

June 2002

The LINK



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THE FUN RUN IS BACK!

Sunday 23rd June

**There's a place for everyone -
runners and walkers, young and old.
All proceeds go to SPORT RELIEF
Wet or dry, it's fun!!**



COME ALONG AND MAKE A GREAT DAY OF IT!

Refreshments available

Fun Run starts at 11 am from Bentfield Green

See entry form (inside) for details

Stewards required to help on the day - ☎ 812109

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

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

by 13th June for publication on 29th June

by 11th July for publication on 27th July



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Parishes of
Stansted Mountfitchet
with Birchanger
and Farnham

St John's, Stansted

From Shepherd's Pie to Chicken Korma

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

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

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

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

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

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

Children's Church
Mrs Marion Johnson
(01279) 812284

Youth Group
Revd Rhys Martin
(01279) 817513

Mother & Toddler Group
Mrs Tina South
(01279) 814371

Housegroup
Mrs Joan Freeman
(01279) 813186

I felt cheated last time there was a Royal Jubilee. In the late spring of 1977 Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Jubilee took place during my 'A' level examinations.

I can remember being ensconced in revision notes while street parties were going on around me, feeling simultaneously self-righteous and resentful.

Twenty five years on, we are all in a very different place. The feel of this Jubilee is not as the last. People change, our culture is evolving at an increasingly rapid rate, compared to the past. There will be fewer street parties and our celebrations will be generally much less raucous, but celebrate we should.

In an age when monarchy has become an unusual form of rule, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has managed to embody the rôle of sovereign with a gravity and dignity which has remained steadfast through her fifty years reign. In that same period, we have seen the demise of the British Empire, and with it our independence as a nuclear power, the erosion of the class system, the dwindling of the public practice of the religion of which she is Supreme Governor, and the end of a nation of ethnic homogeneity and cultural consensus over which she was crowned monarch half a century ago.

In the course of these years she has been a valued counsel to successive Prime Ministers, and has conducted her duties without ostenta-

tion, with care, and with a judgement which has saved the rôle of monarchy from appearing absurd. For this we should be thankful.

I have not read a better celebration of the Queen's personal qualities than that delivered by The Bishop of London on the fiftieth anniversary of her accession:

"We celebrate what is fresh and especially precious in our own time. The head of our state is not a successful partisan who has emerged out of countless struggles about political issues but a human being with the kind of relationships with which we can all identify. She embodies the themes in our common life together which are more fundamental than this or that new idea, I mean the themes of birth and death, love and loss. To place such a person at the heart of our life as a nation is to honour humanity above all things and above all divisive ideologies.

And we honour humanity with some very definite characteristics of the kind which bind a community together. Our sovereign has not campaigned for high office. She has been called in tragic circumstances to very great responsibilities. The monarch embodies a vocational approach to life, lived, not as a consumer with personal gratification as the supreme good, but as a servant of God whose role is to strengthen the whole community. . . "

(for the full text see:
www.london.anglican.org/Bishop/chapelroyal.htm)

If anyone living in the shepherd's pie world of 1952 were to be told that chicken korma would be a favourite national dish, available in every British community by 2000, they would have thought it unbelievable. In the same way, we cannot anticipate how the future will unfold, or whether a constitutional monarchy will survive. Still less will any of us be able to direct or affect the course of the future.

But we can give thanks for what has been, and we can hope that our future heads of state will embody the values for which they stand in the way that our present monarch has done.

Andrew Spurr

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 16th and 23rd of June 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. **Tiny Tots** is a mother and toddler group that meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons 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. Contact Revd Rhys Martin 817513. A housegroup meets fortnightly.

St John's, Stansted

(continued)

From the Registers

Funeral

8th April Donald Fuller aged 78 years

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

St John's Church
SUMMER BARBECUE

Sunday, 14th July
12.30 for 1pm

Barbecue Lunch
in the Rectory Garden
(if wet in the Church Hall)

Tickets from Church Office,
Clergy and after Church Services
£6 each, £4 concessions and children.

Proceeds to Benefice Choir keyboard

Please support this event before
going on to visit the
Open Gardens in the Village

St John's Church
CHINESE AUCTION

Saturday, 28th September
7.30pm
in the Church Hall

Tickets from the Church Office,
clergy and after church services
£6 each, concessions and children £4,
including supper.

Proceeds to our Harvest Mission

"What saved the world was not our wisdom or our action but the power of the love of God, lived in each one of us". This is a quotation from a book about St. Francis of Assisi, and when one reads - and says- his famous prayer 'Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace' we realise he gave us a remarkable guide to Christian life; and we also realise how far short of it we fall.

As we look at warring areas of the world - many of them nominally religious countries - that seem so lacking in love it is only too easy to despair; and to wonder what on earth we can do. Where there are pockets of hope it is nearly always because of the action of one individual or a small group. This should encourage us to try to create a loving community wherever we happen to be.

Sometimes national or international issues touch us at a local level. At the moment there is fierce discussion about the proposed new Detention Centres for Asylum Seekers. I have no idea which, if any, of the proposed sites is the most appropriate, but I find the way that the issue is discussed in some quarters very frightening. Asylum seekers are fellow human beings, many of them from parts of the world with regimes that none of us would want to live under. They have been through indescribable journeys to get here, and their applications should be considered fairly, and they should be treated with compassion. This country has a long history of welcoming strangers, and I hope that the flame of that tradition can be kept alight, and that Asylum seekers in our area can be supported and treated lovingly whatever decision is made about their future.

Katharine Hurford

BRADWELL 2002

Annual Ecumenical Pilgrimage
Saturday 6th July
Opening worship Bradwell village 11 am.
Walk to St. Peter's Church for picnic.
1.15 pm Open-air Service.
Speaker: Adrian Plass.
Seashore walks, GOF the clown, Dance,
Stalls, Bookstall, Refreshments,
Treasure Hunt, Celtic songs and harp.
Singing led by Laurie Main of Aquila.
Adequate parking.

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 June

2nd	10-30am	Mrs Maureen Kendal
9th	10-30am	Rev David Simpson - Communion
16th	10-30am	Dr David Thompson
23rd	10-30am	Rev David Simpson
30th	10-30am	Mr Ralph Friday

Come and hear Mrs Sheila Heaton, from Operation Christmas Child, talking and showing slides about their work with the Christmas Shoe Box project, at the Lecture Hall Chapel Hill, on the 29th June at 7-30pm. Tickets £4-00 including supper. For more details ring 01279-812593.

Summer is coming we hope, and the Garden Party season begins on 8th June, when Afternoon Tea will be served in the Garden of Phyllis and Gerald Little, at Fermoy, High Lane, Stansted from 3-30pm. And on 13th July, its Strawberries and Cream at 58 Chapel Hill, Stansted, home of Janet and Brian Townsend from 3-30pm.

All welcome to these events

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 pm
Sunday 9 am and 10.30 am

Holy Days of Obligation
8 am and 8 pm

Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am

Confessions Saturday 10 am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

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 Recreation Ground
Stansted Tel 01279 813579

Email methodists@stansted.net

All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated

Services and preachers for June

2nd	Rev. John Graham 6pm Jubilee Songs of Praise on Recreation Ground
9th	Rev. Ronald Rawlings – Holy Communion
16th	John Banks
23rd	6.30pm Maureen Hilson (evening service because of Fun Run)
30th	Jerry Heyhoe

Fellowship meeting – Friday 14th June at 8pm.



SHALOM

June Meetings

Monday, 10th June – an evening with Rabbi Michael Purtz
at the Friends Meeting House

Monday, 24th June – tape and discussion led by Margaret
Silvester at 7 Blythwood Gardens

All meetings start at 8pm and all are welcome

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

Many thanks to all who donated European currency.

Speak out for trade justice – there is to be a mass lobby of parliament on Wednesday 19th June. If anyone would like to go, please contact me a.s.a.p. as registration forms have to be in by 5th June.

Catherine Dean



CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

ARC - Anglican Roman Catholic Group - Brussels

This Magazine is produced 4 times a year and the March edition included a report on the experiences of the twinnings of Anglican Parishes with Roman Catholic Parishes in Belgium.

There is a report of the Chevetogne visit of 2001. Our twinning however seems to be unique because we are an ecumenical group and all the Churches in the Village take part.

Two pages of the magazine were given over to items about Stansted. How our twinning was set up in 1986 and also the report of the 2001 exchange and the visit of the Parish of Chant D'Oiseau to the Parish of Little St Mary's in Cambridge which included a visit to us for tea and cakes and some discussion about how Churches Together in Stansted works.

A report of the address given by Mary Tanner, an Anglican theologian, to the community of St Egidio in Barcelona, exploring the theme 'Religions and Civilisations in the New Century' was given particular space and made interesting reading. I include extracts below when Mary Tanner spoke about Christian Unity.

"Lost in the Fog -

We stand at the beginning of a new Century and the ecumenical scene is fragile and confused.

The very success of the movement has made some fear a loss of their own identity, with a resurgence of narrow denominationalism.

One fact that almost more than any other contributes to the confusion, is the lack of agreement about the goal of the ecumenical movement. Fears of one super Church have led to proposed competing models - united not absorbed. Reconciled diversity - full communion - or simply a loose co-operation in causes for justice and peace - lots of Christian shop windows from which a post-modern world can pick and choose.

The scene is indeed fragile, much of the ecumenical structures of the 40's and 50's seem dated. The greats of the movement have gone and there are few young ecumenical enthusiasts. - What is the way forward - The Gospel imperative remains 'May they all be one, so that the World believes'.

We need to re-express together what sort of life after Easter God invites us to live in and for the World, as a sign of possibility for all humanity. What would it be like if

Christians were united not as some super trans-national corporation, but as a communion of men and women living sacrificially, out of the abundance of God's grace in word and sacrament - loving in a way in which the personal was prior to the institutional, where the churches were 'at home' in their context and served the locality aware at the same time of their inter-connectedness with all the local churches. And how would we treasure things that belong to our unity while rejoicing in a diversity we can hardly yet begin to imagine? And what would it be like if we accepted that there will always be new issues of faith, order and moral life that threaten unity but if we were prepared to live as a community in dialogue, discerning together and then receiving God's truth together?.

In today's fragile ecumenical scene we need to do everything we can to work together for justice and peace, against the culture of violence. We are more effective together and in the process of acting together now we get a taste of a fuller life together.

If we are ever to enjoy Christian unity then there is no way around the search for agreement in faith which is sufficient and required to overcome the divisions and hold us in graced belonging. What new forms of committed life, sharing worship, common service and mission are possible on the basis of existing agreements? We can't wait until every theological jot and tittle is agreed before we move to one another. - So there must be no turning back, however complex the issues. If we can live an ecumenical spirituality, which entails metanoia, a conversion to Christ and to one another in Christ, then the prospects for Christian unity must surely be fair in the new millennium and we might just witness more authentically to the sort of reconciled and reconciling life God wills for all - not just for Christians but for all God's people".

Our next Exchange visit with the community of Chevetogne takes place 6-9th June and will be reported in the July edition of The LINK.

Eileen Quinn

Wanted - a new Treasurer !

Richard Raggett who has served as CTS Treasurer for some years is anxious to relinquish the role. He does not live locally, but has reluctantly agreed to continue until a successor is found. As treasurer's responsibilities go, this one is very light and holds no hidden pitfalls. Is there a reader, or someone known to a reader, who would be willing to take it on? If so please ring Ruth Rawlinson on 814222.

LINK DISTRIBUTORS

The LINK is in need of distributors. We try to keep the rounds to easily manageable numbers and can provide emergency back-up for holidays or sickness. If you feel you could help in this very positive way please see Janet Townsend at 58 Chapel Hill or telephone 812593.



Rainbow to relocate

Tina South unveils plans for the pre-school to take up new residence . . .

From September this year Rainbow Pre-School will be re-locating to new premises within Stansted as we will be leasing a classroom and outside play area from St Mary's School (currently St. Mary's nursery) in St. Johns Road, Stansted.

This is a marvellous opportunity for Rainbow Pre-School. Ann and Terri will be able to offer both morning and afternoon sessions 5 days a week. Rainbow will remain entirely independent, as it is at the present time, feeding into both schools in the village and many in the surrounding areas. It will continue to be staffed by Ann and Terri and their band of volunteer helpers, run by a parent committee, responsible for providing its funding and will maintain its charitable status.

The decision to relocate has not been taken lightly, but in view of the new OFSTED regulations we feel that this is the right move forward for Rainbow to remain a thriving and flourishing pre-school.

The committee are planning to run a new Mother and Toddler group at the Quaker Hall on Wednesday mornings from September, called "Rainbow Tots". It will be aimed at children from 18 months to two and a half years. Plans are still being finalised, but times are likely to be 10:00-11:30am. Our intention is to include many creative activities along with puzzles, outdoor toys, stories and songs with further details to be published in the July edition of The Link. If you are interested in registering your child's name now

please contact our chairperson Yvonne on 813071 to reserve a place.

The Rainbow committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Margaret Whitelaw and everyone from the Quaker Meeting House for their support over the past two years and their continued assistance with our future Wednesday morning project. Transport is our continuing theme for the summer term and this is where we take advantage of the good weather, hopefully to visit the fire station, have another ride

on the train to the airport and possibly visit a park or two.

We have already been to Tesco's bakery, and we are all looking forward to our summer outing - venue still to be agreed at this time - we hope the weather will be as kind to us as last year and our plans are coming along nicely for the Golden Jubilee.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Easter party. A good time was had by all and

we managed to raise a useful amount towards pre-school funds. We all enjoyed our quiz night on 27th April and the committee would like to thank Andrew Arnold for acting as compère and everyone else who helped on the night. The winners all took home a bottle of wine and the team in last place took home lemons!

Following last years successful sponsored assault course we repeated the experience on 20 May followed by lunch provided by the committee. If you would like more information about Rainbow Pre-School, call 07996 506997 or why not come in and visit us? ●



Ann, Terri, and some of the Rainbow pre-schoolers at the Quaker Meeting House.

Mrs Jean Cashman, St. Mary's Headteacher, writes:

We anticipate that this will be the beginning of an exciting new relationship between us and will be to our mutual benefit. Although Rainbow will be entirely independent, run by their own committee and with their own staff, we anticipate that there will be many occasions for us to share educational opportunities, facilities and expertise. The Foundation Stage curriculum has brought schools' Early Years Curriculum and the Pre-School Curriculum closer together than ever before.

St Mary's has plans to extend the hard surface of the outside

play area outside the Reception and Nursery areas during the summer holidays. When this is completed we hope to develop the new area as an external classroom offering additional play/learning areas in which to support and extend the curriculum of the younger pupils. Rainbow also has plans to extend the covered area in order to expand the availability of outside play during all weathers. The school is able to offer Rainbow chances to timetable cooking in the children's kitchen, ICT in the computer room and PE and games in the hall, playground or field. They will also have a completely self-contained outside play area.

Singing in the Reign

7.15 for 8 pm

Fri 31 May & Sat 1 June
Birchanger Church Hall

Admission by ticket only
Tickets £7.50 incl fish & chips
Bring your own drink & glass

Tel: 813624 / 814986 / 814978
814083 / 815243 (Benefice Office)

St John's, Stansted Hill Chilli

7 pm Friday 14th June

31 Chapel Hill

Admission £8 incl glass of wine

In aid of Church Hall improvements



Mountfitchet High School

Car Boot Sale

Sundays 8 am to 12 noon

16th June & 14th July

£6 in advance £7 on the day

Tel Mike 812780 / John 813531

VILLAGE EVENTS

June

1 Sat - 4 Tue	St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
1 Sat	PTA/Rotary Tea Dance	Mountfitchet School 2.30 - 4.30 pm
	Music Club Soirée	St John's Church 6 pm
	Singing in the Reign	Birchanger Village Hall 7.15 for 8 pm
	Jubilee Dance	Mountfitchet School 8 - 11.30 pm
2 Sun	Songs of Praise	Recreation Ground 6 pm
2 Sun - 3 Mon	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
3 Mon	Jubilee Pied Piper & Tea	As advertised 4 pm
	Jubilee Disco	Recreation Ground 7 - 9 pm
4 Tue	Ploughman's & Mill open	Windmill noon - 3 pm
5 Wed	Mft Seniors Jubilee Tea	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Garden Club visit	meet at Day Centre 6.30 pm
8 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
	URC Garden Party	Fermoy, High Lane 3.30 pm
10 Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
13 Thu	Carers' Support Group	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14 Fri	Hill Chilli	31 Chapel Hill 7 pm
16 Sun	Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon
	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm
22 Sat	Summer Fête	Hargrave House 2 - 4 pm
23 Sun	Car Treasure Hunt	Mountfitchet School 10 am
	Fun Run	Bentfield Green 11 am
24 Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
24 Mon - 28 Fri	Sun Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
29 Sat	Summer Fayre	St Mary's School noon - 3 pm
	Shoe Box Supper	United Reformed Church Hall 7 pm
	HEAL Barn Dance	Tye Green Farm 7.30 - 11 pm

July

3 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
7 Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
	St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
10 Wed	Jubilee Tea Party	Day Centre
11 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
13 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm
	Music in the Park	Bentfield School 3 pm
	URC Cream Tea	58 Chapel Hill 3.30 pm
14 Sun	Car Boot Sale	Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon
	Barbecue Lunch	The Rectory 12.30 pm
	HEAL Gardens Open	1 - 6 pm

For more details of special Jubilee events see the next two pages

Hargrave House



2 - 4 pm Sat 22nd June

Tombola ~ Nearly New Clothes
Home Made Cakes ~ Bric-à-Brac

Treasure Hunt ~ Plants

Children's Activities ~ Refreshments



Shoe Box Supper

Talk and Slides on
Operation Christmas Child

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 29th June
URC Lecture Hall

Tickets £4 from 812593
Bring your own drink and glass

All welcome



BARN DANCE

7.30 - 11 pm

Sat 29th June

Tye Green Farm

Bar - Supper - Live Band

Tickets £10 Tel 813871 / 813686



GARDENS OPEN

1 - 6 pm Sunday 14th July

Beautiful gardens in

Stansted for you to enjoy!

Details in the July Link

Entry £3. Tel 814265

Stansted Jubilee

JUBILEE SUMMER SOIREE

A concert of music by
young talented musicians

6 pm Saturday 1st June
St John's Church



Marquee and Licensed Bar for Wine

Buffet Supper provided by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

*Tickets from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Options Hair Salon, Elsenham;
or Sonia Levy 31 Chapel Hill, 815282 £7 adults, £5 concessions £3 children*

Tickets must be purchased in advance



SONGS of PRAISE

6 pm Sunday 2nd June
On the Recreation Ground

(in St John's Church if wet)

with
Bishop's Stortford Town Band
and
Stansted Music Group

Please come and join in an evening of favourite hymns and songs

Bring your own chair

Parking in Crafton Green - disabled parking only on Recreation Ground

Events 2002

Don't Miss Out

MONDAY

3RD JUNE 2002

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



4 pm

Follow the Pied Piper from:
Recreation Ground
or Mountfitchet Green
or Bentfield Green

4.30 pm

Back to the Recreation
Ground for cakes & drinks
followed by games

6 pm Family Picnic (please bring your own)
7 pm Garry's Disco (finishing at 9 pm)

All times are approximate ~ more details nearer the time

Tea Dance

for all Stansted's Senior Citizens

2.30 - 4.30 pm
Saturday 1st June
Mountfitchet School
Teas - Live Music
Free Admission

Free transport Tel 814685

Jubilee Dance

The Jim Freeman Sound
8pm Sat 1st June
Mountfitchet School

Bangers & Mash Supper
Bar ~ Raffle ~ Tickets £10
Tel 814685 / 813531



**Stansted
Windmill**

Ploughman's Lunch

Noon - 3 pm Tue 4th June
Tea & non-alcoholic drinks served
Bring your own wine or beer
Admission £3, children £2

Mountfitchet Seniors

Celebration Jubilee Tea

2 - 4 pm
Wednesday 5th June
Day Centre



**St Mary's
Church**

Jubilee Flower Presentation
with display by Local History Society

St Mary's Church will be open
2 - 5pm Sat 1st to Tue 4th June
Everyone Welcome



10K JUBILEE FUN RUN & WALK

Bentfield Grn 11am Sun 23 June

Serious or for Fun
Runner or Walker
THIS IS FOR YOU!

Register in advance using the entry form in
the June Link, or on the day 10 - 10.45 am
Tel 814059 for details

SOMETHING WE SHALL NOT SEE AGAIN

On April 23rd, St. George's Day, a Time Capsule containing everyday records of life in Stansted at the turn of the century was buried in a prepared pit in the Memorial Garden. It is not intended that the Capsule should be opened for another millennium. The short ceremony/operation was carried out by Mr Ray Clifford and Mr John Salmon, Chairman and Vice-chairman respectively of the Parish Council in the presence of local representatives and the clergy. All the documents had been transferred to waxed paper and the one inch thick container filled with an inert gas. The chamber will shortly be capped with a large monumental rock.



Photograph Dot. Salmon



Mr Richard Ayres, retired Head Gardener of Anglesey Abbey, was the guest speaker at the May meeting of the Mountfitchet Garden Club. Members and friends were enthralled to hear his talk, accompanied with slides on "A Year at Anglesey Abbey". Most people associate Anglesey Abbey with snowdrops and there are 150 different cultivars there, but there is something to see all the year through including a large number of statues. He was thanked by Cyril Stoneham for a very interesting talk.

There will be no meeting in the Day Centre on the 5th June but an evening visit is planned to Priors Wood Clematis Nursery at Widbury Hill near Ware, leaving Crafton Green car park at 6.30pm.

Janet Townsend

Stansted Tennis Club



Court Painting

We are hoping that the resurfaced black courts will soon be painted red and green. The weather has to have been dry and warm for several days before they can be painted, so let's hope for a warm spell in the next few weeks!

Annual Club Tournament

Members have until the first week in June to enter this year's club tournament by adding their name to the list, which is now up on the notice-board.

Sweat-shirts/T-shirts

These are now available in varying shades and sizes sporting the Stansted Tennis Club logo. If you would like to see samples and are interested in purchasing these, please see either Kate Rutter (senior sizes) or Chris Hollis (junior sizes).

Coaching

We have had a lot of requests from people who are interested in adult coaching. The committee are currently making enquiries to try and find an available coach in the area. Unfortunately, Chris Hollis has no spare time for adult coaching as he is heavily involved coaching the juniors in the club. His Monday, Thursday and Saturday sessions are now full and there is currently a waiting list. If you are interested in adding your name, then please call Chris on 01279 319155.

Used Tennis Balls

A tube of 4 used tennis balls for £1 - who can resist this offer? Please contact Janet Hollis on 01279 812073 if you would like to purchase a tube.

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

MORE WAYS TO THE AIRPORT

Readers may wish to note that the Eastern National No.333 bus route serving Stansted Village from Epping Station via Potter Street in Harlow, Sawbridgeworth and Bishop's Stortford has been extended to terminate at Stansted Airport Passenger Terminal.

The route runs hourly on Mondays to Saturdays and now serves Bury Lodge Lane, the Business Aviation Centre and Long Border Road.



St Mary's were delighted this month with the Year 6 netball team, who won the Gatwick Handling Netball Shield. Expertly coached by Amanda Atkinson, Year 6 Classroom Assistant and aided by Brenda Burton, the team only lost one match, winning the shield for the first time.

Continuing on a sporting front the school organised a sponsored run to raise money to buy cricket equipment. The students were sponsored by family and friends per lap of the school field. Luckily it was a beautiful day and all the students did their best and had a great time. Moreover they raised over £1100, so a big thank you to everyone who supported us for this event.

The PTFA have painted the existing shed a trendy blue and will be erecting a new shed kindly donated by Lewis Peasley to house some of this new equipment

The school council has also been busy recently. This is run by the students themselves with representatives from every year, who recently decided they would like to buy some playground equipment. They collected small change and made a snail trail from all the money, which looked fantastic in the school hall and raised £127.40.

The PTFA ran their half termly secondhand uniform sale on 2nd May. This, combined with a cake sale, which is always popular, raised £100. The PTFA is busy preparing for the summer fair on the theme of transport. Please put this date, 29th June in your diaries.

Well, so far this summer term has proved to be incredibly busy with the staff, students and parents all working hard for the school. A big thank you to everyone involved.

Kathy Hersh - PTFA member

St Mary's CE Primary School

SUMMER FAYRE

With a theme of TRANSPORT

Saturday 29th June 2002, Noon - 3pm

**Lots of stalls, games, Prize Raffle, Lucky Programme,
Balloon fun, BBQ, Refreshments, Cakes, etc**

**Fantastic transport display including:
Military vehicles & personnel from Carver Barracks,
Amazing Steam Engine, Tractor, WW II hardware
Fire Engines old & new, Parachute display
and much, much more - some of it very wacky**

**Come and find us in the playground
and on the school field, St John's Road
Stansted**

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices
Crafton Green
Tel 813214
Fax 813964

Annual Meeting

At the Annual Council Meeting held on 8 May, Ray Clifford stood down after 6 years as Chairman of the Council. Our new Chairman is Catherine Dean, and her Vice Chairman is Geoffrey Sell. Brenda Ryan has agreed to take up the reins as Chairman of Open Spaces, whilst Peter Jones continues to keep a watch on our finances as Chairman of Finance and General Purposes.

Golden Jubilee

Full details of the public events to celebrate and commemorate Her Majesty's Jubilee appeared in last month's Link. Please also see our noticeboards.

Best Kept Village/Stansted In Bloom

Once again we have entered the Essex Best Kept Village Competition - we won it in 2000 and were Highly Commended last year - can we make it three in a row?!

Our local Garden/Basket/Frontage/Pub competitions will be judged in July, so if you have not yet entered, please contact the Office for details (813214).

Ruth Clifford
Clerk



Royal British Legion

Women's Section

At our branch meeting we made final arrangements for our dinner to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

Frances Spalding then gave a delightful talk on her trip, last June, from Prague up the Elbe to Berlin stopping at places on the way. We saw shots of Wenceslas Square and the memorial for the student, who, in 1969, burned himself to death protesting against the Communist invasion. We saw the Astronomical Clock, the Jewish Quarter and the Castle Area. Then on by boat to Melnik and Bad Schandau, with its sandstone rocks. There were views of Meissen, Dresden, Torgau and Wittenberg, city of Martin Luther; then the remains of the Berlin Wall and the Brandenburg Gate.

Our 20th June meeting will take the form of a celebration dinner 7.30pm for 8pm.

Pat Clower

Stansted Profile No 46

Malcolm Treacher

It is unprecedented for the Profile Series to portray someone who left Stansted 35 years ago, but such was (and still is) Malcolm's influence that The Link happily includes him, known as he is to so many of the older residents.

Malcolm was born in Henham-on-the-Hill as it was then known and came to Stansted in 1941 at the age of 11, the year his mother died, where he lived at the Post Office with his uncle, Major Treacher the postmaster. Naturally, delivering telegrams by bicycle became his regular lot. He attended the British School on Chapel Hill under Mr. Mitchell but was sufficiently talented to win a 3 year scholarship to Cambridge College of Technology and Arts. As an architectural draughtsman Malcolm's first employment was with J. Day and Sons in Bishops Stortford. In those days the company not only dealt in monumental masonry but also carried out war damage repairs to churches, so Malcolm's expertise in reinstating original designs was in demand. A window in St. Michael's Church in Bishops Stortford was one of his restorations. He went from there to North Herts. Builders at Birchanger Corner but he did not feel at ease in the building trade. His next move was the most traumatic and instructive of his life; he took the post of Assistant Warden at the Docklands Settlement in East London. In those days before social services had got into their stride the Settlement had to meet the needs of down-and-outs, mother and child clinics, old people and youth work. It necessitated rising at 6 and working until midnight six days a week. One youth who had been an evacuee in Stansted during the war recognised Malcolm and being a muscular fellow offered to be his "minder" when the going was rough - as it frequently was. After nearly 2 years the strain, both physical and emotional, took its toll. Following a near-breakdown Dr. Platt, the Stansted G.P., told him in no uncertain terms to give up the work. After a recuperative period he returned to take up a charge-hand role under Edmund Cawkell at Rochfords Nurseries, then in full production.

In Stansted, Malcolm is remembered for his service in the church and in Scouting. It was to be expected that the influence of his uncle and Olive Bunting (who also worked at the Post Office) brought him into the Congregational Church. His uncle insisted that being a Scout would be "good for him" and so began over 60 years service in the movement. At 14½ he was a Cub Leader, becoming Scoutmaster in 1949, then Group Scoutmaster, Senior Scout Leader, followed by Assistant District Commissioner and in the 60's, District Commissioner. The annual Scout Gangshows, which he produced are still remembered in the village. In the mid-40's the Rev'd. Kenneth Jarvis came to Stansted as curate and also become Scoutmaster. His influence was such that Malcolm transferred to the Church of England where he was confirmed and became a chorister, server, Sunday School teacher and Youth Group Leader. Malcolm's artistic skills led him into decorating the Central Hall for Bazaars,

Concerts and the Harvest Supper (noted then for its sparkling entertainment). It seemed that there were few activities in the village in which he did not play a part, much of it quietly and behind the scenes. One of his early "appearances" was in the Pageant held at Stansted Hall during the Festival of Britain. At this time he was a member of the short-lived Amateur Dramatic and Table Tennis Clubs

. During Canon Lake's time Malcolm trained for and became Parish Lay Reader and he recalls how having to prepare a weekly sermon imposed a strain on him, coming on top of his many other commitments. For a while he was Warden of the E.C.C. Youth Centre, then held in the school canteen. The windmill which from 1941 to 1963 served as the Scout Headquarters, was restored in 1966 after many years of minor works and fundraising. Not surprisingly he worked with Col. Dove, Peter Trigg, Mr. Lambert and Irving Sanders throughout the 50's and 60's on the Restoration Committee. In those days before Stansted Millers came into being, it was the Scouts who opened the Mill to visitors.



After the war years at the Post Office, Malcolm moved with his father, now back from Africa, into Woodfields, but declined to accompany him when he moved back to Henham. There followed relatively short stays at Blythwood (pre the housing estate), Cambridge Road, Recreation Ground, St. John's Road and finally with his aunt in St. Mary's Drive, 12 moves in all. His few possessions were usually moved on the Scout trek-cart. Malcolm wryly observes that those days held all the ingredients for turning him into a delinquent. The reality is so different and he has no doubt that the combined influences of Church and Scouting were responsible.

In 1967 Malcolm moved to Chelmsford to become full time County Scout Organising Commissioner and County Trainer of Adult Leaders. He became involved in Special Needs Scouting and was indirectly responsible for the Tortoise Scout Troop which still thrives in Stansted, as well as himself running a specialist Troop at Black Notley Hospital, and helping with the Trueloves (Shaftesbury) Home Troop at Ingatestone. He holds several Scout Awards including the Silver Wolf, but his greatest recognition came in 1991 when he received his MBE from the Queen.

Malcolm is now retired(!) in a comfortable flat in the centre of Chelmsford, close to his beloved Cathedral and many friends. Two heart attacks have slowed him somewhat but he still mows the grass at the County Scout Camp at Skreens Park most Saturdays and designs the scenery for the annual Chelmsford Gang Show. It came as no surprise to discover that he is secretary of his Residents' Association, President of Chelmsford Scout District, County Scout archivist and the author of two books - "The History of Skreens Park" and "Ninety Years of Essex Scouting". He is still a visitor to Stansted where he has numerous friends, and not all of them from the past. Well done, Malcolm, you are certainly not forgotten.

Derek Honour



" THE VMC SUMMER JUBILEE SOIREE"

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sonia Levy



Huw Johnson Club

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with our street party. A report on this will be in the next edition of The LINK. We hope the weather will have been fine.

Our trip to the London Eye was a great success. Everyone boarded safely, including those in wheelchairs. Jenny was expecting to see the Queen Mother's coffin and was quite disappointed when I said that she was already buried in Windsor. Jenny also expected to be air sick but fortunately that was forgotten when she found she could look right into Buckingham Palace. We ended our trip with a visit to the London Aquarium, which everyone enjoyed. Jane, Sarah and the rest of their group enjoyed it so much that we nearly sent in a search party to bring them out.

On Ascension Day a group of our members joined the congregation in St John's Church to celebrate Jesus' ascension. Never were alleluias sung with so much gusto before.

Marion Johnson

DAY CENTRE

Drivers Wanted

If you could spare an hour or two once every two or three weeks I would be delighted to hear from you. The task is not onerous - in fact it is fun! To take several people to the Day Centre for lunch and then return them home again later in the afternoon.

Please phone me, Bridget Gott on 814440. I have taken over from Wilf Woods.



Sue Leech Chiropodist MSSCh MBChA
Surgery or Home Visits

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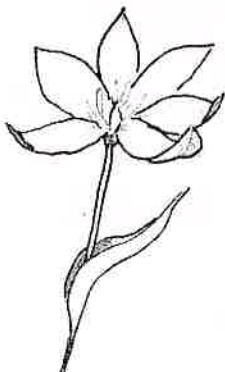
Nature Notes

This month 'Nature Notes' is giving its readers a glimpse of spring in western Crete. This most southerly of the Greek islands is not far from the Libyan coast. It has a typical Mediterranean climate: cool wet winters and hot dry summers. Evergreen oaks, pines and cypresses mingle with deciduous trees such as oriental plane, elm, pistachio and oak. There are numerous shrubs and plants, which are adapted to resist drought and also grazing by the large number of goats and sheep. These plants develop various strategies; small leathery leaves (daphnes, oleander), needle-like leaves (juniper and rosemary), spines (broom, gorse and some spurges), felted leaves (great mullein, phlomis).

Other plants contain chemicals that are obnoxious to animals. These include the spurges, cistus (rockrose) and yellow and white asphodels. The white form of asphodel is a beautiful spring plant, about 3 feet tall, with delicate flowers in a spike and grows freely on rocky slopes and abandoned terraces.

Another way plants adapt to the climatic conditions is to develop bulbs or tubers. They flower in spring when the weather is cooler and they have sufficient moisture for growth. Cyclamens, crocuses, orchids, irises, tulips and deep cerise gladioli all appear in spring and die down in the long hot summer. The stony boulder-strewn landscape is ablaze with colour in early spring after the rain of the winter months. Grassy slopes are covered with up to twelve species of orchid; abandoned olive terraces are vibrant with pink tulips and lilac and blue anemones; fields of red tulips bring to mind English poppy fields, tiny white crocuses grow up in the mountains near the snowline.

Plants grow in the most inhospitable places. Walking down the dry river bed of a limestone gorge it is amazing to see a blue campanula growing out of a tiny crack in a boulder. Even on a bare scree slope, which at first appears to have nothing growing on it, you suddenly notice pale pink tulips which have pushed their way up through layers of stones.



Tulipa cretica

The predominant colour in the spring landscape is yellow; the various brooms and gorses, spurges, phlomis (Jerusalem sage) and giant fennel all flower at this time. The ground under the olive trees is carpeted with Bermuda buttercup, a yellow oxalis related to our wood sorrel. Here and there are patches of deep red poppies, blue viper's bugloss and borage, orange marigolds and wild chrysanthemums with white petals and orange centres.

This was the scene in early April. By now most of these flowers will have died down and the land will be looking parched and brown. The spiny and evergreen plants will survive the heat of summer, but it will not be until after the autumn rains that a second flush of bulbous plants such as crocuses, irises and squills will decorate the landscape again.

Rosina Kirkwood



St Clare Hospice

St Clare Hospice China Trek Stansted Appeal

I work at St Clare Hospice as a Fund-raising Organiser and in June I am walking part of the Great Wall of China with 17 other walkers in aid of the hospice. It is a unique 'trek' in that 5 hospices have got together and a combined number of 76 walkers have been recruited to raise funds for their respective hospices.

We are each required to raise a minimum of £2,500 in sponsorship money and, although almost there, I decided to deliver by hand to as many households as possible in Stansted, a request for a one off donation to the hospice in respect of the China Trek. I would then be able to boast the support I had from Stansted, where I also live, and provide a figure raised by its residents alone.

I still have several letters yet to deliver but I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of those who have already responded to my request and donations amounting to £1720.32 have been received by St Clare Hospice to date. I would, personally, like to thank all those who very kindly donated and please be assured that the patients will benefit directly from your gifts, however great or small.

If you would like to see where your money is going please ring me on 01279 413590 to arrange a visit to the hospice; you will be made most welcome.

Caroline Bore
Fundraising Organiser



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

BENTFIELD SCHOOL PTA

A very big thank you to everyone who supported our school fair. After praying for good weather, we had a dry day with the occasional ray of sun. The birds of prey were a great attraction with the children being astounded by the birds flying over their heads. The stocks proved very popular with many people being pelted with wet sponges. We raised around £2500, which is to be spent on creative play equipment for the playground.

Our next big event is on Saturday, 13th July -

MUSIC IN THE PARK

For those of you who missed it last year, it's time to dust off those dancing shoes and utilise those eardrums. We have four bands playing live, with music to suit all - jazz, rock and roll, pop and rhythm and blues. There will be a real ale bar, barbeque, bouncy castle and an entertainer for the kids. Tickets are available from the school (813626) or PTA members at a cost of £7.50 for adults. Accompanied children under 16 are free. Gates open at 2.30pm with the music kicking off at 3pm.

Mandy Honour
Bentfield PTA

Bentfield County Primary School

MUSIC IN THE PARK

"It's time to dust off those dancing shoes"

Saturday 13th July

Four live bands to suit all tastes

Jazz

Rock and roll

Pop

Rhythm & blues

Real Ale Bar, BBQ, Bouncy Castle
Children's Entertainer

Tickets from the school (813626) and PTA members
£7-50 adults, accompanied children under 16 free
Gates open 2-30pm with music kick off at 3pm



The National Childbirth Trust

Education for Parenthood

Firstly a big "thank you" to everyone who supported our Nearly New Sale of children's toys, clothes and equipment in April. It was our best ever and we raised over £500, well in excess of our usual amount. Given that the spring sale was such a success, you may want to note the date of the autumn sale in your diaries already - Saturday 5th October.

June will see us enjoying the sunny weather (we hope) as we visit a different playground each week. The children will be making their own lunch at our pizza making session (aprons advisable!) and for Fathers' Day we shall be having a family picnic at the Gardens of Easton Lodge. The mums and dads also get to enjoy a night out on their own this month (mums to Pizza Express and the dads to the Dog & Duck).

If you're heading for the Elsenham village fete on Sunday 9th June, do pop over and say hello to us. We shall be providing face painting for the children as well as information about who we are and what we do. It is also an opportunity for you to pick up a copy of our popular new book "A Parent's Guide to Stansted & Beyond", which is a must-have if you have children under 5 - and a snip at just £4.

Our regular coffee events continue three times a week, as well as our popular once-a-month Saturday tea & toast and Music Time, which seems to have adopted a regular "last Friday in the month" slot.

All parents or carers with babies, toddlers or pre-school children are most welcome at any of our activities, coffees or events. See village noticeboards for details or call Wendy on 01279 813387 for a free diary sheet listing of events.

For membership enquiries or information about any of our activities or services, please call Wendy on 01279 813387. If you are pregnant (with your first or subsequent baby) book early for our antenatal classes by calling Rachel on 01279 718632 and for breastfeeding support from a qualified counsellor, 8am to 10pm, 365 days per year, call 0870 4448708.

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

Tracy Todman

HIRE THE NEWLY REFURBISHED

Ugley Village Hall

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

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

THE IDLE THOUGHTS OF A CENTENARIAN

A friend with whom I had been discussing the subject, sent me a book about old age in which Goethe was quoted as saying "Old age is an occupation" so I have set down as objectively as I can, what I find this occupation entails. Paramount is learning to adjust to the loss in independence. Some years ago in a moment of bitterness I wrote "Old age means being left behind; growing old gracefully means appearing not to mind". Ageing is like driving a car, to make a success of it one must get into the right gear; a lower gear works quite well once one gets used to it. I start with two maxims - don't try to fight old age, think of it as an interesting extension, which calls for adaptability, rather than gloom. The second one - don't go on apologising for being a bother, you are a bother and that's that.

Another serious drawback is loss of memory. I am not referring to senility but to wooliness; the blotting out of a name of a plant, the title of a book or the endless hunting for objects one has mislaid. This may sound trivial, but in fact it is worrying as it makes one feel one is losing one's grip.

As against these disadvantages there is the inestimable boon of having time. Time to fritter, time to read, time to chew the cud. Unfortunately, at first this does not always seem a boon and the temptation to fill one's days with hurry scurry to boost one's self-esteem, is real. Elizabeth Montague, the 18th Century Blue Stocking got it right when she wrote "If late in life I should be busy from mere choice, pray chide my ill-timed activities and send me to my easy chair by the fire".

Ideally, another advantage would be more self-confidence. The best I can do is not to mind so much when I make mistakes. Thankfully I do not find my capacity for enjoyment dimmed. Old age would indeed be a tragedy if one could no longer be 'surprised by joy'..

The question arises "Has old age anything to set against the inevitable burdens it places on younger generations?" From my observations the most useful thing that old people can do is to try and create some of Wordsworth's "central peace" within themselves. I have seen it at work, and where it is achieved it is 'catching', and of great value as a counter-balance to the stress situations in which so many find themselves.

I doubt whether the present dramatic increase in longevity adds to the sum of human happiness but that is out of our control and each of us has to find their own solution. For me, it is the 17th Century poet, George Herbert, who points the way:-

*"Whether I flie with angels, fall with dust,
Thy hands made both, and I am there:
Thy power and love, my love and trust
Make one place ev'ry where."*

These thoughts were written to a young relation by Nancy Tennant of Ugley, who celebrated her 105th birthday on May 27th.

(Congratulations on your 105th - Editor)

CareersEssex

Braintree Careers Centre,
90 High Street, Braintree,
Essex CM7 1JP

Tel: 01376 557400
Fax: 01376 557410
www.careersessex.co.uk

CareersEssex is running an Outreach Project to raise the awareness of Lifelong Learning & Learning Opportunities that are available to the residents of the Uttlesford District.

The project involves an Outreach Worker - Juliet English contacting Community Groups to discuss what is available around the Uttlesford Area.

Lifelong Learning is a term that covers any sort of learning

This could be:

- Skills for work
- Help with CV's
- New hobbies
- Returning to work
- Career choices

Juliet acts as a facilitator, directing people to where they can get more information, advice and guidance. She is also building links with organisations so that networks are set up with information on all learning opportunities and the support networks available.

Funding for the project has come from the Essex IAG Partnership (Information, Advice and Guidance) which is a partnership of Local Libraries, Colleges, Training Providers and Guidance Companies, and from the Uttlesford Lifelong Learning Area Advisory Group.

Small and medium sized employers are being contacted to promote the need to raise basic skills of employees where called for.

There are many adults with poor basic skills actually in work. It is an aim to make it easier for them to improve their basic skills, at a time, in a place, and in a way, which suits them and their employer.

Questionnaires are being distributed to employers for views on the needs for training in the area and to help plan for the future.

Juliet English can be contacted at Braintree Careers Centre on :Tel: 01376 557400, Mobile: 07786 112549 or via e-mail juliet.english@careersessex.co.uk

As many will know, the Social Service provided by the County Council depends very largely on locally employed workers who provide the dedicated and devoted service which is so essential if our older people are to be properly supported. Unfortunately in Uttlesford where the Airport at Stansted is a major employer, the competition for labour is intense, and as a result the Social Services find it difficult to recruit and retain those willing to work as carers of the elderly whether at home or in Care Homes.

Similar problems occur in the case of children, where the County Council has difficulty in recruiting those who are willing to act as foster carers for children, who for whatever reasons, have no parents.

The County Council devotes much time and thought to solving these problems but in the end depends on the public spirit and community solidarity of those residents in the County. This is why this article is written: to remind readers of the problems and to seek their support either to find and encourage friends and neighbours to seek employment, or themselves to do so. Age is not the problem, only duty and service are required.

Should anyone wish to know more about this subject, they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812588 or on the Essex Foster Line Freephone number 0800 801 530.

Richard Wallace
County Councillor
Stansted Division
01279 812588



**STANSTED &
DISTRICT LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS.**

Our next Ploughman's Lunches are on Saturday 8th June and Saturday 13th July at the Stansted Day Centre, noon to 2pm. All are welcome.

The next social event is a Treasure Hunt and Tea Party at Berden at 2.30pm on Sunday 23rd June. Please ring 813432 or 814222 for details.

Ruth Rawlinson

The following item has been provided as a matter of general interest by one of our advertisers.

Despite being invisible to the eye, house dust mites and bugs can cause many problems for households and people that are allergic to them. You are probably unaware of them but they live in mattresses, pillows and carpets.

There a number of steps that can be taken to help restrict the effect dust mites have on your beds and carpets

Beds:

1. Cover the mattresses, pillows and duvets with covers that do not allow the dust mite droppings through.
2. Once a week, wash all your bed linen at 55 deg C or above. This will kill the mites as opposed to just clean them.
3. Vacuum your house with a high filtration cleaner
4. Air the bedroom daily

Carpets:

1. Remove items such as rugs from the area and vacuum thoroughly
2. Wash and clean all that has been in contact with the area
3. Have the rugs/carpets sprayed with specific bugs and dust mite sprays
4. Keep the areas clean, especially from pet hair

Dust mites have been proven to be a major cause of asthma attacks and up to 80% of children suffer with allergies from dust mites.

Safeclean provide a ready made solution to the problems of dust mites with their mattress and pillow anti allergy covers that actually kill off the dust mites in your bed. There are as many as two million dust mites in a bed so anything that can help fight this, must be a benefit.

Safeclean's products have been proven to kill 100% of house dust mites within 8 weeks and to keep working for up to two years. Through assessments from UK doctors, it was found that 70% of sufferers reported an improvement in their condition.

So don't suffer in silence; give your local Safeclean Specialist a call for advice on treatments that could help you, 0800 585 693 or visit the website www.safeclean.co.uk.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chemist:
Moss Pharmacy 812278

HELPLINE:
07659 550127

Local Schools:
Bentfield County Primary 813626
St Mary's C of E Primary 812212
Mountfitchet High 813384

Dental Surgeries:
Marina Carew 870077
Graham Dodsley 815041

Stansted Police:
812211

Eastern National Bus Service:
81245 353104

Doctors' Surgery:
St John's Road 813200

Stansted Parish Council:
813214

Passenger Rail Enquiries:
034354 484950

Stansted Post Office:
813610

MARTHA'S BAR AND THE GREAT BANANA SCANDAL

Michael Howes visited the West Indies last year and saw first hand a major problem facing our former colonies. Some names have been changed to protect the sources.

Martha's bar is a shack, about the size of a small garage. It has home-made wooden walls and a corrugated iron roof. At the bottom end, illuminated by a blue strip light, several gallons of tripe soup bubble away in a metal cauldron that once saw service as an oil drum. The contents are being tipped into plastic cups by Martha - a large, middle-aged woman whose personality is as bubbly as the soup, but somewhat more predictable. The muddy soup, rather more tripe than liquid, has streaks of bright green local "spinach" floating in it. Some might find the mixture revolting, but not the locals, who consume it in alarming quantities. Our cups remain shamefully full as the thick brown formulation slowly congeals into a solid mass.

This is our introduction to village life in the third world country of St Vincent. We are here to photograph Mark's seven and a half acre tropical garden, bordering the rain forest, 1500 feet above Kingstown, a long 45 minute drive down the mountainside over roads that are tricky in a four-track. Our visit to Martha's is an opportunity to meet the local folk. We've already been introduced to Sebastian, an intelligent, charming elderly man, who has taken an immediate liking to us. At his suggestion, we are starting to enjoy our first glasses of strong Caribbean rum, which we have been warned is not to be taken lightly, or not to be taken at all if you believe the exhortations of my doctor.

Sitting opposite me is a thick set younger man, Olivier, who is the local agronomist. "So, Mike, what do you make of our local banana production?" "I'm worried about the economics of it all". Right answer. The conversation becomes more intense. These guys are paid peanuts for working six days a week so you and I can buy cheap bananas in Sainsburys. And Olivier knows what Sainsburys are paying for them and Tescos too. He's a well informed agronomist.

"So you makin' this film for BBC Worldwide?" (This is Sebastian, after handing me my second rum). Sarah squirms uncomfortably on the wooden bench next to me. Mark has taken a few liberties with our introductions, I don't speak the local patois, but the term "BBC" is interpretable in any language. "Actually, Sebastian, we are freelance journalists, but the stuff could go to the BBC if they want it". I daren't tell him the video camera gave up the ghost two days ago, on exposure to the 95% humidity and lies unusable, back at the cottage.... "But we intend to set up a web site that describes the garden and the locality, so your bananas could get some exposure".

Several hours and a few rums later, after setting the world to rights and listening to extraordinary revelations about Bill Clinton and other prominent politicians, we were driven back to the cottage where Sarah and I gave the bananas serious thought. Our original purpose was to photograph the garden. This had proved easier to think about than to do. It had taken

three months to organise the trip - expedition would be a better description - and we had, perhaps fortunately, failed to get the medium format cameras out there due to difficulties with Customs. But the 35mm cameras were behaving themselves and some colourful and evocative images were getting into the can. Pity about the video equipment, but there's always next time and there was inevitably going to be a learning curve.

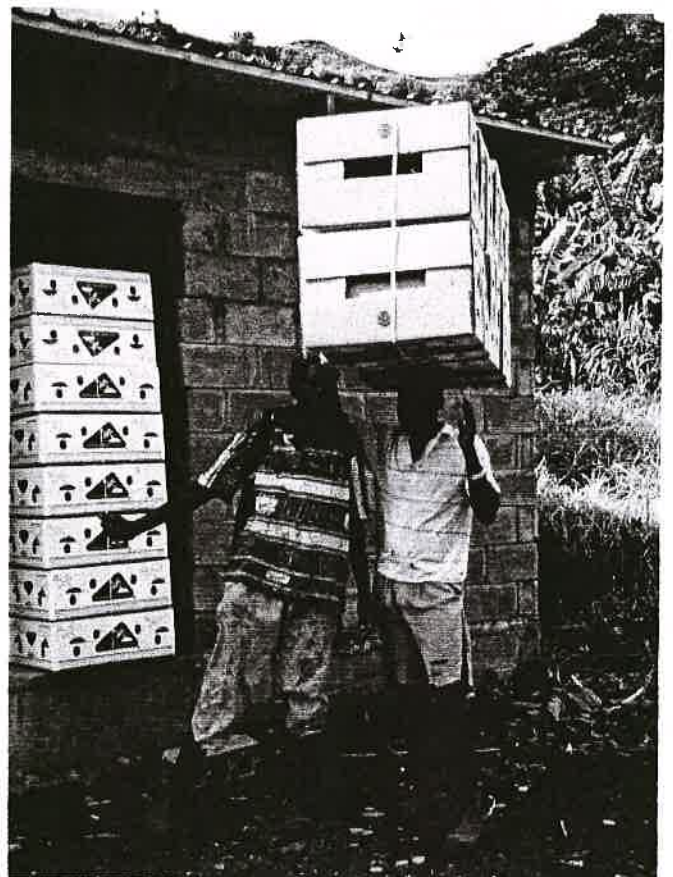
Next time ... maybe there won't be a next time if we couldn't do something to help these people. A cunning plan began to emerge. We decided to set up the web site describing Mark's garden and add a page about local banana production. Maybe a couple of pictures of the lads packing bananas in the field shacks ... yes, and a few of the plantation with rain forest behind. It all came together, with the tropical rain pounding on the tin roof and two extremely large, disgusting toads bleating on the lawn outside.

But as for the bananas, it's a cut and dried case, folks. When you go to Sainsburys or Tesco or wherever, for heaven's sake ask about where they source their bananas and how much the natives get for them. The least we can do is support the guys back there in our long-lost colonies who are dependent upon subsistence agriculture. Make sure they are Windward Island bananas and not those other things imported from Venezuela!

And if anyone from the BBC, or any other TV production company, is looking for an exciting and worthwhile idea for a documentary ... I have just the thing and well, you know where to find me.

Michael Howes

(Michael Howes is a member of the Benefice Choir at St John's, Stansted)



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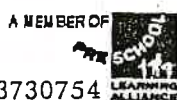
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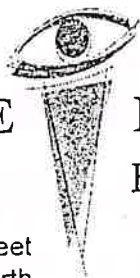
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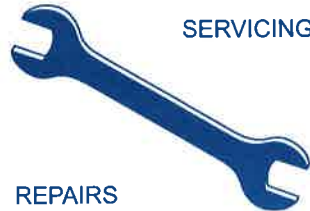
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