

Aug/Sep 2003

# The *LINK*



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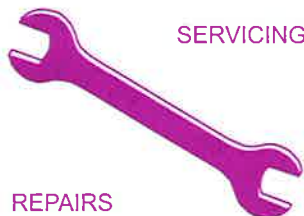
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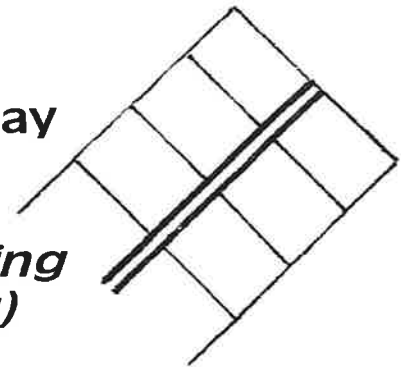
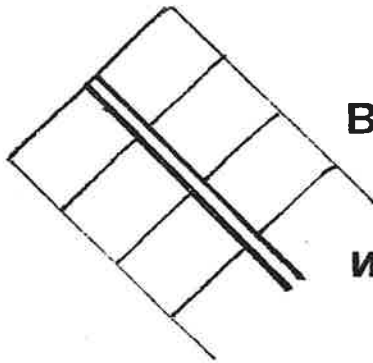
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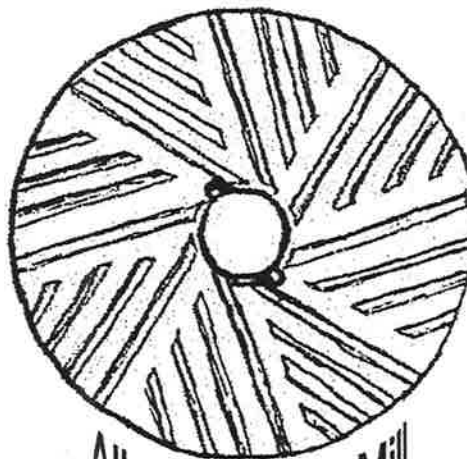
Bank Holiday Monday  
August 25th

*with the sails turning  
(wind permitting)*

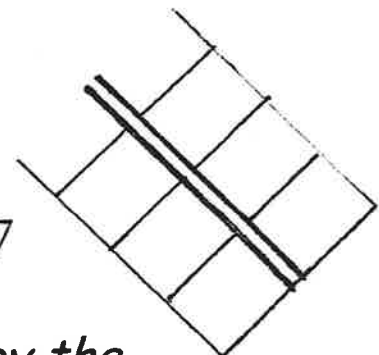
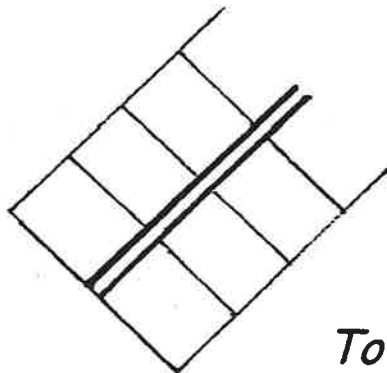


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The Link (price £3.50 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted

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

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill or email to  
[stanstedlink@aol.com](mailto:stanstedlink@aol.com)

by 11<sup>th</sup> September for publication on 27<sup>th</sup> September  
by 9<sup>th</sup> October for publication on 25<sup>th</sup> October





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are welcome at  
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St. John's Church Hall,  
Stansted CM24 8JP

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

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**Mrs Tina South**  
(01279) 814371

## Shaping the Future

Amidst the scandalous debacle over the appointment, then dis-appointment of Canon Dr Jeffrey John as Bishop of Reading, the Church of England, in its July Synod, did manage to get a few things right. One of these was to approve the **Anglican-Methodist Covenant** by an overwhelming majority: 336 for, 32 against. The Methodist Conference had done the same, a few weeks before.

The Covenant formally opens the way for local Anglican and Methodist churches to explore ways and degrees of working together, ranging from the informal association which we already have, expressed in occasional shared services, and mission like Christian Aid Week, right the way through to the possibility of becoming a united church.

It is too early to predict what this might mean in Stansted, I simply do not know. I am aware that the news about the Covenant will be received by enthusiasm by some and indifference by others. For some Christians, the church remains a dynamic movement with a story to tell about the way God calls us to live, and the way Jesus has shown the way. For others church is a local club with its round of events, familiar surroundings and faces. For the first the Covenant offers an opportunity, for the second, it threatens disruption. All churches, to some degree, have to navigate between these two.

This summer, we bid farewell to Revd John Graham, the local Methodist minister. John has been a genial, warm-hearted colleague, and it will be sad to see him go.

In September, the local Methodist circuit, which comprises Bishop's Stortford,

Braughing and Stansted, will be taken over by the Revd Keith Page, who will be moving into the manse in Stortford. Over the next year Mr Page will be looking at ministry provision in his three churches and making strategic decisions about the deployment of ministers, and a local non-stipendiary minister, the Revd Jim Gill is going to be involved in the process.

I believe, if ever there was an opportune time to explore moving into a working Covenant with the Methodists, then this is it. Where Anglicans and Methodists have combined their churches in this country, this has involved sharing clergy, worshipping together and the pooling of activities like Sunday School and youth work.

As I have said, the Covenant admits a wide range of possibilities from the loose association, we have now, through to organisational unity. The options are wide open, and we may well be looking at a process, not a one-off decision. My United Reformed Church colleague, Revd David Simpson has asked to be kept in the loop.

On one level, I am very engaged by the prospect of sharing worship and preaching with people of the calibre of Mike Dyer, and to be able to talk about church and community, not only with our own Christian politicians like Peter Jones, Richard Wallace, Elizabeth Godwin and Bill Stiles, but with Alan and Catherine Dean as well. However, if I were a Methodist I would not be looking very favourably at the prospect of being yoked to our three Anglican churches, each with a listed building as a substantial liability. As many are already aware, I would dump our buildings tomorrow, if I could, and this is one such situation which rekindles that desire.

There is a great deal to think about, pray over and discuss. In the autumn I will be asking all three of our PCC's, who have all voted in support the Covenant, to write to Revd Keith Page and ask him to take into account the possibility of a version of the Anglican-Methodist Covenant in these parishes, as he begins to consider what shape the future will take for his circuit. This gives readers the summer to speak to their PCC representatives, and make their feelings known.

The future is open, and it will be decided by the grass roots Christians in each church, rather than those of us who are passionate about unity since, in the end, it is the grass-roots Christians who will have to make it work. What I do know is that our Lord calls us to be one, and that we have a duty to explore ways in which we can make this happen.

AS

### St. John's Diary

Sundays	There will be no 8:00am Holy Communion during August 9:30am Parish Communion sung 11:00am Open Door Service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the month.
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 7:30pm for activities in the church hall. The evening concludes with candlelit Night Prayer in the chapel in church.



## UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

(Continued)

### From the Registers for June:

#### Baptisms:

15th Edward John James Heasman  
Samuel Owen Philp

#### Weddings:

28th Paul Beresford and  
Amanda Jayne Boyton

Dean Graham Silvester and  
Charlotte Louise Attelsey

#### Funerals:

3rd John Woor age 70 years  
18th Ivy Rogers age 83 years  
30th Maureen Chapman age 67 years

### Forthcoming Events:

#### Coach Trip

To Choirs' Festival In King's College, Cambridge  
Saturday, 20th September 2003

St John's Church Choir will be joining other choirs in the area at a specially written service taking place in King's College Chapel, Cambridge on 20 September. The theme of the service is vocation and putting our faith into action – with readings and music from all traditions.

A coach will be leaving Stansted at 12.30 p.m. on that day, and Link readers are warmly invited to come with the Choir and join in the service. The service starts at 6 o'clock so there will be plenty of time to shop or relax in Cambridge during the afternoon while the singers are rehearsing.

The cost of the day will be £8.50. Please telephone Kathy West on 816293 to book your place on the coach.

### Hospices In Harmony

#### "Voices for Hospices Concert"

The choir will be holding a concert in St John's church on the evening of Saturday, 4th October 2003 as part of the international 'Hospices in Harmony' event with all proceeds going to the St Clare Hospice in Hastingwood.

Any members of the congregation who would like to sing with us at this event will be very welcome. Please speak to Glynis Morris (01223 263640) as soon as possible if you are interested.

The music will be covered in regular choir practices in August/September, with one or two additional rehearsals nearer the date of the concert.

### Minister

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

### Contact

Mrs Janet Townsend  
58 Chapel Hill  
Tel 01279 812593

### Preachers for August and September

#### August

3rd 10.30 Mr D McGregor  
10th 10.30 Rev'd D Simpson - Communion  
17th 9.30 Joint with the Methodist at the  
Friends Meeting House  
24th 10.30 Rev'd D Simpson  
31st 10.30 Rev'd D Simpson

#### September

7th 10.30 Rev'd M Cressey  
14th 10.30 Rev'd C Baxter - Communion  
21st 10.30 Rev'd J Tollington  
28th 10.30 Rev'd D Simpson

Our Sunday Afternoon Teas continue on August 3rd and September 7th, 3 pm to 5 pm. We welcome everyone New Friends and Old Friends so if you haven't been before give us a try and enjoy a chat over a cup of tea and a nice piece of cake. We look forward to meeting you.

It's time to start thinking about collecting for the Christmas Shoe Boxes. So while you are out and about during the summer watch out for suitable items. Leaflets will be in the churches in September and more information will be available from Janet Townsend, 812593.

Please make a note of the next Andrew Harrison One Man Show on September 20th (see Village Events page). In this acclaimed show he presses the fast forward button on 3000 years of history covering the Biblical themes of Creation, Incarnation, Resurrection and the Last Judgement. It was performed by Andrew at the 2002 Edinburgh Festival and in the words of a billing by The Stage it "emphasises the modern relevance of these beautiful stories".

#### Pilots

A TASTER EVENING

Monday 29th September

Venue: Stansted URC Premises

Time: 6.30 to 7.45 pm

Lots of exciting things to do and a visit to Legoland, Windsor, to plan.

*Do come along and give us a try*

*If you want to join us in this new venture telephone:*

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# ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux  
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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

Three years ago, many people went to the exhibition "Seeing Salvation" at the National Gallery. This brought together masterpieces of Christian art showing how the image of Christ has evolved over two thousand years, from the earliest symbols and metaphorical images to pictorial likeness of the different moments of Christ's life. It was a comprehensive and powerful exhibition and, I think, made a great impression on all those who saw it. Many of the pieces have certainly stayed in my mind since then.

Pictures and statues in churches and cathedrals beautify the appearance of the building, of course, but they have a much deeper purpose and meaning. Great art, which portrays universal and specifically Christian truths, resonates with us and helps us in the contemplation of these. Used as an aid to prayer, art can give us new insights and deepen our response emotionally and spiritually.

At our new Church, we have been very fortunate in having the services of a Catholic artist, Stephen Foster, to produce artwork for us. His creativity, sensitivity and dedication can be seen in the three pieces in carved wood that have already been installed on the long wall facing the entrance. One is a panel surrounding the Tabernacle to the right of the Sanctuary, which includes representations of the demolished chapel of St. Anthony at Henham and the old St Theresa's church in the Mill House. The second is on the wall by the Baptistry to the left of the Sanctuary, and depicts Christ being baptised by St John the Baptist in the River Jordan. The intricately carved wood and soft colour of the figures and buildings in both pieces are beautifully set off by the plain white walls that surround them.

The main carving, which forms the backdrop to the Sanctuary, was installed at Easter. This is a large and breathtakingly beautiful round panel showing the risen Christ. The simple figure in a plain white robe with uplifted arms rises from a Cross, which is lightly indicated in the background. The face is very reminiscent of faces in Russian and Greek icons. The whole figure radiates serenity and compassion, and the ultimate triumph of victory over death.

All three panels are seen on entering the church, so that the impact is immediate. I, and many others, certainly feel an uplifting of the spirit as we enter, and a great sense of gratitude and thankfulness for the skills and talents, which have gone into making the new St Theresa's.

Ruth Rawlinson

# 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)

## Services and preachers for August

3rd Michael Render  
10th Joan Kennet  
17th Michael Dyer – with URC  
24th Margaret Richardson  
31st Jerry Heyhoe

## Services and preachers for September

7th Geoff Grundy  
14th Rev.Keith Page - Holy Communion  
21st John Banks  
28th Don McGregor

Friday, 12th September at 8pm– Fellowship meeting

In August we say farewell to our minister, John Graham, who is moving to a new appointment near Heathrow. We wish John and his wife Liz all the best and hope they will be very happy in their new circuit and that they will not be living directly under a flight path!

In September we welcome our new minister, Rev'd Keith Page, his wife Fran and daughter Rosamund and hope that they will soon feel at home in Stansted as well as in Bishop's Stortford.

# 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

## Thoughts After the Chevetogne Exchange

At the end of three very busy days entertaining our Belgian visitors at the beginning of July, I emerged feeling tired but happy that we had all got on so well and that the carefully planned outings and events had been such enjoyable occasions. I look back on it as a time of activity, but with moments of quiet and calm - by the lake in the gardens at Sandringham, watching the squirrels by the Visitor Centre, the mass in the beautiful new Catholic Church in Stansted and visiting Kings College Chapel in Cambridge.

I looked in 'Quaker Faith and Practice' to see if I could find a passage which fitted the feelings I had experienced, and found this passage in the section entitled 'Living a Full Life'.

"There is, it sometimes seems, an excess of religious and social busyness these days, of which the cost in 'peaceable wisdom' is not sufficiently counted. True leisureliness is a beautiful thing and may not lightly be given away. Indeed, it is one of the outstanding and most wonderful features of the life of Christ that, with all his work in preaching and healing and planning for the Kingdom, he leaves behind this sense of leisure, of time in which to pray and meditate, to stand and stare ... Most of us need from time to time the experience of something spacious or space-making. To read good literature, gaze on natural beauty, to follow cultivated pursuits until our spirits are refreshed and expanded, will not unfit us for life. Rather will it help us to separate the essential from the unessential, to know where we are really needed and get a sense of proportion. We shall find ourselves giving the effect of leisure even in the midst of a full and busy life."

Margaret Whitelaw

## Christian Aid

**We believe in life before death**

The final total for this year's Christian Aid Week collection is £2,400 and I should like to thank all volunteers and all who gave so generously. The theme for the week this year was Heroes, those who work to eradicate poverty in this country and overseas. Perhaps we should call the envelope collectors "Miniature Heroes" like the chocolates.

**The Trade Justice campaign** continues and there are signs that the government is shifting its position. The Prime Minister has said "Trade has the potential to lift people out of poverty." There is still a long way to go, but the message is beginning to be heard. Thank you for all your support

Catherine Dean



**Chevetogne – Stansted Visit, 2003**  
1st – 4th July

This is an annual ecumenical exchange between the Churches of Stansted and the Church at Chevetogne, a small hamlet in the Ardennes region of Belgium, which has been running since 1986.

In alternate years we visit each other and in between hold some fund-raising events to enable us to entertain each other without the cost being too much of a burden on the hosts.

This year we had 25 visitors and we thought you might enjoy profiles of some of them written by their hosts:-

Rita Morson writes -

One of the most valuable features of the exchanges is the long standing bonds of friendship which are established between individuals and families. In our case (Rita & David Morson and Jim Collins), it has been with the Labar-Dermience family; Christian, Monique, their children Ingrid & Florence, and Christian's parents, Albert and Anna.

When we first met them 13 years ago, Monique was extremely shy and could speak no English. Ingrid and Florence were aged 12 and 10 respectively. Now Monique is performing at our communal dinners, both girls are married with delightful husbands who are enthusiastic about the visits and Florence has a daughter, Eloise.

Joy, generosity and sharing have been the hallmark of the exchanges. Long may they continue.

Edna Goreing writes-

We hosted Jeanne and Nicole. - In her early twenties, Jeanne became separated from her sister in the exodus of refugees fleeing the German invasion of Belgium. Left with her nieces, aged 15 months and 2 ½ years, she walked all the way to the French coast, where they just managed to be on the last boat to leave for England. Now almost 87, Jeanne retains a lot of the English learned from her years spent in England during the last War. She is widowed and lives alone, but keeps house, grows all her own vegetables, rears hens, drives her car and plays whist 2 or 3 times a week. She continued her usual habit of getting up and being dressed before 6am each morning during her stay with us!

Nicole teaches English (O.K. – so we didn't have to practice much French this time!) – married with 2 sons, she also runs her beautiful home as a Chambre d'hôte. A busy lady with a great sense of humour, she is an extremely talented artist and she loves gardening too.

Margaret Whitelaw writes –

My guests were Tania and Robert, who have stayed with me

before and have entertained me in their home in Brussels. Tania is Russian, a lovely person, who speaks no English, and who met her husband when Robert was on holiday in St Petersburg. At that time she spoke no French and she and Robert courted with the aid of a dictionary. He tells the story of when he proposed marriage to her she did not understand what he was saying! She now speaks fluent French and loves to talk (sometimes too fast for me). Robert has a wry sense of humour and can sometimes be persuaded to speak English: they both enjoy cultural activities and have always appreciated the outings we have planned for the visit.

Phyllis Harrison writes –

My guests were Marie Charlotte and Marie Claire. Marie Charlotte is the wife of a titled ex-Belgian Congo Governor. This was her first visit, but she has already embarked on an ecumenical venture in her own parish of Haversin. She is very influenced by the theme of St Peter bidden to walk on the sea and was delighted to see a “Peter picture” on this theme in the Chapel at Sandringham. She saw this as a sign that we must all, in faith, tread the sea, plunging into ecumenism & learning to respect other religions. My other guest.

Marie Claire married late, was very much her own person, very travelled and worldly. Very laid back and though a sincere Catholic was very open to see good in all religions – There is only one God - They did not understand our many denominations. Having attended services at St John’s and St Theresa’s Marie said at St John’s – “So this is your Church? I said well er no but at that moment with them and ‘us’ it was!

Ruth Rawlinson writes -

My guest “Cynthia Van Kampenhout is English, but married a Belgian man in 1947 and has lived in Belgium ever since then. Now a widow, she has three grown-up children and several grandchildren. She lives in a lovely old cottage in Chevetogne, which is on the side of a hill, overlooking fields and the centre of the village in the valley. Cynthia still has family in England, and visits here occasionally. She is a regular visitor on the Chevetogne exchange, always enjoys herself very much, and has got to know people here very well. Although she has lived in Belgium so long, there are still some things she misses. On our outing to Cambridge, we had a very satisfying trip to Sainsburys, where Cynthia stocked up on items like Colman’s Mustard, Branston Pickle and horseradish sauce - all the kind of things she is unable to get in Belgium.”

Peter Baker writes-

Guy, our visitor works with young adults who have physical and learning disabilities. He first came to Stansted on the Exchange 2 years ago and on the day out in Norwich was waiting for the group at the Roman Catholic Cathedral while the rest of us were at the Anglican Cathedral! So on the occasion of this visit, we thought it might be a good idea to draw a plan of our house for him in case he mislaid himself again! He was a good sport and managed to cope with our sense of humour. We look forward to meeting him and all our Belgian friends again next year in Chevetogne.

Catherine Dean writes:-

This was the third visit to Stansted for our guests Marcel and Odette Delhalle. They live a few kilometres from Chevetogne in Rochefort, home of the beer brewed by Trappist monks, and Alan is pleased that they always bring him a few bottles! Marcel is retired from his job working for a brick factory - a job which took them to Africa at one time. A lot of their time now seems to be taken up with grandchildren (that will sound familiar to a lot of us). Odette’s mother also lives with them. Those who were at the farewell dinner will know that Marcel has a fine voice and enjoys singing.

Odette embroiders tapestries and went home with some new ones from Sandringham to keep her busy this winter. Marcel and Odette love their visits to Stansted, and we love having them.

Unfortunately there is not room enough to include profiles of all our guest, but I hope from reading these that you will understand why this exchange has continued for so many years and why we all look forward to being together for these few days each year.

Eileen Quinn

### **Help for Aids in Malawi**

We have held two events in the last year to raise money to send to the victims of famine in Malawi, both under the auspices of RAP (Regular Aid for the Poor), with the money going to Malawi via Save the Children Fund. Both the quiz last July and the Rock Concert in March raised over £1000. Wonderful contributions to a needy cause.

With better rains this year, the famine situation is not now so desperate, but the real ongoing crisis is the Aids epidemic, with millions being affected and thousands of children becoming orphans. Moira Chimombo, who was present at the quiz last year and has relatives in Stansted, is soon to give up her academic post in Malawi to concentrate full-time on the Aids project she is already very involved in, which includes writing curricula for both primary and secondary schools which promote family values based on Christian ideals but in the setting of African cultural traditions. She has visited other African countries to talk about the programme and to hear how they are coping with the problem. She has also started a project for orphans aged 3-5 in a group of 15 villages, with older orphans being trained as teachers using minimal materials such as old cartons for the children to draw on and local clay for modelling. Her University students are recording their development. Some may remember the woollen hats in the Malawi colours she brought to the quiz. Moira now has village women knitting the hats, hopefully for sale in the UK and is paying them for doing this.

What we are planning is to hold fund-raising events during the year to try and help Moira with her project and other work for Aids. Money will be needed to pay her expenses in the work she does, but she has particularly mentioned to me the need for materials for the orphans (and possibly a



video camera to record their progress to help in fund-raising) and help with paying the women who are making the hats, and possibly other garments, as such craftwork is often the only way they can earn money.

Margaret Whitelaw

**\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\***

*For Contributors to RAP (Stansted Regular Aid for the Poor) by monthly envelope donation:*

Please note that with immediate effect, your envelopes should now be deposited with **Kings, the Butchers, Lower Street, Stansted**, in the usual way. This follows the recent closure of Stansted Post Office in Chapel Hill.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

David Morson  
Chairman, RAP



**SHALOM**

We have no meetings in August, but we do have our celebrated **Auction and cream tea**.

Come and join us on **Sunday, 3rd August at 3pm at the Friends Meeting House** for tea, scones, jam and cream and the opportunity to buy rare treasures at knock down prices. Be there or miss out!

Monday, 8th September – we start our new term in the usual way with **Prayer and Praise** led by Eileen and Brian Quinn at the Friends Meeting House.

Monday, 22nd September – an evening of **Discussion** at the Friends Meeting House.

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# Stansted Art & Craft Market

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## Remember September

This is a reminder that an important event in the calendar of village life has moved: the Annual Stansted Art and Craft Market has left its late October position and moved to the weekend of the 13th/14th September. We are all hoping for better weather than we have experienced on Market weekend over the past few years and, in recognition of the lighter evenings, the Market will be open until 5pm each day this year, giving everyone that bit longer to appreciate the wide range of items produced by local artists and craftspeople.

We have eighteen stallholders coming to the Market, with some lovely new crafts on display, in addition to the return of some old favourites. There will be items of all sorts on sale, ranging from handmade cards and children's illustrations to personalised embroidered towels and wood turning. The craft stalls will be divided as usual between St John's Church and the Church Hall, with the exhibition of artwork in the Church. This year for the first time, the raffle will have several prizes. As is traditional, there will be a picture by a local artist as the main prize: this year it has been produced by Michael Bonner. In addition to this, there will also be a selection of handcrafted items on offer, so don't forget to look out for the ticket point near the entrance to the Church Hall.

The weekend should be a very pleasant social occasion which also forms an important part of village life with the money it raises for local charities. The money raised by the Art and Craft committee is distributed between many important groups in the village, which means that you too can do your bit for the community even as you stock up on Christmas presents!

We still need more people to help with the setting up and dismantling of the Market; alternatively, perhaps you could spare an hour and a half to act as a steward in the Church or to sell raffle tickets (all stewards and ticket sellers get free entry to the rest of the Market). If you cannot commit yourself to a time slot in advance, perhaps you could make a cake for the refreshments stall to sell. If you can help in any way, Rachel Mortishire-Smith would love to hear from you (telephone 816837).

Mark Mackay

## SNIPPETS

The closure of the Post Office should not be allowed to pass without our thanks being expressed to all members of the staff who have given conscientious service to Stansted over many years. Life behind the counter can be a high pressure occupation without the added stresses imposed by crime. We should not permit the present inconvenience to obscure our gratitude for better days. That we need a Post Office in Stansted is beyond question so through our columns we urge Post Office Counters to do its utmost to obtain readily accessible premises in the village with the minimum of delay.

Consequent upon last month's Nature Notes a correspondent from St. John's Crescent has reported that a Jackdaw, not a common bird in these parts, has recently visited her garden. Any other reader's observations would be welcomed by the Editor.

## STANSTED FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

May and June proved to be very busy months for the fire crew at Stansted, with 60 calls in May and 46 in June. After a slow start in May, things began to hot up with a range of calls right across the spectrum. During the month we dealt with 8 Road Traffic Accidents, 12 vehicle fires, 4 aircraft emergencies and 27 alarm calls to various premises. On the 7th May, our off-road vehicle was called out to the village of Stock, near Chelmsford, where a microlight aircraft had crashed, trapping the pilot. On the 11th, we received a call to a house fire in the centre of Stansted, and arrived to find that, although some furniture had caught fire, it had burnt out. On the 15th, we were called to a serious accident on the B1383 at Ugley, where a car waiting to turn into Pennington Lane was hit from behind by a Mercedes, which itself was hit from behind by another car. The Mercedes caught fire, and it burnt so fiercely that it melted part of the tarmac of the roadway. Two injured persons were rescued by the firecrew, one being taken by Air Ambulance, the other by road ambulance. A little later the same day we were called to trees on fire in a garden in Elsenham. A most amusing call arose on the 25th May, when we were called late at night to a house in Ugley, where the owners, who had gone away on holiday, telephoned with the news that they had left a Pizza in the oven! We attended, found no sign of fire, but were unable to gain entry without breaking in. We understood there was a keyholder for the house, who lived in Elsenham, but we had no phone number, so a fire appliance was despatched to the amazed keyholder to collect the key, and entry was finally gained: the shrivelled and burnt remains of the Pizza were safely removed from the oven!

The following day we attended three road accidents, two on the M11, one late at night in Bury Lodge Lane, where a white Transit van had collided head-on with a tree, trapping the driver. A great deal of hard work and ingenuity was required, and it took 45 minutes to free him. Our off-road machine eventually had to gently tow the van backwards away from the tree in order to complete the rescue. On the 31st, we were called to the Diamond Hangar at the airport, where the ambulance service had requested our assistance to lift an injured man into an ambulance.

June started with a busy spate of calls, the first of which was a Volkswagen Dormobile which shed a tyre on the M11 at speed, causing the driver to lose control and the vehicle rolled over. It had been to an antiques fair, and was loaded with various antique items, many damaged in the crash. The driver and passenger were fortunately unhurt. Later the same day we were called to a plane arriving from Newcastle, whose tail had been struck on take-off, but it landed safely. On June 5th, in the very early hours, we were called to a head-on collision between a Fiat Punto and a Ford Mondeo in Bury Lodge Lane. Both cars sustained very heavy frontal damage, and three persons from the Mondeo were transported to hospital by ambulance with head and chest injuries. On the 10th, our off-road vehicle was called again to a fire in a field at the junction of the M11 and M25 motorways. On the 15th, we were called to a road accident in Silver Street, Stansted, where a Mazda car had left the road, crashing into a newly-built wall and demolishing several

bollards joined by chain. The vehicle was extensively damaged, but fortunately no-one was seriously hurt. On the 21st, we were called to the airport, where a ground tug had collided with an aircraft, but no action was necessary. Later the same day we were called to a Hot Air Balloon which had come down on land adjacent to the M11. The 27th June was a busy day, with four calls culminating in the tragic road accident at Henham, where a young man was fatally injured when, as a passenger in a Daewoo Matiz, he was hit by a Volkswagen Caravelle minibus. He sadly died in hospital the same evening. Other passengers in the car received varying degrees of injury, and the car itself was very badly damaged, reduced to almost half its normal width. During the month we dealt with 3 Full Emergencies at the Airport, 5 RTA's, and 11 vehicle fires, two of which required fire-fighters to wear breathing apparatus.

Cars very rarely catch fire, even when in severe collisions (that only really happens on TV!), but occasionally a combination of factors can cause a fire, which can often spread rapidly and burn fiercely. Modern vehicles contain many materials, mostly plastics, which are harmless, except in conditions of fire, which is why firefighters wear self-contained breathing apparatus to deal with them. It is never certain what the vehicles may be carrying, either, and it is not unknown for us to put out a fire in a vehicle, only to find that it was carrying gas cylinders or the like. In the event of a vehicle in which you are travelling catching fire, leave it immediately, raise the alarm instantly, giving as accurate a location as you can. Keep well away from the fire, because window glass, headlamps and tyres may explode without warning. Keep well clear of the smoke, and avoid breathing it in at any cost. If on a motorway, stay well away from the carriageway, up (or down!) the bank, preferably beyond the perimeter fence, and keep an eye on the traffic! Drivers are often 'drawn' towards an incident on the hard shoulder, and occasionally add to it as a result!

Now that summer is well and truly with us, please be very careful with those 'barbies' out of doors... NEVER use accelerants such as petrol or lighter fuel on them, NEVER be tempted to use them indoors or under cover (such as a tent, car port or pergola, because of their tendency to flare up), and keep an eye on children ...of all ages! Please ensure that Gas barbies are properly shut down, and preferably disconnected from their supply when not in use.

Can we also make a plea to those who have children who play on the Rochford's Nursery site? We have received an ever-growing number of calls to derelict cars being set on fire, as well as other incidents. Not only is this dangerous for firefighters to deal with (especially in the dark) but it is an extremely hazardous environment for anyone to be in at most times. The old Nurseries are littered with hazardous materials which will cause serious injury to the unwary, mainly glass, jagged metal, barbed wire, etc. So the only solution is to ensure children in particular are not allowed on to the site.

Enjoy the summer break, keep safe, and we will file another report in the September issue.

Philip Hastings



## BARN DANCE

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August

8 pm

Tye Green Barn  
Bar

£10 (incl light supper)

Tel 813871



## CONCERT

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept  
7.30 pm

**Elisabeth Martin (Sop)**

accompanied by her husband

**Matthew Martin**

**United Reformed Church**

*Tickets must be bought in advance*

*Adults £8 Concessions £5*

*includes light supper*

Peter & Valerie Trundle Tel. 813433



## COFFEE MORNING

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> September

10 am

Stansted Day Centre

Crafton Green

Details tel 814265

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### August

3	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
		St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
		Afternoon Tea	United Reformed Church 3 - 5 pm
		Shalom Auction and Cream Tea	Quaker Meeting House 3 pm
5	Tue	'Advice for Volunteers' session	Day Centre 10 am - noon
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Sat - 10 Sun	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
9	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
10	Sun	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Pk 1 - 4 pm
13	Wed	RBL (Women) Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10.30 am
14	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
20	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
24	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
25	Mon	Windmill Fête	Windmill 2 - 5 pm
30	Sat	Lib Dem Spanish Evening	Chantry Hall, Henham 7.30 pm
		HEAL Barn Dance	Tye Green Barn 8 pm

### September

1	Mon - 5 Fri	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
2	Tue	'Advice for Volunteers' session	Day Centre 10 am - noon
3	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Outing	
		Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Sat	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Pk 1 - 4 pm
7	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
		St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
8	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
9	Tue	Concert	United Reformed Church 7.30 pm
10	Wed	HEAL Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 - noon
11	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
13	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
13	Sat - 14 Sun	Art & Craft Market	St John's Church/Hall 11 am - 5 pm
17	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
18	Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm
20	Sat	Choir Trip to King's College	12.30 pm
		Andrew Harrison Show	United Reformed Church 7.30 pm
22	Mon	WEA enrolment & course start	Day Centre 7.30 pm

### October

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Clothes Show	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
4	Sat	Concert for St Clare Hospice	St John's Church 7.30 pm
5	Sun	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Pk 1 - 4 pm
6	Mon - 10 Fri	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
10	Fri	Family Disco	St John's Hall 6 - 9 pm
11	Sat	Music Quiz	Bentfield School 7.30 pm

## Stansted Art & Craft Market

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> & Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Sept

11 am to 5 pm

St John's Church & Hall

**Art Displays ~ 18 Craft Stalls**

Refreshments

Raffle with numerous prizes!

Adults £1 Accompanied Children 50p



## ANDREW HARRISON

### The End of the World

(and other embarrassing moments)

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7.30 pm

United Reformed Church

Tickets £5

Tel. 01279 814850

Proceeds towards URC Hall renovation

## CONCERT

in aid of St Clare Hospice

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

7.30 pm

St John's Church

Wine & Refreshments

Tickets £7 & £5 Concessions

from St John's Benefice Office

Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings

Tel 815243



## GARRY'S FAMILY DISCO



mainly for the under-14's

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October

6 - 9 pm

St John's Church Hall

Admission £2

in aid of the Skateboard Park



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# St Clare Hospice

## “Hospices in Harmony”

On Saturday 4th October 2003, a musical chain will be created across the world when, at precisely 19.30 hours local time, concerts will be held in cities, towns and villages in every continent. The concerts will be an international celebration of hospice and palliative care services and will also provide a lively and enjoyable fundraising opportunity for local palliative care initiatives.

St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood, Junction 7 on M11 is your local hospice and is organising two concerts in Uttlesford, one in Stansted in St John's Church and the other in Saffron Walden in St Mary the Virgin Church. The Hospice fundraisers are working closely with both Directors of Music to ensure a fantastic musical evening of Hospices in Harmony. A special poem has also been chosen to be performed at each concert. Glynis Morris has said that the musical pieces will include various chorale pieces, madrigals and a variety of popular songs.

The concert in Stansted will not have allocated seating it will be on a first come basis. The church can hold 300 people and tickets will cost £7.00 and £5.00 concessions for pensioners and children under 16yrs. Tickets in advance will be available from Liz Jennings at the Church Office on 01279 815243 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings or the Hospice on 01279 413590.

A glass of wine and refreshments will be available in the Church Hall during the interval.

I will be at the Stansted concert and I look forward to meeting you all there on what promises to be a wonderful evening.

If you prefer to attend the concert in Saffron Walden when Cantate Youth Choir will be performing, for further details please contact Dawn Helder on 01279 304746 or Judy Davidson on Wednesdays on 01279 413590. Seats will be allocated at this concert. Book early for this very special event.

Caroline Bore  
Fundraising Organiser  
St Clare Hospice

## Stansted Tennis Club



### Open Club Sessions

All current adult members are welcome to come along and join in these sessions, which get underway at 5.00pm on Wednesday afternoons and 9.30am on Sunday mornings.

### Coaching

Martyn Taplin is currently holding an adult coaching session for club members who wish to improve their game. The class is from 2.30-3.30pm on Saturday afternoons. Please call Martyn on 816386 if you would like to find out more or would like to join in.

Chris Hollis is currently coaching juniors on weekday afternoons and Saturday mornings. There are several doubles and singles tournaments planned for the summer. Please call Chris on 319155 to find out more.

The Secondary School age group junior singles tournament took place on Sunday 29th June. Fourteen players, split over 3 groups, played each person within their group, aiming to win as many games as possible in order to achieve a strong position for the knock-out stage. The semi finals were the best of 7 games. Luke Berry beat James Brown 4-1, while Fred Kirby beat Matthew Berry 4-2. The tournament was won by Fred Kirby, who beat Luke Berry 4-3 in the final.

### Used Tennis Balls

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

### Club Tournament

The draw is now up on the club noticeboard. A reminder to all those involved that all Quarter Final matches need to have been played by mid-August.

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



Our Autumn Course this year is entitled “Ancient Empires”. The lecturer will be Mr Nicholas James and the course will examine Imperialism in its many forms and how and why did ancient empires develop, and what they contributed to world history. We shall compare ancient Iraq, China, India and Romans, the Incas and the Aztecs.

The course will, as usual, consist of ten lectures and we shall meet on Monday evenings at the Day Centre beginning on 22nd September, the first evening enrolment between 7.30 and 8.00 pm.

The fee for the ten week course is £28 but the concessionary charge will be £17.

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



# Pub Profile No. 8

## The Three Colts

According to Deeds held at the Essex Record Office, the Three Colts on the Cambridge Road was established as an Inn in 1764, but this could have been an earlier building on the same site. It is also unclear where the name originated, but it must certainly be connected with the large field which was directly behind the premises reaching back to High Lane, and was called Colts field. Perhaps a certain Mr Colt sold off part of his field for development as a coaching Inn back in the 18th century. Local directories indicate that the Inn was in the hands of various members of the Sanders family for a period during the 19th century including Sophia in 1843 and Mary in 1855. Landlords in the early 20th century included Messrs Jay and Amey.



The Three Colts

Now after eighteen months under Pubmaster holding management, the Three Colts Public House has recently been entrusted to a permanent landlord and landlady in the form of newly-weds Kevin and Jayne Coy. Both Kevin and Jayne grew up in Stansted and prior to the Three Colts they managed The Yew Tree Inn, Manuden for fifteen months. Kevin has also managed a pub in Market Harborough and Jayne has worked in pubs for 7-8 years.

Kevin and Jayne have strong ideas about the clientele they wish to attract, and they hope that the Three Colts will become a community pub to be used by people of all ages. The interior has been redecorated and has a brighter look; new air conditioning and a humidifier have been installed; and there are plans to add new furniture including sofas. Recently planning permission has been granted to build twelve rooms onto the back of the present building.

The pub serves several types of lager, and cask ale has been re-introduced after a nine month absence and has

proved very popular. Jayne is concentrating on lunchtime food, serving light snacks such as Paninis or Chilli from 12 - 3 pm.



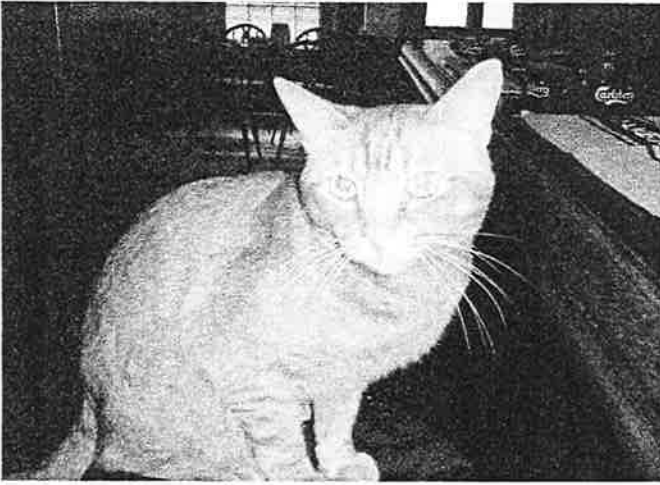
Kevin & Jayne

For sports enthusiasts the 'Big Screen TV' has been re-introduced and will show major sporting events, particularly Premiership football. For pool players the Three Colts hope to enter a team in the Stortford Pool League in September and will hold a Tuesday Pool Knockout tournament. At the front of the pub away from the 'Big Screen' and the pool table, is an area that Jayne refers to as the 'Snug'. This is ideal for quieter conversation, and Stansted Junior Football Club hold their monthly meetings here whilst still being able to keep an eye on the football scores! Every other Saturday is Live Music Night featuring solo and double acts. Look out for 'Stars in their Eyes' finalist, George Michael in September.



The Garden

Kevin and Jayne have a new addition to their family, a ginger Tom Cat called Carrots. Co-incidentally one previous owner, Terry had a ginger cat called Carrots. Jayne said that Carrots has been known to sleep on the same bar stool in the same place as his predecessor. Overall it is amazing how much Jane and Kevin have achieved in a few short months and they certainly have not had time to join Carrots sleeping



### Carrots

on a bar stool even if they have felt like it at times!

*Interview and history by Rachel Warwick and Peter Brown  
Photographs by Mike Dyer*



### Nature Notes

During these summer months there has been a noticeable scarcity of butterflies. By contrast, bees of all kinds have been much in evidence, probably more in our gardens than in the countryside. Bumble bees are a familiar sight; their soft buzz before they enter a flower is associated with warm summer days.

There are 19 species of the bumble bee genus (*Bombus*), all hairy and rather stout, larger than honey bees and often with bright yellow, orange or buff hair. They form annual colonies and build their nests either underground, using possibly a mouse hole, or on the surface, in a mound made up of grass and moss. Inside are brood cells of wax, less regular than those of honey bees. Larvae are fed on pollen and honey. The first young bees to emerge are the workers, infertile females who are used to build up the colony, by gathering nectar and pollen and forming cells. The queen remains inside to continue her egg laying.

At the end of the summer, when the colony might number several hundred bees, the males and females fly out and mate. The males die and the females look for a suitable hibernation site. The old queen and workers don't survive the winter. In spring the fertilised females start to build up their own colonies.

The smaller honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) form permanent communities, either in a hive or, rarely nowadays, in a hollow tree. They are considered to be the most highly developed of all social insects. A colony consists of one egg-laying queen, tens of thousands of workers and up to 2000 males, the drones. The nest is made up of wax combs divided into thousands of hexagonal cells, used for rearing

young and as pollen and honey stores. Sufficient food has to be stored to keep the colony alive during the winter. Bee larvae can develop into workers or queens, depending on their diet. Future queens receive a rich diet of royal jelly from special glands on the heads of nurse bees. The workers start off as nurses and comb builders, then are on guard duty and also work as foragers.



Bees collect both pollen and nectar; sometimes the collecting of pollen is incidental as it brushes off the stamens on to the bee. To lure the insects, markings on flower petals can act as navigational guides, leading the bee to the nectar it seeks. Foxgloves, which are visited by bumble bees, have series of spots on the lower part of the flower. These attract the bee to use it as a landing stage and guide it deep into the bell.

Bees are very systematic creatures, visiting every flower that is at the height of its pollen production. Both bumble and honey bee workers (the infertile females) have a pollen basket on the outer surface of their hind legs. If you watch them visiting a patch of white clover flowers, you can see the bright orange yellow pollen bags getting larger and heavier. Each individual clover flower has a large petal at the back. The bee lands on the keel and side petals which then fold downwards so that a shower of pollen from the stamens lands onto the female stigma and onto the bee at the same time. Once pollination has taken place and the flower has been fertilised, it folds down and turns brown. Bees are very efficient pollinating agents of both red and white clover, but particularly white clover which is a valuable plant for beekeepers.

Rosina Kirkwood



## STANSTED & DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

The next ploughman's lunches will be on Saturday 9th August and Saturday 13th September at the Stansted Day Centre, noon to 2pm. All are welcome.

The Spanish evening which was to have been held in June was postponed. This has now been rearranged for 7.30pm on Saturday, 30th August at Chantry Hall Henham. Tickets £8 to include supper.

Please ring 813432 or 814222 for tickets and further details.

Ruth Rawlinson

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



Our retiring head, Jean Cashman, wrote in last month's Link of 'hurtling towards the end of Summer Term' and that's exactly how it felt. It was a wonder the children managed to squeeze schoolwork in to their ever-busy sports and social calendar!

The school awaits the official outcome of the Ofsted Inspection, though the Inspectors did reveal they thought the school was 'most welcoming and friendly' and that the children were 'polite, confident and well behaved' (of course, we already knew that...!). A final report will be made available next term.

The children and staff deserve a well-earned pat on the back as this year's SAT's results (Governments tests taken in May) are overall, the best ever, with the highest number of level 5's at Key Stage 2. The results demonstrate the superb teaching and are a brilliant reflection of the commitment and dedication on behalf of the staff. Well done to all.

Some sporting achievements as well this month. Year 6 were first in their group at the Inter-School Rounders Competition held at The Friends School, and second in the Inter-Schools Football Tournaments held at our namesake, St Mary's, in Saffron Walden. Congratulations also, to all those in Year 6 who passed their Cycling Proficiency Test held on 11th July (hope Stansted didn't prove too hilly on such a blistering hot day).

It's been a good month for our finances too. The Midsummer Fayre total came in at just under £2,000, some of which will be spent on playground equipment. A word of thanks to all the local businesses and organisations who help with our fundraising by way of donating prizes and sponsorship money. It was a marvellous total, helped in part by the Barclays £ for £ scheme. The basketball game proved a hit at the Village Fete on 5th July, raising £46. Our thanks to the Village Association for our pitch – and to the Harper brothers of Stansted who inspired a kind of Village Fete Championship! Richard was the eventual winner, scoring an unbelievable 80 points (2 points for each ball in the net) in 45 seconds! Watch out Chicago Bears... The school make-over continues as we have secured a grant of £60,000 towards the cost of replacing windows with more to come.

On a theatrical note Years 5 and 6 gave a terrific performance of The Blue Crystal on 9th and 10th July, co-ordinated by Mr Brown and Mr Arbuckle. It was a story of good overcoming evil, set in futuristic space. The children performed brilliantly and we're sure there were a lot of extremely proud parents. The mammoth effort that goes into school plays does not go unnoticed – especially in the costume and make-up departments. Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Burton, helped by parents Michelle Davis-Gardener and Jacky Pronk, helped create exactly the right atmosphere. Those trips to DIY centres on a Sunday looking for tumble dryer ducting pipe (to

make robot arms of course) and raiding the pile of Thunderbirds comics to crib Alan Tracey's hat - it's all worth it!

The Governors treated the PTFA and helpers to their annual Strawberry Tea on 11th July. It's lovely to feel appreciated and they certainly made us feel all our efforts are worthwhile.

During the week of 14th July, the parents were able to sample for themselves the school lunches that have proved such a hit with the children. We've been dropping hints for ages as to when we could go in and Hoover up the left-overs though now we know why there aren't any. One word sums them up – delicious! Judith Davies and her colleagues work really hard at producing tasty, healthy, child-friendly menus and the proof is in the pudding (sorry...) as numbers are well over 120 every day. We can't wait for our next invitation!

Sports Day held on 17th July, was as always, a fun and well attended event with lots of yelling of encouragement from the sidelines – and not just from the children! With 'Well Done' stickers for all, we're sure everyone enjoyed the day.

Year 6 have had 'taster days' at their new secondary schools and are no doubt extremely excited for the new term to begin. Children are joining a number of schools; The Boys High, Helena Romanes, Herts and Essex, Hockerill Anglo-European, Mountfitchet High and Newport Grammar. They were able to let their hair down a little at the Leavers Disco before the real work begins in September. After a moving and poignant Leavers' Service in St John's Church held on the last day of term, it was soon time to say goodbye. We wish them all happiness and success at their new schools.

We wish Mrs Cashman a happy and healthy retirement and hope she'll keep in touch with the school - dropping us a postcard now and then from her future exotic travels. We extend a sincere and warm welcome to our new Headteacher, Mrs Wood and are sure she will enjoy St Mary's and feel at home in no time at all.

Finally, to make you smile, Year 6 have kindly contributed to The Link this month. Here are some of the memories of their years at St Mary's; from Carl, Sarah, Sasha, Max, Fiona, Ellen and Alex:

I remember when I was in Year 3 we always played kiss chase. If a girl chased a boy he would jump into a bush and shout for help.

I started in Year 4 from a different school. In assembly I walked down the step and tripped up over a wire in front of the whole school.

My favourite memory is when we went to the Millennium Dome. I got my picture taken with ET.

At break, our fire alarm went off but because we had a newish caretaker, he didn't know how to switch it off. Lucky for us we had extra break time!

In Year 3 we did a small performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in the class. I was Violet and I really enjoyed doing it.

In Year 5 we were doing a topic on the Tudors and we went on a school trip to Kentwell Hall. Our teacher dressed up as Henry VIII and the whole class dressed up as well.

My memory of this school was when I got my foot stuck in the pond. All the school laughed at me. My foot soon got out and I was alright.

Have a great summer!

Claire Jonas  
PTFA Committee Member



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

At our July meeting Maurice Fenn gave a talk, illustrated by slides and maps, entitled *The Search for the River Niger*. In the eighteenth century, no one knew where it was, its source or its entrance to the ocean. To find out, three explorers were to set out into the unknown to locate the river starting out from The Gambia. The first was Mungo Park, who found the source but after many months of hardship, found his way back to The Gambia to set off better equipped at a later date. On this expedition he was lost - not heard of again. In 1788 the Association to explore Africa was formed, and sent out Hugh Clapperton to find Mungo Park only to learn he had probably been killed by natives because he did not bring gifts to the ruling Kings along the route. Hugh Clapperton returned to The Gambia for 5 months to learn the language and set off again accompanied by another young explorer named Richard Lander. They followed the source of the Niger to the end where it met the ocean, so opening up the river for trade ships to come and ply their goods along its route. So began what we know today as Nigeria.

The river is 2,600 miles long and several miles wide at some points. (As this was the hottest evening of the summer so far, members felt they were actually in Africa during the talk.)

Kath Johnson and Sheila Clark brought the paintings they had done on a course at Denman College which is the W.I. college in Marcham, Oxfordshire. Members were also informed of a visit to Clarence House in October and one to Sutton Hoo. After coffee we had a quiz with a nursery rhyme theme, which had members casting their minds back to childhood!

The next meeting is on August 14th 7.45 St. John's Hall, when Frances Harper gives a talk on microwave cookery. Do come along and join us, you can come as a visitor, and if you like it become a member and make friends.

Kath Johnson  
813225

## Bentfield Primary School PTA

With the summer holidays now upon us, and with staff, pupils and parents enjoying a well-deserved break it seems a good time to reflect on an incredibly busy school year.

Since September 2002 the PTA at Bentfield have held an amazing number of varied events for both children and adults. We've had a Music Quiz Night, Sparkler Party, School Christmas Disco, Christmas Party Night, Christmas Fair, School Valentine Disco, Fashion Show, Bike Sale, Easter Craft Afternoon, Uniform and Cake Sale, Sponsored Jump for Gym, the May Fair, Music in the Park and the school Leavers' Disco.

The events organised aim to give as much entertainment to the children and families as possible and are not solely run to raise money. Having said that, this year we have raised over £7,000 (with the proceeds from Music in the Park still to come!). This is an incredible amount and has only been made possible through all the hard work of the committee, staff, parents and pupils, so a huge thank-you to everyone.

Our job is not just about raising money, we have in fact been busy spending it too! With the money raised we were able to purchase two new play structures for the playground, a boat and a playhouse, which have been a real hit with the children. Reception now have a new shed for their playground to house their ever-growing outdoor play equipment. We have also provided the school with an interactive white board, music equipment, new library books, cooking aprons and a very smart new kit for the netball team. We are currently in consultation with the staff about purchasing PE equipment, benches for the playground, stage lighting for the hall and creating a quiet seating area in the playground.

Our fundraising will start afresh at the start of the new school year. Our first event is a Music Quiz Night on Saturday 11th October. Last year's event was so popular that we have decided to hold another one. So if you fancy a fun-filled evening of eating, drinking, dancing, oh - and answering the odd question or two, then do come and join us. Watch out for more details or ring 647650.

Marnie Tait



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The National Childbirth Trust  
Education for Parenthood

As promised, this month we plan to outline the services that our branch of the NCT is able to offer for local parents. As a charity, **ALL** of our services are open to **ALL** parents. You do not have to be a member to use our services or come along to our events (although, as a membership organisation, it is our membership fees that do keep our national structure and activities in existence).

So did you know that we:

- *Run evening and weekend antenatal classes* – in the last year 138 couples were helped to prepare for the birth of their babies

*Run sales of nearly new baby clothes, toys and equipment* twice a year – allowing local parents to sell items they no longer need and buy quality goods at bargain prices

*Offer postnatal support* to new mums – practical and emotional support when they need it most

- *Maintain a register of members willing to share their experiences* and talk to others about all sorts of pregnancy, parenting and child related topics

- *Hold weekly get-togethers* for parents and carers of babies, toddlers and pre-school children where the children play and the adults chat, have a coffee and provide informal support to each other

- *Arrange regular and varied activities for the kids* to keep them busy every single week and also arrange things just for the parents too

- *Hire valley cushions* (an inflatable V shaped cushion to ease the pain of sitting down if you are sore immediately after the birth of the baby)

- *Hire hospital grade breast pumps* to help you provide breastmilk to your baby when you are unable, for whatever reason, to breastfeed yourself

We are also able to make use of additional services provided by other nearby NCT branches in Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden such as trained breastfeeding counsellors who offer telephone or face to face assistance with breastfeeding and Mava bra fitters who will fit you with a comfortable maternity or feeding bra at a time to suit you.

So I hope that gives you some idea of the type of services that are available to all local parents and parents to be. If you think you would benefit from any of our services or if you want any further information, do please get in touch by phoning Sarah on 01279647022 or emailing Stansted-nct@lineone.net

Tracy Todman

## Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices  
Crafton Green  
Tel 813214  
Fax 813964

### Parish Cemetery

On 7th July 2003 a safety check of all headstones in the Parish Cemetery was undertaken to test for stability. In line with Health and Safety regulations, the Parish Council is under a duty to carry out Risk Assessments on areas for which it is responsible for maintenance, and where it employs staff or contractors to work, and/or to which the public have access, ie play areas, the cemetery, public open spaces. In addition, there is a requirement on us as a Burial Authority to undertake this safety check following the death of an 8 year-old girl in East Anglia killed when a headstone fell on her.

The Parish Council regrets that it did not undertake any pre-publicity to warn people that this test was to be undertaken, and apologises for upset caused to any family as a result. The Clerk has endeavoured to contact all affected families, but due to the age of some of the records, up to date details may not be held. If any family has not heard direct, please make contact with the Clerk on 813214.

Ruth Clifford  
Clerk



## Royal British Legion

### Women's Section

Frances Spalding was our speaker at our June meeting. She had recently been to Denmark, Sweden and Norway and she showed us some beautiful slides. The group she went with travelled by plane, train, bus and boat, staying in hotels, hostels, boats and self-catering units. We saw glorious views of snow on mountains, glaciers and typical Norwegian wooden churches.

The raffle was then drawn by Jean and we all chatted over refreshments.

Our Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 13th August in the Day Centre from 10.30 am. Tombola, Raffle, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac. Please come - everyone very welcome.

We have no branch meeting in August but at our meeting on 18th September we shall hold our annual harvest sale.

Pat Clower



## STANSTED VILLAGE FETE 2003

The Stansted Village Association would like to thank all their contributors, stallholders and helpers for their part in making this committee's first Summer Fair so very successful.



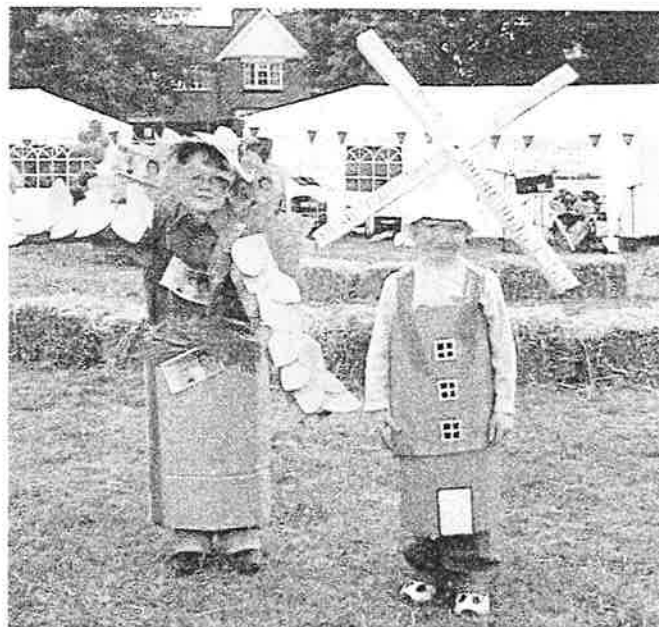
### Chinese Dragon Dance

We were thrilled that so many people attended and had such an enjoyable time - the weather was kind to us all day and the last of us staggered home at 7.30 pm exhausted but happy.

We had so many comments on what a lovely public space the Recreation Ground was for our own village Summer Fair and how attractive it looked with all the bunting and tents. Many stallholders were delighted with how much money they had made for their clubs, etc., and everyone enjoyed the wonderful opening with fireworks and Chinese Dragon dance, and the live bands that followed and the Tug-o-war was a great success.

We have to report that the event made a loss. We fully expected this, as we had to purchase so many things for our new event in a new venue, tents, toilets and so on. However, because of fund raising events and saving, we have funds in the bank and will continue to fund raise - look out for a Music Quiz night in October!

If you think the Association may be able to help your club or charity, please do apply in writing. We will need to know what you would like money for and what you are doing to raise funds yourselves. Obviously we cannot help everyone, but will try to be fair in our decisions.



### Fancy Dress Winners

Finally, we would like to invite anyone who is interested in joining the committee to please contact us. Our meetings are about once a month and usually in a pub! When you think that this huge event was organised by only 7 people, think what we could achieve with a few more! We look forward to hearing from you.



### Fire Eating

Text:  
Cheryl Nicholson  
3 Poulteney Road,  
Stansted. Tel: 814550

Photographs:  
Vanessa Ollier



### Tug of War



### **New Noise Maps Show Extra 70,000 Would Be Affected By Expanded Stansted Airport**

New noise impact maps showing the widespread effects of noise annoyance over a wide area of Hertfordshire, Essex, South Cambs and Suffolk can be accessed and downloaded from:

[www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/maps\\_new\\_noise.html](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/maps_new_noise.html)

A series of new noise maps produced by Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) using the government's own data has shown that 100,000 people across the region would be badly affected by the full expansion of Stansted Airport – rather than the 27,900 predicted by the Department for Transport (DfT).

These new maps only became available a few days before the 'official' end of the consultation phase on 30th June, so few people were probably able to raise the issue with the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Department of the Environment (part of DEFRA). Nevertheless, these maps provide the general public with more information than was previously available and could still provide a valid point on which to continue lobbying one's MP if not writing directly to the Ministers concerned. After all, environmental issues on all manner of matters are being raised all the time and HMG cannot just arbitrarily cut off on this area.

Based on the World Health Organisation definition of what is acceptable in terms of noise annoyance, SSE used software developed by the USA's Federal Aviation Authority to define noise contours more accurately for mapping against demographic data for 2002. This reveals that 70,000 people more than previously thought would be affected by expansion of Stansted if the so-called 'airport in the countryside' is allowed to become the world's largest airport, growing from 16m in 2002 to 129m passengers in 2030. The number of people affected could be higher still, given that the software errs on the side of caution in its calculations.

The demographic data for the initiative was provided by the highly respected specialist organisation CACI (who also supplied the demographic data in the DfT's own consultation documents) and funded by Uttlesford District Council and Saffron Walden Town Council. The demographic figures are three years more up to date than those used by the DfT.

And, while the government says that three extra runways would enable Stansted to become the biggest airport in the world, twice the size of Heathrow, BAA recently admitted that these same numbers could be achieved with the addition

of just two more runways if they were positioned appropriately. This means that two extra runways could cause the same amount of noise nuisance in a full expansion scenario.

The World Health Organisation's expert view of what constitutes a problem draws on international research to state that noise levels should not exceed 50 dBA Leq 'to protect the majority of people from being moderately annoyed during the daytime.'

Commented Chris Bennett, Chair of Stop Stansted Expansion's Noise Committee which has led the mapping team: "The Department for Transport ignores the World Health Organisation figures, preferring instead to use the much higher level of 57 dBA Leq. This grossly distorts the true picture and enables the DfT to conveniently dismiss the impact on some 70,000 or more people who would suffer if Stansted Airport was enlarged on the scale proposed."

Furthermore, in areas of rural calm such as those enjoyed by Hertfordshire, Essex, South Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, where background levels of noise are considerably lower than in the urban areas around many airports sited close to towns, the difference between peaceful tranquillity and aircraft noise can, quite literally, be shattering. "Measurements professionally undertaken by Uttlesford District Council have shown that background noise levels are sometimes so low as to not even register on the standard noise meter software," continued Chris Bennett.

However, using standard noise contour maps only goes a certain way to define the real picture of the true impacts on people. The current methodologies used by the Department for Transport grossly distort the view, diluting the impacts by an averaging system which takes into account periods of quiet as well as noise. The innovative approach employed by Stop Stansted Expansion, however, gives a much more realistic picture.

The noise contours for 50 dBA Leq were separately produced for each of the two modes of aircraft operation (south westerly and north easterly), assuming 100 per cent of operations in each mode, ie. the average situation on three days in four and one day in four respectively based on current patterns. These results were then recombined into a single map to show, first, the areas of overlap which will suffer noise disturbance on every day and, second, the areas suffering for parts of the time.

Looking at the two directions of operations separately has meant that for the first time people can look beyond the 'headline' impact of averaged figures. The results show that the total areas suffering from 50 dBA Leq noise nuisance for at least some of the time are approx 35% greater than the traditional all-in-one composite maps indicate.

The results – which come at the eleventh hour before the consultation ended on 30th June – highlight for the first time ever the misleading effects on the noise contours of combining into one map the data from the two directions of operations by Stansted aircraft.

The maps can be accessed on-line at

[www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/maps\\_new\\_noise.html](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/maps_new_noise.html)

### Health Effects...

The implications of the government's miscalculations would be very serious for health, especially for such vulnerable groups as schoolchildren, the elderly and chronic sick in the event of expansion. Demographic information provided in conjunction with the noise maps produced by Stop Stansted Expansion's noise team show that children under 14 and people over 65 account for 33,323 of the 100,000 who would be affected.

A number of globally recognised studies by such respected bodies as the World Health Organisation and the Dutch equivalent of Britain's Medical Research Council have already proved the damaging impact of constant exposure to airport noise and pollution. Increased admissions to hospital and deaths from cardio-vascular disease are a consequence of airport-related pollution, and there is considerable concern about the increase in asthma among children in urban areas. Studies have also shown that noise interferes with study and classroom communications, as well as concentration in general.

Further information: Carol Barbone, Stop Stansted Expansion M 0777 552 3091

Further comment: Chris Bennett, Chair, Stop Stansted Expansion Noise Committee, 01223 893461.

Carol Barbone



It has been a busy and exhausting end of term for the children at Rainbow. At the end of June children from all groups enjoyed a day trip to Willows Farm, St Albans. There were lots of things for the children to see and do, including animals to stroke, tractor rides, panning for gold and an adventure play ground.

Children in the older group have been using public transport to get out and about. They all travelled by bus to Bishop's Stortford in order to visit the "Helter-Skelter Park" and by train to Harlow to visit Harlow Town Park where they tired themselves out playing in the fantastic adventure playground. On the last sessions of term all children went out on a walk within Stansted that culminated in a teddy bears' picnic to celebrate the end of the year.

We continue to improve the outside of our premises – more flowers have been planted and we would particularly like to thank Penny Hopkinson and Yvonne Hardy for helping with our gardening.

It has been sad to say good bye to all the children in the older group who will be going on to "big school" next year. They have been a lovely group to teach and we wish them all well in September. We are already looking forward to meeting the new children who will join us next term. If you are interested in a place at the pre-school please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for information about our waiting list.

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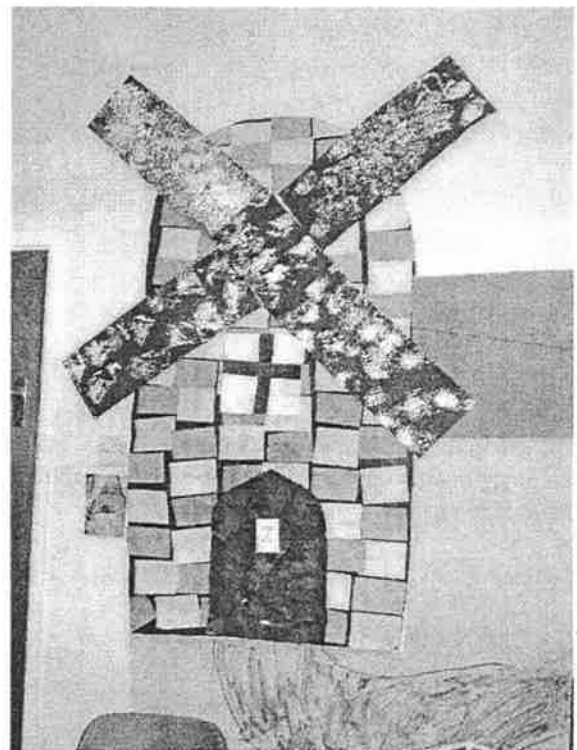
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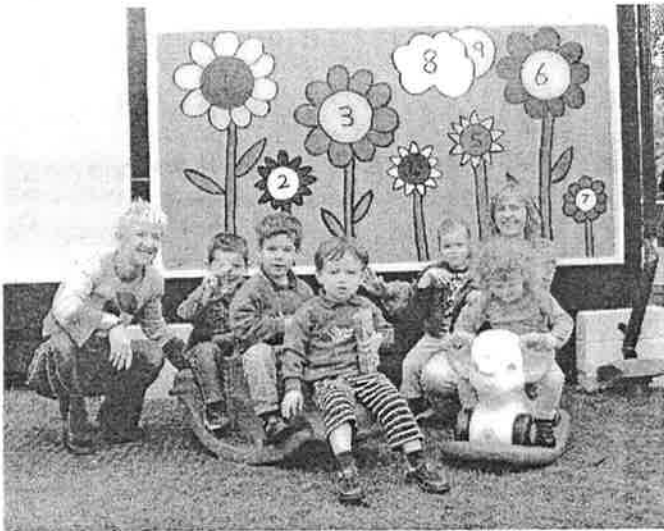
**For more info, call Sharon tel: 813064**



**Stansted Windmill - Created by the Children at  
Rainbow Pre-School - Summer 2003**

# Birchanger Nursery Unit

What an exciting couple of months we have had at Birchanger! We have started our afternoon sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday, and so far the staff and children have settled in well! Our outside classroom is finally finished, thanks to all the parents who helped to lay the surface, mow the grass and donate equipment; thanks to Birchanger toddler group who bought us a basketball net; and thanks to the staff who painted the aiming walls - colourful flowers with numbers in the middle, and bricks with shapes inside. We had a Grand Opening day on Tuesday 20th May, which included a picnic, bouncy castle, lucky dip and entertainer Andy Clockwise who made a balloon for each child - he must have enjoyed himself as he, very kindly, didn't charge us! Some of the children from the school helped with the stalls, and their reporter's club asked the staff and parents some interesting questions, I look forward to reading all about it in the School News!



L-R Carol Bullot, Charlie Saunders, Thomas Mortishire-Smith, Luke Draycott, Nancy Saunders, Ellie Pointer and Diane Gould

Our topic for the short half term was Dinosaurs, the children made a great display based on the book *Dinosaur Roar!*, made some brilliant clay dinosaurs, looked at the very long and difficult to pronounce names, and found out which were the biggest and smallest dinosaurs. Our theme for the final eight weeks of the term has been Changes and Movement, concentrating mainly on the children doing lots of sport, but also including changes in animals and plants.

The things they say: After singing *Two Little Dickie Birds*:  
Child 1 "I have an uncle Paul called Paul"  
Child 2 "I have an uncle Paul called John!"

We are open Mon Wed Fri from 9:15 - 12 Tues-Thurs from 9:15 - 11:45 and 12:30 - 3pm

Telephone 07773730754 (Nursery) or 01279 814037 (Admissions secretary) for more information.

Carol Bullot (Nursery Manager)

## Essex County Council

Following the last news report it seems wise to return to the major subjects of interest so readers have these clearly in mind before the summer break, since in most cases these issues will be before them in the coming months.

The battle over the development of Stansted Airport is now in its final stage before the matter goes to the Minister for a decision and the publication of a White Paper in the spring. Everyone will know by now what the issue is. It remains to be seen whether the decision will be favourable to everyone, or to one opinion or the other. I suspect, as always, there will be a compromise that will be revealed in time, as was the case on the last occasion.

Readers should remember also that a new Planning Bill is before Parliament, and as a result many of the options that could be used to resist further development are very likely to be removed. A gloomy thought.

As has been mentioned in past news reports, a greater problem looms before us which is the proposal for further housing development in the area. Many will know that under the sponsorship of the Regional Authority, Harlow has consulted to redevelop the town and its surrounding area. This inevitably will lead to an increase in housing numbers. Clearly, a similar possibility could happen in the Bishop's Stortford area.

Additionally, the completion of the A120 will attract further building of new housing settlements. Clearly the demand is there, for as we all know, on many of the present developments houses are sold before they are completed. It is for present residents to take note.

Should anyone wish to go into these subjects further they can consult with the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace  
County Councillor, Stansted Division



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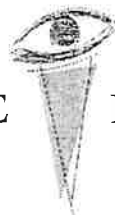
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