

Feb 2002

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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## TWO THAT HAVE GONE

Interest in Stansted's old properties has been stimulated by a recent Local History Society presentation. Here are two that may stir some memories...



### REED COTTAGE

The home of Mr & Mrs Edmund Cawkell until August 1940, when it was largely destroyed by fire. During the 50's and early 60's the surviving front section was used as a restaurant. The site is now occupied by David Nunn's garage and the Total filling station.

### STANSTED HOUSE

The home of Lord Henry Fitzgerald until the early 50's and in whose memory the north gates to St. Mary's churchyard are dedicated. The house was demolished in 1958. The present Stansted House is situated on the same site.



Postcard photographs courtesy of John Salmon

**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

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of CTS, its member churches, village organisations or advertisers. Printed by Copyzone, Bishop's Stortford.

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

by 7<sup>th</sup> February for publication on 23<sup>rd</sup> February

by 7<sup>th</sup> March for publication on 23<sup>rd</sup> March

(please note early copy dates)



# SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting** 11 am

## Mary Rice

Last year, our small Meeting was altered by the death of Mary Rice. It was so sudden – she was there as usual for one Meeting, and by the next one she was dead. Such events give us all pause for thought, and funerals give us an opportunity for doing so. Mary's funeral was held in the Church of England in Thorley, and then a Memorial Meeting was held in the Friends' Meeting House in Stansted.

A Memorial Meeting is different from an ordinary one in that there is much less silence. At least, everyone had plenty to say about Mary. Almost everyone present got up at some point, and made comments and observations about what was special about this one individual, and how she had affected our lives. The same qualities came out in several people's memories, but what was more interesting was how various people had seen her differently. For those of us who had only known her relatively recently, as an elderly person, accounts of her youth added perspective. But there were so many aspects to her personality, and she had so many interests, that it took the hour for the jigsaw to be put together, so that we ended up with some approximation of the whole person. The process was fascinating.

I don't think God was mentioned specifically, but for Quakers, that does not mean He was absent. The one central Quaker belief that there is something of God in everyone was crucial to our consideration of the good that was in Mary, and in the good that she did. We may sometimes feel very helpless and very insignificant in this world, but if we can access the godliness within ourselves and within others, we can help to make the world a richer place, and in our own small way, a better one.

Jane Mitchell

## Heroes

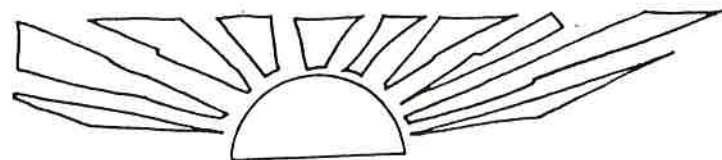
I should think many people saw at least some of the two-part dramatisation in January starring Kenneth Branagh as Ernest Shackleton. The story of how Shackleton managed to save the lives of all his team in circumstances that appeared inevitably fatal for all of them, is a famous example of heroism at its most traditional. It's a very inspiring one, perhaps especially because the turning point in the story is when it has to be admitted that the main aim of the expedition – to cross from one side of Antarctica to the other – must be abandoned. From then on the obsessive

determination that had driven Shackleton's explorations up to that point was re-focused on a refusal to let any of his team perish on their seemingly impossible return journey.

Another, perhaps more modern kind of hero, also brought me some inspiration in January. On Radio 4, as part of the series 'Taking a Stand', journalist Fergal Keane interviewed the father of a young woman who was killed in the Oklahoma bombing a few years ago. His daughter's profession had been as an interpreter helping new migrants with little English, as she was a linguist. At the time of the explosion, she had just gone to welcome a new client and was not in the part of the building where she usually worked – and where she would have survived. This irony and the fact that he had encouraged her to use her language talents, made the father's loss particularly agonising as he wrestled with the pain of 'if only'. Yet he managed to turn the huge force of his grief and his love for his daughter into a positive drive for good as he began to campaign against the death penalty – not just in principle, but as applied in the particular case of the bomber, Timothy McVeigh. This made him unpopular with many, especially as he also befriended the McVeigh family and – after Timothy McVeigh was executed – was able to help Mr McVeigh senior with the grief of his loss. Calm and honest, he was impressive to listen to as he explained quite simply that he had come to believe that retribution for retribution cannot lead to good.

How can we ever hope to emulate such examples as these? Admiring heroes from afar can be almost as intimidating as it is inspiring, and anyway who of us really wants to live through the kind of adversity that produces this kind of heroism? But I've also been thinking about friends and acquaintances, who perhaps make more realistic – and therefore maybe even more challenging! – role models. A new colleague, for example, who is taking on a difficult, physically tiring and often thankless role as a sales rep, selling books to schools, where often both budgets and morale are at a low, and she may have to carry several heavy boxes up three flights of stairs before she is told that her appointment is cancelled. But she'll succeed, because she is that rare combination: a bubbly, outgoing character yet a great listener, with a huge interest in other people and what makes them tick. I'm thinking also, of friends I admire locally and in our own Quaker meeting, whom I have been lucky to know, and whom I have found to share one common characteristic across a wide range of personalities and backgrounds – their first concern is simply not themselves, but is a focus on and interest in others. It's a good starting point for heroism.

Carolyn Burch



# 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 February

3rd	10.30am	Mr Ralph Friday
10th	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson - Communion
17th	10.30am	Rev'd Martin Cressey
24th	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson

## Other Dates for your Diary

18th	2.30 pm	Monday Club - Open to All
24th	10.30am	Pilots - Children from 6 years
28th	8.00 pm	Social Night

The exact origin of the United Reformed Church in Stansted Mountfitchet is somewhat obscure, but it would appear to date from the time of secession from the established Church following the Act of Uniformity in 1662. For committed Christians it was a dangerous time when painful decisions were arrived at as a matter of conscience, in the context of the times in which they lived. It is known that the Vicar of Stansted at this time, the Rev'd Robert Abbot, formerly of Jesus College Cambridge, was one of the ministers who resigned and gave up his living rather than conform as they had been directed.

However, it would appear that our church depends more for its foundation upon the work of Messrs Oddy, Holcroft and Craddock. People travelled from miles around when they founded a church at Arkesden in 1682/83. Eventually, from this gathering, another dissenters' church at Clavering was formed. Oddy died in 1687 and it would seem that shortly after this, the people of Stansted decided to form a church of their own. It is likely that the dissenters' church in Stansted first met in each other's houses until they moved into a converted barn on the present site in Chapel Hill in 1698. Over the next 150 years the original barn was extended and altered to accommodate the church. Finally in 1864/65 the present church was built.

On Saturday, 16th February 2002, the church building, following completion of the internal building work, reaches another milestone in its history when it is rededicated by the Moderator of the Eastern Synod of the United Reformed Church. We hope that as many of you as possible will come along to the Rededication Service.

It has taken much hard work and effort to get to where we are and there is much work still to do, not hopefully in terms of bricks and mortar, but rather in terms of working together as a congregation and with our friends in the other churches in Stansted Mountfitchet to discover our faith and the purpose for which God has called us.

Will the United Reformed Church still be standing in Chapel Hill in another 135 years? We hope not, at least not in its present form for by that time it is our hope that denominations, sects and all the other humanly contrived barriers that have separated the Church for the last 500 years will have disappeared and there will be only one Church, the Church of Christ on Earth. God willing, it will be realised long before that! And perhaps then, and only then we will recognise that all our hard work and effort was not in vain.

David Simpson

# METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

**Minister** Rev'd John Graham  
2 South Road  
Bishop's Stortford  
Tel 01279 654475

**Secretary** Mrs Catherine Dean  
49 Reception Ground  
Stansted  
Tel 01279 813579

**Email** [methodists@stansted.net](mailto:methodists@stansted.net)

## Services and preachers for February

3rd	Betty Kime
10th	Rev'd John Graham - Holy Communion
17th	Margaret Richardson
24th	Rev'd Jim Gill

Friday 8th Fellowship meeting at 8pm.

## SHALOM GROUP

### February meetings

All meetings are at 8 p.m.  
Monday, 4th. A slide show at the Friends Meeting House  
Monday, 18th. Doctor Elaine Storkey (you may have heard her on Thought for the Day) will be our guest speaker at 21 Bentfield Causeway.

Catherine Dean

# St John's, Stansted

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

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

(01279) 815243  
church.office@stansted.net

Administrator  
Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

## Diary

### Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion  
9:30am Parish Communion  
11:00am Open Door Service  
(third Sunday of the month)  
6:30pm Evening Prayer said

### Wednesdays

10:00am Holy Communion followed by coffee  
7:30pm Intercessions and Night Prayer

## Groups

### Tiny Tots

is a mother and toddler group that meets on the second and fourth Tuesday in the month during term-time.

### Lazer Group

is a 12-16 youth group which meets fortnightly on Sunday evenings at 7:30pm for activities in the church hall. The evening concludes with candlelit Night Prayer in the chapel in church.

### Housegroups

Meet fortnightly on Tuesday or Wednesday evening. Currently we are doing a Christian basics course called *Journey*.

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

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

Director of Music  
Mrs Glynis Morris  
phone/fax  
(01223) 263640  
church.music@stansted.net

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

Honorary Assistant Priest  
Canon Derek Jackson  
phone  
(01279) 652664

Youth Group  
Mrs Katy Dockerill  
phone  
(01279) 812997  
lazer@stansted.net

Mother & Toddler Group  
Mrs Tina South  
phone  
(01279) 814371  
tinytots@stansted.net

Housegroup  
Mrs Joan Freeman  
phone  
(01279) 813186  
joanfreeman@zetnet.co.uk

## REFLECTION

With the coming of February we should be experiencing a revival in our spirits. Whether this seasonal reversal is wholly biological or part-religious I am unfitted to comment upon, but three or four people have remarked to me that this winter has for them been marked by lethargy and "feeling low". One month on we still cannot be complacent - the winter may still bite back (some of us can remember 1947 !), but now the daylight is intensifying and with it the incentive to turn things round.

Lent comes at the right time but usually receives an inadequate press. The word Easter is derived from a germanic one meaning a goddess of Spring, so there could be good reasons for Christians and non-Christians alike to use Lent for preparation. How do we prepare and for what?

In St. Therese's column in this issue, Francis Mercer spells out a few simple ways in which we can improve the day for ourselves and others. If we take the underlying principle on board it means that we have moved our spiritual centre of gravity in the right direction and are more receptive to what Penitence is. It is both a personal and a communal matter. In Stansted, Housegroups and Lent Groups can help to pave the way. Properly used they can restore Easter to being our crowning Festival.

Derek Honour

## ST JOHN'S HALL

The new curtains will shortly be appearing and redecoration of the main hall is on the horizon. Fund raising remains a major part of the Hall Committee's work, for which a new member, Susie Ball, who replaces Lino Bottalico, is particularly suited. Please remember that the Hall may be hired for private functions ; Joy Lambe on 817937 can provide details of availability and charges

### From the Registers Funerals

December 4th Edith Patience Sayers, aged 77 years

December 19th Dorothy Beatrice Randall, aged 83 years



# ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux  
High Lane



CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
in STANSTED

**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 & 8 pm  
Tuesday - Saturday 9.30am

**Confessions** Saturday 10 am and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment

On February 2nd, we celebrate the Presentation of our Lord at the Temple in Jerusalem; it was the Jewish custom for every first born male to be consecrated to the Lord; it is also in the liturgical calendar as the close of the Christmas festivities with the service of light, Candlemas, when candles are blessed and carried in procession to welcome Christ.

February 13th this year is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. I expect that, by now, some six weeks since the beginning of the year, all or most of the New Year resolutions have been broken, forgotten, lost or just given up.

Now is a time to look again at our daily lives. In previous years it was thought that to deny oneself of some pleasure was a good penance during Lent to improve our spiritual life. Today, one does not have to be dressed in sackcloth and ashes; an entirely new view is suggested, so do not give up those chocolates or the wine, or whatever luxury you had in mind. Think again - how about, say, getting up that bit earlier and spending the time in prayer, or reading a bible passage, or, having raced down to the station to catch the 7.30am train, have a smile and a cheery 'Good morning' to your usual travelling companions. They might think you mad, but equally it could cheer them up and when that dear off-spring has forgotten to get their PE kit ready the night before as you had asked them to do, be patient.

No doubt you will have other ideas, there are so many ways to have a penitential Lent, to prepare for the Risen Christ at Easter. I leave you with a short prayer for Lent :-

Lord in these days of mercy make us quiet and prayerful,  
In these days of challenge make us strong in you,  
In these days of emptiness take possession of us,  
In these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your Cross.

Francis Mercer

## Lent Groups

We have arranged another series of Lent Groups this year. As for the last year or two, we have decided to hold one group a week, which will meet on the following dates:

Tuesday, 19th February  
Wednesday, 27th February  
Friday, 8th March  
Wednesday, 13th March  
Tuesday, 19th March

All the sessions will start at 8.00pm, and will take place in the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill. Everyone is very welcome. We will be following a five part course, entitled In the Wilderness. Each session is, however, free standing, so please don't be put off if you can't come to all the sessions.

Ruth Rawlinson

## Afghanistan Appeal

Over the Christmas period several events raised money for the **Christian Aid Afghanistan appeal**. The advent carol service made £105.33, the Shalom Christmas party £24.40 and the village carol singers collected £184.74. This makes a grand total of £314.47. In addition to this £165.94 was sent from the collection at the Christmas Concert. A matching amount was sent to the Churches Conservation Trust. So in total £480.41 was raised for the Afghanistan appeal.

Thank you to all contributors.

Catherine Dean

## Regular Aid for the Poor

I am pleased to be able to report that a further £150 was donated to each of our three charities in December.

From December 2000 to December 2001 a total of just over £2,100 was donated to our three charities, which is £700 to each.

I would like to thank you all for your continuing generosity in supporting RAP. We hope to make a further donation in February.

David Morson  
Chairperson RAP.

# Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

**Afghanistan appeal** – please see under CTS for the amount raised at Christmas in Stansted for this appeal.

**Make your spare currency count!** Collecting bags for European currency are now in the churches. If you have any coins or even notes from the 12 Euro countries, you will not be able to spend them after the end of February, so why not donate them to Christian Aid. Every kilo of currency makes £16. So turn out those pockets, pots and handbags to help the underprivileged.



Why not visit the Christian Aid website at

[www.christian-aid.org.uk](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk)

Catherine Dean

## VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

### An appreciation

There are times when, as an occasional attender, I am moved to pen a word of congratulation. The visit of the Guildhall Strings on 9th December was one such event. The performance was utterly professional, perhaps all the better because the musicians remained standing, and as it included deservedly popular classics it made particular appeal to the comparatively uninitiated. We are immensely fortunate in having a group of enthusiasts within the village who are able to provide consistently high standards. Please keep it up.

Derek Honour



## Nature Notes

Before early man cleared the land for settlement and later for grazing animals and growing crops, the Stansted area would have been covered with mainly deciduous woodland. The boulder clay, which lies over a large part of the district, would have supported a variety of trees such as oak, ash, elm, beech, hornbeam and hazel. These now exist in scattered woods or along field boundaries.



The hornbeams of Alsa Wood are trees native to this part of England. They are similar to beech and like beech can be used for hedging; they are not damaged by grazing animals.

Hornbeams were routinely coppiced in the middle ages to provide wood for charcoal, poles and fencing. Coppicing (from Fr. *couper*, to cut) involved cutting selected trees down to the ground every seven years or so to encourage fresh stems to grow up. Hazel was also commonly grown in this way. The word 'copse' used for a small wood derives from this practice.

Some wonderful tall beeches can be seen in the Aubrey Buxton nature reserve beyond Gall End and also above the Stansted Brook as it flows towards Pesterford Bridge. Crowning the hill above this section of the Brook is a fine stand of sycamores. The sycamore is not a native tree and may have been introduced by the Romans, but is now very widespread as it produces large numbers of seeds which germinate readily.

Willows and alders grow in damper places, especially along the Stansted Brook. Like the hazel, alder with its small black cone-like catkins, is a native tree that is known (from pollen analysis) to have been around since 6500 BC. Oak and elm trees also appeared about this time when Britain had a warm continental climate. Sadly, elms have been decimated by Dutch elm disease since 1967 but oaks are fortunately still with us, majestic trees when fully grown. Their wood is hard and very durable and has been the chief timber used for buildings and other constructions. Ships too were built of oak. The navy grew rapidly from 1500 onwards and, as each ship required about 2000 trees, forests were severely depleted. Under Elizabeth I oaks had to be protected by law and were later planted deliberately in royal forests.

Unlike the oak, the horse chestnut is not valued for its wood but is grown more as an ornamental tree. It was introduced in the early 17th century from the Balkans and is often planted in parks such as Stansted Park, or in avenues, for example the one along Gypsy Lane.

Rosina Kirkwood



# MARDI GRAS



8 - 11.15 pm  
Friday 1st February  
Mountfitchet School

PETE BAKER'S NEW ORLEANS JAZZ BAND

Bar ~ Raffle

Proceeds to Corrymeela Reconciliation Centre, N Ireland

For tickets please tel 850209 - Adults £6 Family £15 incl light supper

## Stansted Group of the URC

warmly invites you to the

Dedication of the  
refurbished church

followed by refreshments

3 pm Sat 16th February



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or tel 814850 / 812593

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### February

1	Fri	Mardi Gras evening	Mountfitchet School 8 - 11.15 pm
4	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
7	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
14	Thu	Carers' Support Group WI	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm
16	Sat	Church Re-dedication	United Reformed Church 3 pm
16 Sat - 17	Sun	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
18	Mon	Shalom Group	21 Bentfield Causway 8 pm
19	Tue	Lent Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
20	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
21	Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm
27	Wed	Lent Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm

### March

2	Sat	HEAL Quiz	Day Centre 7.30 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
7	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughmans Mountfitchet PTA Quiz Village Music Club	Day Centre noon - 2 pm Mountfitchet School 7.30 pm St John's Church 8 pm
11 Mon - 15	Fri	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
17	Sun	Indoor Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon



CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
in STANSTED

## LENT GROUPS

'In the Wilderness'

Quaker Meeting House 8 pm

Tues 19th & Wed 27th February  
Fri 8th, Wed 13th & Tues 19th March

All are most welcome  
Sessions are 'free standing'



## QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 pm Sat 2nd March

Day Centre

Bring your own drinks

£6 (incl supper)

Tel 813871

## STOP PRESS - 1

Copy dates for the next 2 months are early - details to reach 58  
Chapel Hill or stanstedlink@aol.com by 7th Feb & 7th March

## STOP PRESS - 2

STANSTED FUN RUN date has been changed to 23rd June  
to avoid clashing with Father's Day and the World Cup!!



Mountfitchet High  
School PTA

## QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 pm Sat 9th March

Tables of 8

Tickets £6 incl ploughman's

Please tel Mike on 812780

Licensed Bar



## QUIZ NIGHT

CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
in STANSTED in aid of  
Chevetogne  
Exchange Visit

7.30 pm Sat 23rd March  
St John's Hall

Light Supper - Prizes - Raffle  
Bring your own drink and glass

Tickets £5 Concessions £4  
Tel Eileen Quinn 812109



## STANSTED MILLERS

Annual General Meeting  
8 pm Tues 19th March  
Day Centre

Speaker ~ All welcome



GINA McCORMACK  
& FRIENDS  
String quintet

8 pm Sat 9th March  
St John's Church

Tickets from Stansted Carpets;  
Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;  
Options Hair Salon, Elsenham;  
Sonia Levy 815282, or at the door  
£8 adults, £6 conc £3 children

## IN MEMORIAM

### Lt. Col. Austen Finn

Austen Finn died peacefully at his home on January 7th. Austen had earned the respect of the whole village during the 17 years that he had lived here. His military background was seldom far below the surface for it contributed to him being an upright person in all senses, and someone who would have an encouraging word with passers by, often as he was tending his garden on Chapel Hill, as well as being a good companion wherever he went in Stansted.

He will be missed, particularly by veterans of World War II, but also among residents from all parts of the village. Austen Finn's full and eventful life was featured in the April 1999 issue of the Link.

On behalf of his many friends we extend our condolences to his daughters Sarah and Valerie and to all members of the family.

Derek Honour  
Editor



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

After our spell of wintry weather, now is the time to look forward to a new year of gardening. Why not come along to the Mountfitchet Garden Club February meeting on Wednesday 6th at 8 pm, in the Day Centre, and hear Mr Ken Akers talk about bog and water gardening. The competition is the 1st flower of the year. Everyone is welcome to come along, young or not so young. Whether you have a large garden or small patio, I'm sure you will find something to interest you.

Janet Townsend

## Sue Leech **Chiropodist** MSSCh MBChA **Surgery or Home Visits**

Routine Chiropody, Verrucae, Corns  
and Nail Disorders

**07626 414431**



# Huw Johnson Club

Tom and I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and good wishes following his fall in December. Tom has now fully recovered.

The Christmas Concert was a great success and was enjoyed by performers and audience, who sang along with us with great gusto, clapping in all the right places and encouraging our members with their enthusiasm. Sarah came up trumps playing the organ and she was delighted to be awarded her Grade 5 Music Certificate during the evening. "Rock around the Clock", "Tulips from Amsterdam" and "Frosty the Snowman" all added to the fun. If you missed this concert in December make sure you look out for our next one in December 2002.

The new term started with our New Year Party. Sixty-four members and guests sat down to a delicious meal which gave them plenty of energy to disco the evening away. A surprise visit from Father Christmas all added to the fun. Gary's disco is always a firm favourite with our members. Thank you Gary for your part in making this a grand occasion.

Marion Johnson

## MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

Our Group meets every first and third Wednesday in the month between 2 - 4 pm at the Day Centre, Crafton Green.

Why not become a member of our group. We would love to see you, so why not join us. If in any doubt just come along and see how our afternoons go. We have club outings, full day and half day, guest speakers and games/gossip afternoons.

Any one requiring more details please contact the club secretary, Mr John Robinson, 01279 812755.

### Meeting Details:

February 6th	Quiz
February 20th	Games-Gossip Day
March 6th	Guest Speaker
March 20th	Games-Gossip Day

J Robinson



# Stansted Profile

## No 42

### Catherine and Alan Dean

This month we present two people who although having their origins in the North have in the past 30 years become amongst our best known residents. Catherine hails from Leeds, while Alan's home was over the border in Nelson, Lancs. Alan recalls that his first post of responsibility was Secretary and Treasurer of his local Methodist Missionary Society while still a tender 15 year old. At 16, he started work with the old GPO but in contrast to today's usual practice, he went from employment to the University at Salford when it was emerging from being a College of Advanced Technology. He studied Electrical Engineering and after graduation rejoined British Telecom (as it had become) and took a post in their London HQ. It was at Salford through the University Methodist Society, that he met Catherine, who was reading Modern Languages, which she followed with a post graduate course at York. They were married in 1971 and set up home here in Croasdaile Road when Catherine took up teaching posts in Harlow. It was then that Alan took a prominent role in the rail passengers' pressure group (SENTA) and also became Secretary and Treasurer of Stansted Millers. Five years later they moved to their present house on the Recreation Ground where their three children, Christopher, Alice and Amy, grew up. In 1979, they went to Java where Alan had taken an appointment with Indonesia's International Satellite Organization. They enjoyed their two and a half years in the midst of a predominantly Muslim population, which surprisingly enjoyed a Hindu culture. Catherine, then a mother of two, joined the local women's groups and taught English in the schools. Their abiding recollections are of a friendly people, high atmospheric humidity, and sharing their house with a cobra that lived in their drainage system. They returned in 1981 where, after a short period with British Aerospace, Alan again joined British Telecom. Latterly, Alan has worked with a BT subsidiary from which he hopes to retire in March. Catherine resumed her teaching career at evening classes and taught languages in several schools in the area as a supply teacher. For the past five years she has been looking after Alice's daughter Stephanie and of late has taken her father into their home.

Politics have, of course, been a major factor in their lives since the formation of the SDP in the early 80's. Alan served on the Parish Council from 1983 to 1995 and was Chairman in 1990. He has been one of Stansted's three members on the District Council since 1987 when the Queen opened the new airport terminal and was Leader of the Council from 1995 to

1997. These bare facts should not conceal a great deal of hard work in building up the local Liberal Democrat organization in which he and Catherine have been to the fore and there cannot be many Stansted doorsteps on which they have not appeared as elections approached. Catherine was elected to the Parish Council in 1995 and to the District Council as the member for Elsenham in 1999. For some years she has chaired Stansted's Open Spaces Committee which has been instrumental in gaining Awards for village tidiness and floral effect.

Alan's particular concerns were and continue to be the Lower Street Car Park, the Coffee Bar in the Youth Centre and the expected Leisure Centre at Mountfitchet School. He feels that proposals for the reform of local government should be given time to prove themselves and he welcomes moves away from centralisation and the opportunity for local people



to assert themselves. Catherine's present challenge is an application to Uttlesford for a skateboard "park" in Stansted. There can be no doubt that they are dedicated to local service, although Alan has deliberately made time recently for walking footpaths not only as a way of appreciating our national heritage but also learning at first hand the strengths or otherwise of our bus network. He has for contrast joined a class at the Peter Kirk Centre on wine tasting. As Stansted's co-ordinator for Christian Aid, Catherine is encouraged that local collections have risen over recent years. Both are regular attenders at the Methodist church at which Alan was one time, and Catherine now is, Secretary and they are both keen supporters of Churches Together in Stansted.

Stansted owes its character to outgoing people such as Alan and Catherine; we are grateful for the variety and energy which they and their like bring to our community.

Derek Honour



## Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

### HOW WE COME TO HAVE A PUBLIC FLAGPOLE

On September 3rd 1939, Britain declared war on Germany. Young men living in Stansted at that time and had joined the Territorials were mobilised and sent off to war. During the next six years as age groups of men and women registered, they were called up, trained and sent to various parts of the war to do their "bit". Back at home, as in many more places, residents began to consider how they could welcome "The Boys" back home again when the fighting was over,

Major Cawkell, a 1914-18 survivor registered a fund called 'The Welcome Home Fund'. Not being a resident of Stansted myself at that time, I have no idea exactly how the money was raised but raised it was. In 1947, when all the survivors had returned home, a dinner was held for them and after all expenses were paid there was a surplus left. The committee, who had until then administered the charity, decided that the residue should be invested in Government Stock, the income from this to be paid into an account at Barclays Bank named "The 39/45 War Relief Fund". This to be administered by the Service Committee of the Royal British Legion, a member of the Parish Council, the Vicar and, I think, the Bank Manager. They could award help of £5 to anyone in need who qualified under the original Fund. A few claims were made but not many, so that the money grew.

In 1983, the Day Centre was built and various village societies helped to equip it. The then RBL committee wanted to use the remainder of the fund to purchase a piano for the Centre but the Service committee said that although little call had been made for help to date, now, forty years on was a time when veterans' health would start to deteriorate, and there were still a large number of the survivors alive; they said that the money should be left alone.

When Norman Court was built, the residents had nice gardens but no seat to sit and enjoy them, so a clause in The 39/45 War Relief Fund set up was used to provide a seat with a plaque that it was the property of the RBL and was only on loan.

In 1999, again the subject of closing the account was discussed along with ideas to mark the Millennium. It was proposed that as the village had no public flagpole to honour Royalty, or mark the passing of a veteran, one should be provided. It was agreed that the money in the fund be used for this purpose.

When the flag pole and flags were officially handed into the Parish Council's care and keeping, it was stated that in respect of what money was used, the flagpole should be sited in the Memorial Gardens and it would be a nice gesture,

when any of the Veterans went to join their comrades, to fly a flag at half mast to mark their passing; and also to fly the RBL 11th of the 11th flag during the Remembrance Period.

Cath Stevens



The Stansted Group of HEAL Cancer Charity has taken a break from fund-raising across the winter months. While we were taking it easy, however, Sandra Ayres quite independently decided to run a Coffee Morning for HEAL at her home last November - a brave act indeed! The morning was very well attended. Refreshments, various stalls, a raffle and 'Week-Enders' clothes on sale brought in nearly £500. This was an excellent result and the Committee would like to offer sincere thanks to Sandra and everyone who supported the event.

Our next event will be a Quiz Night on Saturday, 2nd March at the Day Centre. Tickets are £6 including supper. This time, Rex Hitchmough is taking a well-earned rest from his customary role and we have a new Question Master officiating. To book your table of six, telephone 813871 - see you there!

Advance notice - we are holding a Barn Dance on Saturday, 29th June in a barn at Pimblett's Farm, Tye Green. This is a nice setting and with good weather and lots of support we are looking forward to a great evening.

Things have been moving forward on the Helen Rollason Cancer Care Centre appeal. As you may have heard, the project has evolved from the original concept of a single large centre at the North Middlesex Hospital to a network of smaller centres. The first of these, Rochelle House in the grounds of the Springfield Hospital, Chelmsford will be opening very soon as a holistic treatment centre. That will be followed shortly by a new chemotherapy unit at the Broomfield Hospital, again Chelmsford, and later in the year by a unit at the North Middlesex. Depending on the availability of finance, there may well be other centres in the network in due course.

None of these achievements would be possible without support from the community, so as ever, thank you.

Richard Thomas



# Stansted Tennis Club



## The Courts

We are looking forward to the spring when the courts will be painted. The new surface has now been down for three months and it is playing very well.

## Junior Coaching

Lessons continue on Saturday mornings for children age 6 upwards. If you would like more information please contact Chris Hollis on 01279 319155.

## Christmas Dinner

The annual Tennis Club Christmas dinner was held at The Prince of Wales, Broxton and was enjoyed by 14 members.

## Ladies' Morning

A hard core of keen lady members meet every Friday morning at the club. All lady members are welcome to come along and join in.

## Mens' Afternoon

Saturday afternoon at 1pm is the time for this new slot. It is mainly used as a match practice session for the teams which play in the Essex Small Clubs League; so if you would like to get involved just come along and join in.

## Essex Small Clubs League (Summer Competition)

Stansted enjoyed their best ever season in this competition, winning 5 out of the 6 leagues in which they had competed. Many congratulations to all who represented the club!

## Club Winter League

This is up and running. All scores from the Sunday morning Open Session are recorded and in April the player with the highest game average wins the coveted trophy.

## Used Tennis Balls

Tubes of 4 are available from Janet Hollis. Please contact her on 01279 812073 if you are interested.

If you are interested in joining the Club please contact the Membership Secretary, Kate Rutter on 01279 813053. For any other enquiries please contact either Richard Mott (Secretary) on 01279 466348 or Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 01279 812073.



For the final concert of this season on Saturday 9th March at 8pm, we welcome **Gina McCormack & Friends** for a very exciting programme of Chamber Music:-

**Mozart's String Quintet in G minor K516**

**Dvorak's String Quintet**

**Brahms' String Quintet in G major**

The members of the quintet are:-

**Gina McCormack** violin

**Catherine Yates** violin

**David Adams** viola

**Louise Williams** viola

**Alice Neary** 'cello

The concert will take place in St John's Church, Stansted and tickets can be purchased from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Options Hairdressers, Elsenham; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square, Bishops Stortford; or from Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted (01279 815282). Tickets will also be available at the door on the night. Adults £8; Concessions £6; Children £3.

**The Village Music Club is taking part in the Stansted village celebrations for the Queen's Golden Jubilee with a Jubilee Summer Soiree in St John's Church and Grounds with Marquee on Saturday 1st June 2002 and a reception provided by the Stansted Parish Council. This should be a super event and a memorable occasion. Certainly a date to put in the Diary!**

Alan Corbishley



**STANSTED &  
DISTRICT LIBERAL  
DEMOCRATS.**

Our next ploughman's lunches are on Saturday 9th February and Saturday, 9th March at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 to 2pm. All are welcome.

Revised date for the Cheese and Wine Party - now Friday, 8th February, 8pm at Churchmead, Church Lane, Widdington. For further information, please ring 813432 or 814222.

Ruth Rawlinson



# Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our December meeting saw us entertaining ourselves as our speaker was unable to attend. First, Claire Francis told us of the exploits of her father, who in the first half of the last century, went to Canada as a young man to work on a ranch. One of his jobs was to go into town by horse and cart. One day when he unhitched the horse to let it have a drink the horse was bitten by a large horsefly, bolted and left him stranded. He then had to haul the cart back to the ranch himself.

Olive Bunting then gave a most interesting talk on her first job in Stansted Post Office after she left school. One of her tasks was to travel around on her bike to various villages delivering telegrams, the worst ones being those telling families of the loss of a father or son during the war. Olive knew quite a number of the young men having gone to school with them and at the Remembrance Service in the village she still remembers them as she knew them.

Our raffle raised over £24 which, along with some knitted blankets and sponsor money, we donated to the charity "Winged Fellowship".

We welcomed the New Year with members enjoying a Victorian evening provided by our speaker, the Rev'd John Robinson, a Methodist Minister from Maldon. He played an electronic accordion and asked us questions relating to people, events and music of the period, awarding us points for right answers. He was thanked by Julia George for giving us such a good evening.

Our competition for a piece of Victoriana was well supported. It is amazing how many pieces are still around, in this case ranging from a moustache cup to a candlestick and a small bag used at dances.

The committee produced various special cakes and flans which, along with glasses of wine, completed a very enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting on February 14th is entitled "A World of Discovery on your Doorstep", the speaker being Mrs Carolyn Wingfield of Saffron Walden Museum. Visitors are always welcome.

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## PETER KIRK CENTRE Gymability

On 15th August 2001 Gymability was launched. It was opened by John Harris and Isabelle Newsted both Para-olympians. John also works for a company called Powersport where he helped design some of the equipment in our Gym.

It was probably the hottest day of the year but that didn't deter many from coming to use the equipment in the Gym. The morning started by interviews with Radio Essex, local newspapers and Anglia Television, who filmed activities in the Gym. The event was attended by many people throughout Essex and surrounding areas and was declared a very successful day.

Gymability classes started the first week of term and have been used greatly by disabled and able bodied people alike. There have been two inductions for independent users so far and a waiting list for the next induction, so if you would like to come and use the Gym phone the Peter Kirk Centre on **01279 813319** and book your place. Not only is it a great way of getting and keeping fit, you will certainly make new friends along the way and, who knows, a fitter shapelier you for 2002.

All sessions must be booked and are available as follows:

### Term Time

Monday	8.30am - 4pm
Tuesday	8.30am - 3pm Ladies Only 8-9pm
Wednesday	8.30am - 1 pm Over 50's 1.30 -2.30pm
Thursday	8.30am - 3pm
Friday	8.30am - 3pm

There is a £10 membership fee and a charge of £2 per session. Please phone for further information on cost of other classes. You can be assured of a warm welcome to our Gym and we look forward to seeing you here soon.

### Editor's Note:

We are delighted to welcome the Peter Kirk Centre to our pages and hope that we shall see more of its activities in future issues of The LINK.

## 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.

The club also has a thriving junior section, the U 15's and U 13's playing in the West Essex League and the U 11's and U 10's playing friendlies. The first practice for the Juniors will be between 18th and 22nd February at the Herts & Essex Cricket Centre, Sawbridgeworth.

Please contact David Brown, Chairman on 831011 (Seniors) or Allan Love on 817620 (Juniors).





**STANSTED**  
**JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**  
 Founded 1986 Affiliation No. MY00969 Essex F.A.

Welcome to another Stansted Junior Football club update in The LINK. Apologies that we did not put an article in the previous edition. Anyhow a Belated Happy New Year to all and here's an update on the latest happenings within the local Junior football club.

At the beginning of 2002, we currently have 2 teams enjoying some excellent results. First, our Under 12 team, Stansted Swifts, managed by Mike Moralee have so far remained unbeaten in the league and are currently in second place with a game in hand – see league table below

Under 12 - D 3 Royston Crow league

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Letchworth GCE 'A'	13	11	1	1	73	15	34
<b>Stansted Juniors</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>
Benington Yth 'B'	10	7	2	1	44	15	23
Symonds Green Minors	11	5	2	4	37	37	17
Biggleswade United	11	5	1	5	39	33	16
Northolt Utd B	12	5	0	7	36	33	15
Potton Colts	10	3	2	5	29	32	11
Pin Green Jrs	10	2	3	5	21	24	9
Royston Eagles	13	1	1	11	27	80	4
Stevenage Borough R	12	1	0	11	10	81	3

So good luck to Mike and his boys and lets get some trophies in the cabinet.

Second, our Under 10's A team, Stansted Spartans Blues, are also second in the Harlow Mini Soccer league and with games against some of the top sides, there's still plenty to play for.

Under 10 – Div 1 Harlow Mini Soccer league.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Newhall	10	9	0	1	54	8	27
<b>Stansted Jun</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>
Wealdhall	9	7	1	1	41	8	22
Maypole Ath	10	6	1	3	25	22	19
Harlow Town	12	4	1	7	26	32	16
Trident youth	10	4	0	6	14	36	12
Sawbo Reds	11	1	2	8	13	35	5
Saturn	9	1	1	7	10	24	4
Britsec	7	0	0	7	8	36	0

Good luck to our Under 10's.

The date for our end of season presentation has now been finalized, it will take place on Saturday, 25th May at the Mountfitchet school.

We also plan to have another Bingo Night after the great success of the previous one. Look out for the details which will be available shortly.

See you next time. Good health , good luck,  
 Glyn Warwick (Chairman, Stansted Junior F.C.)



**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET**  
**LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Members and special guests representing Manuden's Local History Society were, as tradition warrants, given a warming Christmas welcome to the December meeting. The evening's speaker, Georgina Green, presented for all a fascinating detailed account of many aspects relating to "The English Gentleman and his Country Estates".

Especial thanks must also be given to our Manuden guests, who complimented the evening by first describing, then providing, a Christmas fare of provisions for the table and appropriate setting decorations.

Despite the extreme cold and frosty weather, January's meeting was well attended where members were given most informative, detailed and interesting presentations, accompanied by various methods of picture projection upon three "Houses in Stansted" - Mr & Mrs Wagener on "Fairfield", Mr & Mrs Peck on 'Roycot' and Mr Phillips on 'Montville'.

We look forward to our next meeting on 7th February, the subject being "A well ordered Town - Saffron Walden".

A project to record the history of the Recreation Ground is starting to be put together. If you have any information, records of past events, old photographs, etc and would be willing to share them, we would love to hear from you.

Peter Brown



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## Uttlesford District Council Report

### Thoughts from Abroad

I was fortunate enough to celebrate Christmas and New Years Eve in the Philippines. It is a well-worn but nevertheless accurate cliché that travel broadens the mind. It can also help to remind us how lucky we are to live in a developed country such as the UK. Poverty unfortunately is one of the characteristics of a developing country. 40% of the population in the Philippines are poor according to government estimates. Although we don't have the same levels of poverty, nevertheless there are those on low incomes and fixed incomes who find life a struggle. The Council recognises this and makes Council Tax Benefit available. Advice and application forms can be obtained from the Benefit Section at the Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4ER. Tel: 01799 510359. Many of our council tenants also receive help with their rent through housing benefit.

Government both local and central seem increasingly to be held in low esteem by the public. The general election in June 2001 saw the lowest turnout since universal franchise began. Opinion polls tell us that politicians are regarded with the same level of trust as estate agents and second hand car salesmen. Is this justified? I think not, cynicism can be overdone. The former President of the Philippines and his son are currently in jail facing charges of corruption. We are fortunate that although there have been examples of corruption in local government, it is not systematic or endemic as it is in many other countries in the world.

Developing countries can teach us something. For as one person said to me 'we may be poor in material things, but we are rich in spirit.' Family ties and sense of community are very strong.

### The Year Ahead

The Council is in the process of setting next years budget. It looks as if it will be a difficult settlement. A Council's finances are affected so much by decisions of central government. Changes to housing finance have adversely affected Uttlesford. In response to this, the Conservative/Independent administration has proposed economies of over £600,000. As an Opposition councillor, I will look carefully at the budget proposals and try to ensure that they do not damage frontline services. There is a consensus within the Council, that the level of the Council Tax should be kept as low as possible.

I hope that building work will start on the leisure centre at the Mountfichet School in the not too distant future.

Parts of the village were badly affected by flooding last year. I believe that Uttlesford together with the Parish Council and organisations such as the Flood Action Group can put together measures so that

we will be better prepared in the future. Uttlesford organised meetings with town and parish councils in October. They were asked to consider two questions, namely, looking at how we can provide a more effective provision of sandbags and how we can improve the command and control of a flood emergency.

Oh yes! My New Year Resolutions, on a personal level to take more exercise and to see more of my family. On a public level to continue trying to ensure that the Council is an efficient and responsive organisation.

Geoffrey Sell  
District Councillor  
Tel: 01279 815925



Time seems to have flown so fast and before you know it we have seen out the old and celebrated the new year and are all heading back to pre-school, school and work for the beginning of another year.

We all enjoyed our preparations for Christmas and the children took home some lovely calendars, tasty Christmas cake and glittery tree decorations. They enjoyed learning about Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus and rehearsing for their Nativity, which was well attended by parents, grandparents and carers. We ended the term with a beautiful concert after which Father Christmas fitted us into his busy schedule.

At this point we would like to thank everyone who helped with our celebrations and for the generous donations from Hertford Offset Ltd and Stansted Art and Craft Market

Our theme for the New Year is "Our Village" where we will be looking around the village at the houses, Mountfichet Castle and will be visiting the Post Office to post our own letters. We have also collected cereal packets and small boxes with which we are making houses and a map.

If you would like more information about Rainbow pre school call 07996 506997. Or why not come and visit us Monday to Friday between 9.15am to Midday.

Tina South

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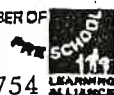
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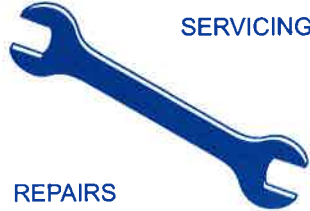
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