

May 2002

# The *LINK*



*Stansted  
Mountfitchet*

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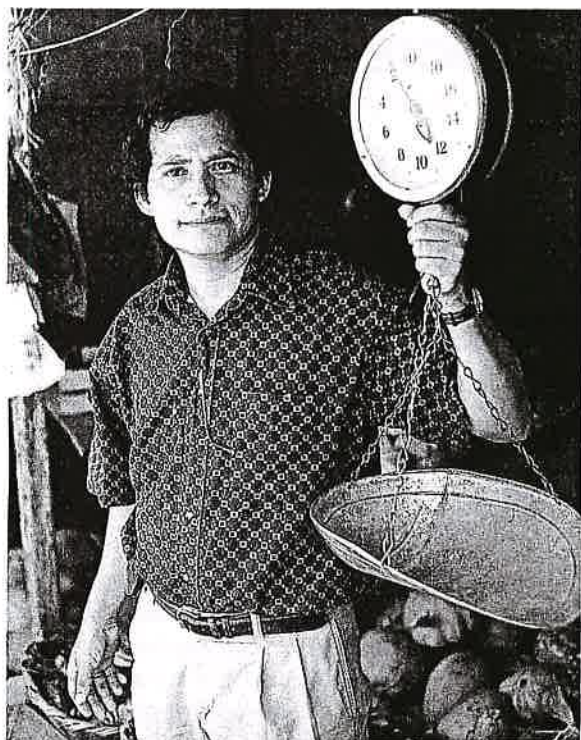
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# CHRISTIAN AID WEEK May 12-18

"The whole world is upside down because it puts economics before the human and social needs of people. We need to have different rules."

*Trinidad Sanchez, director of COMAL, Siguatepeque, Honduras*



**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death

**Please give generously to the house to house collection  
and visit the stall outside the Quaker Meeting House  
10 am - 12 noon Saturday 18th May**

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Scales feature on Christian Aid's trade badge, highlighting the imbalance of global trade. The figure in the middle reminds us that the imbalance is the result of human rules; but it also gives us hope, because people are the solution – we must all take action to help tip the balance of trade in favour of poor people.



# ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux  
High Lane

**Priest** Father Joe White  
The Presbytery  
St Therese of Lisieux  
High Lane  
Stansted

Tel 01279 814349

**Masses** Saturday 6.00 pm  
Sunday 9 am and 10.30 am  
Holy Days of Obligation  
8 am and 8 pm  
Tuesday 9.30 am  
- Saturday

## Confessions

Saturday 10 am  
and by appointment

## Baptisms

By appointment

## Moving Forward

As part of our new beginnings, since moving to our High Lane site parishioners have begun meeting on Wednesday afternoons to take part in a range of activities. This is a new venture so we are still 'finding our feet'. Highlights so far have been a discussion on genetics and reproduction, a meditation with music and readings and a music quiz, not to mention the tea and homemade cakes at the end of each session! We really appreciate our new hall on these occasions, as we sit on comfortable chairs in warm peaceful surroundings, especially when spring sunshine pours through the windows.

Recently we had a speaker, Sister Agatha from Abbotswick, the Diocesan House of Prayer near Brentwood. Abbotswick is run by Sister Agatha's order, the Missionary Franciscan Sisters, and she told us the fascinating story of the inspiration behind its founding. In the early 70s, Sister Agatha was Superior of St Clare's Convent in Clacton and Headmistress of the Primary School run by the Order, when she was invited to a Charismatic Prayer meeting in London. This kind of worship was entirely new to her and although initially resistant, Sister Agatha was so impressed with the experience that it changed her outlook on life completely. She feels very strongly that this was the work of the Holy Spirit. A few years later she felt the Spirit calling her to set up a prayer house. Although she has no financial means of doing so, Bishop Thomas McMahon was very supportive and made a small house available in Chadwell Heath. Sister Agatha had always had a vision of the house she wanted - a large house in its own grounds. In 1985, the kind of house she dreamt of came on the market and with generous donations from her community, the Diocese and others, Abbotswick was acquired. They now run a very full programme of retreats and days of prayer and strive to be

open to people of all denominations, whatever their needs.

Sister Agatha read us the account of the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts of the Apostles and emphasised the importance of turning to the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance in our lives.

With Pentecost approaching, we all felt that Sister Agatha's talk was very timely and gave us inspirational examples of what was possible when we are truly open to the Holy Spirit.

Ruth Rawlinson

# 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

## An Anniversary Year

This year is a special one for Quakers - the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Religious Society of Friends.

In early summer, 1652, George Fox preached for three hours to a gathering of over one thousand 'seekers' on Firbank Fell on the edge of the Pennines in north west England, marking the beginning of the movement, which increased in numbers and momentum over the following months, especially in the Lake District and the north west. Fox was based at Swarthmore Hall near Ulverston, from where his followers went out to the rest of the country carrying the idea of the 'inward light' throughout England, and sometimes suffering imprisonment and death as a result. Early Friends also travelled to North America, including William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania.

In looking at our history since then, we can follow the threads through the 350 years - the idea of the direct experience of God and the Inward Light; the continuing aim of living a life in tune with the spirit, including lifestyle and our church structures and business method; the continuation of the peace testimony, with a greater emphasis now on tackling the causes of war; and the testimony to simplicity of life, not just the plainness of the past. Much of what George Fox started continues today, although there has also been change, as Friends adapt to life in the twenty first century and take their place in the modern world.

Margaret Whitelaw



# THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham

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-12:00noon
Friday	

(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  
phone (01279) 652664

**Director of Music**

Mrs Glynis Morris  
phone/fax (01223) 263640  
<church.music@stansted.net>

**Children's Church**  
Mrs Marion Johnson  
(01279) 812284

**Youth Group**

Mrs Katy Dockerill  
(01279) 812997

**Mother & Toddler Group**  
Mrs Tina South  
(01279) 814371

**Housegroup**

Mrs Joan Freeman  
(01279) 813186  
<joanfreeman@zetnet.co.uk>

# St John's, Stansted

## News from St John's Hall

The number of organisations regularly using the Hall has now reached 20. Activities range from badminton to ballet, club get-togethers to karate. Many, like Sideways Pre-nursery School, are long-standing users. Others, the Art & Craft Market for example, are more recent arrivals. Most have charitable aims or are "not-for-profit" bodies. The Hall is a church hall but at the same time a village or community hall. It is good to see it so busy.

All this activity comes at some cost and effort. The Hall must be cleaned regularly and we are fortunate in having Gill Willson to do this demanding job so cheerfully. Then there is the routine maintenance: a radiator has gone cold; a pipe is leaking; the toilets won't flush; it all has to be sorted out and sometimes this cannot be done immediately. Graffiti has started to become a nuisance. On top of this work, in the past year we have been able to install a new emergency door off the kitchen; we have had the west-facing windows painted; and Essex County Council has repaired the fence at the back of the Hall.

Turning to the bigger projects, new curtains have recently been hung - probably for the first time since the Hall was built in 1970. Redecoration of the main hall, toilets and entrance hall, is now a real prospect following our successful appeal to the Parish Council for a loan to help with the cost. We also have plans to make the hall space safer and more useable by keeping chairs, piano and staging in a small storage extension, and at the same time improving entrance and exit facilities for the disabled as well as the able-bodied. Additional radiators under the windows, are also a possibility. All this, however, requires a lot of money - more than we can raise through our own fund-raising activities. There is a chance we shall succeed in attracting some of the funding from outside but meanwhile our own efforts continue with another "Hill Chili" on June 14th and a bigger event at the end of September. Watch out for further details in due course!

Lastly, a few words about the Hall Management Committee: Anthony Minshull now has the Hall accounting under firm control; Joy Lambe continues with the difficult and thankless task of Hall bookings; Lino Bottalico has come off the Committee after two years of wise advice and is replaced by Susie Ball who is enthusiastically spearheading the fund-raising efforts. Tracy Bottalico and Elizabeth Wagener continue with their invaluable help. I am very grateful to each one of them.

Jeremy Wagener

This piece is an excerpt from the St John's Annual Report 2001, copies of which are free and available on the literature table in St John's Church

**Baptisms**

17th March Freddie Lee Gransden  
17th March William Robert Honour  
31st March Keir Robert Tait

**Funerals**

4th March Barbara Matryba age 81 years  
19th March Evelyn Law age 86 years  
26th March Ivy Francis age 92 years

Children's Church meets at 9.30 am on Sundays in the Hall. **Tiny Tots** is a mother and toddler group that meets on Tuesday afternoons once a fortnight 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. A **Housegroup** meets fortnightly

**Diary Date** - Saturday, 25th May, 2.30pm, a Grand Sale and Afternoon Tea in the Church Hall. - proceeds to be divided between Missions and General Church Funds - please start sorting out anything not now needed by you! - including good quality clothes as opposed to jumble. Help will be needed on the day and offers to Francine on 814562 or Rosemary on 834053. Don't leave this to 'someone else'. Please give us your support.

Francine Cope

### St. John's Diary

**Sundays**

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

**Wednesdays**

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

**Ascension Day,**

Thursday, 9th May  
8:00pm Holy Communion *sung*

# 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 May

5th	10-30am	Mrs Faith Pauling
12th	10-30am	Rev David Simpson Communion
19th	10-30am	Mr Michael Dyer
26th	10-30am	Rev Mary Irish

Over 40 Children and 20 helpers, including Henry Playle, Synod Children's Work Officer, all enjoyed the activities day on 16th March. Drama, Music, Cooking (they all went home with a Pizza) and Painting were just some of the things that kept the Children occupied and having fun all day. Full use was made of all our new facilities, and it is hoped to repeat the day sometime in the future.

It is a bit early to be thinking about Christmas shoe boxes, but there will be a Shoe Box Supper on 29th June, when representatives from operation Christmas Child will be with us to explain what happens to the boxes when they leave here, and show slides of the Children receiving them, Watch this space for more details.

## 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](mailto:methodists@stansted.net)

All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated

## Services and preachers for May

5th	Kenneth Mark
12th	Rev'd Eral Kirby - Holy Communion
19th	Joan Kennett
26th	at 10.30am - Joint service at URC

Church meeting - Friday, 10th May at 8pm.

## SHALOM

### May meetings:

Monday, 13th A talk and discussion led by Rev'd Andrew Spurr at 4 Greenfields.  
Monday, 27th An evening with Caroline Martin at 7 Blythwood Gardens

All meetings start at 8pm and all are welcome

# Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

Christian Aid Week - 12th to 19th May



**Trade for Life** is the theme of this year's Christian Aid Week. Christian Aid believes that it should tackle the causes and symptoms of poverty and one way to do this is to change the trading rules. Once again the churches in Stansted will be contributing to Christian Aid Week by collecting house to house, holding a market and worshipping together.

We dare to pray:

Lord, let the world be changed,  
for we long to see the end of poverty;

We dare to pray:

Lord, let the rules be changed,  
for we long to see trade bring justice  
to the poor;

We dare to pray:

Lord, let our lives be changed,  
for we long to bring hope where good  
news is needed.

In the strength of your Spirit  
and inspired by your compassion,  
we make this promise to work for change,  
and wait confidently for the day  
when you make all things new.

**Sunday, 12th May 6.30pm;** there will be an **informal act of worship** and presentation in the Friends Meeting House. All are invited and as there will be a special prayer for collectors, we hope as many as possible will attend.

**Saturday, 18th May 10am. to 12 noon** there will be the usual **Market** at the Friends Meeting House. If anyone has articles for any of the stalls, please contact me for collection or bring along on the day. Plants, books, cakes, bric a brac (but no clothes), toys are all welcome.

**Sunday, 19th May 2-5pm.**

**Bridge the Gap** by joining the sponsored walk around the City, Southwark and Westminster.

There are three routes from 2 to 7 kilometres, though the routes are flexible and you can even take in a boat trip at a reduced price. If there are enough people going we can hire a coach as we did last year. The walk is followed by a thanksgiving service at Westminster Central Hall at 5.15pm.



See also p.15

Catherine Dean 813579



*Stansted Windmill  
Open Days  
2 - 6 pm*

Sunday 5th May  
Monday 6th May  
Sunday 12th May  
Sunday 2nd June  
Monday 3rd June

**Bentfield CP School  
Medieval May Fayre**  
2-5pm Sat 11th May  
Falconry Displays ~ Archery  
Maypole Dancing  
Greasy Pole Contests  
Medieval Fancy Dress ~ Stalls  
Refreshments ~ Grand Draw

**Stansted Village Association  
(formerly Stansted Carnival)**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

7 - 11 pm Saturday 11th May  
Mountfitchet School

Tickets £7 incl supper  
Teams: maximum of 8  
Licensed Bar ~ Raffle

Tel 812692 / 815904 / 815075

**VILLAGE EVENTS**

May

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
2	Thu	Local History AGM	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Sun	Windmill open St Mary's Church open	2 - 6 pm 2 - 5 pm
6	Mon	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
9	Thu	Carers' Support Group WI	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm
11	Sat	Plant Sale Lib Dem Ploughman's Medieval May Fayre Village Association Quiz	Fire Station 10 am - noon Day Centre noon - 2 pm Bentfield School 2 - 5 pm Mountfitchet School 7 - 11 pm
12	Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
13	Mon	Shalom Group	4 Greenfields 8 pm
14	Tue	Conservative Branch AGM	Parish Council Offices 8 pm
15	Wed	Mft Seniors Clothes Show	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
16	Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm
18	Sat	Christian Aid Market Green Waste Skip	Quaker Meeting House 10 am - noon Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm
19	Sun	Christian Aid Walk	See CTS article
25	Sat	Grand Sale & Teas	St John's Hall 2.30 pm
25	Sat - 26	Sun Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Park 7.30 am - 3 pm
27	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
31	Fri	School Party	St Mary's School
31	Fri - 1	Sat Singing in the Reign	Birchanger Village Hall 7.15 for 8 pm

June

1	Sat	PTA Tea Dance Music Club Soirée Jubilee Dance	Mountfitchet School 2.30 - 4.30 pm St John's Church 6 pm Mountfitchet School 8 pm
2	Sun	Windmill open St Mary's Church open Songs of Praise	2 - 6 pm 2 - 5 pm Recreation Ground 6 pm
3	Mon	Jubilee Pied Piper & Tea Jubilee Disco	As advertised 4 pm Recreation Ground 7 - 9 pm
4	Tue	Ploughman's Lunch	Windmill noon - 3 pm
5	Wed	Mft Seniors Jubilee Tea Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
8	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
13	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14	Fri	Hill Chilli	31 Chapel Hill 7 pm
15	Sat	Big Band Dance	Mountfitchet School 8 pm

**Christian Aid**  
We believe in life before death

**MARKET**

10.00 am - 12 noon  
Saturday 18th May  
Quaker Meeting House

Toys, books, bric-à-brac, Traidcraft,  
plants, cakes, refreshments

**St John's Church  
Grand Sale and  
Afternoon Teas**

2.30 pm Sat 25th May  
St John's Hall

Clothes ~ Bric-à-Brac  
Craft Stall & more

**Lots of Bargains**

To celebrate the Golden Jubilee  
**Singing in the Reign**

A comical look at Queen Elizabeth II's  
50 years as sovereign  
by the same team who produced  
the VE & Millennium Revues

**7.15 for 8 pm  
Friday 31st May  
Saturday 1st 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)

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

# 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

3<sup>RD</sup> 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 Pensioners

2.30 - 4.30 pm  
Saturday 1st June  
Mountfitchet School

*Teas - Band  
Free Admission*

## Jubilee Dance

8pm Sat 1st June  
Mountfitchet School

Bangers & Mash Supper  
Bar ~ Raffle  
Admission £10



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

## Dancing through the Ages to the Big Band

8 pm Sat 15th June  
Mountfitchet School  
Supper ~ Bar ~ Raffle  
Admission £10



## 10K JUBILEE FUN RUN & WALK

Bentfield Grn 11am Sun 23rd 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



# STANSTED FUN RUN

STANSTED

**Jubilee 10K Fun Run  
Sunday 23rd June  
11 am from Bentfield Green**

Plans for this year's run are now under way, and as usual we are now asking for volunteers to help us on the day. We need helpers with the barbecue, water points, registering runners, stewarding the route and general help. If you are able to offer a couple of hours on the 23rd June, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Our new website is now up and running - from [www.stansted.net](http://www.stansted.net) follow the links to Fun Run 2002.

Entry forms are available on the website, but forms will also be distributed to all previous entrants during May, and a form will be included as an insert in the June edition of the Link. There will also be a supply of entry forms in my porch from mid-May.

Entry fees are Adults £7 in advance (£8 on the day) and Children £3 in advance and on the day.

In addition to the winners' prizes, all completers will receive a souvenir jubilee medal.

Marion Dyer  
7 Blythwood Gardens,  
Stansted  
Tel: 814059  
email: [funrun@stansted.net](mailto:funrun@stansted.net)

**STANSTED  
CONSERVATIVES**



### Forthcoming Events

#### Social Events

Sunday, 2nd June

Jubilee Drinks Party  
12.00 – 2.00pm  
"Brambles"  
St. John's Road  
Stansted

#### Meetings

Tuesday, 15th May

Stansted Branch General Meeting  
8.00pm  
Parish Council Office

#### Contacts

Cllr. Richard Wallace 812588  
Sian Lloyd 07966 195385 or  
email: [sianlloyds@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sianlloyds@yahoo.co.uk)



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Members Day, March 7th meeting, began with the handing over by the Society's project team of their Millennium Village Photograph albums to the Chairman of the Parish Council. There followed in true tradition a most enjoyable and informative evening of members' presentations: Mr Hollis casting off with "Fly Fishing" telling of some believable tales and exhibiting items associated with his subject; Margaret Sylvester recalling some memories of Captain Stephens & Smith of their association with the Mission Hall in Stoney Field Common, Birchanger and Stansted. Mr Thistle told of the "D-Day Crossword" where clues and solutions when solved were found to be of particular interest. Mr Harrison gave memories of National Service call up day and an interesting sight of associated duties and places of service. Mr Pretty concluded the evening with "Starting a Cub Pack" which certainly brought many memories to several members of their own happy days spent being associated with such movements and now can only marvel at the time and patience shown by such leaders. The meeting's sincere thanks are extended to all speakers.

If you would like to speak at next year's members day on your chosen subject (approximately 10 minutes) please let it be known to a committee member who will be only too pleased to book a place for you. Beat the rush by not leaving it too late!

April's programme had to be re-directed towards a more local area where Mr Field, our speaker, presented a most fascinating evening when he told of "Sitting on the Fence" which entailed some wonderful memories and stories in and around the Hatfield Forest area.

Our final meeting for this season is on 2nd May, being the AGM, and when business is concluded Peter Sanders will present "Stansted Celebrates" Royal Occasions. Please bring with you any associated memorabilia.

Peter Brown



**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

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email: [philip@grahamschoolofdance.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:philip@grahamschoolofdance.fsnet.co.uk)

# Uttlesford District Council Report

## Planning Consents

Planning is the district council service that causes the most emotion and general interest. In many ways it is a "no win" service. If the applicant is successful, the neighbours are often unhappy. All of Uttlesford's services are being put under the microscope. Planning is next to be looked at, and Alan Dean is on the review team. The idea is to assess whether the service meets your needs at the right price.

One weakness that is clear before the review starts is that Uttlesford has never properly monitored whether the conditions that it imposes on planning permissions are met. They have relied on neighbours to complain. A current case in West Road has exposed this.

If you have any suggestions about how the planning service should be improved, do let Alan Dean know.

## Public Participation in the Planning Process

For a trial period of six months commencing 1st July 2002 applicants and objectors will be allowed to address the Development Control and Licensing committee. Meetings are held in Dunmow. The applicant's agent and all those making representations will be notified by letter of the opportunity to speak as soon as the Agenda and Schedule of Applications is finalised. The letter will be sent from John Mitchell, Head of Planning and Building Surveying. Those wishing to speak should let Committee Services know by 5pm on the Friday before the meeting which takes place normally on a Monday afternoon.

Speaking will be limited to two minutes by the applicant and two minutes for views for and against but may on occasion be extended equitably subject to the discretion of the Chairman. Where there is more than one person wishing to speak they should agree a representative amongst themselves.

Allowing the public to speak at planning meetings is a welcome move and is one of the recommendations made by the Improvement and Development Agency team last year.

## Parish Boundary Review

The Council is currently considering parish boundaries. Geoffrey Sell is serving as a member of the working group. The major difficulties in this area lie in the existing boundary between the parishes of Birchanger and Stansted. There are two matters that need to be resolved, one short-term in nature, and the other long-term. The short-term problem concerns development off Stoney Common Road that has overshot the Birchanger boundary. The long-term matter concerns the Rochford Nurseries site on which development is scheduled to commence shortly. This major development is bisected by the parish boundary.

The Working Group has recommended that the following properties be transferred from Birchanger to Stansted

14-26 Rochford Close  
14-15 Stoney Place  
1-15 Brook View, Stoney Common

Assuming the recommendations are accepted, they will come into force in time for the council elections in May 2003. Geoffrey Sell is pleased that these anomalies have been resolved and that your District Councillor's representations have been successful.

Councillor Alan Dean      Councillor Geoffrey Sell  
Tel: 01279 813 579      Tel: 01279 815925  
Email:  
cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

## Essex County Council

Following February's Report which outlined the news of Council Tax increases, it seems sensible this month to give some information on what the County is doing to manage the problems caused by flooding and excess water, so readers may know that the Council Tax is being spent wisely and for their benefit.

As many will know, Essex, as a County, has always had a flood problem, though flooding has been from the sea and not from the inland water systems. As a result, the County has spent, for many years, some millions of pounds annually developing and repairing the sea flood defences. Following the floods of recent years in the areas of the Roding and Lea Valleys, to name only two, the County has begun to revise their plans and to set up a larger Committee to meet the increased need, to manage the inland flood warning systems, to liaise with the various agencies directly concerned with waterways and drainage and to develop the legal activities of the Council to put pressure on those landowners who fail to maintain or clear their land drainage systems, so in the future the floods engendered by the increased rainfall are led away safely into the existing water courses.

The Committee has many years of work in front of it if it is to meet and overcome the many problems, but at least work is in hand to achieve a successful outcome.

To support this work, readers are asked to take note of this and to assist by noting and reporting to their Parish Councils ditches and drains which are presently blocked or obstructed and so prevent a free flow of water in the event of heavy rain. Nowadays there are insufficient funds available to fund such work to be carried out by Council and District staff. It is therefore for Parishioners and residents to provide the eyes and information to enable remedial work to be done in good time.

Should any readers wish to know more about this subject, they should telephone the undersigned on 01279-812588.

Richard Wallace  
County Councillor  
Stansted Division

## THE TALL SHIPS RACE



Dear Friends,

We are writing to ask you for your help in raising money for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – the Tall Ships Race. We are a group of local lads from Stansted Youth Centre Coffee Bar and we have been offered places as crew aboard 'Duet' to sail in the second leg of the race.

This race is world renowned as a challenging and highly rewarding event for all those with the courage and commitment to participate. It will involve a good deal of physical effort and teamwork; and a commitment to fund raising in the months before we set sail, as we need to raise a total of £6,000. Our boat, 'Duet', is a 74-foot Edwardian Gaff racer/cruiser. She has been involved in the Tall Ships Race a number of times before and won the combined races in 1998 and 1999. She will be staffed by 4 qualified leaders and 5 young volunteers. Those volunteers will be us!

We and our leaders feel that this is too good an opportunity to miss as we can gain a lot of skills and experience from it. We have to raise all the money ourselves as part of the project so we will need to learn communication and listening skills, how to work as a team and co-operate with different kinds of people, how to raise money and how to organise events for the community to enjoy.

As part of the crew of 'Duet' we will learn how to sail a Tall Ship, how to use compasses and maps for navigation, how to tie different sailors' knots, how to keep the boat safe and hygienic, how to cook for a crew of 9 people on a boat and how to work as a team. We will need to follow orders from the Skipper, work together, listen and communicate well, take care of each other and be responsible for our actions. These are all skills that will help us in our future careers and in the rest of our lives.

These two weeks will be the adventure of a lifetime for us and will change us in lots of ways. Many people think negative things about young people but we want to use this chance we have been offered to show you that we can do something positive to put Stansted on the map. The fund raising will give us lots to do and keep us very busy. We and our Leaders would value your support as we have a long way to go to achieve our goal. Please support us in our events when they are advertised. If you would be prepared to give us a donation, look out for our collection boxes or write to us at;

**The Stansted Youth Centre Coffee Bar**  
Lower Street

Stansted

Essex

or

c/o The Rev'd Rhys Martin

43 Gilbey Crescent

Stansted

Essex

CM24 8DT

Cheques should be made payable to 'SY2000'

Thank you in advance for your help.

Yours Sincerely,

Kevin, Richard, Kirk, Alex and Peter

## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB



At the April meeting of the Club, members were enthralled by the magnificent slides taken, and shown by Dr Peter Brandham on his visit to Yellowstone National Park in the United States. The photography and his description of the hot springs and lakes, mountains and flowers, left everyone wanting more.

After coffee there followed a short Annual General Meeting, when Cyril Stoneham was elected Chairman for 2002/03, with David Harrison as Vice Chairman and Sheila Bowles as Treasurer, with Meg Monaghan, Monica Dedman, Evelyn Morgan, Gordon Fuller, Wilf Wood on the Committee. David Williams continues as President of the Club. The competition cup for 2001/02 was won by David and Dorothy Harrison.

The 20th Spring show was held on 6th April, when just on 200 Horticultural entries were judged by Mr Pierce, an R.H.S. specialist Daffodil judge.

Prize winners were as follows,

Best Exhibit ~ Gordon Fuller

Best Bloom ~ Cyril Stoneham

Maud Banks Tankard for Vegetables ~ David Harrison

Daffodil Society Bronze Medal ~ Brian Townsend

Oldfield Shield ~ Brian Townsend

Committee Shield ~ Brian Townsend

The winners of the Children's classes, Flowers in an Eggcup were Sophie Williams and Lauren Wesley

The next meeting will be on 1st May at 8pm in the Day Centre, and the subject will be "A year in the life of Anglesey Abbey". See you there.

Janet Townsend

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

Routine Chiropody, Verrucae, Corns  
and Nail Disorders

**07626 414431**

# Stansted Profile No 45

## Ken and Dawn Lidster

Many Stansted families will know either Ken or Dawn (or both) as they have been involved with children's and young people's activities since they came to Stansted 25 years ago. Dawn has taught at a number of schools in the area and has been very active with both Brownies and Guides. Ken has only recently given up as leader of the Stansted Cub Scouts and still keeps the connection as Assistant to the present leader. Their enthusiasm and liveliness must be a great attraction to children of whatever age.

Dawn was born and brought up in N. Buckinghamshire and, against the family's tradition of working in the railway, she went to Teacher Training College in Stockwell and qualified as an infant teacher.

Ken is from Chingford and, although most of his working life has been as a fireman, he started off as a glass blower for a scientific instruments firm in Hatton Garden. After working in engineering for a while he joined the Ministry of Defence Fire Service and was based at the former gunpowder factory at Waltham Abbey. It was while he was running a Youth Club at Leytonstone that he met Dawn - one of her fellow students was a member of his club.

They were married 31 years ago and before moving to Stansted lived in Enfield where their elder son Tony was born. Jamie was born soon after they moved to Stansted and still lives at home and works for Mark Davall as a mobile motorcycle repairer.

Tony went to college in Wolverhampton and now works in Birmingham as part of a computer firm's technical support team and lives in a converted farmhouse on the Welsh border.

Dawn worked as a supply teacher while the children were young - in Stansted and a number of villages and towns round about, then later taught full-time in Harlow. It was soon after their move to Stansted that she heard that the Brownie Pack was looking for a leader and her early experience of both Brownies and Guides made her ideal for the job. She got involved with Guides as well a little later and working with them both has been a lifelong interest and activity. She has given her time and energy unstintingly to the Movement.

After a few years with the Ministry of Defence, Ken joined the Essex Fire Service and was based at Loughton until his retirement last year. During his long service he has had very varied experiences, but has not had any serious injuries - only cuts, bruises and singed eyebrows!

He became leader of the Cub Scouts in Stansted many years ago and the Group now has a membership of 26/27 boys. He has taken them camping once a year and often took the older boys on more adventurous excursions as well - for example, climbing/canoeing in Derbyshire.

As a family most of their holidays have involved camping, walking in the hills and outdoor pursuits. When Ken retired he received the formal Essex Fire Service presentation gift, but as well as that his colleagues gave him fly-fishing gear as his son has the fishing rights on the river running through his land. This was a new venture for Ken - not too successful so far, just one trout! He still keeps in touch with his former colleagues and joins many of their social activities.



Ken and Dawn's present 'project' - as they call it - is the complete renovation (or almost re-building) of a derelict property in Wolverhampton. Apart from the re-roofing they are doing all the work themselves - plumbing, re-flooring, plastering, decorating, etc., and hope to have the house available for letting to students by September this year. I think the students can rest assured they will have a very secure home.

Although they have lived in Stansted very happily for many years and have no immediate plans to move, they would like eventually to head for the hills. A very understandable longing, but Stansted would certainly miss this lively and friendly couple.

Katherine Hurford

## 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, 814440. I have taken over from Wilf Woods.





## STANSTED JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB

## Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices  
Crafton Green  
Tel 813214  
Fax 813964

We are a group of 29 youngsters (boys and girls) aged 9–15 years.

**Training:** Summer, starts 5th May  
10.45am(prompt) to 12.45pm  
The Cricket Ground  
Hargrave Park  
Stansted

**Matches:** 2 teams fielded: U/12 and U/15  
in the Bardfield League.

Matches are played on Mondays and Wednesdays  
6.15pm onwards home and away.

Help is required transporting the boys to and from matches and once a season you will be required to organise a tea for a home match generally hotdogs/sandwiches/donuts/biscuits (costs paid from match fees).

**Costs:** Club Membership (insurance costs) £5.00 per annum  
Match Fees £1.00 per game  
Training - Summer Free

**Qualified Coaches:**  
Keith Ayres, Chief Coach, Tel: 814471  
Conor McCullaugh  
Simon Marriott

**Queries and concerns:**  
Gill Pursglove, Treasurer, Tel 814701  
Sandra Ayres, Fundraising and Admin,  
Tel 814471

We always need more people to help with fundraising events.

The boys have gone on tour to Weymouth for the last three years and are off again in July.

Each July/August we organise a Fun Day with Boys -v- Parents matches plus a Bar-Be-Que lunch and afternoon tea; this has always been great fun.

Boys are invited to join us for three visits before deciding if they wish to join.



### Daffodils

We were fortunate to have a super display of daffodils around our open spaces this year. However, there is always a down side to this success, which is that our grass cutting is affected if the flowers are left for too long and we receive numerous complaints about the untidy state of the village. To this end, members have reviewed the planting policy and have decided only to plant in large areas, which will then not be cut until well after the daffodils have died off. Many of you may have seen the triangle opposite the pond at Bentfield Green which was planted courtesy of our contractors last autumn.

Many people were sad to see the daffodils cut so early this year, and felt justified in complaining to our contractor. He was working on instruction from the Council and we would ask that if parishioners are unhappy about things, they contact us in the first instance. We felt that it was necessary to avoid the grass cutting problems which form, by far, the majority of complaints each year. Rest assured that more areas will be planted in the autumn to provide displays for next year.

### Golden Jubilee

The various Jubilee events are set out on pp 6 and 7 and we hope that they will all receive your support. If we hear at the last minute of other events we will attempt to include them as 'Stop Press', but in any event please check on the various notice boards. We are aware that street parties may be taking place for which residents in those roads have been advised. Let us all make it a thoroughly memorable time!

If you know of any other events taking place, please let us know as soon as possible.

Ruth Clifford  
Clerk  
813214



## STANSTED & DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS.

Our next Ploughman's Lunches are on Saturday 11th May and Saturday 8th June at the Stansted Day Centre, noon to 2 p.m. All are welcome.

The next social event is a Treasure Hunt and Tea Party at Berden at 3 p.m. on Sunday 23rd June. Please ring 813432 or 814222 for details.

Ruth Rawlinson



## Nature Notes

The cuckoo is said to sing from St Tiburtius' Day (14th April) to St. John's Day (24th June). It will certainly have arrived by now from its winter quarters in southern Africa. It is a nocturnal migrant, setting off about half an hour after sunset and flying through the night. It lands at dawn, unless flying over water, and roosts until ready to take off again.

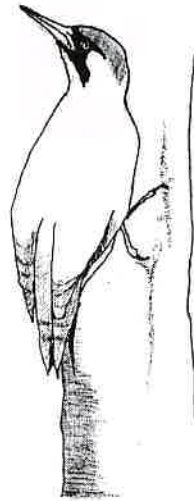
It is the male bird that calls the familiar 'cuckoo'. The female has a long babbling chuckle. Her parasitic nesting habits are well known. (Interestingly, two North American species of cuckoo breed normally.) During May, she searches for a suitable nest in which to lay her single egg and for some reason chooses a bird that is much smaller; reed warblers, dunnocks, meadow pipits and robins are often the unwilling recipients of the cuckoo's egg. This sometimes matches those of the host bird in markings and in fact clans of cuckoos have developed which lay eggs mimicking those of the host.

The cuckoo egg hatches very early, generally before the foster parents' eggs. The cuckoo fledgling's first task is to push these redundant eggs out of the nest, thus ensuring its own survival. Although she lays only one egg in a nest, the cuckoo can lay up to fifteen eggs in a season, each in a different nest.

Adult cuckoos leave their breeding grounds in July and August, but the young set off on their first flight to Africa a month or more after their natural parents have departed. Even though they have been brought up by foster parents of a different species, they are genetically programmed to find their way to a destination that is unknown to them.

Just as the cuckoo's distinctive call proclaims its presence, so does the raucous laughing cry of the green woodpecker, also known as the 'yaffle'. You can hear them calling in the woods round Stansted and perhaps catch sight of them, but as they also like open ground you will also see them in clearings or even on lawns. The green woodpecker is the largest of the three resident British woodpeckers, all of which can be seen in this area.

Its two relations, the great spotted and the rarer lesser spotted woodpeckers, announce themselves in spring by their drumming (something the green woodpecker seldom does). Both species establish their territory by drumming on old dry trees or telegraph poles. This drumming is extremely rapid; 8 - 12 blows per second by the great spotted and 15 blows per second by the lesser spotted. (Their skulls are specially constructed to withstand the hammering.) Not only does the sound announce the woodpeckers' territory to other males, it also attracts the females.



All three woodpeckers use their powerful bills to excavate a nesting hole in a tree. They bore horizontally into the trunk and then chisel a shaft down the centre. The hole is not lined and the eggs are laid straight onto the woody surface of the cavity. Generally, woodpeckers make a new nest each year. They can also excavate holes outside the breeding season; they use these for shelter from extreme cold.

Rosina Kirkwood

## Stansted Tennis Club



### Annual General Meeting

This took place on Monday March 18th and was well attended. The current committee were returned unopposed and the new subscriptions for the 2002/3 season were adopted.

### Junior coaching

Chris Hollis has recently started junior lessons on Monday and Thursday evenings as well as the usual Saturday mornings. A match practice session is also underway on Tuesday evenings for the older juniors. The lessons are now virtually at full capacity. If you would like to find out more details, please call Chris on 01279 319155.

### Sweatshirts/T-shirts

We are having these produced in various shades and sizes with the STC (Stansted Tennis Club) logo on. If you are interested in ordering, please see the Club noticeboard.

### Date for your diary

This year the Boyd Tournament will be a special Golden Jubilee tournament, so if you would like to play on Sunday 12th May, please put your name down on the Club noticeboard.

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

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



We have had some fantastic news this term in that St Mary's has been awarded a grant from the National Grid for Learning. Craig Arbuckle, who is the Year 5 teacher, completed a lengthy proposal explaining why the school should qualify, and as a result of his hard work St Mary's has been awarded a grant of £2500. This has enabled him to purchase two lap top computers and a data projector for the benefit of the children, with a small shortfall being made up from PTFA funds.

Granny and Grandad's day on 15th March was a huge success, and over 100 Grandparents arrived at the school to be shown around by their grandchildren in Reception and Years 1 and 2. They were able to tour the school and look at the children's work and then enjoyed cakes and a cup of tea in the hall. The adults then completed a challenging quiz whilst the children changed for the Grand Finale, a musical production of the Musicians of Bremen. Despite the pressure of a sea of attentive faces, the children performed beautifully, the actors were superb and the roof was raised by the enthusiastic singing. It was a wonderful day, which was hugely enjoyed by the attending Grandparents, thanks to the hard work of the class teachers and the children.

Friday the 12th April saw a snail trail organised by the school council in Year 6, this was an enormous spiral of loose change donated by the families and friends of St Mary's children. This successful venture raised enough to re-mark the netball courts and buy sports equipment such as Kwik cricket balls, tennis balls, soft balls and a football pump.

The PTFA organised a lively Easter Disco just before the end of term, which not only saw dancing, but games such as throwing bean bags in the rabbits burrow, and smashing a huge sweet filled Pinata in the shape of an Easter Egg. There were some excellent and truly imaginative entries for the decorated egg competition, and a great time was had by all. The event was covered by The Observer and raised roughly £300 which will go towards IT equipment for the school.

St Mary's is supporting The Healthy School Project, and a Healthy Eating Fortnight started on the 15th April. During the first week, Tesco helped us by kindly contributing fruit, including exotic fruit for the children to try during their breaks; there were some interesting tastes, and fruits that we had seen before. Certificates were awarded to those who brought a healthy snack to school during the second week. Children (and parents!) were encouraged to walk to school and classroom projects focused on health education and healthy lifestyles and included guest speakers. There was also a sponsored run around the field, which parents were invited to join. It is hoped that these activities will encourage a positive attitude to health and eating habits for the future and, with children this well informed, many parents were quizzed about the nutritional content of their meals over the fortnight!

A reminder of the Uniform Sale, which is Thursday, 2nd May after school, where there will be good quality clothing at bargain prices. If anyone has any uniform items or PE kit they can donate, the school office will happily relieve you of it! We are also looking forward to our Golden Jubilee party on 31st May.

Finally Good Luck to all St Mary's children who are taking tests during May, especially Years 2 and 6 who are sitting their Key Stage 1 and 2 SATs.

Nicki Kelly  
PTFA Vice-chair



Hello again.

We've had a busy Spring Term looking at colours around us. We ended by making Easter cards, bunnies and holding an Easter egg hunt.

This term the theme is Summertime. We're planting seeds, learning about the weather and going on outings (weather permitting!).

Due to an increase in numbers we now have an extra member of staff each day. As well as having new 2½ year olds entering our Pre-school Nursery, parents are deciding to keep their 4 year olds with us instead of sending them into Primary School so early so they can gain extra confidence and skills with a greater adult to child ratio.

Last term we raised over £500 by holding a quiz night and Auntie Karen doing a sponsored slim. Well done Karen and to all those who supported us. We will be purchasing new equipment with the money raised.

We shall be holding a Queen's Golden Jubilee Concert on Friday 31st May at 11.00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Sideways Staff

## Integral Yoga

Ugley Village Hall

Mondays 7.30pm-9.00pm  
Saturdays 10.00am-11.30am

Enquiries to Tom Newstead (Dhira)  
Tel: 07900 654227

Private Classes Available





# Stansted Evening Women's Institute

In her talk on Fashion, Style and Beauty, Shirley Foster told members at the March meeting how to look after their skin and body and what we should eat. The supplements we can take help our bodies as the food we now eat contains at least 25% less goodness than it did years ago. She said that three balanced meals a day are essential, also plenty of exercise and sufficient rest. A positive mental attitude also helps. We were reminded that sun, central heating and air conditioning will dry out our skins. In the fashion part of her talk she showed us pictures of how clothes can make a person look fatter or thinner.

At our April meeting Paul Stevens, a true Romany gypsy, gave members an interesting and amusing talk on his life on the road with his family. He now lives with his wife who is not a Romany at Kirby Cross near Frinton. Paul raises funds for the Essex Air Ambulance with his talks and by opening his garden on June 29th. He told us how gypsies, having originated in northern India about 1000 AD, travelled through Europe leaving groups of their people in countries as they went. They arrived in England in 1547 where it was a capital offence to live as gypsies do. Through this they developed their own language. When they first arrived people thought they were from Egypt, hence the name. He said there are no gypsies in China or Japan and no Romanys in Ireland.

His life as a child was spent working on farms, living outdoors all day, only going into the caravan at night to sleep. A cooking pot was always kept on the go. It would be started off with any weeds found, then potatoes and cauliflowers "borrowed" from the farmer and then any animal that ran or flew with the exception of rats, mice and owls. This pot would be kept going for weeks. Gypsies are the best poachers in the world and very rarely caught by the police. The greatest delicacy is hedgehog which was always given to the children under 10 years as it was thought to be good for them. The fat from the hedgehog is rubbed into the hair to give it lustre. You never see a bald gypsy! The eating of hedgehog doesn't happen now.

At the age of 12 the girls take over the running of the home to prepare them for marriage. At 13 the boys are told the facts of life which, of course, they already know. They usually marry at 18 after only a week's engagement and the wedding, conducted by the Elder of the group, would take place on a farm where they were working, inviting the farmer and his wife who would bring the iced wedding cake. The birth of a child would take place in the open to let the spirit go free. The death of a gypsy would also take place in the open on a bed of straw under cover where they would be made comfortable, then they would be buried in a coffin in their best clothes together with a knife, fork, plate, spoon and cup. They would be buried after dark near the edge of a

field, their van and all possessions would be burnt and the ashes scattered on their grave. No deaths or births are registered. The remaining family would then live with others and within a few weeks they would be given a new van and no payment asked for. Gypsies never use our doctors as they have their own healers. Paul is a herbalist himself and has his own secret remedies. He was thanked by Mrs Wilkinson.

During business members were reminded about the Spring Group Meeting to be held at Newport, the speaker being Jeremy Spake of 'Airport' fame. We will be doing the flowers and organising the competition.

A number of members will be going on a guided tour to the Drury Lane Theatre and to see a production being performed.

Our next meeting in May is when we discuss Resolutions which delegates will then vote on at our June I.G.M. when Mrs Ryan will represent our W.I. and three others. After these discussions members will be entertained by the committee with funny pieces brought back from Denman College. We will also have one of our trading stalls of plants and any other items members wish to sell.

Brenda Ryan  
812725



## St Clare Hospice

Celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee in style at

**The Queen's Golden Jubilee Dinner**  
on Friday, 7th June  
at 7.30 pm for 8pm

Tickets at £30 each for a four course meal, sparkling wine reception and entertainment are available from the St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, Essex, telephone 01279 413590. Black tie and formal dress.

### A LOOK BACK TO GOOD FRIDAY

The Good Friday Project at St. John's Church took a new direction this year. Some 120 children enacted scenes from a modern version of a mediaeval Mystery Play beginning with a procession involving narrative and responses by the children. There were three scenes depicting the Garden of Gethsemane, the Trial, and the Appearance to Mary in the Garden. The Crucifixion was represented through a dance sequence, while recorders and percussion provided music between the scenes.

In the evening there was a United Procession of Witness from St. Therese's Church to St. John's for Stations of the Cross, which included participation by clergy and people.



## Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch



## Royal British Legion Women's Section

**“They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old”**

The opening words of the Royal British Legion Exhortation, words that are, sadly, only too true. Those that are left **are** growing old; at 65, I am one of the youngest members of the local Branch, (and I include the Women's Section in this ) and at present see no one younger coming up to take over from our Committees.

The Legion is not about a load of old codgers staggering down the road once a year to the War Memorial, then sitting in a corner of the local pub telling war stories! Nor indeed is it a means of getting a cheap pint in a British Legion Club. No, the Legion is a Caring Charity, looking after the needs of disabled ex servicemen, women and their dependants, men and women who served their country in its hours of need, not just in two world wars, but in numerous conflicts since - Korea, The Gulf, Falklands, just to name a few, and now, even as I write, Afghanistan. **Who** is going to look after those when we are gone?

I find it hard to credit that there are in the Stansted area no ex-servicemen or women from the 70s, 80s, 90s, 2000 or 2001. **None** who have seen or heard of comrades killed or injured in action! **None** who care enough about the disabled or the dependants of those who died to give a few hours of their time to help support them.

**Do not** let The Royal British Legion in the Stansted area fade away: the proverbial 'old soldier' does not in fact do so, he or she needs your help, which you can do by joining us. Even if you are not ex-service or the wife or child of an ex-serviceman, but care, you can become an associate member, or even just spend an hour or so a year collecting for the Poppy Appeal.

If **YOU** wish to join, or can help with the Poppy Appeal please contact one of those named below.

### Contacts:

Bob Stoddart - 814015  
Harold Thistle - 813250  
John Segar - 813289  
Janet Hollis - 812073  
Cath Whall - 813880

David Challis, (Tel: 815183)  
Chairman, Stansted & District  
Branch,  
The Royal British Legion

After normal business at our branch meeting we enjoyed a Quiz, hosted by Bessie and based on names of towns and cities in the UK. Winners were Margaret, Doris and Pat. We then drew a generous raffle - with a prize for every member present !

Our coffee morning on 10th April raised £263. Our thanks to all those who so generously supported us.

Our next branch meeting will be on Thursday, 16th May in the Day Centre at 7.30pm.

Pat Clower



On June 29th we shall be holding a Barn Dance, details of which will be in the June Link.

Spring has sprung and summer can't be far behind: this must mean 'Open Gardens'. This will be on Sunday 14th July from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. We are very happy to have several gardens at each end of the village plus a surprise in the middle! There will be 14 gardens including 5 new ones. Make a note in your diary, **14th July**, and come and have a lovely afternoon at the same time as supporting our local cancer charity. Refreshments will be available.

Any queries phone Sue Hitchmough, 814265.

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



Sadly we have decided this year not to hold the Carnival, as there are several Jubilee events that are being held. We do not wish to compete with these and several of the usual attractions cannot make the date we had provisionally set.

We are willing and able to lend a hand to groups holding events if required and the Carnival "kit" is available for use if someone should need any part of it (barbecue, awnings, water carriers, industrial generator). Just ring one of the numbers below if you need to borrow something or need assistance with your event. Please give us enough notice as possible.

Our Car Boot Sale was again well supported and we hope to build on this success in future so clear out those garages and lofts!

We are holding our annual Quiz Night and this will be on 11th May 2002. It is always a very popular event and we hope that people will support it to the same extent in this Jubilee year. Tickets are £7 per person, which includes food. A licensed Bar will be available and there will be a raffle.

Teams of maximum 8 people are welcome but you don't have to bring a team of 8 people. If you want to come along but can't get a team up just let us know by calling any of the numbers below and we will try to put you in touch with others to make up a team.

**Book now to avoid disappointment!!!!** You can book by calling 815904 812692 or 815075. There will be changes to the normal format to make things a little more interesting!! You don't have to be Einstein to compete! We are hoping that all the teams will be in with a chance of winning right up to the very last questions!!

We are hoping that the singers who were extremely vocal at the Music Quiz in November will return and give us a suitable impromptu rendition this time (Land of hope and glory? God save the Queen?). Get practising! We are supporting the efforts of the village youngsters who, under the guidance of our curate, Rhys Martin, are going to be taking part in the Tall Ships Race in July and we hope that you will help support them by supporting us. We are also continuing to give financial support to the Carnival Trust Fund.

We would dearly like to see some additional faces on the committee. If you want to be involved please ring one of the above numbers. Our thanks to Duncan Swallow, our fire-eater, who has resigned from the committee as he is moving away. Does anyone in the Village do anything equally as exciting and would be prepared to do it for local good causes?

Simon Clifford

This month we'd like to invite anyone (parent or carer) with babies, toddlers or pre-schoolers to join us at our Open House. This is being held at 10am at the Crafton Green Day Centre in Stansted on Wednesday 15th May. Admission is free, with a small charge for refreshments. Come along to find out more about the NCT and to peruse the items on sale from local traders. There will be toys for the children and a warm welcome for the grown-ups.

Another event for your diaries, if you are pregnant or have a young baby, is the Pregnancy, Birth and Baby Exhibition being hosted by the Bishop's Stortford NCT. This is on Saturday 18th May from 1pm to 4pm at the Arrows Electronics Building on Edinburgh Way, Harlow. There will be various speakers as well as companies and individuals exhibiting their products and services, from baby sleeping bags to baby massage. For more information call 08707 65 56 28.

As usual we shall be out and about with our little ones, with a forest walk, messy play, ride on toys and a pub lunch, to name but a few. Our monthly Music Time session is proving popular with all ages and local bumps and new babies will be getting together too. (If you have a bump or new baby and would like an invitation, please speak to Wendy on 813387).

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. For antenatal class bookings and enquiries, call 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 and the local branch is run by local parents for local parents. You do not have to be a member to come along to any of our activities, although joining helps to fund our core work.

Tracy Todman





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

### **Memories of Meals-on-Wheels in Stansted 1960 -2002**

When I moved to Stansted in 1960 I was visited by two rather grand ladies, Mrs. Mary Page and Mrs. Owen -Hughes. They asked me if I would help with the delivery of Meals on Wheels in the village. I was much too over-awed and nervous to say no. I muttered that I was expecting a baby but that did not excuse me. Consequently, for many years, the children came with me and when they started to drive they sometimes delivered the meals by themselves, despite once being bitten by a dog while serving a meal ! Mary Rozze still asks "How are the boys ?"- the eldest is now 40!

In those days, Meals on Wheels were under the aegis of the WRVS. and were delivered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We collected the freshly-cooked food from the primary school canteen, now the school car park next to St John's Church or from the Mounifitchet High School Kitchen. The meals, in individual metal containers, were kept warm in big metal boxes known as hot-locks They were heated by charcoal burning in a small box, that was inserted into a compartment in the "hot-lock". We served up the meals to the recipients and then had to take the containers back to our homes to wash-up. It was quite a task to deal with dried-up gravy and congealed custard!

A fairly complicated rota of volunteers had to be prepared annually and initially I did this with Barbara Gawen. It was always a very pleasant evening at their home, with Angus, Barbara's husband, bringing in refreshments. Angus, now in his nineties is, I suspect, a very reluctant recipient of Meals on Wheels, as were my own Mother and Aunt.

In 1983 the Day Centre opened and we changed to frozen meals organised by Betty Little and subsequently by Iris Wood. What a relief, - no more containers to wash-up ! At this point Uttlesford District Council took over from the WRVS. We were then asked to deliver meals on 4 days, Monday to Thursday - two rounds and lots more volunteers, but that was never a problem, people always came forward. At one point, it was proposed by Uttlesford, that as meals were to be delivered every day of the year, volunteers would be replaced by "paid drivers". The volunteers were somewhat offended and fortunately, were re-instated when it was realised that they were indispensable and saved Uttlesford a great deal of money!

Over the 42 years I know about, literally hundreds of volunteers have been involved as drivers, assistants and reserves. In later years several men have been on the list, something that would have been unheard of in 1960. Dare I say, it was considered women's work!

There have been dramas with people found in difficulties or missing, sometimes at the Pub! but really very few. It has been a truly wonderful service in the village made possible by these marvellous volunteers, who have loved helping, often way beyond just delivering a meal. They have helped people in many other ways but above all giving the continuity of genuine friendship.

Sadly, this era of Meal on Wheels came to an end on 1st April 2002. It was deemed by the "authorities" that all meals were to be delivered in liveried vans by paid drivers in uniforms who had passed a test in Health & Safety. The meals will be heated in the vans in transit and, periodically, their temperature will be taken by the driver.

Meals will no longer be prepared at Stansted Day Centre, but only at Dunmow and Saffron Walden.

History has gone full circle and the contract for this arrangement was, ironically won by the Women's Royal "Voluntary" Service.

A splendid lunch was laid on at the Day Centre by Uttlesford to thank the current volunteers in the area and each one was presented with a very grand certificate.

Iris Wood has played an enormous part in Meals on Wheels in Stansted. She is an impeccable organiser and always courteous, cheerful and professional. We all loved being involved with her and will greatly miss our close contact with her. She was presented with a lovely china bowl for which she would very much like to thank all the volunteers. I was given a very generous voucher and a lovely basket of flowers for which I also thank everybody most sincerely. We are both so grateful for the incredible support you have all given us over so many years.

The new system must work. I just hope it works as well. It is called "Progress" - I wonder

Janet Hollis

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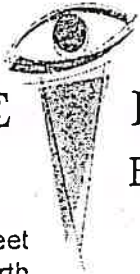
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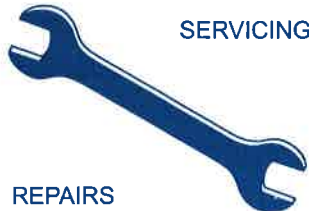
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