July 2003







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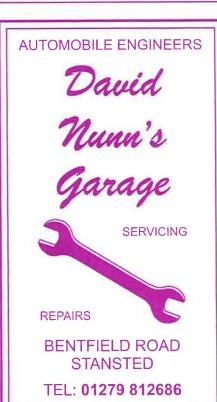
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Saturday 5th July

ımer Fa

Recreation Ground ~ off Chapel Hi



fancy dress competition (theme: children of the world)

three legged race and much more...!

jousting post

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

plants

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by 10th July for publication on 26th July (Note: next issue covers August & September) by 11th September for publication on 27th September



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

from 9:00am-Wednesday

Friday

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

Administrator **Mrs Elizabeth Jennings**

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

Rector Revd Andrew Spurr

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

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

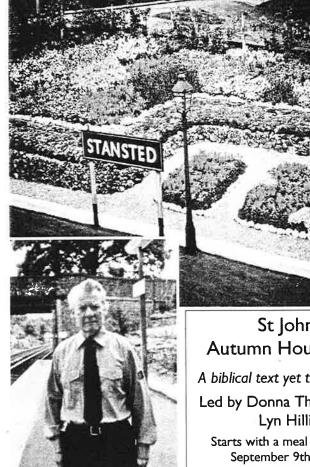
Children's Church Mrs Marion Johnson (01279) 812284

Mother & Toddler Group Mrs Tina South (01279) 814371

the roses

ome years ago, I read one of the magazines which is part of the Daily Express (it must have been while waiting for a takeaway, or in the hairdressers). One of their regular features was called Rites of Passage, where a birth, a marriage and a death were all described in brief paragraphs with colour photographs. At the time, I thought it would work better in a smaller community, and would be a good way of seeing how things change through the passing of time. The child born today would know a very different Stansted from the child who had grown up here in the years before the war.

Although I have always wanted to pinch the idea, I've never quite organised myself to do it in The Link.



St John's Autumn Housegroup

A biblical text yet to be decided Led by Donna Thornton and Lyn Hillier

Starts with a meal on Tuesday September 9th 8:00pm 5 Bentfield Gardens.

Not all stories want to be put on view, of course, but there are one or two which have a significance which goes beyond the individual. Around here, Nancy Tennant and Mieneke Clifford are two examples of lives whose influence reached far beyond where they lived and worked.

I came across another one a couple of months ago when I was asked to conduct Doug Hudgell's funeral. Doug was a quiet man who spent a large chunk of his life working at the railway station. These were in gentler times, when the pace was more leisurely and people had a sense of pride and of belonging to their community.

Doug's great gift was as a gardener and, every spring and summer, the station embankments would be a riot of colour, proclaiming Mountfitchet to its residents and to travellers

St. John's Diary

Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion said please note there will be no 8:00am service during August 9:30am Parish Communion sung

Wednesdays

11:00am Open Door Service on the 6th and 20th of July 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.

passing through. He was devoted to the garden, and was lucky enough to be paid to do what he loved. I would imagine that employing someone to celebrate the station could not be justified in today's payroll budgets and often for good reason.

But somehow, as I went through his photo album, I couldn't help feeling wistful that, with his passing, a whole way of seeing the world, and taking time to delight in it, had been lost as well. I suppose I could make some religious remark about the point of resting one day in seven is to take time to laugh, dance, and celebrate; but it doesn't need to be made among those of us who are run ragged just to keep in life's game.

AS



(continued)

From the Registers for May

Wedding:

30th Robert Huw Diggins and Melissa Storey

Forthcoming Events

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 'Voices for Hospices' 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

THE RECTOR'S ANNUAL SUMMER BARBECUE

Sunday, 14th July 12.30 for 1pm

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

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

Proceeds to Benefice Choir keyboard

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

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 July

6th 10.30am Mrs G Taylor 13th 10.30am Rev'd D Simpson Communion 20th 10.30am Preaching Group 27th 10.30am Rev'd D Simpson

Afternoon Tea

July 6th from 3pm to 5pm. Everyone welcome.

These afternoon teas are not intended as fund raising events, just time for a friendly chat over a cup of tea. However, it was decided that any money raised would go to a charity and we have been able, following the first two afternoons, to send £50 to "Water Aid". Thank you very much.

Pilots

As announced in the June edition of "Link" Stansted U.R.C. is re-launching its Pilot group on a weekly basis as from September 2003.

'Pilots' is a non uniformed Christian organisation. It is ecumenical and embraces children between the ages of 5 to 14 years. In some groups, however, the age extends to 17 years.

The children are encouraged to take part in various activities and work towards badges in many areas of interest. Concerts, helping in the community and fund raising are some of the programmes the children will follow, as well as following their own particular interests.

Pilots is one of the fastest growing children's organisations in the country and since April this year six new companies have been formed. If you wish to know more about this venture and be placed on our waiting list contact:

Valerie Trundle (01279) 813433.

Another date for your diary
ANDY HARRISON

will give a
One Man Show
at the Church on
20th September 2003

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux High Lane

Priest Father Joe White

The Presbytery St Therese of Lisieux

High Lane Stansted

Tel 01279 814349

Masses Saturday

6.00 pm

Sunday

9 am and 10.30 am

Holy Days of Obligation 8 am and 8 pm

Tuesday-Saturday

9.30 am

Confessions

Saturday

10 am

and by appointment

Baptisms

By appointment

We have recently been fortunate enough to make a visit to St Petersburg.

The highlight for us was a visit to The Hermitage Museum which was part of the imperial residence. The museum has immense collections starting originally with sensational purchases made by Catherine the Great and Alexander 11. The Imperial Archaeological Commission saved the nation's cultural heritage during the revolution and in post war years and succeeded in maintaining its worldwide reputation. The museum has fulfilled its historical mission and its duty to society. It has something to show and to tell and brings pleasure to people from all over the world and benefit to its own country.

One of our favourite paintings at St Theresa's is a copy of Rembrandt's 'Return of the Prodigal Son' and this was the very first painting we encountered on entering the European Art Galleries. But this was only one of thousands of paintings by world famous artists. Indeed, the whole building was a treasure trove.

On our return I re-read the letter we had received from our Diocese of Brentwood for Stewardship Sunday and which reflected on the gifts we have been given by God and how well we are using them. The letter reflected on Time, Talents and Treasure in the following way:-

We all share through Baptism, in the life of the Church and its mission to the world. God has prepared us for this by giving us the resources to play our part. The special blend of attributes and skills that make us what we are. Jesus reminds us that the good steward, (like the brother of the Prodigal Son) takes care of his master's property, looks after his affairs well and gives a fair return on the resources entrusted to him (unlike the Prodigal Son who wasted all his resources).

We are reminded to take TIME to help each other in a loving and sharing community. To give our TALENTS, our special gifts for the benefit of others in our parish and in the wider neighbourhood. Our TREASURE is in using our time and talents well and being generous with our resources.

The Hermitage has certainly benefited from good stewardship. It is full of amazing treasures - but in our own everyday life, both in our Churches and local community we too can become invaluable treasures by - visiting the elderly, the lonely and those in hospital; or assisting with youth groups. Giving of our time in love can be the greatest treasure of all.

Eileen Quinn

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

Our Meeting has been thinking a great deal these last few months about the death of our Friend Nancy Tennant.

We will remember her as the mainstay of our meeting at Stansted.

We will each have our own particular fond memories of Nancy.

At her funeral, a poem by George Herbert (1593 - 1633) was read:

Vertue

Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright, The bridal of the earth and sky: the dew shall weep thy fall tonight, For thou must die.

Sweet rose, whose hue angry and brave Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye: thy root is ever in its grave, And thou must die.

Sweet spring, full of sweet days and roses, A box where sweets compacted lie: My music shows ye have your closes, And all must die.

Only a sweet and virtuous soul, Like seasoned timber never gives; But though the whole world turned to coal, Then chiefly lives.

A moving Memorial Service was held in the presence of a large congregation at St. John 's Church on 7th June.

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

Services and preachers for July

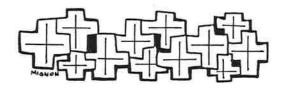
6th - Rev'd Jim Gill

13th - Rev'd Harry Wood

20th - Ken Mark

27th - Rev'd John Graham - Holy Communion

Friday 11th there will be a Fellowship meeting.





July Meetings

Monday July 7th - "New ideas and new music"

at 7 Blythwood Gardens

Monday July 21st - "Praise and drama"

in Marion and Mike's garden,

7 Blythwood Gardens.

All meetings start at 8p.m. and we love to see new people!

Auction and Cream Tea

This popular annual event will be held on Sunday, August 3rd. at 3pm at the Quaker Meeting House.

Bring along your own clutter and buy back somebody else's!

Plus enjoy a cup of tea, a scone (or two or more) with jam and cream and good company



Chevetogne Visit 2003

We will be having 25 visitors this year from the little village of Chevetogne in the Ardennes in Belgium. This link has now been forged over 17 years and many who take part have become good friends.

Each year there are a number of new visitors and if you would like to take part by having someone to stay we would be more than happy to let you know what is involved.

One thing you can be sure of is that you will really enjoy their visit!

This year they will be arriving on the evening of Tuesday 1st July and leaving on Friday morning 4th July.

An itinerary is in place and all hosts are very welcome to come along on the trips. They will be bringing a big enough coach to get us all on board - however you cannot return with them - not until next year anyway!

For any information please ring Eileen or Brian Quinn on 812109.

Rev'd John Graham

An occasion for CTS to say 'good bye' to Rev'd John Graham of the Methodist Church will be held on **Sunday**, **27th July at 4pm** in the Quaker Meeting House. Members of all churches are welcome.



Thank you to all who gave so generously to Christian Aid in May. At the time of going to press I do not have a final total, but so far £2,000 has been banked. This is the money collected in envelopes and at the market. The only disappointment is that more people did not fill in the tax declaration on the envelope. Christian Aid can claim 28% tax from the government on all donations given by a tax-payer, provided the name and address is on the envelope. This applies to all charitable giving.

Catherine Dean



Nature Notes

Some local sightings

Much has been said and written about House Sparrows in recent months. That they have declined nationally is beyond question but the reasons are still unclear. What is curious is that in the microcosm that is Stansted there are wide variations in population. Park Road, Recreation Ground and Bentfield Lower Green are three known and well populated haunts. The lower reaches of Blythwood Gardens have not seen any for years. Perhaps it would be a useful research exercise to compile a local sparrow map. A possible sixth form project?

Woodpeckers seem to be making a modest come-back and at least one local nest of the Greater Spotted is well occupied. Jays and rooks also appear to be strengthening their hold. Magpies have fallen from their record numbers of 2 or 3 years ago but are still (too) numerous. The cuckoo has fallen rapidly in numbers, a fact which produces mixed reactions among birdwatchers. The sparrow hawk is becoming more numerous, but this seems to be balanced by a reduction in kestrels.

Owls are another declining family. Little owls are still to be seen on posts and wires but the tawny is heard less and less. Is this connected with the supply of small rodents and, if so, why?

Fallow and muntjac deer are firmly established around the parish and the latter can be a serious menace in gardens. The main "control" is the motor car, especially during the rut when deer hurtle across our overworked roads in the evening and night hours.

Nocturnal moths have become another subject of national concern and Stansted certainly shares the dearth of both moths and butterflies. The Comma and Speckled Wood have been in evidence but overall the numbers are disappointing.

Amphibians are in world-wide trouble but our Stansted frogs, toads and newts are bucking the trend, thanks largely to the popularity of the garden pond. Have we still crested newts in the Bentfield waterholes? Questions, questions but few answers.

The ebb and flow of wildlife is inevitable and we should not jump to conclusions or become depressed by purely local variations. The overall regional picture is a more important one and we should be aware of danger signs.

Many readers must have knowledge of what is happening in their gardens or immediate locality and there are doubtless some observant folk who know the local fields, hedges and woodlands. Please don't be reticent to share your findings with us at Link - any small comment or reference to the commonplace may be of wider interest than you think. Just let us have them.

In the meanwhile, Rosina will be back with us next month.

Derek Honour

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Call for advice on 01279 427711 or 813319

If you have a disability or any other needs support may be available starting in September

(Centres in Thaxted/Dunmow/Saffron Walden/ Harlow & Epping)



Our 4th Open Gardens in Stansted will be on Sunday 13th July, 2 pm - 6 pm after the Parish Barbecue. We have 16 gardens this year - 8 completely new ones and an easier route!

Tickets will be on sale on the day at £3 at Crafton Green and the Rose and Crown, Bentfield Green. They will also be available, before the day, at 'Auto & Miniature', opposite Barclays Bank and at the 'Mill House Tea Rooms', Lower Street. There will be refreshments, etc. at several gardens and 'HEAL' members will be providing tea/coffee (and facilities!) at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, next to the car park. We hope the sun shines on us again this year! Come and enjoy a lovely afternoon with us and support your local cancer charity.

Quote:

"Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful: they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul." (Luther Burbank).

Any enquiries ring: Sue Hitchmough 814265 or Richard Thomas, 813871.



Bradwell Pilgrimage

Saturday 5th July

11am Opening Worship Bradwell Village Afternoon speaker at St Peter's Chapel

Col. Margaret Hag Salvation Army

(Preacher of the year 2000)

Celtic Songs Harp Music
Bring a picnic ~ for info' call 812284

St John's, Stansted I

SUMMER MAGIC Cantate Youth Choir

7.30 pm Saturday 5th July

Tickets £9 Concessions £7 Children £3

from Elizabeth Wagener Tel. 813182

Please book in advance - tickets are limited

Proceeds in aid of Church Hall improvements

VILLAGE EVENTS

July	/		
2	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Garden Club Summer Outing	Day Centre 6 pm
5	Sat	Village Assoc. Summer Fair	Recreation Ground noon - 5 pm
		Cantate Youth Choir Concert	St John's Church 7.30 pm
6	Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
		St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
- 6		Afternoon Tea	United Reformed Church 3 - 5 pm
7	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
10	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
11	Fri	Stop Stansted Expansion Quiz	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
12	Sat	Lib Dem Buffet Lunch	Churchmead, Widdington 12.30 pm
		Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Pk 1 - 4 pm
		Helen Shapiro Gospel Evening	B Stortford Meth. Church 7.30 pm
13	Sun	Barbecue Lunch	Rectory, St Johns Road 12.30 pm
		HEAL Open Gardens	2 - 6 pm
14	Mon -	18 Fri Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
16	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
17	Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm
19	Sat	Music in the Park	Bentfield School 2 - 8 pm
21	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

41	WIOIT	Shalom Group	7 biytriwood Gardens 8 pm		
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 Centr∈ noon - 2 pm		
10	Sun	Lib Dem Salmon/Sparkling Wine	7 Blythwood Gardens 12.30 pm		
		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		

STOP STANSTED EXPANSION OUIZ

Friday 11th July
Day Centre - Crafton Green
7.30 for 8 pm

TABLES OF FOUR

Tickets £7 incl. Supper
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OPEN GARDENS IN STANSTED

Sunday 13th July 2 pm - 6 pm

16 gardens to visit

Refreshments available at Day Centre, Crafton Green and at some gardens

Tickets £3

in advance from: Auto & Miniature (opp. Barclay's) Mill House Restaurant, Lower St.

on the day from: Rose & Crown, Bentfield Green Day Centre, Crafton Green



JR CONCERT

Tuesday 9th September 7.30 pm

Elisabeth Martin (Soprano)

accompanied on the piano by her husband

Matthew Martin

Elisabeth has recently graduated from Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, Illinois, USA

Stansted United Reformed Church

Admission by ticket only: Adults £8 Concessions £5 includes light supper after the concert

Available from end July

Peter & Valerie Trundle Tel. 813433

It's time to dust off those dancing shoes again!

Bentfield School PTA presents

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Saturday 19thJuly
Gates open 1.30 pm

Music from 2 pm Live bands to suit all tastes Bar ~ Bouncy Castle BBQ ~ Children's Entertainer

A great family day guaranteed!

Tickets - Adults £7.50 Accompanied children under 16 *free* from School (813626) or PTA members



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Organiser: Mary Hinton Registered Charity no. 246329



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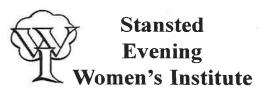
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JAN RICKWOOD

MGCP LCHE MIFA BRCP

Tel: 01279 815907



Much hard work and often poor living accommodation was the lot of girls in The Women's Land Army but also some fun. Nancy Woodley reminisced at our June meeting about her time in the Land Army from the early days of the Second World War until it was disbanded in 1950. The group was first formed in 1917 because of the shortage of men who had gone to fight at the front, and lasted until 1919.

The Land Army was re-formed by Lady Denman in 1938 and by 1944 12,000 girls were employed, working alongside German and Italian prisoners of war. Miss Woodley worked with cows, (with which she had trouble when a herd went through the wrong gate and got lost in a wood), chickens, goats and in greenhouses with tomato plants and mushrooms, being moved about to different farms as the seasons dictated. At one time she delivered churns of milk by horse and cart to the Herts and Essex Hospital. She was put onto the Tractor Division and found the Germans in particular were helpful with putting the heavy strakes on the wheels. A number of girls were killed by bombs and those injured did not receive compensation.

In keeping with the theme of the talk, the competition was for a wartime souvenir, which produced a table full of interesting items, including a Pilot's Log Book and various documents, recipes, photographs and other memorabilia.

Water colours done by members at a recent art class were on display and a report was given on the AGM at the Albert Hall.

Our outing in October will be to Clarence House, London, not Thaxted as printed in last month's Link.

The next meeting on Thursday, 10th July will be on "The Search for the River Niger" by Maurice Fenn, in St. John's Hall at 7.45pm.

Peggy Honour



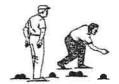
Instead of the usual ploughman's lunch on Saturday, 12th July, there will be a buffet lunch at Churchmead, Widdington, from 12.30 pm.

We will also be holding a Salmon and Sparkling Wine lunch on Sunday, 10th August at 7 Blythwood Gardens at 12.30pm.

Please ring 813432 or 814222 for details.

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

Ruth Rawlinson



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

The new season got off to a good start albeit somewhat damp at times with everyone pleased to be bowling outdoors once again.

Although we advertised for new bowlers the response was not great but we have got three or four keen recruits. It is not too late to come along and have a go - the season does not finish until the end of September so there are plenty of games that can be played.

If anyone is interested, either call into the Club during the evenings or give our coach a ring on 01279 813584 and arrange some tuition.

The Ladies have entered a new Tuesday evening league this year and are hoping for another win like they had in the Monday league over the last two years.

We do have a social side to the Club if you do not particularly feel you want to play bowls and we open every Friday evening throughout the year as well as most evenings during the season, just call in and introduce yourself; you will be made very welcome.

Can I through these pages take the opportunity to thank the residents of Recreation Road for their patience and understanding when visiting bowlers, park their cars without realising in residents' spaces. Most Stansted members know not to leave their cars there but occasionally we get visitors here to play competitions that have never been before and unless we actually ask them where they have parked we do not know they are causing a problem. We do have signs advising people about this.

If a car needs to be moved please take the number and colour and call into the Club and we will get the owner to move it.

Rex Turner Secretary/Chairman

STANSTED RED CROSS WEEK

May 2003

May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone in the village who gave so generously to the British Red Cross collection,

We raised a grand total of £1035.36.

I would also like to thank all those people who so kindly gave their time once again to collect for this very worthwhile cause.

Diana Pelly

Pub Profile No. 7

The Rose and Crown



The Rose and Crown

Built in Victorian times, The Rose and Crown Pub at Bentfield Green remained largely unchanged until the housing developments in the area were completed in the 1970's. The pub was then transformed inside to a single long bar, replacing the original three bar and off-sales arrangement. However, the exterior remains much as it was when it was built. The high standing geography of the pub is reflected in the notorious North Face, the bank that leads down from the car park onto Wetherfield, and which has been the literal and metaphorical downfall of the odd late night reveller.

Janice Wayman, the licensee and her mother, Ruby Cropp, and John Perry took over the tenancy some 18 years ago. Jan was previously at two pubs in Bishop's Stortford, The Half Moon in North Street and, latterly, The Nag's Head in Dunmow Road.



Jan and John

Sadly, Ruby died some years ago, but she will always be remembered for her sense of fun, addiction to crosswords and wise counselling to some of the younger customers. There is a tree planted to Ruby's memory in the pub garden and some regular customers still refer to "going to Ruby's" rather than "going to The Rose and Crown"!

Jan rules the place with a rod of iron and a heart of gold, aided and abetted by John . Two better people to run a pub you'd be hard pushed to find.

This is not one of those pubs that goes silent when strangers enter. Jan is the most welcoming hostess you could imagine, and has an almost photographic memory for detail: come back in three years' time and she'll ask you about the results of your operation, your dog's therapy sessions, and the welfare of your children, by name, as she pours your preferred drink without being asked.

A few years after taking over the pub, Benskins parent company, Allied Brewers, went through a rationalisation exercise and the Rose and Crown was to be closed or sold to another pub estate company. However, after lengthy negotiations, Jan was able to buy the pub.

As a result, The Rose and Crown is the only true privately owned free house in Stansted offering a large range of spirits and fortified wines as well as a variety of well kept beers, particularly the Adnam's Bitter, which, from time to time, attracts the attention of a group CAMRA enthusiasts.

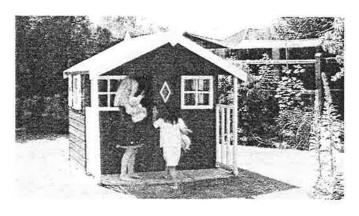


Sue serves up the food

Ably assisted by Sue Hunt in the kitchen, there's excellent food on offer. Try the local delicacy of 'volcano chips'. Somehow Jan and Sue seem to cook these in temperatures approaching those of molten lead, and waves of heat haze can be seen rolling off the plate when they're served up. Fantastic! The rest of the vast menu is fine too!

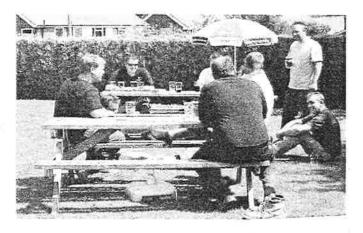
In the wintertime, The Rose and Crown runs its darts, dominoes and cribbage competitions and proudly displays the winners plaques over the fireplace.

In summer, for those of you with families, there's a big south facing garden, with play equipment and only one exit route, so you can enjoy yourselves secure in the knowledge that the children are safe and cannot escape onto the road. For the gardeners among you, the flowers and plants are a revelation. John and Jan work hard on the garden and it shows. Together with the hanging baskets and tubs of flowers at the front, it is little wonder that the pub has received well deserved Anglia in Bloom awards for many years..



Children explore the Wendy House in the garden

Also in the summertime there is usually an evening set aside for the Thaxted Morris Men to show off their skills at this ancient ritual, not to mention that in alternate years, The Rose and Crown becomes a very convenient watering hole for all those concerned with the Stansted Fun Run - organisers, spectators and, of course, competitors (after the race!).



Happy drinkers on a summer's day

To the left of the bar counter is an area sometimes referred to as the OBB (Obnoxious Blokes' Bar), where locals gather of an evening to set the world to rights. On first appearance this is not a place for the faint hearted but in Jan's words the ceaseless barracking amounts only to 'friendly fire'. Those confused by what's going on can refer to back issues of 'The Stir', the pub 'wall newspaper' that describes much of the tomfoolery past and present.

Produced from time to time, 'The Stir' takes a satirical look at the pub and the Bentfield Green area residents in which the pub becomes "The Last Chance Saloon", ably presided over by Ma Wayman assisted by John 'Growly' Perry with local residents featured under pseudonyms, to protect the innocent and hide the guilty!

Great atmosphere, great food, great beer. What more do you want?

Interview by Duncan Swallow and Tony Butcher Photographs by Tony Butcher



At the June meeting members heard an interesting talk by Mr. David Bond on "The Development of the Modern Geranium". The Pelargonium, as it should be called, was introduced to this country in 1629 when a ship's captain brought a plant back from South Africa and gave it to his uncle, John Tradescant. This plant, Pelargonium triste (the sad pelargonium) produces fragrant, nocturnal flowers and is the only known plant species to be pollinated by bats.

At the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth century Lady Cullum who lived near Bury St. Edmunds, had a gardener, Peter Grieve, who found a variegated leaf form growing in the garden. From this he developed many varieties, some of which are still best sellers today and in 1812 he wrote a book "Breeding Coloured Leaf Pelargoniums". Today there are over 400 coloured leaf varieties.

The next major step was the creation of the miniature varieties in the 1850's. Crossings of miniature and coloured leaf varieties produced many new offspring over the next few years. The 20th century saw the development of the Regal and Angel strains of which there are now over 800 varieties. Today most commercially produced pelargoniums are grown in places such as Africa, Gran Canaria and Israel, where there are some nurseries which produce over 4 million plants per week!

At the end of this very interesting talk, Mr Bond was thanked by the Chairman, Cyril Stoneham.

There will be no meeting of the Mountfitchet Garden Club in the Day Centre on July 2nd as it is our Evening Visit to Langthorns Plantery, Great Canfield, leaving the Day Centre Car Park at 6.30 pm. For non-members the admission fee is 75p – you will be most welcome. For more details ring 815100

On Wednesday 6th August at the Day Centre at 8pm the talk will be by Mr Louis Drake on "Italian Gardens".

David Loynds

In Search of Peace

Composer and violinist Teresa Brown gave a moving performance of music from her latest CD "In Search of Peace" in a candlelit St. John's Church on Friday 20th June. She also gave a fascinating insight into how she was prompted to write each piece, many of them inspired by her visits to Israel, Iona and Ireland. The music has been written to help people reflect, pray and meditate on the need for peace in our time and copies of the CD are available from Devine Music (01832 293545 or www.devinemusic.org).

Stansted Art & Craft Market

Time to get crafty.

With Summer flashing past, the children will soon break for the holidays and, in no time, be back to school with Christmas appearing over the horizon. Well, you can steal a march on the crowds who'll be desperate in December by putting a few choice items aside in advance from the wide variety which will be on offer at the annual Stansted Art and Craft Market.

This important event in the calendar of village life has moved from its late October position to the weekend of the 13th/14th September. We hope that this new timing will bring us all rather less in the way of flood and tempest than we have experienced on Market weekend over the past few years. The new dates mean that it will be light much later and in recognition of this, the Market will be open until 5pm each day this year, giving everyone that bit longer to appreciate the range of items produced by local artists and craftspeople.

We have at least eight new stalls coming to the Market, in addition to the return of some old favourites. There will be items of all sorts on sale, ranging from decorated candles and ceramics to appliquéd fleece blankets and handspinning. The craft stalls will be divided between St John's Church and the Church Hall, with the exhibition of artwork in the Church. 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 new dates for the Market should give us all more opportunity to view the stalls and admire the art. With longer days and, we hope, better weather than in the last few years, the Market should be available to more people than ever before. This is not only a very pleasant social occasion; it also forms an important part of village life with the money which 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!

Events like the Art and Craft Market are run for the village, by the people of the village. They benefit all of us who live in Stansted and without the many volunteers who give up their time to make them happen our village would be a much less attractive place to live. If you feel that you could give us just an hour or two over the weekend of the Market, the 13th/14th September, your help would be very much appreciated. We always 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).

Let's make this year's Market go with a swing – see you all there!

Sian Mackey

BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL PFTA

June saw Bentfield School hold its Science Week, where the whole school focused on Science. The week began with the 'Amazing Magical Science Show' by Pro Education, followed by practical workshops for each class. Throughout the week there were visits from road safety experts on the science involved in keeping safe on the road, and from the RSPCA finding out about pets and wildlife. There was also a Science Competition for the children in which they were asked to research a scientist to find out about his/her discoveries and design a poster to explain these to others in the school.

The climax of the week was the Family Spaghetti Science Challenge on 12th June. Twenty seven families took part in the evening of sticky excitement, challenging family teams to build the tallest tower made only of spaghetti and marshmallows (oh - and able to hold an egg!!). We had some amazing designs, some more successful than others! The winning team, with a tower 50cm tall (and one of the few still standing at the time of judging!) was the Eddershaw family. Well done to all the budding scientists who took part in the evening and thanks to Waitrose for the kind donation of spaghetti, eggs and incredibly sticky marshmallows.

With July now here and the summer holidays almost upon us, it's time, once again, to dust off those dancing shoes for:

Music in the Park on 19th July (2-8pm)

For those of you who haven't yet experienced this annual event, it is a spectacular way to spend a summer afternoon. We've got live music from 2pm with Newport Big Band, All of a Sudden, Peter Lemar Quartet, Slow Time Mondays and the Glebe House All Stars all taking the stage throughout the afternoon with music to suit all tastes. There is a bouncy castle, entertainer and other activities to keep the children amused, plus a beer tent and BBQ to top up the picnics. A great family day is guaranteed. Gates open at 1.30pm with live music starting from 2pm. Tickets are available from the school (813626) or a PTA member at a cost of £7.50 for adults with accompanied children under 16 going free. Come and join us for a great start to the summer!

As we reach the end of an incredibly busy school year, the PTA would like to thank everyone who has helped over the past year to raise so much money for the school. Huge thanks go to all the PTA committee, staff, and parents for their continued support at our many events. Also thanks to all the local businesses who have helped financially through generous sponsorship.

Marnie Tait

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



At last the good weather is here, and we have been making the most of it! On 10th June we had a visit from Cabair who landed a helicopter on the field! The children enjoyed an interesting and funny talk, and then had their photographs taken. An aerial picture was also taken; we can't wait to see the results!

The weekend of the 14/15th June saw an army of parents, pupils and staff descend on the playground to paint, garden and tidy. The PTFA have paid for three new water fountains, new bark for the play equipment, planters, benches and bulbs. The new outdoor classroom has been started and the whole playground area has undergone a transformation and looks wonderful. Well done and thank you to everyone who gave their time and worked so hard.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Midsummer Fayre on 21st June, and those who worked hard to make it a success. It was a fantastic day with many activities to choose from including panning for gold, smash a plate, a space run inflatable and all the old favourites like the tombola and raffle. More details next time of the amount raised.

It is not long now before Year 6 move on to their new schools and they have been visited by Susie Brown from the Stort Valley Schools Trust, who spent time with them to help them prepare for secondary school. Year 6 are also looking forward to a day of culture on the 2nd July, when they will visit the Royal Festival Hall in London and hear the Philharmonic Orchestra and then go on to the Tate Britain Gallery.

We are looking forward to the production of The Blue Crystal by Year 5 and 6 pupils on the 9th and 10th of July, and to sports day on the 17th. The Governors will be holding their annual Strawberry Tea in July, where they invite all those who have helped the school during the year to enjoy a strawberry cream tea. It is these people who help the school enjoy varied and interesting activities and add the extras that make for a rich and stimulating environment, a truly well deserved thank you!

Nicki Kelly PTFA Vice Chair

DONT' FORGET!

Ugley Farmers' Market - Saturday 19th July 11.30am-1.30pm. Stalls for July will include flowers and hand-made soaps, Posh Pies and organic vegetables as well as all the regular stalls.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Down to Work

The new Council has had its first meetings and it promises to be an interesting and challenging civic year. I am serving as the Vice-Chairman of the Community and Leisure Committee. Amongst its responsibilities are Day Centres, Community Safety, Leisure Centres, Museum Services and Tourism. The Department was before the elections subject to a critical report by the Audit Commission. It will be the task of all colleagues on this committee to make significant improvements.

I am also serving on the Council's Leisure (PFI) Board. This is responsible for the project management of the refurbishment of the Lord Butler Leisure Centre and the construction of two new centres at Dunmow and Stansted. Work is proceeding well and we hope that the Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre will be open to the public at the end of August 2003.

The Airport Advisory Panel of which I am a member has been busy preparing its response to the Government's consultation paper on the future development of air transport in the UK. We believe that there is nothing in the Second Edition of this Consultation Document that causes the Council to withdraw any of our original representations made in November 2002. All the evidence emerging over recent months reinforces our message that additional runway capacity at Stansted is not appropriate.

Many councillors represent the Council on outside bodies. This year I am a representative on the Uttlesford Citizens' Advice Bureau. I believe the CAB does very useful work and would like to see a presence in Stansted. Another organisation I will be involved in is the Uttlesford Police and Community Consultative Group. I am pleased that we are now seeing more visible policing in Stansted and would want this to continue.

Parking on double yellow lines is an endemic problem in Stansted and many of us wish for better enforcement. This may come when we get decriminalisation of parking enforcement. This allows a Highways Authority to take over responsibility for non-endorseable parking contravention from the Police, putting for the first time, full responsibility on local authorities both to make traffic regulations and enforce them. I will be serving on a Councillor/Officer Task Group which will be looking at the implementation of Decriminalisation in Uttlesford. This is projected to happen in October 2004.

Cllr Geoffrey Sell Tel: 01279 815925

Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk



HuwJohnson Club

Last month I appealed for teenagers who wished to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Awards by helping at Club. We now have as a result of that appeal one teenager and we would welcome any others who would like to join this young lady.

Another appeal I would like to make is for escorts to accompany the driver of the minibus, which we are now using twice a month. The drivers would feel a lot happier if another adult was on board especially on the return journey. If you feel you could be an escort (you would not have to do any driving) please contact Marion on 812284. Our members are a very friendly lot and you would be well entertained on your journey.

Marion Johnson



Hello again,

Here we are into June and heading for the end of term and the long summer holidays. The children have been very busy, continuing the topic "All about Me", filling their books with pictures and photos about their families.

The end of May we had a celebration concert for parents and friends especially the infant children from St Mary's School. Many, many thanks for the wonderful card for our 30th Anniversary, signed by all children and staff.

This term we will be out and about. Train trips to the Airport and Newport play area, a visit to the Fire Station and a Teddy Bear's Picnic on the Recreation Ground. The new policeman, Adam, said he will call in to introduce himself to the children and the "lollipop" lady has promised a visit.

We have also been learning about other countries in Europe, tasting the food and making flags. Pastas, pizzas, lovely sauces, baguettes, pate and different cheeses. All tried and enjoyed by most children!!

The last week of term will be especially busy. There will be a special lunch for the leavers on Thursday and Sports Day on Friday. It will be a sad day when so many of the children are leaving to start Big School in September. They are such a super bunch of children. Mrs Stewart will really have fun with them!

Look out for more information on our 30th Anniversary celebrations, starting officially in September.

If you would like a place at Sideways in September please call in and see us in St John's Hall any morning or phone 816600 mornings - 813028 afternoon/evenings for more information.

Auntie Helen



Royal British Legion

Women's Section

After normal business at our branch meeting on 15th May Bessie organised a Quiz which was much enjoyed by all. Lily, Doris T., Barbara and Doris B. were at the winning table.

Refreshments were then served and a very generous raffle was drawn. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 17th July in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm.

Advance Notice: Our Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday, 13th August in the Day Centre from 10.30 am.

Pat Clower



It has been another busy month at Rainbow pre-school. The children have continued to learn about people who help them. They have visited the Fire Station where they very much enjoyed their tour, particularly the opportunity to see the hoses in action!!

We were also visited by the local constabulary but no arrests were made. The children were interested to learn about how the police help people and all fancied trying on a real policeman's helmet.

Stories have reflected the theme for the term and children (and staff!) have shared their experiences of hospitals with each other. The home corner has been set up as a dolly hospital and children have enjoyed role playing, working on the paediatric ward!

We have been out and about again in Stansted. In addition to our visit to the Fire Station we have been to the Recreation Ground and small groups of children have carried out traffic surveys on Chapel Hill. We are also looking forward to trips to the Park in Bishop's Stortford, Harlow Town Park and Marsh End Farm at South Woodham Ferrers.

Our Fund Raising efforts continue to go very well. Around £200 was raised at the sponsored obstacle course and we have once again benefited from the generosity of local businesses. We would particularly like to thank Intercounty and Concord Motors for their kind donations. Thanks to them, we have now raised enough money to go ahead with building our outdoor shelter. This will be built over the summer and will enable our children to play outside whatever the weather.

In addition to the outdoor shelter our outdoor area is being further enhanced by the construction of a timber play house. We would like to thank Lyndsey Green for donating the play house and Mr Carter and Mr Woods who put it up for us.

If you are interested in a place at the pre-school from September please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for further information.

Vicki Brice

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

In this month's report it seemed sensible to give readers a change from the major issues of the day - Housing Development, Airport Development and the like - and instead give some attention to one of the less well known matters which is so common place and everyday and yet is of immediate interest to everyone.

This is the Cinderella of local government - **Trading Standards**. How many readers know that the County Council is responsible for checking the standards of weights and measures used by shopkeepers? How many know that the County Council is responsible for checking the accuracy of petrol pumps? - and even less well known is that the County is responsible for checking that goods sold in shops, and particularly in local markets, are what they are supposed to be - and not pretending to be what they are not.

Furthermore, how many of us know what our rights are in relation to the purchase of goods? Here are a few examples:

Do you know?

- 1. That if I buy something from a shop but change my mind and I return the goods to the shop and they will only offer an exchange or credit note, can I insist on a refund? What are my consumer rights?
 - a. I can insist on a refund.
 - b. I can insist I get an exchange.
 - c. I can insist that I get a credit note
 - d. I do not have any rights.

You have no right to return unwanted or unsuitable goods. The trader here was in fact doing more than he had to, by offering an exchange or credit note.

- 2. That if I purchase a television from a local shop and on installing it at home find that it doesn't work, when I return it to the shop with my receipt and they agree it is faulty but say I have to accept a repair, what are my consumer rights?
 - a. I am only entitled to a repair.
 - b. They say I must contact the manufacturer.
 - c. I can reject the goods and obtain a refund.

You have a reasonable time to reject goods that are faulty. If you have only had the television a short time you should be able to insist upon a refund as opposed to a repair, although the Law does not actually state what a reasonable time is.

- 3. That if I have signed a contract with a trader who called at my door last night the contract is to purchase some security equipment as the salesman told me that there have been lots of burglaries in my street and after checking with the Police I find this is not true and I wish to cancel, what are my consumer rights?
 - a. You have signed a contract and therefore are now legally bound by this agreement.

- b. If you cancel at any time you will incur cancellation costs.
- c. You have a seven-day cooling off period.

Under 'distance' selling regulations [i.e. off business premises], you should be left a cancellation form, which you have seven days to return if you wish to cancel. You should ensure you obtain a proof of posting and record or register your cancellation letter.

These simple examples show what a minefield of problems Trading Standards have to deal with, yet how important these matters are to our daily lives.

It is up to us to take note of our consumer rights and to remember that Trading Standards are there to protect us all. They do this at minimum cost.

Should any reader wish to know more about this subject, they should either phone the undersigned on 01279 812588, or consult with the Trading Standards Inspector, whose number is published in telephone directories.

Richard Wallace County Councillor Stansted Division



Our 4th Open Gardens in Stansted will be on Sunday 13th July, 2 pm - 6 pm after the Parish Barbecue. We have 16 gardens this year - 8 completely new ones and an easier route!

Tickets will be on sale on the day at £3 at Crafton Green and the Rose and Crown, Bentfield Green. They will also be available, before the day, at 'Auto & Miniature', opposite Barclays Bank and at the 'Mill House Tea Rooms', Lower Street. There will be refreshments, etc. at several gardens and 'HEAL' members will be providing tea/coffee (and facilities!) at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, next to the car park. We hope the sun shines on us again this year! Come and enjoy a lovely afternoon with us and support your local cancer charity.

Quote:

"Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful: they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul." (Luther Burbank).

Any enquiries ring: Sue Hitchmough 814265 or Richard Thomas, 813871.

REMINISCENCES OF A RETIRING HEADTEACHER

As we hurtle towards the end of the summer term there has been little time to reflect on the fact that these are the final few weeks before my retirement. When there is the odd pause, my feelings are very mixed. I came to St Mary's as Deputy Headteacher in 1986, became Acting Headteacher in 1987 and was appointed Headteacher in 1988 when Peter Compton left. I had come to teaching as a 'mature' student with two children and qualified in 1976 and had previously taught in RA Butler School in Saffron Walden and in Thaxted. I was enthusiastic and passionate about the importance of project work, inclusion and the 'child centred approach' to teaching.

The memories of St Mary's are many with so many wonderful characters among the changing range of pupils, staff, governors and parents, too numerous to mention them all. During the first three or four years there was never a term in which the staff did not change with the exception of stalwarts like Marion Johnson, Rosemary Minshull and Lesley Blurton who was the teacher for children with special needs. Doreen Hannigan was caretaker and our treasured Teaching Assistant Brenda was our cleaner. Ann Scott joined us in 1987. Barry Rose was the Rector and teachers in those first few years included among others Alan Phair, Julie Prociuk. Leslie Harlow (Alexander), Karen Wagstaff and Kathy Lowe. Clive Bareham was Chairman of Governors and Helen Manley had been the school secretary for some time.

There are many events that stand out in my memory. The Airport Week when we turned the school into an airport for a week with every child booking a holiday with the travel agent (first ICT), checking in luggage and boarding the 'plane' we built in the hall. We had stewards and stewardesses trained, a duty free trolley and even a sniffer dog who could sniff out chocolate hidden in cases at ten paces. Stansted Airport was just being developed and it was all new and exciting — little did we know. We had lots of industry linked projects and at one time all the teachers went on an industry placement in local or national companies

The annual plays will also always be fond memories and are often the thing that ex-pupils remember most. Several times I have been confronted by a six-foot rugby prop or young man with a skin head haircut who wants to reminisce about the part he played in a play when he was seven—"have I changed?" they ask. Godspell, Toad of Toad Hall, James and the Giant Peach and Bugsy Malone with the shaving foam splurge guns were all special favourites. There was the girl with coloured hair and multiple piercing who studied literature at university but can still recite a poem that she learned when she was eight and the boy who struggled to read at nine but who went on to attend college. When I meet them all now it still gives me a thrill and reminds me of why I wanted to be a teacher.

The project when Year 6 stormed Mountfitchet Castle in full costume in the pouring rain; ate stew from a cauldron in wooden bowls with bread, no utensils and very muddy hands

is another I'll never forget. The camp followers (Leslie Blurton and I) served the meal. Great excitement followed when we were on T.V news and were invited to appear on Multi-Colour Swapshop!

There were the school trips—first to Malham and the Isle of Wight then to Ilfracombe where the curate Tony King and I and a group of children had to be rescued from Exmoor after an unexpected hurricane blew up. Later, Deputy Headteacher Bron Ferland and I pursued an industry links visit (and French corporate hospitality) to Abbeville and the annual visit to France evolved from that. There are numerous incidents stemming from those trips like the sleep-walking boy who thought my bed was his and the missing child (also a boy) for whom we turned everyone out of bed to search for only to find him curled up under a bed.

It was with great trepidation that I faced the first changes to LMS (Local Management or Schools) in 1989 and worried about our capitation budget which consisted of the magnificent sum of £4,000. This melted into insignificance in 1993 when the school was granted Grant Maintained status and became responsible for the full management of the school and a budget of around £400,000 with a complete range of management responsibilities to go with it. Suddenly I was faced with learning about budgets and accounting, personnel and premises issues as well as all the curriculum changes, initiatives and responsibilities that arrived at the same time. It was no longer enough for a headteacher to be a good teacher, there was new portfolio of skills one needed to acquire. It was a challenge but a time I enjoyed very much and for St Mary's staff and governors the biggest time of change and growth ever.

For two years we worked on the plans for a new inclusive resource base at St Mary's. We had always worked closely with the Peter Kirk School and it seemed an obvious next step when it seemed inevitable that the Peter Kirk School would close. I studied in Cambridge for a degree in special needs teaching during those two years and was deeply disappointed when Essex changed their minds about the base being at St Mary's.

There have been so many changes to life at St Mary's and in education generally. Although it is not fashionable to say so I have always enjoyed being a teacher although the increasing bureaucracy and workload I do not enjoy. St Mary's is a great place to work. It's good fun and there is a great feeling of support and camaraderie among the staff, many of whom have been there almost as long as I have. I have also been lucky to have had the support of three excellent deputies, Bron Ferland, Lyn Inston and Julie Gibbons. There was never going to be an opportunity to 'cruise' to retirement, especially now that we have an Ofsted Inspection at the beginning of July. Staff and children have always worked hard together and I am sure that Ofsted will confirm this and that staff and children will continue to do so under the new Headteacher, Wendy Wood.

As for me, Ofsted aside, I am looking forward to the next phase of my life and a whole list of new, exciting things to do. I qualified as a scuba diver in Langkawi at Easter

(something I am very proud of in my retirement year), and hope to go diving in the Red Sea and off the Great Barrier Reef. I want to travel - I'm looking at 2004 as my gap year. I would like to study reflexology, do some gardening, art classes and improve my French. My father who died last year started to write his life story but didn't complete it so I would also like to try to complete it for him. Most of all I would like to spend more time with my children and four grandchildren. I am so lucky to have always had the love and support of my family throughout my teaching career. My son is a successful business man alongside my husband and my daughter has just completed her second year at university and wants to teach even though she is in her thirties and also has two young children (history repeating itself?). She had to complete an assignment recently about the benefits of a child-centred curriculum - now there's a good idea!

Jean Cashman

Stansted Tennis Club



The Paul Bristow Memorial Tournament

Paul Bristow, a former member of Stansted Tennis Club from 1983-1992, tragically lost his life at the age of 27 while he was working at the World Trade Centre when the Twin Towers were destroyed on 11th September 2001.

His parents, Derek and Win Bristow, have already kindly given a seat in Paul's memory that is in the Tennis Club gardens. Now the Bristows have presented the club with a beautiful Paul Bristow memorial cup to be played for in an annual junior tournament. We are extremely grateful to them and feel honoured that we can help to remember Paul in this way

The first tournament was played at the club on Sunday 8th June. 32 children aged between 9 and 15 took part in the doubles tournament. Players had chosen their partners before the event.

The tournament began with the round-robin stage, which consisted of 3 age-related groups, playing each other pair within that group. Pairs amassed as many points as they could to go into the seeded knock-out stage, which followed. In the knock-out stage each match was the best of 7 games. In the semi-finals, Luke Berry (15) and James Ingram (14) (Group 1 winners) beat Tim Berry (10) and Philip Bitten (10) (Group 3 winners) 4-0. The same score was recorded in the other semi, with Charlie Kirby (11) and Nick Abbotson (11) (Group 2 winners) defeating Mark Rhead (15) and Matthew Berry (13). The trophy was won by Luke and James, who beat Charlie and Nick 4-1 in the final.

Tournament organiser and club coach, Chris Hollis, was pleased with the high standard of competitive tennis and was impressed with the endurance of the players, who battled

continuously from 1pm to 8pm in front of a very large and supportive audience. Chris thanked parents of several players who had greatly supported him on the day with kitchen catering and umpiring.

It was an especially poignant day for Chris, who recalled that when he qualified as a tennis coach twenty years ago, Paul Bristow was one of the first juniors he taught at the club. Club chairman, Janet Hollis, introduced Derek and Win Bristow, who presented the trophy to the winning pair.

Wednesday Evening Open Club Sessions

All current adult members are welcome to come along and join in these sessions, which get underway at 5pm.

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.

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Club Tournament

The draw is now up on the club noticeboard.

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.

IN MEMORIAM

Mike Jackson

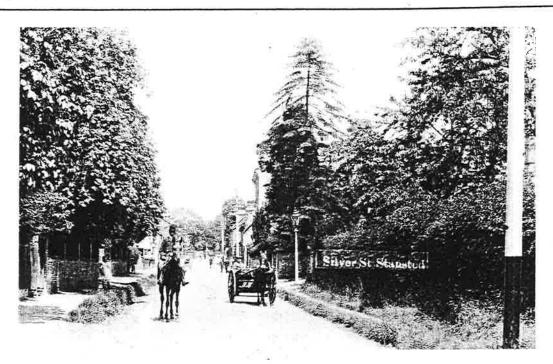
Many Stansted residents will be among those who are saddened by the recent death of Mike the Clown. At one time a regular entertainer at local children's parties and a welcome personality at Stansted Fun Run and St. Clare Hospice Fete, Mike, a former schoolteacher, was deservedly popular and a master of his art. During the 80's, despite being a tintinnus sufferer, he was an accomplished Shakespearean actor who appeared at Harlow Playhouse. Mike was also a Schools Officer for Amnesty International but probably his principle epitaph should be that among everyone, particularly the young people whom he met he strove selflessly to encourage them to give of their best. Thank you, Mike.

SNIPPETS

In last months issue we incorrectly stated that Audrey Rodgers had moved to Elsenham. For Elsenham read Saffron Walden. Sorry Audrey.

After a two month interval the Pothole contest is back in focus. The magnificent hole in Stoney Common has been remedied but others are now attracting interest at the lower end of the road.

However, the accolade this month goes to the N end of Woodfields where a number of large cavities are developing. Caution should be the watchword for any revellers returning from the Lower Street waterholes! Millside has several potholes showing promise and which enforce traffic calming upon motorists and hurrying pedestrians alike.



This rare photograph shows Silver Street sometime around the beginning of the 20th century or even a little earlier. It is an attractive composition and shows the street at its summer best. The informal hedge to the right would be a valuable enhancement to today's scene.

Photograph courtesy of Sid Stringer



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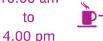
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