

November 2002

The LINK



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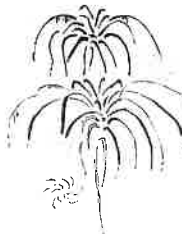
Saturday 2nd November

**VILLAGE
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&
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Elms Farm
Church Road

- 6.30 pm gates open
- 7.00 pm bonfire
- 7.30 pm fireworks



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Children £1

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REFRESHMENTS

Sunday 10th November

**AN ACT
OF
REMEMBRANCE**

Laying of Wreaths
10.45 am Memorial Garden

United Service
11 am St John's Church

They shall not grow
old as we that are
left grow old

Age shall not weary
them nor the years
condemn

At the going down
of the sun and in
the morning we will
remember them



The Link (price £3.50 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted

Advertising enquiries Tel 01279 812797

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 14th November for publication on 30th November

by 5th December for publication on 28th December

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 6pm
Sunday 9am and 10.30am
Holy Days of Obligation 8am and 8pm
Tuesday - Saturday 9.30am

Confessions Saturday 10 am and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

During the month of November, the Church asks us to pray for the dead. It is a time when we especially remember those that we have known and loved in this life but can no longer help them in human terms.

The Church teaches that there is a process of purification for all who die in the state of grace but have not fully made satisfaction for their sins, also that we can help the dead by our prayers. This we call Purgatory.

We should think of purgatory as a process of transformation and healing rather than as a place of punishment. Of God bringing to perfection in us the work he has begun on earth of making us his sons and daughters.

This process makes us fit to share in the beatific vision of His Presence. In a matter of speaking His light would blind us without the process of purification to cleanse our gaze and our hearts. Complete harmony with God is our destiny by the help of his grace and his purifying love.

Eileen Quinn

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: mthodists@stansted.net

All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated

Services and preachers for November

3rd Christine Heyhoe
10th United Service for Remembrance at St. John's
10.45am at the Memorial Gardens
17th Rev'd Ron Crewes
24th Rev'd John Graham - Holy Communion

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

At a time when war is once more on the agenda, it is worth thinking about religious views on war. A depressing view is that rivalry over religions has caused war and indeed many wars have been fought over religion, or the tribalism of different religious groups. St Thomas Aquinas came up with criteria for a "just war" and several Christian groups are still guided by these.

One of the beliefs Quakers are best known for is pacifism. Many have been conscientious objectors. This stems from the basic Quaker belief that there is something of God in everyone and therefore it is wrong to kill another human being. Life is sacred. Pacifism is not necessarily the same as inaction. Rather than merely opposing war, Quakers are very active in conflict resolution. If the root causes of conflict can be solved at an early stage, conflict can be avoided, and potential warmongers get no support. Yes, this is all very idealistic, but it is also very sensible. In the words of the early Quakers, "Our principle is, and our practices have always been, to seek peace, and ensue it, and to follow after righteousness and the knowledge of God, seeking the good and welfare, and doing that which tends to the peace of all".

Jane Mitchell

UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

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

Contact Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill Tel 01279 812593

Preachers for November

3rd 10.30 Mr Paul Preston
10th 10.45 Remembrance Day laying of wreaths at the Memorial followed by a service in St John's Church
17th 10.30 Rev David Thompson, Communion
24th 10.30 Rev David Simpson

Our annual Bazaar will be held on Saturday 2nd November from 10am in the Lecture Hall, Chapel Hill. Among the stalls will be cakes, jams and pickles, a gift stall, white elephant and books and, of course, refreshments. All profits will go towards the normal running expenses of the church. Hope to see you there.

A reminder about Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child. There will be a coffee evening in the Lecture Hall from 7pm on November 5th to assemble the boxes. If you have any items to be included or any empty shoe boxes please let Janet Townsend have them by 3rd November at 58 Chapel Hill.



The Parishes of
Stansted Mountfitchet
with Birchchanger
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
Wednesday	from
Friday	9:00am-
	12:00noon

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<church.office@stansted.net>

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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>

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
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Eversden
Cambs, CB3 7HH
phone/fax (01223) 263640
<church.music@stansted.net>

Children's Church
Mrs Marion Johnson
(01279) 812284

Mother & Toddler Group
Mrs Tina South
(01279) 814371



There will be a five session
reading group to discuss
Rowan Williams' book

Lost Icons

in the New Year in anticipa-
tion of his enthronement as
Archbishop of Canterbury in
February 2003. Contact the
Church Office to sign up.

All Souls-tide Service of Prayer and Commemoration of Departed Loved Ones

Sunday 3rd November 2002 6:30pm
St John's Parish Church

This is an annual service. Relatives of people
whose funerals were conducted by the parish
clergy in the last year will receive an invita-
tion, and the names of the departed are part
of a list which will be read. All are welcome
to come and participate. Those who would
like to add names of departed loved ones to
the list are invited to send names to the
Church Office by letter or email.
(not to the Rectory, please)

Remembrance Day Service



St John's Parish Church,
beginning at the village War
Memorial at 10:50am,
Sunday 10th November 2002
Preacher: The Rector
(Rehearsal 11:00am Saturday 9th)

St. John's Diary

Sundays 8:00am Holy Communion said
9:30am Parish Communion sung
11:00am Open Door Service on the
3rd and 17th of November
6:30pm Evening Prayer said

Wednesdays 10:00am Holy Communion said
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 the Rector. A
house- group meets fortnightly currently studying
Paul's letters (see right).

Advance Notice Service of Confirmation

The Bishop of Colchester, the Rt Revd
Christopher Morgan will be making his
first visit to the parish for a Confirma-
tion Service on Easter Eve, 8:00pm 19th
April 2003. Confirmation classes will
begin at the Rectory at the end of Janu-
ary. Candidates for Confirmation, of
any age, are welcome and should speak
to the Rector or phone the Church
Office.

An Ecumenical Service of Carols and Readings for Advent

Sunday 1st December 6:30pm
St John's Parish Church

*led by the clergy of the
Stansted Christian Churches*

Followed by refreshments.

St John's Autumn Housegroup Paul's First Letter to the Christians at Corinth

October 8 Cor 1	<i>Divisions in the church, being saved and from what?</i>
October 15 Cor 2 - 4	<i>Wisdom, building the church and leadership</i>
October 29 Cor 5 - 8	<i>Honour, Shame, Social Standing and Etiquette</i>
November 12 Cor 9 - 11	<i>Making Tents, Headwear and Dinner Lists</i>
November Cor 12 - 14 26	<i>Body Language, Love, Ecstasy</i>
December 10 Cor 15 & 16	<i>Rising to the occasion, and a word to the wise.</i>

8:00pm for an 8:15pm prompt start at the
Rectory. Sessions end formally on or
around 9:30pm. A shared meal will happen
in December as schedules allow.

Bring a Bible or, if you would like a
printed text of 1 Corinthians to annotate,
please let the Office know.



(continued)

From the Registers:

Baptism

15th September Bethan Lucie Murrin

Weddings

14th September Mark Antony Culling and
Karon Joan Powell

20th September Gary Robert Hallwood and
Clare Barbara Oats

St John's Church Christmas Market

The Christmas Market will be held this year on 23 November 2002 from 10am to 1pm in St John's Church Hall. As well as the normal fantastic array of prizes available to be won in the Grand Draw, there will be stalls weighed down with cakes, toys, gifts, books, bulbs, crafts and decorations, toiletries, etc., not to mention tombolas and raffles to suit all ages.

We hope you will drop in to pick up some early Christmas bargains and, perhaps, have a cup of tea and a cake from our well stocked refreshment bar whilst you wait to see if you are a big winner in our Grand Draw!

Harlow Police Choir Concert

Advance notice of an event in the Spring next year. 22nd March 2003 Essex Police Choir are giving a concert in St. John's Church. This is quite a coup as this choir is very popular and has many future bookings throughout the County. Over 50 performers take part in a varied programme and it is important that we have a full house on this occasion, not least as proceeds will go towards the refurbishment of the Church organ.

More details in the New Year but enquiries to Rosemary Thomson on 834053, rosemary.thomson@talk21.com



SHALOM

November Meetings

Monday, 11th An evening with Ann Owen at Chantry Hall, Henham.

Monday, 25th. A poetry evening with Rev'd Harold Fisher at 7 Blythwood Gardens

All meetings start at 8pm and all are welcome.



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in STANSTED**

present

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

**Saturday 21 December 2002 at 4.00pm
St Mary's Church, Stansted**

There will be a concert of carols, Christmas music, readings and poetry at 4pm on Saturday, 21st December 2002 at St Mary's Church, Stansted.

The Benefice Choir invites singers from all local churches to join them for the musical items. Rehearsals will be from 8 - 9pm on the following evenings at St John's Church, Stansted:

Wednesday, 4th December

Thursday, 12th December

Monday, 16th December

If you enjoy singing and would like to join the choir for this event, please let me have your name and voice part as soon as possible, and by Sunday, 24th November 2002 at the latest. We do need to have these details in advance so that we can arrange to have the appropriate number of music copies available for the first rehearsal.

Glynis D Morris
(01223 263640 or
benefice.music@stansted.net)

Regular Aid To The Poor

I am pleased to be able to report that a further £200.00 was donated to each of our three charities in September and will be used for their African Appeals.

From August 2001 to August 2002 a total of £3425.00 was donated to our three charities.

I would like to thank you all for your continuing generosity in supporting R.A.P.

David Morson,
Chairperson R.A.P.



Public Meeting

STANSTED AIRPORT EXPANSION

8 pm Tues 29th October
St Mary's School

**Come & support your
Council's opposition**



AUTUMN BAZAAR

10 am Sat 2nd Nov
URC Hall

Stalls ~ Cakes ~ Jam
Pickles ~ Gifts
White Elephant ~ Books
Refreshments

Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

7pm onwards Tue 5th November
URC Lecture Hall

Come for coffee and bring along
your fully or partly completed
shoe boxes

For more information please tel 812593



All welcome

VILLAGE EVENTS

November

2 Sat	URC Autumn Bazaar Green Waste Skip Village Bonfire & Fireworks	URC Lecture Hall 10 am Lower St Car Park 1 - 4 pm Elms Farm 6.30 pm
5 Tue	Shoe Box Coffee Evening Conservative Branch Meeting	URC Lecture Hall from 7 pm Council Offices 8 pm
6 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
7 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
9 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
10 Sun	Act of Remembrance	War Memorial 10.45 am
11 Mon	Shalom Group	Chantry Hall Henham 8 pm
12 Tue	NCT Coffee Morning	Quaker Meeting House 10 am
14 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
15 Fri	Conservative Pub Evening	Rose & Crown 8 pm
16 Sat	Heal Antiques Evening	Day Centre 8 pm
16 Sat-17 Sun	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
17 Sun	Craft Fair	Mountfitchet School 10 am - 4 pm
20 Wed	HEAL Coffee Morning Mountfitchet Seniors	49 St John's Road 10 am - noon Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
21 Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm
22 Fri	Lib Dem Branch AGM	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
23 Sat	Christmas Market	St John's Hall 10 am - 1 pm
25 Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
30 Sat	Quiz Night	St John's Hall 7.30 pm

December

4 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
5 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
7 Sat	Windmill Christmas Stall	'Savages' Lower St. 9 am - noon
8 Sun	Village Music Club Concert	St John's Church 3 pm
9 Mon -13 Fri	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
13 Fri	Huw Johnson Club Concert	St Mary's School 7.30 pm
14 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch	Day Centre noon - 2 pm



ANTIQUES EVENING

Local Experts ~ Talks
Competition

Bring your antiques for valuation

8 pm Saturday 16th Nov
Day Centre

Light Refreshments ~ BYO drinks

Tickets £4 Tel 813871

Mountfitchet High School

CRAFT FAIRE

10 am - 4 pm Sun 17th Nov

All goods by local craftworkers

Admission £1 adults, 50p Child

*Hot & Cold Refreshments
Free Car Parking*



COFFEE MORNING

10 am - noon Wed 20th Nov

49 St John's Road

Cakes ~ Bring & Buy ~ Music

Tombola ~ Fashion Clothes

Entry 50p incl coffee ~ all welcome

STANSTED MILLERS



Christmas Stall

'Savages' Lower Street

9 am - noon

Sat 7th December

Windmill Goods &
Stocking Fillers

St John's Hall Committee

Quiz Night

7.30 pm

Saturday 30th November

St John's Hall

Tickets £6 incl Supper

Tel 647650 ~ Licensed Bar

St John's Church Christmas Market

10 am - 1 pm Sat 23rd Nov

St John's Hall

Gifts ~ Tombolas ~ Cakes

Toiletries ~ Toys ~ Books

Crafts ~ Decorations

Bulbs ~ Grand Draw

Refreshments



UTTLESFORD CARERS

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Support group at Stansted Quaker Meeting House on 2nd Thursday in each month at 2 pm

12 Stortford Road, Dunmow CM6 1DA Tel 01371 875810

Organiser: Mary Hinton Registered Charity no. 246329



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A NEW YEAR

November sees the beginning of the Link year. This year however we are able to declare in our centre pages that we have come of age. Nevertheless I do not feel that time brings any complacency to the production team. Rather the reverse; we want to attract more readers whilst retaining present ones.

So there will be changes in 2002/3.

The most obvious is that this issue includes the last in the present Profile series. It has had a surprisingly long four year run and is a tribute to the variety and quality of people in the Stansted area. We intend to run another but different feature series next year. We now carry more advertisements and most issues will have more pages.

However, we should remind ourselves that any village magazine depends above all on the vitality of the community it serves. News, views, features, amusing snippets, flashbacks, comings and goings - they are all grist to our mill and we welcome them. Please send your contributions in and urge your friends and neighbours to become subscribers. We are not changing our price!

Derek Honour, Editor

HUMOUR FROM HUTTON

The following letter from a former Stansted priest appeared recently in a broadsheet newspaper:

Hidden features

From the Reverend Brenda Wallace

Sir, If cleaning instructions in clothing (letters, October 2 and 8) are revealing, some descriptions can be confusing.

While shopping last week, my clergyman husband puzzled over a display of "three-in-one bras".

Yours faithfully,

BRENDA WALLACE,

The Rectory,

Hutton, Essex

8th October

It was quickly spotted by a couple of Stansted readers (not from the St. John's flock), which led to the following exchange of e-mails.

"We were wondering why Bob was inspecting bras - were they Wonder bras?"

Reply:

"He says he was meditating on the doctrine of the Trinity (three in one)."

Let us hope this leads to a revival in theological studies.

Editor

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices
Crafton Green
Tel 813214
Fax 813964

STANSTED AIRPORT EXPANSION GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The Parish Council has reaffirmed its objections to any additional runways at Stansted Airport. By the time you read this edition of The Link, you should have received a copy of the Parish Council Newsletter along with our draft response to the Government's consultation document: "The Future Development of Air Transport in the United Kingdom: South East". It is essential that everyone's views are made known, and we urge you to send your comments to Alastair Darling MP, Dept for Transport, Room 1/28c, FREEPOST LON 17806, London SW1P 4YS before 30 November 2002. The Parish Council will be holding a public meeting at St Mary's School on Tuesday, 29th October at 8pm, when we hope to receive the support of the village for our response to the document.

We are supporting the Stop Stansted Expansion campaign - full details available from PO Box 311, Takeley, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22 6PY or on the website at:

www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bonfire and Fireworks

Our annual event will take place again at Elms Farm, Church Road on Saturday, 2nd November, thanks to James Gemmill and Savills. Refreshments will be served. Watch noticeboards for further details. Cost £3.00 per adult and £1 per child. Parking in Lower Street car park - pedestrian access on Church Road.

This event takes place in a field used afterwards by horses for grazing. We would rather that sparklers were not brought, but if they are, burned ones MUST be placed in the LITTER BINS PROVIDED. Last year we had a huge task to collect up all the metal sticks so that horses did not stand on them or attempt to chew them.

Remembrance Day

Sunday, 10th November will see local organisations gathering at Crafton Green (by 10.40am) for the annual parade to the War Memorial, followed by the service in St John's Church, this year led by our Rector, Rev'd Andrew Spurr.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE MEMORIAL AND IN CHURCH

Stansted Profile No. 50

Bob Stoddart

On 10th November many people in Stansted will be gathered round the War Memorial in the Memorial Gardens on Chapel Hill to commemorate Remembrance Day. One of those, Bob Stoddart, the subject of this month's profile, has been a member of the Stansted & District Branch of the Royal British Legion for 40 years, serving on the Committee for the last 17 years.

Bob first joined in 1962 and when he retired from business he took over the organising of the Poppy Appeal in 1989 for five years. He was ably helped by Mrs Levy, of the Women's Branch; and the display and collection at Stansted Airport was instigated - at first in the old terminal, now in the new one. For two weeks in November a rota of members man the display from early morning to late at night. Last year's Poppy Appeal raised £9000 locally. This is invaluable for the welfare work that the British Legion does with ex-servicemen and their families. After 1994 Bob was Secretary for 5 years and has been Vice Chairman for the last three years. He emphasises that it is very much a team effort and he is only one of that team.

Bob was born in Northamptonshire into an RAF family; so when the Second World War started his father was on active service immediately. When Bob was old enough to join up in 1941 he enlisted in the Royal Armoured Corps, and from 1943-1945 he served with the XIVth Army in Burma, experiencing hard jungle warfare at first hand; for one period of three months they were completely cut off by the Japanese. The Burma Star is one of his four wartime medals.

He returned to England in 1946 and took part in the Victory Parade in London - in the course of which he met Elsie, his future wife. They married the following year and lived in London until their move to Stansted in 1958.

Before joining up Bob had worked in the Co-operative Society in Northampton starting at the bottom - scrubbing floors and doing deliveries of groceries. After the war he continued his employment with the Society, this time in London doing display work - for which he was obviously gifted, and in 1954 he became a Trainer in Display at Charing Cross College - part of St Martin's School of Art. In 1958 he became Display Manager of the Branch in Bishop's Stortford - hence the move to Stansted. In the following years he was part of the central management team and worked at various branches including Royston, Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden, where his long career with the Co-operative Society ended.

Bob and Elsie have two children: Martin, who works at the Welding Institute at Abington and lives with his wife and two children in a National Trust property on the Ickworth estate; and Mary who, after taking a degree, became a Social Worker. But she is now an Anglican Sister at All Hallows Convent in Ditchingham. She runs the Retreat House there and does welfare work in the Community.

One of the high points of a long and happy marriage took place in 1997 when Bob and Elsie celebrated their Golden Wedding in the same year as the Queen and Prince Philip. Not only did they go to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party, but were invited to have tea in the Queen's tent, an occasion they both enjoyed very much as is obvious from the photograph with this article.



Over the years Bob has helped with various activities in Stansted. When his son was in the Cub Scouts he helped every week for two years and then was on the parents' committee of the Scouts and Cubs. One of the activities he particularly enjoyed was coaching boys in the Junior Cricket Club; he had himself been a player for many years, and gladly passed on his skills as a bowler to the youngsters.

Two years ago Bob took part in a British Legion research project. They had been asked by the Imperial War Museum for information about the history and details of all the War Memorials in the country for their records. The Essex County Branch sought the help of its local Branches and Bob volunteered to cover the Stansted & District area - Elsenham, Farnham, Henham, Ugley, Manuden and Stansted. This involved many fascinating hours looking through local newspaper archives going back to 1918, talking to people and taking photographs. As well as passing on the information for the Imperial War Museum, he has kept an album of all he discovered - written up and illustrated in beautiful calligraphy, one of his many gifts. He also ensured that each of the villages had a copy of his findings.

Bob is a man of many parts, and he has not stinted in sharing his gifts and expertise with the local community in Stansted, as well as being a valued member of the British Legion team.

Katherine Hurford

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

An Eventful Summer

Normally, the summer is a time for councillors and officers to recharge their batteries. However, the Government announcements on aviation (the possibility of up to three additional runways for Stansted) and housing policy (the M11 corridor designated as an area of housing growth) put thoughts of relaxation aside. No one should under-estimate the importance of the decisions that Government will be taking about our area. Consultation on the Department for Transport's document 'The Future Development of Air Transport in the United Kingdom: South East' will end on 30th November 2002. Copies are available from the Department on:

0845 100 5554 or e-mail: dft@twoten.press.net.

It is also available on their web site www.airconsult.gov.uk.

The Council's Response

At an emergency meeting called by us, it unanimously resolved to fight any additional runways and significant housing expansion in the district. Your councillors have:

- organised a successful public meeting at the Mountfitchet School;
- arranged for a referendum to be held throughout the District. Electors will be asked whether or not they support the Council's policy of No Additional Runways. The referendum will be organised by Electoral Reform Services
- appointed a professional firm of public relations consultants, Bell Pottinger, to advise the Council

and are currently

- helping to prepare a detailed response to the Government's consultation document.

What you can do

- vote in the referendum. It is vital that there is a high turnout
- write to our MP Sir Alan Haselhurst at the House of Commons. He will pass your letters on to Alastair Darling, the Secretary of State for Transport
- sign the Observer petition
- support the campaign against additional runways.

Conclusion

Neither the Council nor we are against Stansted Airport. We recognise that it makes an important contribution to the local economy. We wish to keep it as an airport in the countryside. What we are against is unsustainable expansion which would blight the lives of many residents.

Finally, we should like to conclude by quoting the words of Mr Graham Eyre, the inspector at the last public enquiry into the airport.

"A two runway airport at Stansted would have so detrimental an effect on the environment, would so affect the character of the local communities and the ecology of the area and would have such implications beyond its immediate neighbourhood as to be wholly unacceptable".

Councillor Alan Dean

Tel: 01279 813570

Email:

cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Councillor Geoffrey Sell

Tel: 01279 815925

Email:

cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Whilst this newsletter is not written to develop political argument and discussion, sometimes it is necessary to raise matters that are of immediate interest and are very topical, both locally and in County Hall.

In a previous newsletter the question of the development of Stansted Airport was touched upon. Now and subsequent to the decision of the District Council, everyone knows that, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State, the number of passengers through the airport will grow to 25 million per annum. Thus this issue is more or less decided. The question now becomes:

Whether the Airport will develop further;
how many extra runways might be provided;
whether this development will take place;
and even, *when* the development will take place
and in what timescale.

These matters, as all will know, are being discussed with urgency at local level with the intention of letting the Government know what the local feelings are, and to represent the views of interested parties.

So far as the County Council itself is concerned, these feelings are being taken into account by all Members now with a view to producing a countrywide view at debates to be held in the early part of the New Year. This action is being co-ordinated with the views of Hertfordshire and East Herts and Uttlesford District, so a united response and representation is being made for all residents.

It is therefore appropriate that readers let their elected Councillors know their personal thoughts and proposals so these can be taken into account. Unfortunately, in the present circumstances, a negative approach will not be accepted by the Government. Thus, constructive ideas and proposals only are required.

Readers who wish to raise matters further should contact the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace
County Councillor,
Stansted Division



St Clare Hospice

Hospices Trek China - Stansted Appeal

It's a Trek of a Big Challenge

On Saturday 15th June 2002, 18 trekkers, in aid of St Clare Hospice, began their long journey to trek 77 kms of the Great Wall of China. They were joined at Heathrow Airport by 55 other walkers raising money for their respective hospices.

Dear Diary,

Day One

Decided not to wear boots for breakfast, just spotted Alan in his shorts, little legs and big boots. I don't think the world is ready for the both of us at 7.15am. Loaded up the rucksack with seven bottles of water and a mid-morning snack. Nobody mentioned having to carry 3kgs each day.....'

During a short coach journey through the Chinese countryside the scenery soon changed from flat fields to mountains. Although no sign of the Wall, I felt very excited but apprehensive as the mountains looked quite high and daunting. One bottle of water later, the coach finally pulled up at the village of Ying Beigou and our trek upwards began. I instantly broke into a sweat with the heat and 40% humidity. It just hadn't dawned on me that we would have to get to the Wall before we walked it!! Two hours and four bottles later, we had climbed 610 metres to arrive on the Wall itself. What an amazing sight. Just like the photos, the Wall stretching for miles in either direction and we were about to embark on the journey of a lifetime.

The Wall, in the main, was unreconstructed, very crumbly and quite precarious in places. Our first casualty took a tumble and suffered cuts and bruises, fortunately nothing broken. The many descents and ascents were very steep and I had to step sideways down to avoid looking over the edge at a sheer drop. Was that a tweak I felt in my knee? We trekked from watch tower to watch tower and after about three hours of steps my knees began to get wobbly which was a little disconcerting until I realised that everyone was experiencing quivery legs, a most odd feeling which eventually wore off, thankfully.

The final stage of the morning was along Wall that had been restored and we carried on undulating and meandering as the Wall went at Mutianyu. Many went on to take the toboggan ride downhill into the village to a refreshing bottle of beer. What a hard but rewarding and brilliant day.

Day Two

Very misty today to trek to Waterfall Park. Caused a stir with the bemused locals when we began with stretching exercises in the coachpark. Not so hot but still very humid. More water as we began our quite precarious climb up huge granite

boulders but with scenery to, metaphorically, die for. About four hours later, followed the river bed along massively deep gorges. Incredibly peaceful. Holding onto hand railings we arrived at a short but very wobbly suspension bridge, made even wobblier by some of the younger trekkers!!

Declined to go to the loo behind a piece of corrugated iron even after seven bottles of water.

Back to Yun Hu Hotel where full foot and body massages were available. It had to be done.

Day Three

Black Dragon Paw Park and another long hike. Again, steep climbs through brush and arrived at the top of the park and looked down at some incredible scenery stretching far into the distance along a narrow valley. The sun was relentless and my water supply was well and truly depleted. Lunch that day was noodles and spicy chicken which went down a treat. Really have mastered the art of using chopsticks.

After lunch we were given the option of climbing up to the wall to experience a 360 degree lookout from one of the highest watchtowers. The climb was very steep and difficult, along narrow, overgrown pathways. My knee was beginning to cause me concern. About an hour and a half later we had reached the watchtower and what an amazing view. The wall with Mongolia beyond it stretched one way. Reservoirs spread out another, just a marvellous opportunity for more magnificent photographs and reflection. My bandaged knee was extremely painful and my left leg was now the size of a tree trunk and very solid. Thankfully it was going to be an easy walk back to the coach down a cinder track. This, however, proved not to be the case. I was now in absolute agony, unable to lift my leg over even the smallest stone on the pathway. Eventually, Dr Shen administered anti-inflammatory tablets and lots of Deep Heat cream and attempted to almost carry me down to the coach. A cheer came from the rest of the trekkers as I came round the corner, leaning very heavily on the shoulder of the good looking doctor, a position I am sure the others envied!!

During the long coach ride to our next stay in Simatai, I had to seriously consider the possibility of not being able to trek the Wall the following day. The pain I was in was excruciating and I knew that if I did not rest it then there was a strong likelihood that I would be out of action on the last day of the Trek. I had to let common sense get the better of me and, after several tears, resigned myself to the fact that I would rest the following day.

Day Four

Went with the rest of the trekkers to see them off on their way, feeling saddened that I was not with them but my knee was still swollen and painful. Wished everyone a good trek and said that I looked forward to seeing them in at the other end.

Spent most of the day with my leg up to try to reduce the swelling which wasn't helped by the extremely hot sunshine. One of the other trekkers was seriously ill and spent the day asleep in a darkened room. A few others, who also needed to

rest, lounged around chatting and swapping life stories - a good time to get close to each other.

Later that day, we got our boots back on and prepared to meet the others who would shortly be coming into view. We climbed sharply and swiftly to the nearby watchtower and already I spotted the first trekker making his way across the suspension bridge which then led to the final watchtower of the day. The trek had covered 28 watchtowers in total this day.

Waiting anxiously in the watchtower, we looked across the gorge at the string of watchtowers linking the wall. It was fascinating how easy it was to spot various people at such a distance plodding down the last flight of steps to the bridge. Calling words of encouragement and admiration across the chasm we were rewarded by waves and whistles back.

I was very moved to watch everyone coming up the last, very steep flight of steps to where we waited. People were looking very hot and exhausted but exhilarated by the day's achievement.

Day Five

Today is Hospice 'Wear Yellow' Day and all the trekkers will be wearing their specially designed yellow trekking T-shirts. However, many of the T-shirts have by now, been cut, shaped and adapted to cope with the hot and humid weather.

We started off the trek from where the trekkers finished the previous afternoon and earlier. It was lovely and clear. The first ascent was very steep and I was now using two walking sticks. It was slow and hard but we seemed to cover ground quickly, and looking back over the landscape when we reached the watchtower was awesome. At the highest point we had climbed 981 metres and were rewarded with the the most wonderful views of the Wall that had been trekked the day before. The unreconstructed Wall perched along a craggy ridge with precarious drops either side. Every inch of land was carefully tended and the terracing was everyone's idea of a Chinese landscape. Eventually we left the Wall and descended through a farming village and picked up a trail to take us to the watchtower where we were to have lunch, regroup and go down to Simatai as a large group for a finale that was to mark the completion of the Trek.

We rounded the corner to Simatai Lodge to be greeted by a line of Hospice T-shirts hanging over tables laden with sparkly wine, Chinese champagne and the very loud sound of Chinese firecrackers.

oOo

A grand total of £45,000 was raised for the hospice, including some £2,073 raised by the residents of Stansted, in support of the 198 trekkers. An amount beyond my expectations!! I would also like to add my thanks to Fred Williams and those members of the Stansted Social Club who have raised £200 between themselves.

There is a trek along the Inca trail next September. Should anyone be interested, please contact me at the Hospice. It would be wonderful to raise a similar amount for a second time.

Caroline Bore
Fundraising Organiser



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

As "Apple Day" fell on our October meeting we decided to celebrate this with a talk on the Apple Orchard at Audley End combined with a talk on the organic garden there by Mike Thurlow the Head Gardener. He had recently appeared on television explaining how this garden had been created.

We started with social time which consisted of members peeling cooking apples to see who could get the longest apple skin without a break in it. After false starts and tries Wilma Martin proved she could peel a large apple all in one go and was a worthy winner. Our competition of an apple pie was judged for us by the three husbands who were attending the meeting. The winner was Christine Morris. By now we were pleased to see our speaker had arrived to begin his talk accompanied by slides. He showed pictures of the garden, greenhouses and buildings including gardeners' living quarters from many years ago and then pictures of how it is now after its restoration. He spoke of the history of the garden through the ages and of Capability Brown who had laid the garden out originally. We had a birds eye view of the garden from a mobile hoist the television company had brought with them when filming at the house. Mr Thurlow was thanked for a most interesting and informative talk enjoyed by all present by Christine Hope.

In our coffee break we enjoyed the apple pies accompanied by whipped cream and they were delicious.

Members were reminded that shoe boxes filled with children's Christmas goodies to go to under privileged children would be collected in by the end of November.

Visitors are most welcome at 7.30pm for 7.45pm start. Our next meeting on Thursday 14th November is our AGM. Before this our speaker Joy Shipcott "will look back with humour as a WI speaker".

Brenda Ryan
812725

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The **LINK** completes

From the Revd. Barry Rose, Vicar 1980
LINK - THE SEED AND THE BLOSSOMING
In the musical Salad Days there is the song "We said we'd never look back". Yet that is what I have been asked to do as LINK celebrates its 21st birthday. How did it all begin?

Well, in 1980 the Anglican Parish Magazine was badly in need of being revamped. But the question had to be asked whether the other churches in the village wanted to come in on a new venture. The matter was discussed at our clergy fraternal and Eric McIlwain, URC Minister, who eventually took a leading role in getting Link off the ground, Joe Tuohey, Roman Catholic priest and Harold Fisher, Methodist Minister, were all enthusiastic about joining forces. The Quakers were also keen to come in on the project and indeed Mair Muir became our first editor. Later she was followed by Phyllis Harrison.

As we discussed and planned it became obvious that we had to produce a magazine for the whole village. Our magazine group met regularly to discuss the means of production, editorial policy and content, and eventually the first issue was published and distributed to every home in the parish. LINK was chosen as the title because we wanted to bring the churches closer together, give an opportunity to village organisations to publicise their activities and provide a window on some of the things happening in God's world.

But enough of looking back. A lot of work goes into producing a magazine, especially one that serves the whole village, and those responsible for keeping it going must be congratulated. Long may LINK continue and blossom serving the people of Stansted - perhaps with your help.

Every blessing.

*A look
back....*

From the Revd. Margaret Booker
The front cover was chosen in a competition which was won by the late Laurie Hall. I was a member of the steering committee and became responsible for collating and then paste-up. Production was on the parish duplicator usually operated by John Newby. Thanks to over 60 volunteers the Link has never been late or failed to appear. So, well done everyone and many happy returns for a Stansted success story.

From the Revd. Harold Fisher
Congratulations on reaching your 21st birthday! I was delighted and much encouraged when the Stansted Association of Christian Churches decided to produce a village magazine. From the start it was agreed that it should be fully ecumenical. Back then it was quite adventurous for five denominations to take on such a project. Not only did it result in a much-acclaimed publication, but there were also other spin-offs including the not-to-be-missed harvest entertainment, when the clergy assumed garb and roles that are best left to the imagination! For me the Link epitomizes the Church at its best; serving the community at large, whilst demonstrating unity among Christians. Long live The LINK!

over 21 years

*to the
beginnings...*

Janet Townsend and Margaret Booker with the first edition



*and a glimpse
forward...*

New features, more contributors, photographs, cartoons, new faces, new technology, **but the same objectives**



The 2002 team: left to right, Michael Dyer (graphics), Katharine Hurford (secretary), Olive Bunting (collation), Janet Townsend (treasurer & distribution), Marion Dyer (graphics), Susan Bone (computer), Derek Honour (editor). Not present: Tony Butcher (assistant editor & computer), Eileen Quinn (special tasks), Wendy Moss (advertising), Hazel Smith (word-processor)



St John's Road
Stansted CM24 8JP
Tel: 07966 506997

Welcome back to our autumn term at Rainbow Pre-school and, of course, our new location.

We spent the summer holidays moving from the Quaker meeting house down to St Mary's with the goodwill of several of the committee. Then we set about brightening up the classroom by painting it a warm tropical lemon, again with the help of many volunteers for which we thank them. The new flooring was then put down before Auntie Ann and Auntie Terri could begin to organise the room and make it ready for the children.

County Councillor Richard Wallace was asked on 16th September to officially open the Pre-school, which had been decorated with bunting and balloons and there was a beautiful cake made by our Treasurer, Gill. Mrs Minshull and Mrs Cashman were asked to join in our celebrations with a slice of cake and a glass of Bucks Fizz and then the children all took a balloon home afterwards.

Our theme for this term is mini beasts and I am sure Auntie Ann and Auntie Terri will think of many things to keep the children busy.

Our AGM was held on 9th October which gave us a good opportunity to meet many of the new parents, listen to a talk about Early Years Development by Karen Musgrove and, of course, elect a new committee.

With our new facilities we are now able to open mornings and afternoons as follows:

Mornings 9.15 to 12noon;
Afternoons 1pm to 3.45pm.

If you would like more information about Rainbow Pre-school call 07996 506997, or why not come and visit us.

Tina South



Royal British Legion

Women's Section

At our branch meeting we welcomed four members of the Royal British Legion and together we discussed the Tea Party in aid of the Poppy Appeal.

Our Treasurer listed donations totalling £800 which our branch has made this year to Women's Section Charities.

We then held our annual harvest sale and a wide variety of vegetables, fruit, flowers, etc. was ably auctioned by Jean Fuller resulting in an addition to our funds of £55.

At our next meeting on Thursday 21st November at 7.30pm in the Day Centre we shall have our Social Evening - always a popular night.

The Annual Royal British Legion Carol Service will be on Sunday 8th December in Littlebury Church starting at 6pm - all to be seated by 5.30pm.

Pat Clower

Royston Choral Society

Tune in to the Royston Choral Society

Two fine choral works launch the Royston Choral Society's new season of concerts for music lovers in North Herts, South Cambridgeshire and villages on the Essex border.

On Saturday, 23rd November, the choir once again team up with the talented musicians of the Broxbourne Sinfonia to perform J S Bach's *Magnificat* and Haydn's lesser known '*Harmonie*' Mass. The concert at Royston Parish Church starts at 7.30pm.

Four weeks later, on Saturday, 21st December also at 7.30pm, the choir will return to the Parish Church for a concert of Christmas music; a new venture for an expanding choir which is going from strength to strength.

Tickets for the both concerts will be on sale from Royston Library in advance, or on the door on the night, price £8 (concessions £5, 'still at school' £1)

For further details about the concerts and choir call David Boarder on 01992 623489 or Caroline Franks on 01920 822723, or visit: www.roystonchoralsociety.co.uk

St Mary's Primary School
Parents, Teachers and
Friends Association



This month the environment has been a priority at St Mary's. At the start of the month the Wastebuster bus arrived to teach our students about recycling and how to look after the world we live in. In response, Year 4 designed state of the art bins for the Recreation Ground. Also, Reception and Year 2 went to Hatfield Forest for two educational activities provided by National Trust Learning.

In addition, Harvest Festival was celebrated at St John's on 4th October with Year 4, lead by Mrs Wilton, asking us to think about Fair Trade Issues. We then turned our attention to Christmas and the lives of less fortunate children abroad. We all got involved in the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - filling them with toys, sweets and toiletries. It is important to encourage our children to think of others – especially in the run up to Christmas.

Earlier in the month, the PTFA hosted their AGM 'with a difference' as there followed a Wine Tasting led by Lorraine Blackburn. She gave us a fascinating tutorial scanning the origins of wine making to the reasons why some wine making regions are so popular today. We learned a terrific amount – helped of course by the tasting itself! It was a lovely evening, enjoyed by all. Our sincere thanks again to Lorraine for her time.

The Governors hosted their AGM on 15th October, reflecting upon the successes St Mary's has achieved during the past year and applauding the continued dedication and commitment of the staff.

On 17th October, the PTFA organised an extremely successful Christmas Shopping Evening, something we hope could become an annual school event. Stallholders included Body Shop, Usborne Books, scrumptious Choco-holics and gorgeous Xmas decorations from The Festive Dresser plus many more – all of whom kindly donated to the PTFA (our 'wish list' is as long as ever!).

Finally, the children have had lots of fun with a visiting puppet show and the always enjoyable Halloween Disco where we had spooks galore!

Kathy Hersh
PTFA Committee Member

WHAT'S IN A NAME NO. 9
Occasional series

Some names are self-explanatory. **The Rookery**, off Cambridge Road, for instance, where rooks nested. **Brewery Lane**, where a brewery was built in 1887 and demolished in 1925. Brewery House still stands in Lower Street.



Huw Johnson Club

I hope you've already entered the date of our Christmas Concert into your diaries, Friday December 13th in St Mary's School, St John's Road, Stansted, at 7.30 pm. Our members will be delighted to see you. We know you'll enjoy the evening.

Instead of our usual Pantomime Trip we are hoping to travel to London and see the Christmas Lights on December 27th followed by a meal at McDonalds. This idea was enthusiastically voted for by our members.

Our storeroom which has now been renamed "The Huw Johnson Resource Centre" was opened with great ceremony and we were pleased to entertain the Chairman of Uttlesford District Council, Mr Jim Ketteridge, the Mayor of Saffron Walden, Mrs Daphne Cornell and the Chairman of the Stansted Parish Council, Mrs Catherine Dean. After the opening ceremony our members entertained our guests to a display of Line Dancing.

M. G. Johnson



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

For those who thought they knew East London, a surprise was waiting at our last meeting on 3rd October. Robert Barltrop, who was born, brought up and had worked all his life in and around the East End, brought to us, in fascinating detail, the history of that part of London and explained the many influences which had made it so dynamic and alive. He told us of the many peoples that had come from all over the world who had left their mark on their surroundings and of the industries which were based around what was once the greatest seaport existing.

Mr Barltrop's enthusiasm was infectious and we greatly enjoyed his anecdotes and personal recollections of an ever changing environment.

Our next meeting, on 7th November at 8 pm at the Crafton Green Day Centre, will be about an area much closer to home and will also be exploring the past. Mr Richard Havis will be explaining "The Archaeology of Stansted Airport" and we hope you will be able to join us.

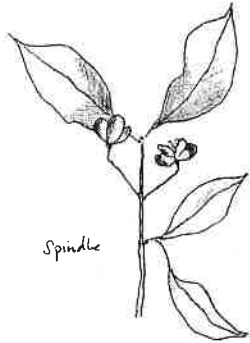
Ian Seavers



Nature Notes



Hedgerows at this time of year take on a wonderful range of colours, particularly if they are ancient hedges with a large number of shrub species. If you spot dark red leaves and



extraordinary shocking pink berries revealing orange seeds, you will be looking at the spindle tree, so called because its hard wood was used for making spindles. The 'spinsters' or 'spinners' (usually unmarried women) would spin by hand using a wooden spindle on which to wind the wool. The wood of the spindle tree was also used for butchers' skewers and today artists' charcoal is made from it.

Although called a tree, the spindle is more often a 15ft bush. It prefers chalk or limestone and in this area can be seen along Limekiln Lane where the chalk outcrops.

The blackthorn (*prunus spinosa*), by contrast, grows anywhere. It is noticeable in spring when it is festooned with white flowers before the leaves come out. In autumn it produces dark purple sloes, very astringent but totally transformed when made into sloe gin. It spreads by means of suckers, thus forming thickets and this property is shared with other species of *prunus*.

Wild plums or damsons are all varieties of *prunus domestica* and are probably descended from the blackthorn crossed with other sweeter wild plums. The bullace (*prunus insititia*) may be a true native in Britain. This small tree, which is found in hedgerows around the village, can have purple or greenish-yellow fruits (the Mirabelle) which are quite sweet when fully ripe and make excellent jam.

Rosina Kirkwood



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Our second concert of this, our seventh season, is on 8th December when we shall welcome flautist, Min Park and pianist, Zoë Mather to Stansted. Min, winner of many competitions, has an increasingly demanding solo and concerto schedule around the world, and she has recently taken up the Principal Flute position in the Daejeon Philharmonic in her native country, Korea. Zoë was educated at the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. While at the Guildhall she won many prizes and awards including one from the Countess of Munster. Since making her Wigmore Hall debut in 1994, she has performed extensively both as a soloist and a chamber musician and works regularly for BBC Radio 3. The programme is expected to be as follows:

Chopin – Variations of theme by Rossini '12 Doppler –
Fantasie Pastorale Hongroise' 13

Prokofiev – Sonata in D Major, Op 94 (all for Flute & Piano)

and, in addition, Zoë will be playing

Chopin – Ballade in G Minor

Liszt – Les Jeux d'Eau (from book 3 Annees de Pelerinage)

The concert, which is sponsored by The Countess of Munster – Recital Scheme, is at St John's Church, Stansted on Sunday afternoon, 8th December beginning at 3pm.

Tickets are £8, Concessions £6, Children £3, and children of members £1. Available from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted; Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford; Options Hairdressers, Elsenham; Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282).

Future concerts this season are on 19th January at 3pm and 8th March at 8pm.

Alan Corbishley



STANSTED & DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS.

Our next Ploughman's Lunches will be on Saturday, 9th November and Saturday, 14th December at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2pm. All are welcome.

The Branch AGM will be held on Friday, 22nd November, 7.30pm for 8pm, at the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill. Please ring 814222 or 813432 for further information.

Ruth Rawlinson



Hello again:

What a great day we had at Mole Hall! Many thanks to the helpers who delayed the otters' breakfast so that the children could watch them being fed. It was wonderful !! Lots of splashing and diving, very acrobatic.

The weather was kind and we enjoyed looking at all the animals and the butterfly house. The "naughty" chimp was a great success.

The photographer Elaine Lockerby has been to Sideways; so there will be lovely presents for relatives at Christmas time.

Auntie Joyce still comes in alternate Wednesdays for Music and Rhymes which the children enjoy, specially dancing and doing the actions.

We are hoping for a visit from the police to talk to the children about dark evenings and FIREWORK NIGHT.

The animal theme continues and the children have made BREAD DOUGH HEDGEHOGS to decorate.

The outside play area has been cleared and as soon as the fencing and gates are finished we can enjoy playing in the fresh air again.

Auntie Helen

Musings from a Country Churchyard

In the August/September edition of The LINK, we were advised that the Council and the Rector have decided to spray untended graves in St Mary's Churchyard with weedkiller. Perhaps now would be a good time to remind ourselves of "Grays Elegy written in a Country Churchyard".

"The *Curfew* tolls the Knell of parting Day,
The lowing Herd winds slowly o'er the Lea,
The Plow-man homeward plods his weary Way,
And leaves the World to Darkness, and to me.

Beneath whose rugged Elms, that Yew-Tree's Shade,
Where heaves the Turf in many a mould'ring Heap
Each in his narrow Cell for ever laid,
The rude Forefathers of the Hamlet sleep."

The following verse will bring it up to date:

Could the rude forefathers 'ere envisage that,
their graves be drenched with Paraquat,
or that the Spider, Ladybird and Bee,
be stilled by Simazine or 2:4:D.

David Harrison

STANSTED CONSERVATIVES



Social Events

Friday, 25th October:

Constituency Dinner & Dance at Foakes Hall, Dunmow.
Guest Speaker will be Michael Howard; Sir Alan Haselhurst will be in attendance. Tickets £40 each

Friday, 15th November:

Pub evening at the Rose & Crown, Bentfield Green, 8pm onwards.

Sunday lunchtime Christmas Drinks:

To be held at Savages, date to be confirmed.

Saturday, 15th February 2003:

Valentines Dance at Bishops Stortford Golf Club.
Please contact Bridget Gott (814440) or Sian Lloyd (817876) for details, tickets etc.

Political

5th November 2002:

General Branch Meeting, 8pm at the Council Offices

21st January 2003:

General Branch Meeting, 8pm at the Council Offices

25th March 2003:

Branch AGM, with the Constituency in attendance.

Contacts: Cllr Richard Wallace, Chairman (812588): Sian Lloyd, Secretary (817876 or): Darren Hector, Constituency Agent (07866 758308 or).

Sian Lloyd

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It's been another busy month for the NCT. October began with a hugely successful Nearly New Sale, where St John's Hall was, once again, jam packed with nearly new bargains. Thanks to everyone who supported the event, whether buying, selling or helping on the day.

Our activities in October followed an Autumnal theme, with a forest walk, followed by a craft and collage session, where leaves, sticks, acorns and conkers were collected and put to great artistic use! We celebrated Halloween with a pumpkin carving morning, creating some amazing (and interesting!) Jack-o-lanterns. We also got well ahead of the game with a Christmas shopping evening, where, with the help of a little mulled wine, we all managed to enter into the festive spirit!

This month we are out and about again, but not taking any chances with the weather, many events have an indoor focus! Whether it's trying out the newly refurbished 'Little Legs', taking refuge at the cinema, or joining in our popular music time, there are lots of dry and warm activities for everyone. Our regular Open House Coffee Morning is on Tuesday, 12th November this month at the Quaker Hall. This event provides an opportunity for children of all ages to play together, while the adults chat over coffee or take a look at the items on sale from local traders. This month children's books, cards and hand-crafted blankets and bags will be available - yet another chance for some Christmas shopping! Everyone with babies or small children is welcome, so come along and see what we do.

If you think you'd like to join in with what we're up to, please don't be shy. You don't have to be a member to come along and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Call Wendy on 01279813387 to get your free information pack, which includes a free diary sheet of events.

We also offer antenatal classes to all local parents whether this is your first or subsequent baby - book early for classes by calling Rachel on 01279 718632. Breastfeeding support from a qualified counsellor is available by telephone from 8am to 10pm, 365 days per year, by calling 0870 444 8708.

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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Mr Jim Pearce, an old friend of the club as he is a Royal Horticultural Society judge and has been to our Spring shows, came to our October meeting not to judge, but to talk and illustrate with slides on "Plants for Walls and Fences".


Jim began by saying you must make sure to plant at least 18ins away from the base of the wall and lean a supporting cane towards the wall having already prepared the planting hole and the wall with wires or trellis. He recommended climbers for all aspects and seasons, and some which not only had flowers but also had berries and autumn leaf colour. Throughout his talk his little asides kept his audience amused. He was thanked by the Chairman, Cyril Stoneham, for a very interesting evening.

Our speaker for the next meeting on the 6th November is Barry Kaufman-Wright, the Police Wildlife officer for this area. He will talk about his work with Gerald Durrell at Jersey Wildlife Zoo.

Meetings are in the Day Centre at Crafton Green at 8-00pm and all are very welcome.



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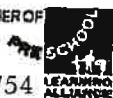
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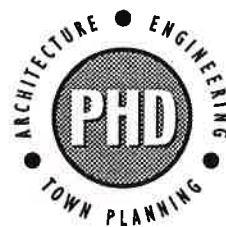
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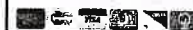
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