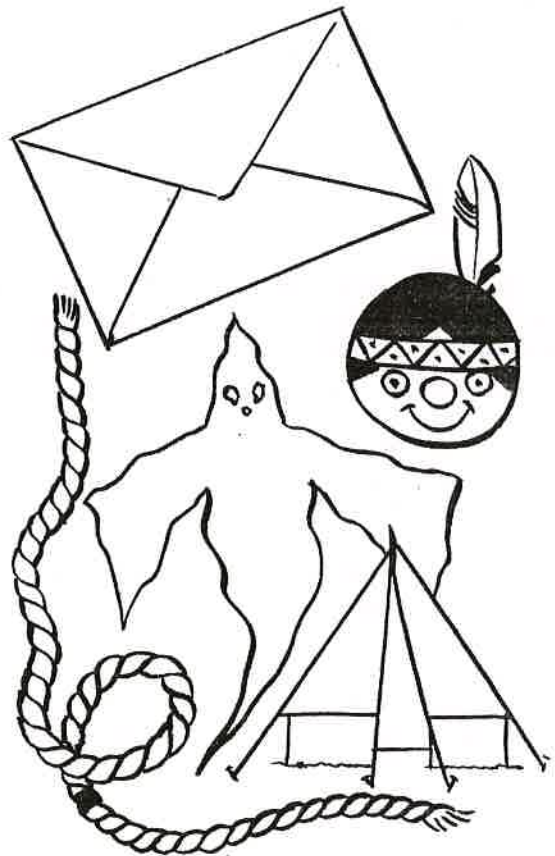
- | | | | |
|---------|---------|------------|-----------|
| Away | Seaside | Sandcastle | Tides |
| Swims | Bags | Play | Icecreams |
| Holiday | Fun | Beach | Bucket |
| Eat | Fish | Travel | Pebbles |
| Crab | Case | Sunhats | Shells |
| Spade | | | |



2. Find two pairs of leaves



3. The initials of these pictures spell an animal



"Knock, knock."
 "Holly"
 "HOLIDAY"

"Who's there?"
 "Holly who?"

Answers on page 18

Uttlesford District Council

I have attended meetings at which plans for a new combined health centre and doctors' surgery for Stansted have been discussed. This centre may also include a council information centre facility. The options seem to be to locate it somewhere in the Lower Street area or on Rochford Nurseries once that area is developed. Our doctors' practice has consulted their patients on the design of the new surgery. So far there has been no public consultation on the likely location by the Primary Care Trust, which is responsible. Your councillors are trying to organise a meeting in September. In the meantime, if you have any views on the possible alternative new locations for the existing Crafton Green and St. John's Road facilities, please let me know.

We are still waiting for the Home Office to make clear its proposal to site a so-called removals centre for asylum seekers near to Stansted airport. One possible location is on the airport itself. I attended a meeting at which we were assured that there would be no repetition of the problems that led to the riots at the Yarl's Wood, Bedfordshire centre, which was burnt down. The Home Office says the design would be much better.

There are many controversies and confusions surrounding the Government's policies towards asylum seekers and other immigrants. Some of the people who would be held at any centre around here would still be having their applications for asylum considered at appeal. They have committed no crime. Yet they will be held in a detention centre on our doorstep. I find this offensive and contrary to human rights.

Councillor Alan Dean
Tel: 01279 813 579
Email: cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk



Our autumn course this year will be "The English Social Cartoon from Hogarth to the Twentieth Century". The lecturer will be Dr Roger Simpson and the course will examine the history of the English social cartoon with particular attention to mid-Victorian period. Graphic works will be examined in relation to the satirical literature of the period and the reciprocal influences between these two most important comic media will be discussed. Key writers whose works will be considered will be Dickens and Thackeray among others.

The course will consist of ten lectures and as usual we will meet on Monday evenings at the Day Centre beginning on 16th September, the first evening enrolment between 7.30 and 8.00pm. Lectures start at 8.00pm. The fee for the ten week course is £26 but the concessionary charge will be £16.

If you would like more details please contact Harold Thistle on 813250.



Even a large bonfire failed to put 200 people off from enjoying HEAL's 3rd Open Gardens! The weather was glorious and contributed to us raising over £1,200 for your local cancer charity.

Thank you to all who made this day so successful. See you next year!

Sue Hitchmough

HEAL COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 11th September

10am-12 noon

At the Day Centre

ALL WELCOME

Stansted Hall Cricket Club - Juniors

There were mixed fortunes for the Under 11's on the weekend of 7th July, as they beat Harlow in the Terriers League but were well beaten by Elsenham in a friendly. Against Harlow, SHCC scored 241 only losing 2 wickets, Henry Hamilton 8 and Brett Rogers 7, whilst Harlow made 189 for 7. Rebecca Witherden took 2 for 5 in 3 overs, Daniel Warman 2 for 7 in 2 overs and Alexander Hearne took 4 catches.

The Under 13's were swamped by a much stronger Takeley side in the league and the Under 15's lost to Epping Foresters in a friendly. In 25 overs, Epping Foresters made 195 all out, Jack Townsend 2-27, Chris Baxter 2-37 and Chris Clayton-Smith 3-41. In reply the Under 15's made 120-7 with skipper Ian Taylor making 28 retired, Chris Clayton-Smith 23 and James Berry 12 not out.

Despite the season's poor results there have been good individual performances at all age groups, which promises well for the future of the club.



Dave Mickelborough (YDO)





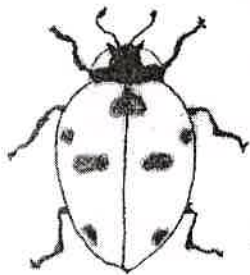
Nature Notes

At this time of year adult ladybirds should be emerging from their pupae. The presence of these brightly coloured beetles is always very welcome to gardeners as both they and their larvae feed on aphids which can cause havoc in the garden.

There are in fact 24 British species of ladybird, with varying numbers of spots (from 2 to 24) and a few with no spots at all. The 2 spot and 7 spot ladybirds, both red with black spots, are the commonest. The name 'ladybird' is a reference to Our Lady who was depicted in the early paintings wearing a red cloak. The black spots of the 7 spot ladybird are said to represent the seven joys and sorrows of Mary.

Aphids form the normal diet of ladybirds but they will eat other insects and will in extreme cases even bite humans. During 1976 a huge explosion of 7 spot ladybirds wiped out the aphids in southern England. In their search for food, the starving ladybirds went on to bite almost everything they landed on, including people sitting on the beach.

Although the majority of British ladybirds are carnivorous, one, the 24 spot, is vegetarian (feeding on clover and vetches) and 3 others feed on plant mildew.



The bright colours of ladybirds (generally red or yellow with black spots) warn birds and other predators that these beetles contain a poisonous alkaloid and would be distasteful. In addition, ladybirds exude a yellow bitter tasting fluid if disturbed.

However, both beetles and larvae can be preyed on by spiders, ants and birds. Predation of ladybirds

by swifts, swallows and martins is possible because these birds feed on the wing and the ladybirds would not have time to release their repellent fluid.

In early autumn, after feeding for several weeks, ladybirds seek out overwintering sites. Different species will often gather in the same spot, possibly attracted to others by the release of a chemical scent. They remain inactive most of the winter in curled up leaves, tree trunk crevices and cracks around window frames.

With the warm days of late spring they emerge from their winter quarters, mate and lay their eggs on leaves or plant stems, often near colonies of aphids. The eggs hatch in a few days; the larvae feed on the aphids and shed their skins three times before forming pupae in mid summer. The adult beetles emerge in late summer and thus the life cycle is completed.

Rosina Kirkwood

STANSTED CONSERVATIVES



Stansted Conservative Branch - Social Events

Pub Evening Friday 16th August at the Rose & Crown, Bentfield Green at 8pm

Salad Lunch Sunday 15th September at The Ash, 12.15 for 1pm, with guest speaker Lord Hanningfield. Advance tickets only, available from Bridget Gott on 01279 814440.

Contacts:

County Councillor Richard Wallace 01279 812588

Miss Sian Lloyd (secretary) 07966 195385

Email: sianlloyds@yahoo.co.uk

Constituency Agent: Darren Hector 01799 506349

Email:

Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP

Open Surgery

Friday, 6th September 2002

Parish Council Office,

Crafton Green,

Stansted

5.45 - 6.30pm



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

Poppy Appeal 2002

Last year we again had a superb collection in the District, also Nationally. We hope it continues for the benefit of all ex-service men and women and their dependants in need.

Unfortunately I shall be out of action for a few weeks with a broken ankle but if you can help in any way particularly in the "House to House" collections, for the time being, can you please volunteer by contacting one of the following Committee Members.:

David Challis 815183

Bob Stoddart 814015

Eddie Laird 813458

Harold Thistle 813250

You do not need to be a member of the Legion to assist.

As always I will be contacting all the current collectors within the next few weeks. Their support is always appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

John L Segar
Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser
Stansted & District

Stansted Profile No. 48

Captain Ignatius Utomo and Family

Ignatius, his wife Stephanie and 4 children are recent newcomers to Stansted, arriving just 2 years ago from Los Angeles.

Captain Utomo works for Atlas Air Freight Company, flying Jumbo jets from Stansted airport.

Originally from Jakarta in Indonesia, a friend at College who wanted to become a pilot himself suggested to Ignatius that he should become one too. However, his friend did not pass the stringent medical exam and it was Ignatius who went on to do his training. He was sponsored by Indonesian Airlines and came to Oxford for 18 months in 1979 to the training school there.

Ignatius met his wife while working for the same airline in Jakarta and after a while when Ignatius got a job in Singapore, Stephanie moved with him as an air stewardess on his crew. They spent 3 happy years in Singapore and their oldest son Dominic was born there.

Their second daughter was born two years later back in Jakarta where Ignatius had started working for Malaysia Airlines. Then came the move to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia where their third child Valerie, now 10, was born. They stayed for 11 years in Malaysia and were very happy there. The family are very devout Catholics and their faith is very important to them. Although Malaysia is a Moslem country they were members of a thriving Church Community. They found that the ties between the Church and its members were very strong and they still keep in touch with the many friends they made there.

Then came another move to Los Angeles, California, where Stephanie and the children stayed with her brother while Ignatius continued to fly with Malaysia Airlines, but the family spent a lot of time apart. Their youngest child, Peter, was born there 7 years ago.

Now the family are happy to be in Stansted in their own home at Birchalls. Many children of pilots are sent to the UK to school and the family live elsewhere, so the Utomos feel very privileged that they can all be here together. Some flight patterns can make strangers of families, but with Atlas, Ignatius seems to balance his work and home life which means that he sees much more of his children than ever before.

One of the benefits of working for an airline has meant that over the years they have had

holidays in many countries and continents - Korea, Japan, Australia, Taiwan and every part of America.

Now they are happy to visit Europe and have recently been to Lourdes, arriving on International Military Day when it seemed every nation was there in uniform.

Dominic, their oldest son, has joined them from the University of California after completing his first year there and is working locally to save enough money to see him through his degree course at Queen Mary University of London, which he will attend in the autumn. Following his degree, he hopes to train as a pilot like his dad!

His sister, Maria, who is 17, is at St Mary's School in Bishop's Stortford and thinks she may like to become an architect.

The two youngest children attend St Thomas More School in Saffron Walden and have their sights set on becoming a photographer and a famous footballer!

The family are much happier with the education in the UK - perhaps sunshine is not conducive to study!



Although at home Ignatius' family spoke Dutch, he and his family speak Indonesian and English in equal measure. They would like to think that when they go back home their children will still be able to communicate with all their friends and relations.

When we arrived, Ignatius had been renovating his bicycle. When the weather is good they enjoy cycling around the back ways of Stansted and the local countryside. Ignatius used to renovate cars and a special love was an old Volkswagen beetle. Obviously the engineer his father would have liked him to be, is not too far below the surface!

Eileen Quinn and Arthur Douglas

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Summer Newsletter

What a busy end of term the school has had, and, I am grateful to say, how kind the weather has been!

The whole school took part in their annual Sports Day event on Friday 28th June. Many parents were able to enjoy the sun and support their children in many traditional races - running, relay, hoop and sack races. The children enjoyed cheering on their friends and classmates in a spirit of fun. Well done to everyone who took part in a race - you are all winners!

The PTFA held a very successful Summer Fayre the following day, raising over £2,100. This year the Fayre was themed around 'Transport', and a variety of attractions entertained the children and parents alike. Soldiers from Carver Barracks brought along several remote controlled devices and children were able to use metal detectors to hunt for hidden objects. A steam traction engine greeted visitors at the entrance, alongside a local fire engine and St John Ambulance, which together with vintage motorbikes and sidecars and a police car, meant there was a lot to see and do. As ever, the children, and adults, had a lot of fun testing their skill and patience on the games and whilst Smash-a-Plate proved very popular at the Fayre, kids - please don't try this at home! The PTFA wish to thank everyone involved for their support, particularly those who helped on the day and those who brought along attractions, not forgetting everyone who came along. We hope you all had an enjoyable afternoon.

St Mary's was visited by Get Fit Kids, a team of British Squad Gymnasts who were promoting the importance of physical well being and healthy exercise. The children were given a demonstration of their talents - the highlight being a somersault over a row of children and teachers! All the children were able to take part in a range of exercises and it proved to be a fun and enjoyable day.

To round of the summer term, children in Key Stage 2 gave a brilliant performance of 'Robin Hood' to the rest of the school, followed by a performance to parents and friends. Congratulations to all who took part, and to Mr Brown and Mr Arbuckle who helped to make it all happen. Who knows, we may have some stars of the future living on our doorsteps!

As a final note, thank you to all the staff at the school for all their hard work throughout the year. It has certainly been a busy and challenging year and for the children an enjoyable one too.

On behalf of the PTFA Committee, may we wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

Jane Granger
PTFA Secretary

WHAT THEY SAY

Finally, a few lines from the pupils themselves. We've asked both Reception and Year 6 pupils for a contribution this month as it's been a special year for them - their first and last year at St Mary's. Here are a selection.

From Georgina, Lilly, Matthew, Whitney, Fraser, Henry, Daniel, Charlie and Christopher in Reception ~

I like Mrs Scott and painting, I like assemblies and PE.

We did ERR and I like it, it was fun, everyone did it everyday.

I like the painting, I like the castle, I like Mrs. Stewart.

I don't like boys, I have a headache.

I like PE because we exercise.

I liked the painting because now we know how to paint.

I like doing cooking because it was tasty.

I liked ERR, it helped me read.

I like having my lunch.

I love the ERR, I love the school, I love the writing.

Memories of St Mary's from Wei, Rachael, William, Katie, Lucy, Amy, Matthew and Anjuli in Year 6 ~

When I first came to school, all the teachers and pupils were very nice to me and helped me.

I will always remember the time in Yr.1 when a boy put glue in his mouth and our teacher told him stand with his mouth open.

There are some memories that will always stay in my mind like an amazing amount of sewage pouring onto the playgrounds from the field.

On my first day I remember I cried and just couldn't stop, but that was my earliest memory and I have had a really good time since.

I remember doing a Grannies & Grandad's day about a trip round the world, I was the air hostess. It was funny doing the escape route actions.

I will always remember the first day we had to colour in teddy bears, I coloured mine in pink and blue.

In Yr.1 we had a pet bird and the caretaker's cat ate it.

When I go to high school it will be like I'm in Reception again and I'll be the new girl.

Sorry we couldn't print them all - they were all terrific.

Goodbye and good luck to all the children leaving Yr. 6. for their new secondary schools. We extend a very warm welcome to the Rainbow Playgroup and new Reception Class parents and children joining us in September.

Have a great summer !

Claire Jonas
PTFA Committee Member

Sue Leech Chiropodist MSSCh MBChA
Surgery or Home Visits

Routine Chiropody, Verrucae, Corns
and Nail Disorders

07626 414431

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices
Crafton Green
Tel 813214
Fax 813964

Essex County Council

One of the issues which is most frequently raised by householders and residents in the Stansted Division is that of bus transport which clearly occupies an important place in the lives of many.

Whilst the subject is not new - it was a problem in the 1960s - today it has a greater place in people's lives because there is now a smaller and less efficient service than was the case previously.

As a result, those without personal transportation, either a car or a bicycle, are cut off from access to places of entertainment, the shops and hospitals, and places of respite or advice.

Whilst the County Council does its best to support local bus services by providing subsidies, the rising cost of this mean that only key trunk routes and services can be provided. Otherwise residents are forced to find their own means of movement.

Fortunately, the County also supports the various competing support bus services which, though they do not provide a regular service, do at least provide a service which allows groups of passengers to travel together to the various market places or functions at a reasonable cost. Details of these services, if not already known, can be obtained from Parish Clerks.

Readers are recommended to make use of the service because in a very direct way it meets a need, and also and importantly fosters a community spirit.

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

Richard Wallace
County Councillor
Stansted Division
01279-812588

(Local bus timetables have been published from time to time in *The LINK* during the past year - Editor)

Litter Collector(s)

The Parish Council is looking to employ a full-time litter collector, or perhaps two part-timers, at the earliest opportunity. An advertisement has recently appeared in the local press, but if anyone out there is interested in applying, please do so to the Clerk as soon as possible.

During the interregnum, please bear with us if you notice untidy areas. We are employing someone to empty all the bins, but for the time being, litter is not being picked up from the streets.

Playscheme

Full details of this summer's Playscheme appear at the front of this edition of *The LINK*.

St Mary's Churchyard

The condition of St Mary's Churchyard is a topic which always prompts discussion - some parishioners believe that it should be allowed to grow completely wild and encourage nature, whilst others would prefer to see a bowling green! One thing is certain - we cannot please everyone.

Cutting the grass at St Mary's is a bit like painting the Forth Bridge, as strimmers have to be used - differing ground levels and hidden graves prevent the use of lawnmowers. Our contractors have faced various problems this year, including damage to equipment, and the Churchyard proves to be a Health and Safety nightmare for anyone as an employer.

The Parish Council has therefore decided, in conjunction with the Rector, that weedkilling around **UNTENDED** graves may be beneficial. It will enable everyone to see where the kerb and headstones are, thereby preventing falls and damage to equipment as well. Within the next few weeks our contractor will undertake a trial spray of 6 or 7 graves to see what the effect is. If successful, we shall have all of the untended graves sprayed at the beginning of next season, making the lives of everyone easier.

Please rest assured that treatment will only be applied to graves which do not have the appearance of being regularly tended.

Ruth Clifford
Clerk

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Stansted Tennis Club



Junior Tournaments

3 junior tournaments have taken place at the tennis club over the last month. All have been very well attended by both players and supporters. The Primary School age group singles attracted 14 entrants. The final was won by Charlie Kirby, who defeated Joshua Wesley 4-3 in a very closely fought contest. There were 10 players in the Secondary School age group singles the following week. David Siracusa emerged as the winner, beating Freddie Kirby 4-3 in another tense final. There were 11 pairs in the draw for the Open Doubles tournament. After the fiercely contested round-robin stage, the final was won by David Siracusa and Freddie Kirby, who beat Matthew Berry and Charlie Kirby 4-1. Chris Hollis, who organised the tournaments presented trophies to the winners and runners-up. He is hoping to run 2 more doubles events after the summer holidays.

Junior Coaching

There is now a growing reserve list for group lessons at the club. If you would like more information or would like to add your name to the list, please call Chris Hollis on 319155.

Sweat Shirts/T-Shirts

Lots of shirts with the tennis club's logo on have now been sold and with many players wearing them, they are looking good. If you would like to buy one please contact Chris Hollis (junior sizes) or Kate Rutter (Senior sizes)

Court Painting

We had a date for this to be carried out on 11th July, but this was cancelled due to the gloomy impending weather forecast. Hopefully the work will be carried out before the summer is over.

Club Tournament

This is now well under-way. All participants should keep a close eye on the draw in the club house and arrange matches as quickly as possible, especially as we are now entering the holiday season. Club Finals Day will be on Sunday, 8th September.

Used Tennis Balls

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

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

Answers to Children's Page

1. a word search
2. a and d
3. tiger
- c and e

Computer Gender



The story is told of a pastor of a church who was previously a sailor and was very aware that ships are addressed as "she" and "her". He often wondered what gender computers should be addressed as. To answer that question, he set up two groups of computer experts. The first was comprised of women and the second men. Each group was asked to recommend whether computers should be referred to in the feminine gender, or the masculine gender. They were asked to give four reasons for their recommendations.

The group of women reported that the computer should be referred to in the masculine gender because:

- 1 In order to get their attention you have to turn them on.
- 2 They have a lot of data but are still clueless.
- 3 They are supposed to help you solve problems but half the time they are the problem.
- 4 As soon as you commit to one you realise that had you waited a little longer you could have had a better model.

The men on the other hand concluded that computers should be referred to in the feminine gender because:

- 1 No one but the Creator understands their logic.
- 2 The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
- 3 Even your smallest mistakes are stored on long-term memory for retrieval at an appropriate time.
- 4 As soon as you make a commitment to one you find yourself spending half your pay on accessories.

STOP PRESS from the Editor

The quiz that was put together at short notice - too short for inclusion in July's Link - to raise money for the Malawi Famine Appeal, was a great success. Nearly £1700 was realised and as I write donations are still coming in. The sum includes £500 from an anonymous donor, £500 from the Society of Friends, £50 from Stansted Methodist Church and £50 from the auction of some Waterford crystal. A teacher from Malawi was present to describe the country's problems at first hand. The money will be sent through the Save the Children Fund (which has strong Stansted connections), so donors can be sure that it will go where it is needed. Credit is due to David Morson and his hastily gathered team of helpers for such a good result and, almost incidentally, a most enjoyable evening.

Another success story comes from the Bentfield School's Music in the Park. A sunny day brought the crowds to hear four bands, enjoy a barbecue and fun for the children and enable over £2700 to be raised for the School's Wish List.

Altogether, quite a month. Well done, all.

Derek Honour

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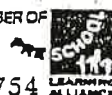
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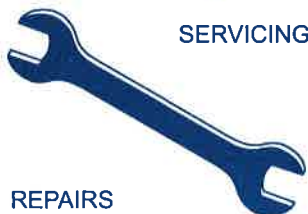
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