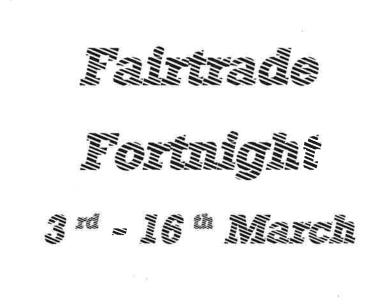




Volume XXIII No 4





It's time now to think about what we can do for the poor growers in the Third World

The

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- ☑ Ask for Fairtrade drinks in coffee shops
- ☑ Make the FAIRTRADE Mark known
- ☑ Give Fairtrade items as presents or gifts to raffles etc.

Look for local sales points in our March issue and on notice boards

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 13th February for publication on 1st March by 13th March for publication on 29th March

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

"Blair: get ready for war on Iraq" Guardian, 21st December 2002

This was the front page eye-catcher followed by an article in which both Prime Minister Blair and President Bush were quoted as follows: Blair (addressing the armed forces): "The key thing at the moment is to make all the preparations necessary, and to make sure that we are building up the capacity in the region – both the Americans and ourselves – and that we are able to undertake this mission if it falls to us to do so." Bush: "Yesterday was a disappointing day for those who long for peace; we expected Saddam Hussein to show that he would disarm."

When the Iraqis look out from their borders, why would they disarm? Whose threat is it anyway? That is my dilemma when I go about my daily life, unchanged, yet reading that my Government is preparing for war to protect me. I do not know what to believe. Do I feel threatened by this dictator? Do I feel that we should use our military might (but not, of course, our weapons of mass destruction) to prevent his regime perpetrating further acts of evil? My instinct is to say that this is not my affair, nor Britain's and that we should not force our view of "right" on others in our own interest. This is probably a weak, selfish response; yet war against Iraq does not to me seem right. I wonder if I have to wait until his Scud missile hits our territory before I would let the guns sound.

Quakers are well known for their peace testimony. It has been a source of wonder for me to read Chapter 24 of Quaker Faith & Practice entitled "Our Peace Testimony" and to find Quakers since the 1650s seeking a positive response to this dilemma.

"Meeting at a time when the nations of Europe are engaged in a war of unparalleled magnitude, we have been led to recall the basis of the peace testimony of our Religious Society. It is not enough to be satisfied with a barren, negative witness, a mere proclamation of non-resistance. We must search for a positive, vital, constructive message." 1915

"True peace involves freedom from tyranny and a generous tolerance; conditions that are denied over a large part of Europe and are not fulfilled in other parts of the world. But true peace cannot be dictated, it can only be built in co-operation between all peoples. None of us, no nation, no citizen, is free from some responsibility for this situation with its conflicting difficulties." 1943 "Refusal to fight with weapons is not surrender. We are not passive when threatened by the greedy, the cruel, the tyrant, the unjust. We will struggle to remove the causes of impasse and confrontation by every means of non-violent resistance available." 1987

Richard Raggett

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 February

2nd	10.30am	Dr Janet Tollington
9th	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson
		Communion
16th	10.30am	Dr David Thompson
23rd	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson

Date for your Diary

Don't miss it!!

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY FUN DAY at Stansted United Reformed Church on

Saturday 29th March

There will be fun and games, plus art, craft, drama, music and cookery followed by a special Children's Service for Mothering Sunday on 30th March, incorporating some of the activities from Saturday's Fun Day.

Places will be limited to 40 children, so book your place by Saturday 15th March to avoid disappointment.

Book early: Contact numbers: 01279 813433 or 01279 758611



The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham

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

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

(01279) 815243 <church.office@stansted.net>

Administrator Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

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

Rector Revel 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 Leetes Lane Eversden Cambs, CB3 7HH phonelfax (01223) 263640 <church.music@stansted.net>

Children's Church Mrs Marion Johnson (01279) 812284

Mother & Toddler Group Mrs Tina South (01279) 814371

December Registers Baptisms:

1st Charles Mayhew Truscott Eve Poppy Truscott Madelaine Rose Hobbs Funeral: 17th Margaret Gabb, 89 yrs

Looking into the mirror-

Over Christmas, we acquired a copy of *The Fellowship of the Ring DVD*, the first of the Lord of the Rings movies.

There is a scene where Galadriel, the elfqueen, draws water from her fountain in a silver pitcher and pours it into a basin, and then encourages Frodo to look into it. She says something like, "Will you look into the mirror, it will show what has been, what is, and some of what yet will be." It seemed to me that this was a very good image for of baptism, and it stayed with me into the new year.

If you are baptised, and are anything like me, then you probably have no memory of your baptism. I was baptised back in the late 1950's when it was The Thing to Do. Back when we lived in an age then where people did not question customs and practices, unlike the way that we do now.

These days fewer people bring their children for baptism, and I think this is a very good thing. Increasingly parents are realising that rituals have power, and require a response or a commitment. Fewer people these days are content simply to have something done without thinking it through. More and more we are shy of making commitments, or want to postpone them.

When Frodo looked into Galadriel's mirror, this was a life-changing moment where he would embark on a journey after which he would never be the same again. John the Baptist called people to a life-changing moment symbolised by baptism in the River Jordan. His people lived in a land which

St. John's Diary

Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion said 9:30am Parish Communion sung

I I:00am Open Door Service on the 2nd and 16th of February 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. A housegroup meets fortnightly and is currently studying Paul's letters. God had promised them which, for the previous three hundred years had been occupied by foreign armies. The Promised Land of John the Baptist's day was a land now owned by Roman occupying forces and Jewish collaborators. Ordinary people were eased off their land and had to sell their labour to work land they once owned. This meant poverty, disease and desperation.

John the Baptist's movement responded to this with repentance, and washing in the river, the river Jordan, the place where they were first given the land, in the hope that God would intervene directly, and they would get their land back. God intervened with Jesus, who would teach his followers to run the land as if God was the landlord, and look after their neighbours as if they are all made in the image of God.

This is how baptism began. Jesus was baptised as part of this movement, and went on to live a way of life where people are healed, outsiders are included and the hungry are fed.

When Christians took their faith to the rest of the Roman Empire, people were attracted to a world which said our wealth and our neighbour belongs to God. Early communion services were of sharing food, so all people who were baptised became part of a new movement to make a new world where all were looked after. Baptism often meant people had to change jobs, and it was the climax of a long process, and a commitment to build a new world inside the corrupt one in which they lived.

Increasingly we are moving to a time where people seek baptism because they want their lives to be committed to making the world a better place by following Jesus. Stansted PCC has voted to admit all baptised people to the food-sharing ritual of communion. We will no longer require that people be confirmed, a commitment to take our baptism seriously, whether we remember it or not, is all that we need to have. The Bishop of Colchester, who will be with us on Easter Eve, will admit all baptised people to share in the first communion of Easter.

I am delighted with this move, as it will bring us closer to the purpose that John the Baptist and Jesus had in mind at those first baptisms, and not before time.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux, High Lane

Priest	Father Joe White The Presbytery St Therese of Lisieux High Lane		
	Stansted Tel 012	79 81	4349
Masses	Saturday Sunday Holy Days of Oblig	ation	6pm 9am and 10.30am 8am and 8pm
	Tuesday - Saturday		9.30am
Confessions	Saturday	10am	and by appointment

Confessions Saturday

Baptisms By appointment

John, Chap.1, v18: "No-one has ever seen God; it is the only Son who has made him known".

According to John's Gospel, Jesus' mission was to reveal God's "glory". By that he meant the 'essence' or reality of what God is. In the opening verse of St John's first Epistle, he writes, "God is Love".

Although all these ideas are linked and have common themes. St John provides us with a fresh insight. It is not what Jesus does for us, rather it is what Jesus shows us and how we respond, thus putting the responsibility onto us.

The reality for St John in his Gospel is the crucifixion because it is in this that the most unselfish love, which is God, is made manifest. At the Last Supper, Jesus says, "No greater love has any man than he who lays down his life for his friends". In this statement Jesus is telling us what the greatest love is. He is telling us that by his action of dying he will be manifesting the Father.

Without the cooperation of Jesus, without his acceptance of this terrible suffering and death, God would have not been able to physically show the nature of his love. "No greater love has any man than he who lays down his life for his friends." When Jesus refers to his friends he is not just referring to Mary and the disciples, but to the guards who beat him and nailed him to the cross; to Judas who betrayed him; to Pilate who condemns him; to those who mock and to those who weep; to those in countless generations who follow and revere him and to those who ignore him.

St John says God does not judge us, we judge ourselves by our response to Jesus. We can start eternal life here. If we choose to share in the unselfish life of Jesus, we share in the life of God. We may not have to die as Jesus did but we have to die to our own selfishness which keeps us from following the path laid out for us.

Today, therefore, we can reflect that it is our actions that bring Christ and the Father's love back into the world. It is our loving actions towards our fellow men that bring the Father's love into our world of today, God uses our hands, our feet, our service to bring this love to other people. A responsibility for us in that God, in some strange way, needs our cooperation - as he needed the cooperation of Jesus.

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 Receation Ground Stansted Tel 01279 813579	
Email	methodists@stansted.net	
All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated Preachers and services for February		

2nd	Michael Render
9th	Rev'd Harry Wood - Holy Communion
16th	Doug Coulton
23rd	Don McGregor



Carol Singing - Thanks to all those who sang, played instruments, listened, or gave donations during the two evenings of carol singing around the village. A worthwhile sum of over £200 was raised for Christian Aid. Special thanks go to our two hostesses, Eileen and Katy who treated us to such magnificent seasonal refreshments!

"A Celebration of Christmas" - Thanks to all the singers and readers who took part at this successful event in St Mary's Church on the Saturday before Christmas. The retiring collection raised about £270 which has been divided equally between Christian Aid and The Churches Conservation Trust (which maintains St Mary's).



February Meetings

10th An evening with Fraser Simpson entitled "Doubting Thomas" at 7 Blythwood Gardens, 8pm. 24th A dramatic evening with Andrew Harrison at the

Friends Meeting House, 8pm.

We are always pleased to welcome new people.

On Friday, 14th February there is to be a Valentine Dance in aid of Corrymeela Centre for Reconciliation. Please see our advertisement on the Diary Page of this edition of The Link for full details.

The annual Shalom Retreat is Friday, 21st to Sunday, 23rd February at Hengrave Hall, Suffolk. The leader will be Rev'd. Martin Cressey. For further details contact Harry Goreing, 503764.

David Morson





VILLAGE EVENTS

January

31 Fri Rock Concert

St John's Church 8 pm

Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

Day Centre noon - 2 pm

St John's Hall 7.45 pm

Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

Day Centre 7.30 pm

Mountfitchet School 8 pm

7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm

7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

Day Centre 8 pm Day Centre 8 pm

February

5	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors
		Garden Club
6	Thu	Local History Society
8	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's
10	Mon	Shalom Group
13	Thu	WI
14	Fri	Valentine's Dance
15 Sat - 16 Sun Amenity Skip		
19	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors
20	Thu	RBL (Women)
24	Mon	Shalom Group
March		
5	Mod/	Mountfitchet Seniors

5	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
7	Fri	Women's Day of Prayer	Quaker Meeting House 2 pm
8	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
		Village Music Club	St John's Church 8 pm
		PTFA Quiz	St Mary's School
10 Mon - 14 Fri Amenity Skip		14 Fri Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
10	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
13	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
15	Sat	PTA Quiz	Mountfitchet School 7.30 pm

Uttlesford District Council 2003 Skip Dates

Mon - Thurs 7.30am - 3pm Fri am only Weekends 7.30am - 3pm (attended)

10 - 14 March15 - 16 February14 - 17 April (not Fri)24 - 25 May

Mon - Thurs 7.30am - 3pm Fri am only

> 12 - 16 May 23 - 27 June





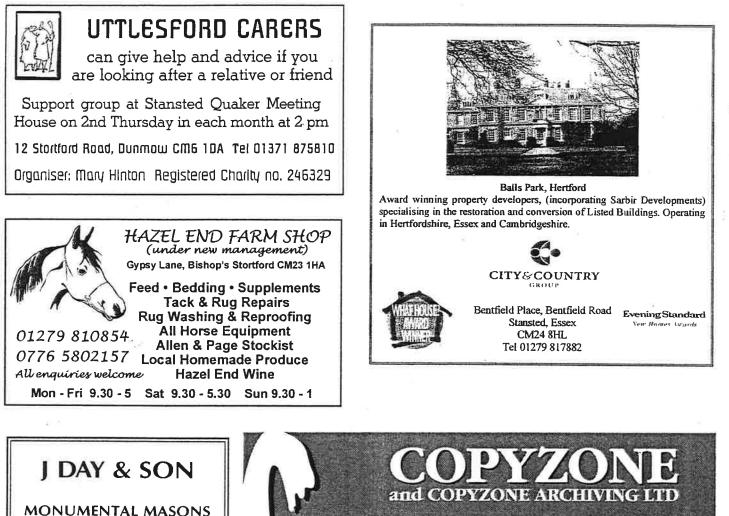




Mountfitchet High School PTA

QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 pm Sat 15th March Tables of 6 to 8 Tickets £6 incl supper
Please tel Mike on 812780
Bar drinks available



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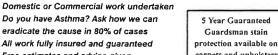
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treat the person as a whole

JAN RICKWOOD

MGCP LCHE MIFA BRCP

Tel: 01279 815907



Cett?

carpets and uphoistery

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



Well it wasn't a white Christmas but I'm sure everyone had lots of fun and enjoyed the Xmas holidays.

As promised, more news of the Christmas Fayre held in December.

It was a wonderful occasion with staff and parents giving their time generously and children enjoying the stalls and activities such as face painting, basketball shooting and making crafts in Father Christmas' workshop. The Silent Auction, Raffle and Tombola stands proved as popular as ever and hot sausage rolls and chips went down a treat. Father Christmas found time in his busy itinerary to drop in to St Mary's and judging by the queue to see him, he proved a popular attraction.

A word of thanks here to Jacky Pronk and Nigel Hall who provided a truly magical and spectacular Grotto (rumoured to rival Selfridges and Harrods) - Father Christmas told us he felt quite at home!

We raised almost £3,000 – an incredible achievement helped by Barclays "Pound-for-Pound" price matching plus extremely generous donations and prizes from sponsors both within and outside Stansted.

We should like to extend our sincere thanks to all the businesses and organisations who showed their support, especially at a time when there are lots of knocks on the door from other fund raising committees.

There are a few special mentions: Carver Barracks came up trumps and one lucky lad will soon be enjoying a family fun-day followed by posh nosh in the Mess; Stansted Fire Station will have an additional 'volunteer' (ie a St Mary's pupil!) at their regular fire drill practice, and Mains Electrical Store donated a DVD player which was the star attraction on the Silent Auction.

A big, big thank you to all our sponsors. The money raised will be spent on Key Stage 1 play equipment plus a new strip for the Netball team.

Looking ahead at the school calendar, we are looking forward to Education Sunday on 9th February at St John's Church, a service where we celebrate all teachers and the ways in which we all teach and learn. Year 3 pupils will lead the service; the theme this year will be 'Teachers'. The children are to be presented with a Bible before welcoming the congregation, parents, relatives and friends back to the school for coffee and a look around the school.

Another opportunity to visit the school is Open Morning on 6th February, 9.30-11.30 am. Our head teacher, Mrs

Cashman, will be delighted to meet all future new parents and discuss all aspects of St. Mary's.

It will be red hearts and roses at the Valentine Disco – the next PTFA organised event. We're sure the children will have a smashing evening and who knows, some romance may even rub off on the mums and dads!

> Claire Jonas PTFA Committee Member



January is the time to look forward and plan the garden for the coming season.

The seed catalogues are dropping through the letter box, and as I write the garden is covered with a sprinkling of snow, so what better time to stay indoors and order seeds. Some of the new varieties are worth a try, but I'm not sure about purple potatoes and blue beans, these don't seem quite right somehow.

Now is also a good time to resurrect last year's amaryllis (hippeastrum) bulbs. Re-pot the bulb to half the depth of the bulb, into a pot that is slightly larger than the bulb (you should be able to get your finger between the bulb and the pot), water with half strength liquid feed and place in a warm and light position. At first do not over water but as the foliage begins to grow so the amount of water can be increased and hopefully you will soon have a beautiful bloom again.

At the next meeting of the club on 5th February, Mr Alan Gillingwater is coming to talk to us about Sweet Peas. Everyone is welcome, we meet in the Day Centre at Crafton Green at 8-00pm, see you there.

Janet Townsend

Advance notice

St. John's Hall Committee have succeeded in booking the

Cantate Choir

on Saturday 5th July at 8 p.m.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Pub Profile No. 2

Kings Arms Hotel

Situated strategically at the junction of Chapel Hill and Lower Street, the Kings Arms Hotel has been offering refreshment and accommodation to locals and visitors for over 300 years. The long list of landlords over that period ends with the present incumbent, Terry Neville, who has spent most of his working life running public houses. Although his early days were in London, including a stint at the Arsenal football team's local in Holloway, Terry moved out to Stansted and ran the Rose & Crown for about six years followed by fifteen years at the Three Colts. When the Kings Arms became available in 1995, Terry teamed up with local man, Paul Moore, and together they have maintained the traditional mix of facilities so much appreciated by young and old alike. The lounge bar caters for those who wish to relax with a quiet pint and perhaps admire the superb wall paintings of local artist Brian Gough. These include evocative local views, and portraits of Terry's succession of beloved boxer dogs, Cindy, William, Zak, and Syd, all refugees from the Boxer Rescue Centre at Wood Green. Customers of a more energetic disposition may be found in the second bar, which offers darts, pool, television, a jukebox and even the occasional karaoke session. Many Stansted residents will remember the popular live jazz sessions of earlier years when George Webb was landlord, but unfortunately the price of beer has risen more slowly than fees for professional musicians! Extra-mural activities include an annual golf day at Much Hadham in competition with golfers from the Feathers. In the four years to date each side has won twice, so 2003 should see a healthy contest!



The King's Arms

It is not clear which king was honoured in the naming of this house, but it is appealing to assume that he was somehow related to the lady depicted across the road at the Queen's Head, another Pubmaster hostelry. The finely etched coat of arms in the window at the front of the Kings Arms is of Victorian or later origin, as it omits the French fleur-de-lis and the Hanoverian escutcheon. During the Second World War the upper floor of the Kings Arms was used as a boxing ring for local lads and perhaps some of the US airmen. At that time the landlord was Tom Irons whose daughter ran the Off-Licence in Lower Street. Tom was also a special policeman, but it is said that he turned a blind eye to the activities of certain 'ladies' who found it convenient to take the train down from London to ply their trade with the affluent Americans. Their ardour may have cooled somewhat if they knew that the adjacent barn was being used as a mortuary! The barn still exists, but other stabling and outbuildings have been removed to provide a car park and grassed garden area.



Paul and Terry

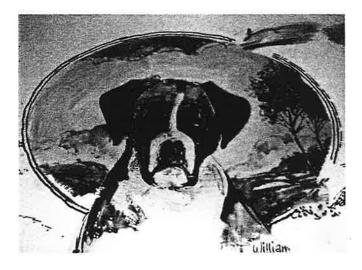
The most recent improvements to the site were made when the Barley Mow (opposite the United Reformed Church) was sold in the early 70's, and Benskins (then owner of both pubs) used some of the proceeds to extend the kitchens and provide inside toilets. Terry and Paul do not envisage any major changes to the premises other than the possible addition of extra accommodation, which already has planning permission, but needs funding by Pubmaster. The present accommodation (six rooms) is well-used by regular business and other visitors, but perhaps they are unaware that there are more spirits on the premises than those served from the bars. Apparently, in the early 1900's a doctor was in temporary residence and caught the eyes of both the landlord's daughters. He ended up marrying one of them, and the other one was so heartbroken that she took her own life. Perhaps she is still hoping for a re-union with the object of her unrequited love. Some people even fancy that she inhabits the distinctive and humanly inaccessible turret that adorns the roofline!

Special events held at the Kings Arms include an annual Charity Night, when food is prepared at cost by the Indian Restaurant next door and profits are donated to local charities, which over the last three years have been the Huw Johnson Club, the Herts & Essex Stroke Rehab Unit and the Alzheimer's Society. Every pub must have a quiz night, and at the Kings Arms all are welcome to come and impress their friends on the last Tuesday of each month. Alternatively, connoisseurs of all things fishy may wish to indulge their taste buds on any Thursday, when the chef, Paul Robinson, produces various delicacies based on the latest catch from Grimsby. The daily menu covering lunch and evening meals caters for all tastes and appetites, and the writer can



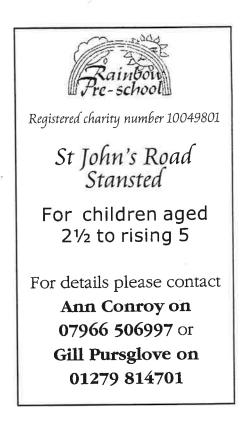
Glynn

thoroughly recommend the 'Steak & Onions in French bread' as a delicious lunchtime snack. The Sunday roasts are so popular that advanced booking is essential to avoid disappointment. Perhaps the last word on the food should come from a regular customer, Glyn Warwick, the founder of local start-up, Impact Designs, who commented, "I often bring my staff here for a business lunch, because the food is good and excellent value for money."



'William'

Interviewed by Mike Dyer and Eileen Quinn Photographs by Mike Dyer





ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

January 2003

Readers will be interested to know that Essex County Council met on Tuesday 10th December 2002 and agreed the text of a letter to the Secretary of State which outlined the views of Essex on the development of the Airport. The basic principles of the reply are outlined below:

- 1. The County objects to the 'predict and provide' approach in favour of 'demand management'.
- 2. Believes unconstrained demand should not be met in full (certainly not met in full for new roads or houses in rural areas).
- 3. Objects to further provision of runways at Stansted, with the following detailed comments:
 - the nature of the airport planted on a tranquil, relatively rural area, is somewhat different to the urbanised area already accommodating the Heathrow type operation, which gives grounds for concern;
 - impact of land take for the expanded airport, infrastructure and urbanisation on rural Essex is more than can be sustained;
 - loss and severe impact on one of the best parts of Essex countryside with important assets of an historic, attractive, rural environment is unacceptable;
 - noise and stacking areas over Essex is unacceptable;
 - significant public investment in a non-priority area for economic regeneration which would draw resources away from priority areas to allow building an area where there is essentially no unemployment or brownfield sites.
- 4. Objects to Cliffe being developed as an airport for the following reasons:
 - has doubts about overcoming the severe constraints on the protected areas;
 - foresees air traffic control problems;
 - has doubts about implementation and attracting inward investment;
 - is concerned about the implications for Lower Thames Crossing and the new orbital route;
 - is concerned about urbanisation for South Essex;
 - is concerned about the noise and pollution; impacts on a population of over 300,000 within 5 miles of the proposed site.

- Knowing the Government's response and the successful outcome of the Judicial Review, the County Council will continue to press for Gatwick to be one of the options to be considered for possible expansion.
- 6. The Council supports maximum use of all existing airports in other Regions. A national view has not been taken in this consultation; the subject has been dealt with region by region only.
- The Council notes that the full use of Stansted, Heathrow, Gatwick and Luton airports will provide for 95% of demand up to 2015: 191 mppa out of 202m 'unconstrained demands'.
- 8. Suggests that Stansted at this capacity (60% higher that the agreed 25M capacity) will require substantial infrastructure improvements. These must be identified and Government commitment sought for funding. There will also be major urbanisation implications that must be resolved through the planning system. Concerns about noise, environmental impact and pollution must also be addressed.
- Is concerned over growth beyond 2015 and believes it will be necessary to:
 - i examine relationship/capacity of the other European airports (not really considered in SERAS);
 - ii examine whether a midland/northern hub (e.g. Manchester) could provide to an increase in SE capacity;
 - iii find a new viable and sustainable site possibly offshore (i.e. not Cliffe);
 - iv examine the contribution that might be made by long-distance rail travel.
- 10. The County believes that the following principles should be considered:
 - airport development must be integrated with essential surface access;
 - airport development must be integrated with regional policies and plans;
 - aviation industry must meet its external costs, including environmental costs;
 - compensation should apply to a wider area than proposed at present and payment should be made quickly;
 - new assessment levels for noise nuisance to reflect community concerns must be introduced.

This response by Essex County Council is made without prejudice to any submission of a final response submitted after the revised consultation carried out which will include Gatwick as part of the investigation. It will be clear to readers that these views are held strongly in West Essex and by the other part of Essex which are less likely to be affected by any development of an airfield at Cliffe or elsewhere in the Thames Estuary. It is to be hoped that these will have some effect on the Secretary of State.

Readers are reminded that a White Paper giving the decision of the Minister will follow in the summer once all consultations are completed.

Should any reader wish to know more on this subject they should consult with the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace County Councillor Stansted Division 01279 812588



HuwJohnson Club

The trip to see the "London Lights" was enjoyed by everyone in spite of the traffic jams. We had a warm welcome from the staff at McDonalds in Victoria Street who gallantly man-handled the wheelchairs downstairs and up again when we were ready to leave. We were very sorry that Derek couldn't join us but I'm sure the card everyone signed cheered him up a lot. We still have our New Year Party to look forward to and a full timetable for the rest of the term.

A message to teenagers. Would you be interested in helping at the "Huw Johnson Club"? In the past we have had help from those taking part in the "Duke of Edinburgh Awards". If anyone is interested please ring Marion on 812284 for further details.

Marion Johnson



The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 14th March at 7.30pm in the Stansted Day Centre

Further information from:

Cllr. Richard Wallace (Chairman) 01279 812588

Miss Sian Lloyd (Secretary) 01279 817876 or email



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

Well 'What a collection'.

This year we surpassed all expectation with a District total to date of $\pounds 10,095.20p$ which includes Stansted of $\pounds 2190.80p$ and the Airport of $\pounds 4564.22p$.

I must thank all the door to door collectors, particularly as the weather was absolutely diabolical this year, the shops, pubs and businesses for all their help, and all those who "did a stint" at the Airport. Thank you all.

Each year it becomes more and more difficult to cover the village door to door. We have lost some collectors over the years and they seem to have become almost impossible to replace. Yet it appears that most people appreciate the knock at the door. So I apologise if you didn't get a call and hope that you managed to get your poppy at one of our other outlets.

The door to door collection still provides some 26% of the total throughout the District and it would be a shame to be unable to provide this facility. If anyone in the village feels that they can give a few hours to cover a street or two please ring me. You will be welcomed with open arms.

John L Segar Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser 01279 813289

Royal British Legion

Women's Section

MRS MARGARET GABB

The whole village was saddened to learn that Margaret had died in her sleep four days after her 89th birthday.

She was known and loved by many, but to all members of the Women's Section she was extra special.

For 25 years she was our much-loved President - but she was more than that - she was a trusted friend of every member, exchanging a word whenever she met one in the village and speaking to all individually whenever she was able to attend our monthly meetings. She never failed to be at our AGMs to thank all members for their hard work and dedication mentioning many by name.

Her kindness and generosity to the Women's Section and her wonderful sense of humour were - and always will be legendary. She was a true lady and will be irreplaceable.

> Janet Hollis Chairman



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

It has become tradition in the Society that the first meeting in the New Year is devoted to the members and so it was that, on 2nd January, our speakers were drawn from our own members. The first was Ken MacDonald, who told us of the cycling clubs which used to ride - and race - along the old All. Between the wars, cycle racing on public roads was far from encouraged by the police. As a result, time trials over varying distances were held at secret rendezvous at the crack of dawn in order to avoid unpleasantness but after WWII, when Ken was in his 'teens, the situation had changed completely. He joined the Eagle Road Cycling Club at 18, based in East London and took part in over 100 time trials along Course E1 - the A11. Each club had its own hut to use as a base in or around Ugley and many of these are still in evidence, although with the availability of cars, they are not used as much as they were. Ken entertained us with many tales from his cycling past and we now understand how he appears so fit.

Our second speaker was Ted Pretty, who told us more of the recent history of Audley End. During WWII and on the orders of the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, the Special Operations Executive was set up to continue clandestine activities against the enemy on the mainland of Europe. Audley End became the secret headquarters for training agents for the Polish branch of the SOE and Ted was reminded of this when he was interviewed by an author who was writing a history of these activities. He gave us many interesting and amusing facts about the Unit but the sobering reality was that of the 316 agents trained, 108 died on active service. Eventually, in 1944, the training centre was moved to Southern Italy, which was then more convenient for returning agents to Poland - but not before they had appreciated a few pheasants from the fields around Audley End!

Paul Embleton then told us how the Victorians developed a passion for making Scrap Albums and how every home had its own. The boom followed the introduction of chrome lithography and items for scrap books became big business right across Europe. Paul showed us several scrap books he had collected and showed us some of the more interesting contents. After the talk, we were allowed to examine them ourselves, which brought back memories to quite a few.

Finally, Tony Wellings had brought along a housemaid's box and basket and quizzed us on their contents. Would you recognise a steel used with a flint for fire lighting? Or would you know how a seed tap worked when sampling a sack of grain? We do now, and a lot more.

Next time, on 6th February at 8 pm at the Day Centre, Keith Braybrook will be talking on "Debden Airfield and Wartime Airfields". We hope you will be able to come along.

NORTH AND WEST ESSEX ADULT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

We are very fortunate to have in the middle of our Village a branch of the North and West Essex Adult Community College. A wide variety of courses are held at the Peter Kirk School, which is accessed from St John's Road in between the Church and St Mary's School.

There is a warm welcome waiting for you at reception where you can pick up a programme which includes many courses starting in February and March. These will cater for a wide selection of interests from Computing to tasters in German, Italian and French, First Aid - even - Tracing your Family History!

If you cannot commit yourself to a long course, there are one day courses on offer in the coming months covering such diverse subjects as Psychology, Emergency Aid, Reiki, Papercraft, or finding out how to use the Web.

There are reduced fees on many courses for the retired and concessions for those on benefits.

If you want to escape the winter weather and find out more about what is going on in our midst, call in to the Peter Kirk School Monday to Friday between 9am and 5.00pm or give them a ring on 813319.

Eileen Quinn

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT INTERVIEWS

SIR ALAN HASELHURST

The opportunity for Stansted residents to discuss matters on a one-to-one basis with Sir Alan in Stansted was in January. However, there are other opportunities of meeting locally with Sir Alan. These are set out below:

Friday 7th February 2003

Foakes House, 47 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow, 5.45 - 6.30 pm

Friday 7th March 2003

The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street, Saffron Walden, 7.00 - 7.45 pm

Friday 4th April 2003

Foakes House, 47 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow, 7.00 - 7.45 pm

NO APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY

Ian Seavers

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Year Ahead

This year promises to be as full of challenges as last year was. The Budget will be the first challenge to face councillors. Committees are being asked to make economies in order that the Council Tax increase can be kept to the level of inflation Whether this will be feasible, I have my doubts. The Community and Leisure Committee on which I am the Liberal Democrat Spokesperson has made savings of over £50,000 from its budget. There was a consensus amongst councillors that grants to voluntary organisations should not be axed. There was recognition that this would have a serious affect upon the voluntary sector. Examples of recent ad-hoc grants benefiting organisations in Stansted include £200 to Stansted Junior Cricket Club for the purchase of equipment for nine year olds, The Village Music Club also received £300 to help with the cost of presenting four classical music concerts.

This year also sees elections for the District and Parish Council. They will be held on 1 May and will be fought on new ward boundaries. Stansted will be divided into two wards each returning two district councillors. They will be Stansted North and Ugley and Stansted South. North will include Bentfield, Hargrave Estate, Lower Street and St John's Road. South will include Blythwood Gardens, Burton End, Mountfitchet Estate, Stoney Common and Woodfields. Polling stations for South will be the Youth Centre in Lower Street. For the North ward Council Officers are currently investigating the feasibility of either the Peter Kirk School or the Quaker Meeting House. Electors are not of right entitled to a postal vote. If you think that you will be unable to vote in person, please contact Peter Snow, Electoral Services Officer on 01799 510510. Since 1995 Uttlesford has been under no overall control, which means that no one party has had a majority. Will this change? Will turnout go up because of the prospect of airport expansion? We will have to wait and see.

Policing in Uttlesford

The decision to transfer the emergency response team of police officers from Stansted to Dunmow albeit perhaps on a temporary basis has caused some disquiet. It has meant that Stansted is left with now only three officers to cover this village and the surrounding area. Recruitment of police officers in Essex is rising but Uttlesford does not seem to get its fair share of resources. I tabled a motion at the last full meeting of the Council which noted "that many communities in Uttlesford are dissatisfied with the totally inadequate levels of policing in the district and require a more visible police presence". It called upon the Home Secretary and the Chairman of the Essex Police Authority to use their positions to ensure genuine increases in both resources and numbers to Uttlesford. The motion was passed unanimously.

New Year Resolutions

My resolution this year is not to make any, as if last year is anything to go by I am not likely to keep them. I had resolved to try to see more of my family but realised I had failed when my three year old son said "Daddy are you attending a meeting".

Councillor Geoffrey Sell Tel: 01279 815925 Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk



St John's Church Hall Stansted

Hello again.

Welcome to a new year at Sideways! The weather at the moment is very topical as our theme for this term is Winter. The children will be learning about winter in other countries where snow and ice are around for a longer time, looking at winter sports and clothing and the types of food eaten to keep warm and healthy.

The final amount raised from our Sponsored Slide was £600 - some of which was sent to "Children in Need", the rest of the money set aside for new equipment for children at Sideways.

This 30th Anniversary year we hope to invite all past and present children and parents to Sideways for a special party (as yet to be arranged). Look out for more information nearer the time! A Children's Disco in February is yet to be confirmed with Garry King, whose daughter Katie is here at Sideways.

We have a few vacancies this term, so if you would like to visit us to "stay and play" you would be made very welcome. For a Brochure, please call 816600 between 9-12.15 any Monday to Friday or 813828 any other time.

We look forward to seeing you!

Auntie Helen

STOP PRESS

BISHOPS STORTFORD METHODIST CHURCH Centenary one-man presentation by ANDREW HARRISON

"The End of the World and other embarrassing moments" 7.30 pm SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Tickets £5 a.m. 652339 & 653989

STANSTED FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

December 2002

December was a busy month for the Fire Crew in the Village, with a total of 54 calls, averaging around two a day. We had the usual range of incidents, from a large number of Fire Alarms, through to no less than 9 Road Traffic Accidents (RTA's), 5 car fires, 2 floodings, 2 chimney fires, and an assortment of other calls.

Of the more notable incidents, we started on the 1st with an RTA on the M11 where we were required to make safe a petrol spillage, followed by an unusual car fire two days later on the same stretch: a driver leaving the airport had failed to notice a knapsack left on the roof of the car, which fell off and became entangled in the car's exhaust, ultimately catching fire underneath it, about two miles down the motorway!

On the evening of the 4th, a serious RTA near Ugley Green on the B1383, where a car had overturned at speed, crashing into fencing and trees, rolling over and trapping the driver. He was safely extricated after some difficult work, using cutting gear and airbags, and taken to hospital. The scene was made safe and handed over to the Police.

In the afternoon of Sunday 15th, we were called to a bedroom fire at a house in Takeley, and arrived to see the house well alight. Crews from Great Dunmow, Newport and Bishop's Stortford also attended and the fire was quickly brought under control. Unfortunately the house was severely damaged, with the upstairs totally blackened: the bedroom floor, ceiling and window having completely burnt away. The house next door had to be broken into to prevent fire spreading.

The following morning we turned out at 06.40 to a multiple accident on the M11, involving some twelve vehicles driving southbound near Audley End. Fortunately there were no serious injuries and the motorway was soon cleared. We were astonished to be called back to the same location 10 hours later, to another multiple accident, this time involving seven vehicles. We understood there were persons trapped in these, but fortunately this turned out not to be the case. As always, excess speed and driving too closely were the causes.

On the 17th, we had to turn our hand to pumping out a flooded cellar at Pledgdon Green, never an easy job and guaranteed to get firefighters very wet!

Another RTA on the 20th on the Broad Oak Road, Takeley, where a motorist had taken a bend too fast and overturned his car into roadside trees. Fortunately again, no-one was seriously hurt. A chimney fire later the same day in Little Hallingbury had us reaching for the chimney rods again. It is amazing how many chimney fires occur soon after the chimney has been swept! On the 22nd we attended a car on fire on the M11, soon extinguished with a hosereel jet, and later the same day found us at Little Canfield, spades and shovels in hand, in order to relieve a flooded house. We were assisted by a local man with a JCB digger and the job was soon done!

The same day, another call to an RTA on the M11, involving three cars, but again, fortunately, no-one seriously hurt. We were back there again on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, called to a car on fire, but this proved a false alarm. Christmas Eve was quite a busy day, with five calls to various incidents, culminating in yet another RTA on the M11, this time going north. Again, no-one seriously hurt.

At 01.30 on Christmas Morning we were called to a chimney fire in Birchanger, which proved to be anything but simple. We dealt with the chimney, but found smoke still issuing from the brickwork surrounding the chimney. Much investigation, assisted by the use of our Thermal Image Camera, showed that radiated heat had built up in an adjoining wall, and studwork had caught alight actually inside the wall! The early hours of Christmas Day found us doing some elementary demolition work on the wall, much to the amusement of the householder's small daughter! She wasn't worried..... Father Christmas had already called! She was further delighted to see firefighters in Santa Hats! We eventually got to bed around 5am....

Fortunately the rest of Christmas Day and Boxing Day were quiet, but we were jolted back to reality on the 26th with yet another RTA. Again, no-one seriously hurt, although the car had rolled down the motorway bank. The month was rounded off with three Full Emergencies at the Airport (aircraft coming in to land with hydraulic or other failures), but all landed safely, thankfully. On the penultimate day, our last RTA, at Takeley, was again injury-free.

The crew at Stansted are all retained firefighters, who all have normal everyday occupations, ranging from craftsmen to gardeners, retail staff to airport personnel. We respond to radio pagers as and when we are individually available. There are 18 crewmen at present, but always room for more! Anyone interested in joining should just come along on a Thursday evening (training night 19.30 - 21.30) and find out what's involved.

Training covers every eventuality we could possibly face, from a chimney fire to a Chemical Incident, from a plane crash to rescuing horses from rivers! We have to learn to be resourceful...

Finally a plea to villagers not to park over the Fire Station entrance when visiting the Post Office: as we are retained, firefighters have to get *into* the station before the fire engines can get *out*! We often arrive to find people parked in the way, or even on the station forecourt itself.

Lastly, a reminder to check those smoke alarms, ensure the batteries haven't been borrowed for the children's toys at Christmas and not replaced! There should be one smoke alarm on each floor, tested monthly. If you don't have a smoke alarm, you are unlikely to wake up! Any queries, just contact any fireman or the station.

Philip Hastings



The National Childbirth Trust

Education for Parenthood

January has seen a busy start to 2003 for the NCT as parents and children alike try to beat the winter blues and keep one step ahead of the weather! For the children there have been messy play, music and ride-on-toy sessions. We have had lunch at the Moorhen at Harlow – with the children entertained on the indoor play equipment, we were able to enjoy a relatively peaceful lunch! We also braved playgrounds and even took a stroll by the lake at St Michael's Mead.

January also saw us host our AGM at which we said farewell to some of our hard working committee and welcomed new committee members to continue the good work. A big thank-you to all those who have served on the committee for helping make the branch such a success.

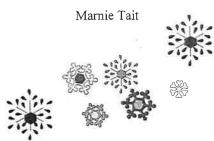
This month we have yet more activities on offer for children of all ages as well as parents and carers. There are playground visits, music sessions and a tea and toast morning on Saturday 8th, especially designed for working parents to get together. We have a busy week of events planned for the half term holiday including an indoor obstacle course, an underwater themed craft session and a trip to Hatfield Forest. For full details of venues and events please see the village noticeboards or phone Sarah on 01279 647022 for your free diary sheet and information pack. You don't have to be a member to come along and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Our regular weekly coffee events resumed again on the 6th January 2003. The times are as follows:

Monday	10.00 – 11.30am Toddlers
Wednesday	10.00 – 11.30am Tiddlers and Tums
Friday	(expectant mothers and under ones) 1.30 – 3.00pm Pre-School

Please come along and meet new people, or catch up with those you already know. Again, venues are posted on the noticeboards or ring Sarah for a diary sheet.

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.





Nature Notes

From this month onwards owls will be starting to breed and their calls, mainly hooting or sharp cries, will be more evident. Hooting is a means of laying claim to territory and is also used to attract the opposite sex. Owls are nocturnal birds of prey but, unlike hawks and falcons, they have very large heads and extra large eyes enabling them to see in poor light. These face forward to help in judging distances. Their ears also are large and often set asymmetrically at the side of the head so that exact location of sound can be made. Owls can in fact locate their prey by using their sense of hearing alone.



In this part of England we are likely to encounter three species of owl, the barn owl, little owl and tawny owl, with possible rare sightings also of the long-eared and short-eared owls. Our most familiar owl, the tawny, is the species that gives the traditional hoot, but also utters a sharp

'ke-wick, ke-wick'. It hunts in deciduous woodland, feeding on mice and voles. It doesn't bother to make its own nest, instead using a hollow tree, old building or other bird's nest.

The barn owl frequents farms and hunts over meadows and estuaries and near buildings for rats and mice. Again it uses no nesting materials, but lays its eggs in a tree hole or on the open floor of a barn. It doesn't hoot but gives a wheezy cry or shriek. It has been sighted flying across Forest Hall Road, a ghostly pale shape in the dark.

The smallest of our resident owls, the little owl, was introduced from Europe during the nineteenth century. It is found in open farmland and parkland and has been seen near Stansted Hall. It is most active at dusk and dawn. Again no nest is made; it usually uses farm buildings or a hollow tree, having a preference for old willows. It is sometimes seen perching on a post or branch and can be identified by its small size and a loud cat-like mewing call.

Both the long-eared and short-eared owls have ear tufts that are actually not ears at all, these being in their usual place on the side of the head. The long-eared owl when approached can raise its ear tufts and stretch out its body so that it resembles a vertical broken-off branch and can thus be completely unnoticeable. It is an uncommon bird and active only at night, hunting for rodents in coniferous woodland and farmland copses. Its call is a long wavering hoot.

Rosina Kirkwood

Stansted Evening Women's Institute

"The Tottenham Outrage of 1909, a tale of Murder and Mayhem of the Edwardian Period" was the title of Peter Lawrence's talk to our members at the December meeting. In the early nineteen hundreds two Russians decided to snatch the payroll of a factory in Tottenham when the owner returned with his employees' wages on a Saturday morning, the total being £80. The men then went on the run through parts of Tottenham including the marshes, shooting at people as they went and killing a boy and a policeman. A huge number of residents of the area joined the police in pursuit of the criminals. Both men eventually died but the money was never recovered; one of the men had hidden in a cottage and held the family hostage and it is believed he may have hidden the money up the chimney of this house. Mr Lawrence showed us slides of old pictures of this event and answered members' questions. We were joined by a lady and her husband who were passing through the village, saw our poster on the noticeboard and thought the talk sounded interesting. Like our members, they enjoyed Mr Lawrence's talk. He is an ex-policeman and a very good speaker.

January saw us dancing our way into the New Year with the 'Tartan Reelers', a group of eight Scottish dancers, the men dressed in kilts and the ladies in white dresses with tartan sashes. They showed members various dances and then encouraged them to join in which they did with much enjoyment.

During the interval members enjoyed gateaux, cheesecakes and other special cakes washed down with wine, soft drinks and coffee, all prepared by the committee. The evening continued with more dancing, the drawing of the raffle and the results of the competition for homemade shortbread, which was won by Judy Colliver.

During the coming year members will support the Meningitis Trust, answer questions in a survey on Osteoporosis and attend both our County AGM's at Colchester and the National AGM to be held in the Albert Hall in June when Judy Colliver will be our delegate.

As you can see we are a lively WI, enjoying good speakers and getting involved with other projects. Why not come along and meet us - we are not all jam and Jerusalem.

Our February speaker is Bryan Tester, his talk "Our Countryside" with slides - St John's Hall, 13th February, 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

> Brenda Ryan 812725



The final concert of our current season is on Saturday 8th March at 8pm and features the very well known and highly acclaimed **Collegium Regale**, the close harmony group made up from the Choral Scholars of King's College, Cambridge.

The choral scholars sing the daily services in the chapel at King's, and this remains the choir's raison d'être. Collegium Regale (Latin for King's College) is independent of the Choir and sings a different repertoire.

Their programme will reveal the breadth of this repertoire: sacred music from the fifteenth to the twenty-first century, madrigals, folk songs, some "Beach Boys" numbers and, of course, close harmony, for which the group is best known.

For those who appreciate choral singing, at this, the very highest level, this will be an evening "not to be missed".

The concert, in St John's Church, Stansted, will start at pm and 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) and (if still available) at the door on the night.

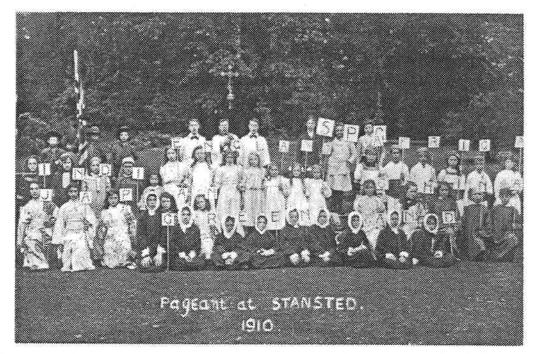
Alan Corbishley

STANSTED VILLAGE DIARY

After several encouraging months in 2002 when organisers seemed to become aware of the Diary, we have lapsed into a period of neglect for this small but useful feature. There was an occasion last year when two Quizzes occurred on the same evening and this month another Quiz clash has (hopefully) been averted more by luck than by Diary. Please use it! It lives in the foyer of the Library. It can be an unmitigated boon; there is no down-side to its use.

Editor

MORE PICTURES FROM THE PAST



Any doubts as to whether this rare postcard depicts an event at our Stansted (Mountfitchet) are dispelled by the processional cross which worshippers at St John's Church will recognise. The occasion was a celebration of the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, a leading missionary organisation which was supported by St John's and St Mary's congregations and continues to be so at St John's. The children represent the countries reached by SPG and at least one, Thomas Johnson, has been identified by his son, our present Tom Johnson of Chapel Hill. The event was likely to have been held in the garden of the then Vicarage. Of particular poignancy is the presence of the Girl Guides Company, sadly no longer represented in Stansted.



This postcard dates from 1908 and shows the Vicarage, then located on the old Church Road which still leads from the former lodge house to St Mary's Church and back to the present Church Road. Does anyone know when the vicarage was relocated to the Chapel Hill/St John's Road corner? The old vicarage is still outwardly similar and the lane continues to provide a pleasant rural walk. Postcard photographs courtesy of John Salmon

Motor cars outside "The Feathers" - in the January issue we published a photograph of cars outside the then Bell Hotel in 1915. An observant reader from Norfolk (yes we have a national readership!!) has identified them as, left to right, a Trojan, Model T Ford and an Armstrong-Siddeley.

Editor

Mountfitchet Seniors 2003 Programme

Meetings take place on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

At one meeting games will be played and on the other Wednesday talks, entertainment or outings have been arranged as follows:

-

February	5th	Quiz
	19th	Games
March	5th	Woodwind of Stortford
	19th	Grand National money in
April	2nd	Games - Grand National Draw
	16th	Jeff's Clothes Show - Games
May	7th	Chocolate Factory - Half Day Outing
	21st	Games
June	4th	Games
	18th	Full Day Outing
July	2nd	Peggy Entertains
	16th	Games
August	6th	Les Markham Guest Speaker
	20th	Games
September	3rd	Full Day Outing
	17th	Games
October	1st	Jeff's Clothes Show - Games
	15th	Games
	18th	Autumn Sale
November	5th	Games
	19th	AGM
December	3rd	Games
	17th	Christmas Party
		John Robinson

812755

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chemist: Moss Pharmacy 812278

Dental Surgeries:: Marina Carew 870077 Graham Dodsley 815041

Doctors' Surgery: St John's Road 813200

HELPLINE: 07659 550127

Stansted Police: 812211

Stansted Parish Council: 813214

Stansted Post-Office: 813610

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

Eastern National Bus Services: 01245 353104

Passenger Rail Enquiries: 0845 484950

Shrove Tuesday 4th March is PANCAKE DAY!

Having pancakes on this day is said to have begun as a way of using up ingredients that were not permitted during Lent. However, such a simple dish, using little fuel for cooking, was probably known in some form in earlier times all over the world, served with various fillings depending on local availability. Today there are Scotch Pancakes, French Crepes, Mexican Enchiladas, Chinese Crispy Rolls, Dosai (fermented pancakes) from Southern India, and many more.

Probably the favourite way of serving them in this country is still with lemon juice and sugar but here are some other ideas using the standard receipe:

For sweet pancakes jam, fruit purees, cooked apple with cinnamon, golden or maple syrup can be used, even chocolate.

Savouries can consist of

Bacon, tomato, mushroom and onion chopped finely and well cooked. Spread on pancakes and rolled up.

Minced beef and leeks cooked and served as above .Small sausages and a touch of mustard or tuna and sweetcorn.

Grated cheese and cooked chopped spinach (or any other vegetable you fancy). Make a pile of pancakes with layers of filling which can be kept warm in the oven while it is built up. Sprinkle extra cheese on top and cut into wedges.

Left over cooked chicken finely chopped and incorporated into pancake mixture. Serve with a homemade tomato sauce.

Look in your larder, use your imagination, and have a feast.

18

Peggy Honour

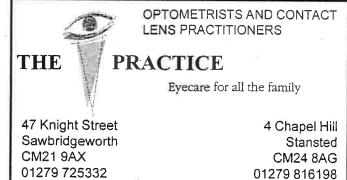




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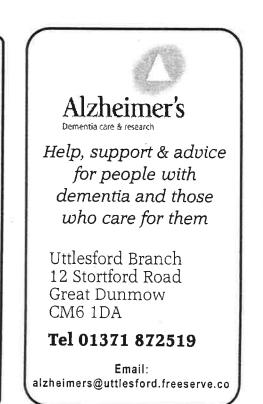
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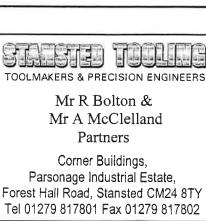
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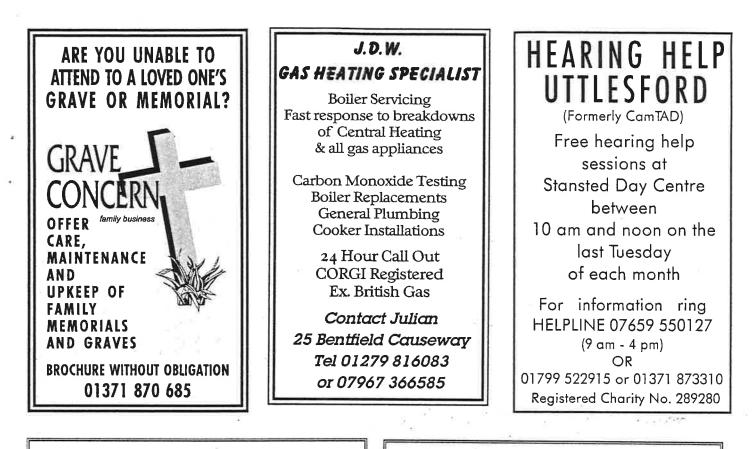
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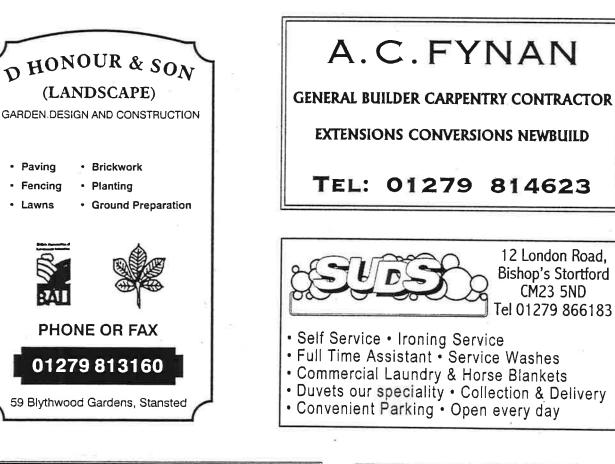
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