

June 2003

The *LINK*



*Stansted
Mountfitchet*

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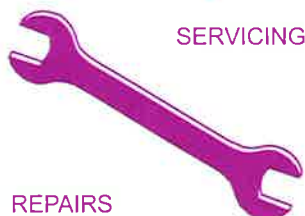


NISSAN

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High House Montessori Day Nursery

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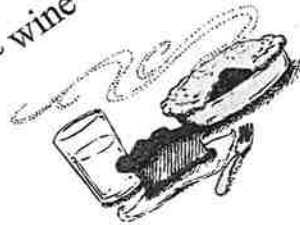
ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

is entering the 21st Century

Now two more events to
fund the improvements...

Hill chill.

at
Sonia's, 31 Chapel Hill
7 - 10 pm Friday 27th June
Supper (vegetarian on request)
Admission £9 incl. Glass of wine
beer ~ wine ~ soft drinks



Cantate Youth Choir

at
St John's Church
7.30 pm Saturday 5th July
Interval Bar ~ Raffle

Tickets £9

Concessions £7

Children £3

from

Elizabeth Wagener

☎ 813182



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 12th June for publication on 28th June

by 10th July for publication on 26th July

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

Confessions
Saturday 10 am and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

Corpus Christi

We are approaching the feast of Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ), which is held on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. This is a special feast day in the Roman Catholic Church as it commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist. On Maundy Thursday, when the sacrament of the Eucharist was instituted by Christ, it was originally known as The Birth of The Chalice. However, in the 13th century St Juliana, prioress of the convent Mount Cornillon, nr. Leige in Belgium, had a great devotion to the sacrament and always longed for a special feast in its honour. She made her ideals known to the Bishop of Leige and finally Pope Urban IV decreed in 1264 the new festival of Corpus Christi, now called the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Corpus Christi as we older Catholics still call it, was always a very special feast and one always held in a child's memory. It was for many, many years the time at which we made our first communion at the age of 7 years. I made mine in 1947 and I can still remember the day vividly. I wore my white first communion dress, made out of white parachute material which my father had managed to obtain from some source and a pair of white buckskin shoes, for which he had queued in London for hours. My mother made the dress and embroidered the collar with lazy daisy flowers. She made a headdress from real white garden pinks and we managed to borrow a veil. I felt very special, as we walked the 2 miles to church, in my dress and shoes not to mention my mother's large gold cross hanging round my neck, which had been blessed by the Pope and clutching my ivory covered prayer book, a first communion present from my parents. My mother and father came with me and my brothers had gone on to prepare to serve on the altar. This was also very special as my father came with us. He was not a catholic, but organist at the local Church of England. My mother impressed upon me what a very special day this was. I already knew this as I had been well schooled in my catechism by our wonderful parish priest, Father Cromlin.

When the moment of communion came I thought I would burst with pride and happiness. I was not a particularly holy or devout child, but this really was a special day for 7 year olds. I felt at last a sense of belonging to the church instead of merely being an onlooker. Afterwards we all went into

the priest's house. Father Cromlin sat at the head of the table, said grace, cracked a few jokes and we ate a breakfast of boiled eggs, bread and butter and jam prepared by the housekeeper. In the evening we went back again for Benediction (a service of prayer and blessing). We all walked in the procession scattering petals before the priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament. It truly was a day to remember.

Mary Warnett

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk Mrs Anthea Lee
24 Lea Close
Bishop's Stortford Tel 01279 656707

Meeting 11 am

Nancy Tennant

Please note that the Memorial Service for Nancy Tennant at St John's Church on Saturday, 7th June is at **2.30pm**, not 3.30pm as previously advised.

Spring into Summer

By the time you read this, Spring will be nearly over and Summer will be upon us. Nearly every morning as I walk the dog in these early days of May I notice fresh things happening. The House Martins have returned and are busy collecting mud for their nests. I have heard the urgent chattering of Swallows. In the hedgerows Blackcap, Garden Warbler and Whitethroat are singing their territorial songs, and the Hawthorn is about to burst into blossom.

In the woods the Celandines are over and the Wood Anemones have finished flowering. The Bluebells are in full bloom, but will soon be over, as the canopy of leaves thickens on the trees and it becomes darker and darker in the woods. This cycle of events repeats itself year on year with minor differences each year. For example, the wood anemones have been better this year, whilst the bluebells are not so prolific.

Thank goodness that there is some predictability about our lives, we all like some stability and none of us like enforced change. We have all lived or are living through a period of change. The Stock Market has been volatile and the war in Iraq has not helped global stability. In our particular area there is the uncertainty of developments at Stansted Airport.

I hope that whatever changes occur we will all, in the future, be able to witness the changing seasons and marvel at nature. I would like us all to do as little harm to our environment as possible, and we as Quakers are urged to try and live simply. "A simple lifestyle freely chosen is a source of strength. Do not be persuaded into buying what you do not need or cannot afford. Do keep yourself informed about the effects your style of living is having on the global economy and environment. Show a loving consideration for all creatures, and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation".

Peter Burgess.

METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Minister Rev'd John Graham
2 South Road
Bishop's Stortford
Tel 01279 654475

Secretary Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Recreation Ground
Stansted
Tel 01279 813579

Email methodists@stansted.net

Services and preachers for June

1st Christine Heyhoe
8th Michael Render
15th Michael Dyer
22nd **Church anniversary at 3.30p.m. led by Rev'd John Graham followed by tea in the meeting house.**
29th Rev'd Ronald Rawlings – Holy Communion

Friday, 13th June – Church Fellowship at 8pm.

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 June

1st 10.30am Rev'd Martin Cressey
8th 10.30am Rev'd David Simpson- Communion
15th 10.30am Rev'd Janet Tollington
22nd 10.30am Rev'd David Simpson
29th 10.30am Songs of Praise

Following our successful "Afternoon Tea" on Bank Holiday Monday we will be serving teas on the 1st Sunday each month during the summer. Dates planned are as follows:

1st June, 6th July, 3rd August and 7th September

Come and join us between 3pm and 5pm for a cup of tea and a chat. This venture is not intended as a money raising scheme but any profit will be given to the "Water Aid" charity.

We are pleased to report that Rev Lydia Rapkin is now home from hospital and making good progress.

WATCH THIS SPACE

"Pilots" - Re-launching in September

This is an ecumenical group for children between the ages of 5 to 14 years, run by The Stansted United Reformed Church. Meetings will be held weekly in the URC premises. For more information, contact:

Valerie Trundle (01279) 813433

Sponsored Play/Sing/Read

We are holding a Gift Morning in the form of a sponsored play/Sing/Read in aid of our piano fund.

This will take place on Saturday, 7th June at Stansted URC from 10am until 1pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available and we hope that you will come and support this event either as a listener or a participant.

This promises to be an informal, relaxing and entertaining day, making good use of our Church facilities within the community.

For those intending to sing, play or read, sponsor forms are available from Valerie Trundle, 15 Bentfield Gardens, Stansted, (01279) 813433.

**Bishop's Stortford
Methodist Church
Centenary Celebrations**



Helen.
Shapiro
Gospel Evening

Helen sharing
her faith in
word and song



Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church
2 South Road, B/S, CM23 3JH

**Saturday, 12th July
at 7.30 p.m.**

Tickets: £5 Adult

Available from Church:
☎ 01279 652339 (mornings)
or
☎ 01279 504239/01279 812849



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

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

(01279) 815243
church.office@stansted.net
Administrator
Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

Diary

Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion
9:30am Parish Communion
11:00am Open Door Service
(1st & 3rd Sunday of the month)
6:30pm Evening Prayer *said*

Wednesdays

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

Groups

Tiny Tots

is a mother and toddler group that meets on the second and fourth Tuesday in the month during term-time.

Lazer 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.

Housegroups

Meet fortnightly on Tuesday evening. Currently we are looking at St John's Gospel.

Rector
Revd Andrew Spurr
The Rectory
St. John's Road
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex, CM24 8JP
phone/fax
(01279) 812203
rector@stansted.net

Open Door Service
(Ecumenical All-Age worship)
Mrs Frances Richards
phone
(01279) 812748
richkidz@waitrose.com

Director of Music
Mrs Glynis Morris
phone/fax
(01223) 263640
church.music@stansted.net

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

Honorary Assistant Priest
Canon Derek Jackson
phone
(01279) 652664

Youth Group
The Rector
phone
(01279) 812203

Mother & Toddler Group
Mrs Tina South
phone
(01279) 814371
tinytots@stansted.net

Housegroup
The Rector

In Search of Peace

An evening of Music and Reflection

Violinist and Composer
Teresa Brown
plays music to reflect, pray and meditate on the need for peace in our time.

From her latest CD
In Search of Peace

Friday 20th June 7.30pm - 8.30pm

St John's Church, Stansted

All Welcome
Refreshments will be served



Devine Music
www.devinemusic.org.uk

From the Registers for April:

Baptism

19th Rosalind Anwen Mackey
(this was during the Easter Eve service)

Funerals

4th Walter Jordan age 86 years
9th Edward Harold Peter Camp age 82 years
30th Margery Christmas age 85 years

The **Grand Sale and Afternoon Tea** event on Saturday, 17th May raised £400 to be split between churchyard maintenance and internal church refurbishment.

The Rector's Annual Barbecue Lunch

to be held in the

Rectory Garden
on Sunday 13th July from 12.30pm

Wonderful food, bar, raffle and bouncy castle, etc.

**- A fun day for all ages -
See you there!**

Tickets at £6 each, £4 children from the Benefice Office, the Rector, after Sunday services or Rosemary on 834053



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.

Bradwell Pilgrimage 2003 - Saturday, 5th July

The Opening Worship in Bradwell Village is at 11am and the Service at St Peter's Chapel is at 1.15pm. The speaker from the Salvation Army will be Colonel Margaret Hay (The Times Preacher of the Year 2000). Bring a banner and a picnic and enjoy outdoor worship. Closing act of worship at 3.30pm. Lots to do for adults and children. Celtic songs and harp music. Full details from John McCafferty (01245 476371) and Canon Hugh Beavan (01621 776203)

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

Action for Trade Justice

The following events are being held in June to influence the government in its negotiations on world trade.

24 Hours for Trade Justice – there is to be a mass lobby of MP's in their local constituency between 12pm Friday, 27th to 12pm Saturday, 28th June.

Weigh in for trade justice – there will be symbolic action taken all over the UK at 12pm on Saturday 28th June, when campaigners will stand together holding sets of scale, the symbol for trade justice.

Write in for Trade Justice – supporters are urged to take part in mass letter writing targeting MP's.

At time of going to press, details of these events are not finalised. I will keep people informed through the churches, or you can contact me on 813579.

Catherine Dean



SHALOM

June Meetings

Monday, 9th Joanna Heath, "Poetry with a difference" at 7 Blythwood Gardens.
Monday, 23rd An evening with Rev. John Graham at the Friends Meeting House.

All meetings start at 8pm. All are welcome



**MOUNTFITCHET
GARDEN CLUB**

Mr Gibb was the guest speaker at the May meeting of the Mountfitchet Garden Club. His subject, "Wandlebury Country Park and Nature Reserve" in Cambridgeshire, where he is the Head Ranger. He began by telling us of the History of Wandlebury, how the hilltop is crowned by two circular banks with a ditch in-between, known as the Wandlebury ring. They enclose a circle of about 1000ft in diameter and are the remains of an Iron Age hill fort, dating back to the 5th century BC. The estate passed through the hands of many wealthy families, until in 1904 it was purchased by the Gray family. Cambridge Preservation Society acquired the estate in 1954 due to a generous gift by Mr Terrence Gray, the then owner of the grounds and the building within the ring, and then with a "Save the Gogs" appeal, the Society was able to purchase outright the remaining parts of the 110 acre estate. Today it is open to the Public and for School parties, to enjoy the nature trails and woodlands, and wild flower meadows. There are plans to recreate the kitchen garden of the old Wandlebury mansion as it was from the 17th to 19th centuries. 2003 is the 75th anniversary of the Society and many events are planned for Wandlebury this year, watch the local press for details.

After coffee Cyril Stoneham presented the Spring Show prize money, and congratulated all exhibitors on an excellent show. He then told members of the Village fete on 5th July, when the club will be running a Garden tombola stall, and he asked for any small items as prizes. He also told members that the Coach outing to Wisley was now fully booked with a waiting list.

The next club meeting is 4th June when the speaker will be Mr David Bond, his subject "The development of the Modern Geranium." All Welcome.

Janet Townsend



SSE SLAMS BIASED AIRPORT QUESTIONNAIRES AND OFFERS COMPLETION ADVICE

The extreme bias of the government's airport consultation questionnaires in favour of major expansion in the South East has led Stop Stansted Expansion to issue advice on how the questionnaires should be completed.

Published by Stop Stansted Expansion, the recommendations are that people answer selected questions only and add a specially worded 'Supplement' to the questionnaire to reinforce a broader view not permitted by the South East questionnaire as it stands. Stop Stansted Expansion has produced written guidance for anyone who would like it, available on request from its campaign office and the website. Completion of the online version of the questionnaire is to be avoided at all costs as it does not allow any questions to be skipped or any additional comments to be made.

Meanwhile, the campaign's community team will be aiming to visit thousands of households over the coming weeks to facilitate completion of the questionnaires which leaves the Secretary of State for Transport, Alistair Darling, in no doubt about the region's view of his proposals to create the world's biggest airport at Stansted.

Stop Stansted Expansion is also working closely with other campaign groups across the south east to urge them to follow suit with a similar version of the recommended response. All the communities in the region affected by the government's expansion proposals – Cliffe, Heathrow, Luton and Gatwick – are extremely concerned about the contents of the questionnaire.

"The problem with the South East regional questionnaire," says Norman Mead, Stop Stansted Expansion chairman, "is that it not only asks highly leading questions – in some cases repeatedly trying to extract an answer favourable to local expansion – but that it is also grossly unfair. The questionnaires for all other regions of the United Kingdom provide people with an opportunity - and even encouragement - to vote in favour of expansion of airport capacity in the South East and to nominate particular airports, such as Stansted, which are 'appropriate for expansion'. However, there is no comparable opportunity in the South East questionnaire to allow people in the South East to express a view on this.

The extreme bias of the South East questionnaires is currently being considered by Stop Stansted Expansion's legal advisers.

Copies of the Supplement and Recommendations for answering selected questions (leaving the remainder blank) can be obtained on request from the campaign office on

01279 870558, by email on

info@stopstanstedexpansion.com

or downloaded from the website at

www.stopstanstedexpansion.com.

Anyone who does not already have a copy of the consultation questionnaire should telephone the government's consultation Enquiry Line on 0845 100 5554 to ask for a copy. Stop Stansted Expansion is recommending that people with extra copies are asked to help other members of their household, friends or neighbours to complete them as per the new advice or to return the blank forms to the campaign office. Responses must be with the Department for Transport by 30th June 2003.

Advice on Completion of the Questionnaire:

Page 1 - If you have already completed a Questionnaire (perhaps the original one that was issued in 2002 before the Government was forced to restart the consultation process), please be sure to tick one of the **YES** boxes and write against this in bold lettering "**PLEASE IGNORE MY PREVIOUS RESPONSE**".

Page 2 – Tick either Yes or No as you wish

Pages 3, 4 and 5 – Leave blank

Page 6 - Question 7 - tick all eight "**Unacceptable**" boxes under Stansted Airport

Page 7 – Leave blank

Page 8 – Question 10 – tick the "**Strongly oppose**" boxes against all four Stansted options.

In addition, if you support the view that there should be no additional runways at all in the South East, please tick all the other "**Strongly oppose**" boxes against other SE airports. It is impossible to know how the final line of this question will be interpreted, so we suggest you leave it blank.

Page 8 – Question 11 – tick "**None of these**"

Pages 9 to 11 – complete as appropriate. Question 20 should definitely be answered.

Page 12 - if you are happy with the Supplement (available from the campaign office on **01279 870558**, by email at info@stopstanstedexpansion.com or from www.stopstanstedexpansion.com, please sign and date it and send it off with your completed Questionnaire, attached to page 12. You may wish to add other comments of your own on page 12.

Further information/comment:

Norman Mead, Chairman,
Stop Stansted Expansion,
Tel 01279 659483

Carol Barbone, Campaign Director,
Stop Stansted Expansion
Mobile 0777 552 3091

Campaign Office Tel 01279 870558

Carol Barbone,



**Stansted Evening
Women's Institute
Coffee Morning**

Wednesday 4th June
10 am - 12 noon
Stansted Day Centre

Bring & Buy ~ Books ~ Cakes ~ Raffle
Do come and bring a friend!

Proceeds to Bone Density Scanner for
BS Community Hospital and WI funds

STOP STANSTED EXPANSION

Sun 8th June, 6 for 6.45 pm
Gaston House, Little Hallingbury
(in the grounds - marquee if wet)

Songs from West End shows
featuring

Kate Coysten, Craig Turner, Chris Howell
(currently performing in "My Fair Lady")

and **Tania Newton** (from "Ragtime")

Bar ~ Tickets £15 incl. supper

Tel: 653470 or 870558

JAZZ CONCERT

The Cambridge Jazz Company

8 pm Sat. 14th June
St Nicholas' Church, Berden

£10 including light supper
and a glass of wine

Tickets from Kate Harrison
777452

June

VILLAGE EVENTS

1 Sun	Afternoon Tea and Chat	United Reformed Church 3 - 5 pm
4 Wed	WI Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon
	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
7 Sat	Sponsored play/sing/read	United Reformed Church 10 am
8 Sun	Stansted Village Ass. Boot Sale	Lower St Car Pk 9 am - noon
	West End Stars for SSE	Gaston House 6 for 6.45 pm
9 Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
12 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
	Jazz Concert	St Nicholas' Church, Berden 8 pm
15 Sun	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Pk 1 - 4 pm
16 Mon	St Clare Lunch, Tea, Speaker	Durrington Hse, Sheering 11.30 am
18 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
19 Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm
20 Fri	"In Search of Peace"	St John's Church 7.30 pm
21 Sat	Wild West Fête	Manuden School noon - 3 pm
	PTFA Midsummer Fayre	St Mary's School noon - 3 pm
	Lib Dem Spanish Evening	Chantry Hall, Henham 7.30 pm
23 Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
23 Mon - 27 Fri	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
27 Fri	Hill Chilli	Sonia's, 31 Chapel Hill 7 - 10 pm
29 Sun	Car Treasure Hunt	Mountfitchet High School 10 am
	HEAL Memorial Garden Party	Grangewood, High La 2.30 - 6.30 pm
July		
2 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Garden Club Outing	Day Centre 6 pm
5 Sat	Village Assoc. Summer Fayre	Recreation Ground noon - 5 pm
	Cantate Youth Choir	St John's Church 7.30 pm
6 Sun	Afternoon Tea and Chat	United Reformed Church 3 - 5 pm
12 Sat	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 12.30 pm
	HEAL Open Gardens	2 - 6 pm
14 Mon - 18 Fri	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm

St Mary's Primary School
PTFA

MIDSUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 21st June
12 noon - 3 pm

GIANT BOUNCY CASTLE ~ GAMES
CASH PRIZE RAFFLE ~ PLANTS
PANNING FOR GOLD ~ TOMBOLA
REFRESHMENTS & HOT FOOD

and much more - see you there!

**St John's, Stansted
Hill Chilli**

7 - 10 pm Friday 27th June
'Sonia's Place' 31 Chapel Hill
Beer ~ Wine ~ Soft Drinks
Supper (vegetarian on request)
Admission £9 incl glass of wine
In aid of Church Hall improvements



**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

**Bentfield School PTA
Music in the Park**

Gates open 2.30

Music kick off at 3pm
Saturday 19th July

Live bands to suit all tastes

Bar ~ Bouncy Castle

BBQ ~ Children's Entertainer

Tickets - Adults £7.50

from School (813626) or PTA members

Accompanied children under 16 **free**

A great family day guaranteed!

Stansted Village Association

SUMMER FAYRE

12 noon - 5 pm

Saturday 5th July

Recreation Ground

Details in July issue of The Link



UTTLESFORD CARERS

can give help and advice if you are looking after a relative or friend

Support group at Stansted Quaker Meeting House on 2nd Thursday in each month at 2 pm
12 Stortford Road, Dunmow CM6 1DA Tel 01371 875810
Organiser: Mary Hinton Registered Charity no. 246329



HAZEL END FARM SHOP *(under new management)*

Gypsy Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 1HA

Feed • Bedding • Supplements
Tack & Rug Repairs
Rug Washing & Reproofing
All Horse Equipment
Allen & Page Stockist
Local Homemade Produce
Hazel End Wine

01279 810854

0776 5802157

All enquiries welcome

Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5 Sat 9.30 - 5.30 Sun 9.30 - 1



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New Homes Awards

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Uttlesford District Council

From District Councillor Alan Dean

The last few weeks have been hectic and interesting for me, so I thought I would write about some of my experiences since the May 1st District Council elections.

First of all, thank you to everyone who helped re-elect me as a district councillor for my fifth term of office. I will do my best to represent Stansted for another four years. As was the case in 1995 I find myself as leader of the largest group on the district council, but this time with a large majority of 18 and 70% of the total council membership. I have to admit that this result exceeded my expectations. It also means there will be no excuse if improvements are not delivered!

On the Tuesday after the May Day Bank Holiday I met with senior council officers to tell them some of the changes my colleagues and I want to see. More action against extra airport runways and new Uttlesford boundary signs that actually help to make Uttlesford look like a place to be visited were two of the ideas to be pursued.

We also had to discuss who would have the key positions of responsibility. Mike Hibbs from Saffron Walden will be council chairman and I will be council leader. I have also spent a lot of time sorting out how to recruit a new chief executive after Elizabeth Forbes leaves at the end of June. There are other crucial gaps in the establishment which make Uttlesford a somewhat weak organisation at present. There will have to be some urgent action in the next month or two to plug the gaps.

A week after the election I met the airport managing director when BAA broke their silence with a wish for one or two more runways. I told them there would be no change in Uttlesford's opposition to destruction of our environment.

I have visited the restoration work at Bridge End Gardens in Saffron Walden. I breathed a sigh of relief when agreement was reached on the name for Stansted's leisure centre. In my opinion, this had been badly handled by Uttlesford. I hope the new council has learned that it is far better to talk to people than to impose names by diktat.

I have one hope for the new council that members of all political groups will work together with greater trust and less acrimony than before May 1st. It's early days, but I sense this will be so. I have to ensure my party allows the other 13 members to play a fair part in what goes on. The vice-chairman of the council will be one of the 13.

I will end on a sad note. My former colleague Ray Clifford lost his council seat on May 1st. He lost his wife two weeks later. That is a double tragedy for him. Stansted owes Ray a debt of gratitude for his public service to the community since he and I were elected to Uttlesford along with Melvin Caton in May 1987. I am sure everyone wishes him well at this time of personal loss and sadness.

From District Councillor Geoffrey Sell (01279 815925)

On behalf of Anne Marchant and myself, I should like to thank those electors of Stansted North who took the trouble to vote on 1st May. Although sad not to be representing the whole of Stansted anymore, I am pleased to include Ugley in my ward. It will be easier to represent 2600 electors than it was 4500. Candidates during election campaigns undergo a variety of emotions ranging from anxiety to relief. A successful campaign also leaves one with a sense of responsibility. Electors have placed their faith in you, and it is your job to meet those expectations. The campaign although tiring towards the end was enjoyable. I met a lot of people and sometimes took advantage of kind offers of coffee, tea and occasionally something stronger. The biggest local issue apart from the airport was the possibility of football facilities at Bentfield Green. This is something I will monitor very carefully.

The problems facing the Council have not gone away. We will still have to contend with the threat of extra runways and the development of the M11 corridor.

Finally, I too should like to acknowledge the contribution made to the Council over many years by Ray Clifford. Although, latterly not always in agreement with him, I have always recognised that he cares deeply about Stansted. I hope that some appropriate recognition of his work will be made.

"SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE" ART & ANTIQUES AUCTION

Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers have agreed to conduct an auction of Art and Antiques in their Stansted Mountfitchet Auction Room where you will be able to split the profits 50/50 with STOP STANSTED EXPANSION. Sworders will not be charging any commission. The auction will take place on Sunday, 14th September, starting at 12 noon.

We are looking for quality pieces which we hope will sell for at least £50 and invite you to submit written details of pieces you would like to auction.

Categories include: Paintings, Prints, Sculpture, Glass, Ceramics, Silver, Jewellery, Textiles, Antique Furniture, Clocks, Books, Objets d'Art, 20th Century Collectables.

Readers of this article who wish to participate in this fundraising auction are invited to contact Peter Riding, 30 Castle Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1BJ not later than 15th July, indicating what item(s) they wish to sell, their approximate value and whether they are prepared to donate 50% or even 100% of the proceeds to the STOP STANSTED EXPANSION campaign. For enquiries, telephone the Fundraising Secretaries on 01279 777889 between 9am - 4pm and 01371 830031 between 6pm - 10pm.

Andrew Ruffhead

Pub Profile No.6

The Old Bell Hotel

The first building that hits the eye as the traveller approaches the brow of the hill into Stansted from Bishop's Stortford is the imposing Old Bell Hotel. The original building dates from the 15th Century, and much of it still remains. In part, at least, it was a milking parlour and the pegs for tethering the cows can still be seen in the bar area. It is thought to have become an inn about two hundred years ago, when the road through the village was part of the Great Newmarket Road between London and Newmarket, and one of the busiest roads in the country for coaching traffic.

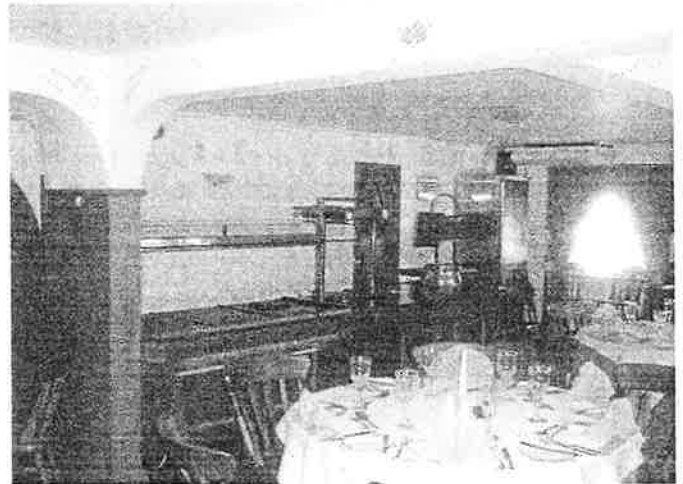
Although travellers now come by car, and increasingly from the airport, the Old Bell still keeps the traditions of hospitality of the old coaching inns alive, in its provision of good accommodation and food, and in the friendly and personal service it offers. Nigel Hobday, the Licensee and Manager, is unusual in that he came to the Old Bell as a local for many years and took over the pub almost accidentally. Having sold the car lot he was running in Rye Street, Keith Lindsell, the owner, asked him to run the pub for six weeks. That was five years ago, and he is still there, but now on a permanent basis! In fact, the Old Bell is very much a local operation. The Head Chef is Mark Pearman, who was previously Head Chef at the Cricketers in Clavering, and at Riverside in Old Harlow. Mark's father, John, was also chef at the Old Bell some years ago, and his brother Matt has just joined him in the kitchen, so local connections and family tradition are very evident. With regret, we do not have a photo of Mark but we did manage to get one of Matt.



Matt

Mark Pearman is passionate about only using fresh food and all his dishes are home-made – he even has plans to bake his own bread eventually. The menu, which is the same in the bar and the restaurant, features a good range of reasonably priced and interesting dishes. A feature of the pub is the Sunday Carvery, which offers three courses for £12.95, and is served in the spacious and light restaurant. This has just

been refurbished, and was looking very handsome when we saw it on a bright, sunny morning. Nigel is able to do wedding receptions here, as well as birthday and other special celebrations, and is looking to build up this side of the business. The Stansted Business Lunch Club meets here once a month, and a Ladies Business Club from Bishop's Stortford has also started to meet here.



The Carvery and Restaurant

The restaurant contains many interesting pictures and objects, which have been picked up, often at car boot sales, by Anna Pennell, who has been part of the team for some years, and she is also responsible for the attractive stencilling on the walls here. Her excellent taste is also evident in the other areas of the hotel; she is especially noted for the extensive volumes of books, which currently line the high ledge above the panelling in one part of the bar.

A notable feature in this part of the bar is also the painting covering the ceiling, which was created by local artist Brian Gough in 1982. It depicts a huge tree trunk and incorporates symbols from the history of Stansted, and the Old Bell. You'll have to hurry along to see it though, as the whole bar area is to be refurbished in the next few months on a gothic theme, and the painted ceiling is going to be covered with a false ceiling, which will incorporate gothic arches and stained glass. It sounds as though this will be as stunning as the present one!

The pub is a free house, and is currently using Courage. Nigel said that in common with other establishments in Stansted, lagers are more popular than beer, and the real ale scene is quite quiet, although he does keep a couple of real ales. As well as customers from the hotel side, there are a number of regulars who come in mostly in the evenings. When we enquired about any ghostly apparitions, we heard that one visitor had sensed a ghostly presence in the bar, but assured everyone that it was a friendly spirit. Jenny Peachey, who has worked at the Old Bell for around 19 years, has certainly heard strange noises in the bar from time to time.

Renewal is very much in the air at the Old Bell, as all the 21 letting bedrooms are also to be refurbished to bring them bang up to date. Most of these were built around the courtyard in 1982, where barns and stables stood, although

there are some in the oldest part of the Hotel, including an attractive Honeymoon suite with a four poster bed. Once all the works have been completed, Nigel plans to apply for a 3 star rating.



A Corner of the Bridal Suite

Nigel has an excellent team of friendly and welcoming staff, who, whether they have been there a long time, or a comparatively short time, like Renae Bunbury from Australia in the bar, are all keen to get to know people and ensure that everyone has a good time.



Renae, Nigel and Jenny

The Old Bell Hotel certainly seems to have all the

ingredients necessary to continue to enhance the local Stansted scene.

Interview: Ruth Rawlinson and Wendy Moss

Photography: Mike Dyer



Although we are now in our "closed" period, much work is going on behind the scenes to arrange concerts for our Eighth Season 2003/4. Details for your diaries are as follows.

On Saturday, 18th October at 8pm **THE ZEPHYR ENSEMBLE OF LONDON** comprising flute, oboe, clarinet, french horn and bassoon will be performing works by Malcolm Arnold, Samuel Barber, Jacques Ibert, Jim Parker and Taffanel.

On Sunday, 7th December at 3pm **JACK LIEBECK (violin) and KATYA APEKISHEVA (piano)** will have a programme which includes sonatas by Brahms and Saint-Saens.

On 18th January 2004 at 3pm **RODNEY CLARKE (baritone) and HELEN COLLYER (piano)** will perform "A Shropshire Lad" by Sir Arthur Somervell, songs by Duparc, Ravel's "Don Quixote a Dulcinee" and Schumann's "Liederkreis"

Our final concert will be on Saturday 20th March 2004 at 8pm, when **DAMIEN GIRVAN** will give a concert including works by Beethoven, Brahms and Debussy.

All concerts are held in St John's Church, Stansted.

Membership for the new season of four concerts is now available at the following rates

Individual £26.00, Couple £50, Concessions (over 60 and Students) £19.50

For non members, ticket prices per concert are: Individual £9, Concessions £7, Children still at school £3. (children and grandchildren of members pay only £1 at each concert)

The continuing success of the club relies on the support of members and sponsors and we are extremely grateful to our members and so many others of you who attend individual concerts. If you are not already a member, now is your opportunity to join. Please apply to "The Village Music Club, c/o Fairfield, Silver Street, Stansted, Essex CM24 8HE" giving your name(s), full address including postcode, and your telephone number, and include a cheque for the appropriate amount.

We look forward to welcoming friends, old and new, at our new season of concerts beginning in October.

Alan Corbishley

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



Unbelievably we are already counting down to the next school holiday, and for a short term, it's been a busy and successful one for St Mary's.

The term began with the welcome reintroduction of hot school dinners. These have proved to be extremely successful, with over 100 children regularly enjoying a choice of delicious home-cooked food. This is not so surprising given the tempting aromas which come from the kitchen!

It has been a time of spending for the PTFA, something we like to do! We have used the funds we've raised in recent months to provide the Foundation Stage with a range of sturdy outdoor wheeled equipment - tricycles, trailers and rickshaws, which are much sought after at playtimes. These help develop co-ordination, motor skills and, of course, imagination! It's amazing where you can go with a set of wheels during playtime!

The rest of the school have also benefited from our efforts. Each child in Key Stage 2 was presented with a personalised copy of Key Words - Literacy and Numeracy dictionaries. Whilst the children will find these invaluable, parents will be equally grateful for them when asked the inevitable question "What does this mean?" at homework time!

We have bought a new scanner to be used alongside the new St Mary's Website, and a fantastic new digital camera, which the pupils themselves will be able to use for their topic and project work. Who knows, this could be the start of your child's photographic career!

With summer hopefully just around the corner, we are turning our fundraising efforts to the **Midsummer Fayre**, which is being held at the school on **Saturday 21st June** between **12.00 and 3.00 pm**. Last year's event was a great success and we are busy arranging games, sideshows and activities for the whole family to enjoy. So do come along, support the school, and have an enjoyable afternoon. We rely on volunteers to help make this event such a success, and if you are able to help man a stall, or in any way, please leave your name and telephone number with the office.

On the sports front, it has been a busy time for the school's netball and football teams. Year 6 took part in a 6-a-side football tournament at the Katherine Semar School in Saffron Walden, and with Mrs Atkinson's expert tuition, the netball team came 2nd in their tournament. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to those who supported our teams.

On a final note, the Focus Group are holding their next meeting on 16th May at 2.30 pm. If you have any issues relating to the school which you would like to discuss, please come along, you will be made very welcome.

On behalf of the PTFA, we hope you have an enjoyable and restful Half Term holiday, and we look forward to seeing you all at the Midsummer Fayre.

Jane Granger
PTFA Member



**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Once again, the Society's May meeting took the form of our Annual General Meeting. The Chairman's Report reflected the interesting and lively programme we had enjoyed, while the Treasurer showed that we maintained a good financial position while doing so. There was no change among the Officers and Committee Members and details were given of the varied series of talks arranged for our next season. After consideration, members agreed that our Summer Outing will take the form of a walk arranged by the Stop Stansted Expansion Campaign on 29th June, round properties in Broxted which will disappear should additional runways be built at the Airport.

Having disposed of the necessary business in good time, Peter Sanders then gave one of his presentations, which have now become a popular feature of our AGM's. This struck an unusually sombre note as he detailed the development of Stansted Airport since WWII, giving a fascinating perspective to the current consultation on its future. I have insufficient space here to set down all the twists and turns in this story but can perhaps summarise it by saying that inter-departmental committees (of the Civil Service and Air Industry) set up by the Government have focused on expanding Stansted, whereas independent Inquiries have condemned this roundly in terms of the Environment and social impact. In fact, when Inspector Graham Eyre held an Inquiry into BAA's planning application to increase passenger movements to 15 million per annum, it was agreed on the understanding that there was no intention ultimately to provide a second runway and sought a Government promise to that effect. This undertaking was given by the Government in 1985! We now await the outcome of the current consultation but SSE, with the overwhelming support of the local population, continues to resist proposals for expansion which would destroy our local surroundings.

This was the last meeting in the current season and we now take a break for the summer. Our new season gets off to a good start with a talk by a popular speaker, Robert Barltrop, when he tells us about "The Days of Horse Traffic". This will be at the Day Centre at 8 pm on 4th September and, meanwhile, we all wish you a very pleasant summer.

Ian Seavers

Bentfield County Primary School PTA

Everyone at Bentfield would like to extend a huge vote of thanks to all those who supported the **Mariner's May Fair** on 10th May. We had a fantastic day with only the threat of rain and even a few rays of sunshine! The nautical theme went down incredibly well with both children and adults alike. The surf board ride, walk-the-plank and the octopus fun run proved the most popular attractions for the children, while the old favourites such as the raffle, tombolas, plants, cakes, crafts, BBQ and beer tent kept the adults amused! The event raised well over £2000 so once again we would like to thank all those who helped and supported on the day and also to the many local businesses whose generous donations and sponsorship helped to make the event such a success. We would also like to extend our thanks to Barclays Bank for their generous sponsorship of the raffle. Barclays have agreed to match, pound for pound, anything raised through the raffle, so many thanks to Linda Makepeace for organising the raffle and making this sponsorship possible. The money raised at the May Fair will go towards stage lighting for the hall and a quiet seating area for the playground.

Jump for Gym, the sponsored skip event held at the end of last term raised over £800 for the school so far and the money is still rolling in! This is a staggering amount, so well done to all those who skipped or jumped, and of course all those who sponsored. The money will be spent on new sports equipment for the school.

With the summer fast approaching it is time, once again, to dust off those dancing shoes – yes, it's **Music in the Park**. This year's event will be held on Saturday, 19th July and promises to be even better than last year. We've got live bands playing all afternoon with music to suit all tastes and a bouncy castle, entertainer and other activities to keep the children amused. There will be a beer tent and BBQ to top up the picnics so a great family day is guaranteed! 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. Gates open at 2.30pm with the music kicking off at 3pm. Come and join us for a great start to the summer!

Marnie Tait



STANSTED &
DISTRICT LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS.

Our next ploughman's lunch is on Saturday 14th June at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2pm. All are welcome. Instead of the usual ploughman's lunch on 12th July, there will be a buffet lunch at Widdington, details of which will be in the next Link.

The main social event in June will be a Spanish evening on Saturday 21st June at 7.30pm at Chantry Hall, Henham. Tickets are £8 each, to include supper, and are obtainable by ringing 814222 or 813432.

Ruth Rawlinson

STANSTED DAY CENTRE

We are delighted to tell you that we are now having delicious lunches cooked by Bridget on a Thursday (you need to book by Tuesday). The cost is £3.50 for two courses and anyone over 60 or disabled can come.

If anyone has two hours to spare occasionally we would appreciate help with making teas and coffees and some washing up; it really is very easy. Ring the Day Centre on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday 10 am - 1.00 pm on 01279 815091; it's a wonderful way to make new friends.

Essex County Council

The District Council elections having been completed, life may return to normal and the District Councillors settle down to plan their lives for the next four years.

In the case of the County Council, the Council is halfway through its life and has time to take stock, plan future actions and even begin to implement them. The results of this have not yet begun to appear but the signs are there: Highways is an example; local bus services are to a degree more related to passenger needs than was the case; Social Services are more responsive to actual needs. Of course there can and will be criticism of these services, yet an objective view does indicate changes for the better.

Presently the Council is considering the many and complex long-term strategic plans for the development of the outer London road systems, the third lower Thames Crossing (between perhaps Canvey Island and Gravesend) and its feeder road systems, and the problems of the development of housing sites in the Lee Valley and the M11 Corridor. All these schemes will have a material effect on the environment and life style of the citizens of Uttlesford, and the Stansted Division in particular. Readers must therefore be alert to any consultation actions which may arise in the next few months, and be prepared to comment. The threats proposed could very probably dwarf the threat of an enlarged airport at Stansted. Thus it is important that all are aware.

In a short article such as this it is impossible to do more than touch on the problem, but should any reader wish to know more, they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace, County Councillor, Stansted Division

In Memoriam

WILHELMINA (MIENEKE) CLIFFORD

Wilhelmina (Mieneke) Clifford died in mid-May and her funeral took place at Manuden Parish Church, where she taught in the school for so many years.

The Editor and Staff of The LINK would like to take this opportunity to offer their sincere condolences to Ray and his family on their sad loss of a much loved wife and mother.

Derek Honour



Our 4th Open Gardens in Stansted will be on Sunday 13th July, 2 pm - 6 pm after the Parish Bar-B-Cue. 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 and Miniature' opposite Barclays Bank and at the 'Millhouse 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.

ANOTHER GARDEN OPENING

In addition to the numerous gardens which will be open in aid of Heal on July 13th, the garden at 'Grangewood', High Lane, will have a separate opening on Sunday, 29th June from 2.30 to 6.30 pm in memory of Mr Brian Chopping. Tea, cake, a raffle and jam-jar tombola are all available with the admission charge of £1.50 going to Heal.



GRAHAM SCHOOL OF DANCE

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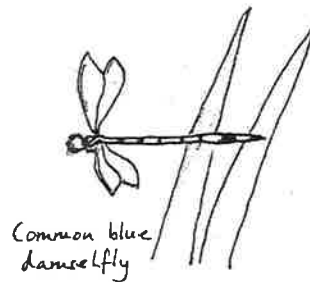
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Nature Notes

In the month of June nature is flourishing. The trees are in full leaf, hedgerows heavy with elder blossom and wayside banks thick with cow parsley. This is the time to see dragonflies skimming over ponds, streams and ditches, often so fast you just catch sight of a blue or green shimmer.



Common blue damselfly

Dragonflies can be divided into three groups: the largest ones (about 7 cm long with a wing span of up to 10 cm) are known as hawkers and normally rest with outspread wings; the medium-sized darters or skimmers are about 4½ cm

long; the smallest group, the damselflies, can have red, green or blue bodies and usually rest with wings folded over their backs. Their name is derived from the French 'demoiselle'.

Dragonflies were the earliest flying insects and first appeared about 300 million years ago. They have two pairs of wings and whiz over ponds and water surfaces at speeds up to 30 kph. Their compound eyes provide extremely accurate and detailed sight. Using both eyes they can see in virtually all directions, enabling them to navigate without collisions. They are carnivorous, hunting by day for insects on the wing, with bent legs forming a basket. They sometimes return to a perch to eat their prey.

During their short life as adults, dragonflies reproduce their species by laying eggs into water or inserting them into water plants. The eggs hatch into larvae or nymphs which can take from 2 to 5 years to mature. They too are carnivorous, preying on other insect life in the water. Metamorphosis usually takes place at night. The nymph climbs up a plant stalk and sheds its skin. In the early morning the newly-emerged dragonfly dries off its wings and flies off as a perfectly formed adult.

Rosina Kirkwood

STOP PRESS STANSTED WINDMILL

Restoration of the sail mechanism is well advanced and the Mill will be re-opening on
Sunday 1st June and thereafter on the first Sunday of the month

**MAKE A NOTE of the
 GRAND WINDMILL FETE
 (with turning sails)
 at 2 p.m. on Bank Holiday Monday
 25th August**



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Starting with our business at the May meeting members were reminded of the Coffee Morning we are organising on June 4th, full details of which are on the Village Events page.

Our other fund raising effort will be the Bric-a-Brac Stall at the Village Fete on July 5th.

In September we hope a coach can be arranged to take members and family to visit Clarence House, Thaxted, which is opening to the public for a short while.

We then went on to discuss three resolutions that will be put to delegates at our WI's AGM in June at the Albert Hall: Liz Buxton, a County Organiser, took us through these. The first one was the concern about children's diets, exercise and health. Many children are overweight and suffer from diet-related health problems which can lead to chronic disease in later life. Our WI will be urging the Government to regulate the promotion to children of foods that contribute to an unhealthy diet, and we hope all WI's will vote for this resolution. The next resolution discussed was the Care of the Elderly. The Government will be asked to take urgent action in order to ensure that elderly persons irrespective of their means can spend their remaining years in comfort and dignity, either in their own homes or in a nursing or residential home of their choice. After a thorough discussion members voted for this resolution.

The last resolution to be discussed was vocational training for the young; the WI is asking the Government to promote and strengthen its efforts to provide apprenticeship schemes to provide skilled workers for the future. The members also voted for this resolution. Mrs Buxton was thanked for taking us through these resolutions and explaining them fully.

We continued the meeting after coffee with Pat Pratley presenting 'Week-enders Fashions': four members, Sheila Clark, Judy Colliver, Kath Johnson and Rosemary Minshall wore the various items that make up this very wearable collection of dresses, jackets, skirts and tops and trousers.

Our meeting closed with the raffle draw and the results of our competition of a floral buttonhole arrangement, which was won by Sally Smith.

Our June meeting in St John's Hall on Thursday 12th is Miss Nancy Woodley, talking about her Women's Land Army experiences. Visitors are most welcome.

Brenda Ryan
812725



Stansted Tennis Club



Wednesday Evening Open Club Sessions

All current adult members are welcome to come along and join in these sessions, which get underway at 5.00pm.

Boyd Trophy

On Sunday May 11th, 16 players competed for the Boyd trophy, which is held annually in memory of Fred Boyd, who was a keen member of the club. In the semi finals Richard Mott and Sarah Hollis defeated Caroline Tapster and Pam Fearn, while on the other court George Luther and Roger Loveday beat Sandra Ayres and Bob Garton. Dodging the showers, the final was won 6-1 by Richard Mott and Sarah Hollis. A delicious tea was provided and the trophy was presented by the club President, Richard Shervington.

Coaching

Club member, Martyn Taplin has recently qualified as a tennis coach and will be holding an adult coaching session for club members, who wish to improve their game. 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.

Used Tennis Balls

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

Club Tournament

The lists for this year's tournament are now up in the clubhouse, so if you are a member and would like to enter, don't forget to add your name by Sunday June 8th.

Bentfield Primary School

At the last committee meeting, it was decided that court space would be given to the school to use for their Year 6 pupils on Thursday afternoons, during June and July. We hope that this is a huge success and are pleased to be able to offer this facility for the local community.

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.

STANSTED FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

March and April 2003

Once again welcome to our bi-monthly round up of local Fire Service news. We have seen two fairly busy months again, with, by chance, 37 calls each month. We were called out to a diverse range of incidents, dominated by our old favourite: Fire Alarm calls at Stansted Airport. In March we made 11 responses, of which one was a malicious call by a passenger, but the rest were all false alarms. These are generally system faults or equipment responding to steam from cooking or the like. In April we made 10 responses, of which 2 were due to burnt toast and one to a water leak! The Airport does, of course, have its own Fire Service, but the crews are trained and equipped primarily to deal with aircraft incidents, not specifically with 'domestic' incidents. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service has overall responsibility, however, and an attendance must be made. In many cases the alarms are automatic: when they go off, they trip the mobilising computer at Brigade headquarters in Brentwood, which itself automatically despatches the correct number of appliances: no human intervention! A number of these Automatic Fire Alarm calls (AFA's) are regularly made from other locations too, and we had a fair number from other old favourites, including Welcome Break Services at Birchanger and the Hilton Hotel. These are different from Fire Alarms Actuating (FAA's), which are alarms which go off automatically, but are called in by telephone, such as at Fuller's Almshouses.

A spate of such calls at the beginning of March was interrupted by the tragic fatal fire in Manor Road in the early hours of Sunday 9th, where a passer-by noticed smoke pouring from a bungalow. Our pumps and that of our colleagues at Newport arrived very quickly, to find the building well alight and very heavily smoke-logged. Entry was made and crews in Breathing Apparatus were committed to the building to search for occupants. The lady who lived in the house was discovered unconscious on a floor and was rescued, but failed to respond to medical attention.

The following day, we were called to an Ambulance on fire on the motorway, but this was dealt with by a crew from Harlow. On the 11th we were called to the first of three Full Emergencies at the Airport, when a Hercules Aircraft was approaching with hydraulic failure, fortunately landing without incident. The others were two Ryanair Aircraft on the 28th and 30th, one with the port engine shut down, and the other with an undercarriage fault: again both landed safely.

A mix of other calls for the month included a chimney fire in Little Henham, a lorry leaking acid on the motorway, three RTA's, one of which had a person trapped, released by firefighters. An 8 car pile-up on the M11 fortunately resulted in no injuries. A lady was released from a lift in Hermitage house, car fires and grass fires were dealt with, as were oxygen cylinders on fire at the Airport and gas pipes on fire at Bedlars Green. One of the oddest calls was at 02.27hrs on March 23rd, when we were called to Woodside Green, to a report of a car crashed into a ditch. The incident took some finding, as it was about a quarter of a mile away from the

nearest road! Thieves had stolen an automatic car from Harlow and driven it to Woodside Green, where they had jumped out, put it in Drive and let it go! It travelled several hundred yards across the green before ending up in a ditch with its lights and wipers going!

April brought a different crop of calls, as apart from the usual AFA's, car fires and three Full Emergencies at the Airport, we were called to a crash on the M11 where an HGV and a 4X4 vehicle were in collision: one trapped person was rescued. On the 5th we were called to a very odd chemical incident on board an aircraft: quantities of an unknown white powder were found in the hold. Careful investigation revealed it to be baby milk spilled from luggage! The two major calls in April were both the same nature. On the 7th we were called out on a 'make up' to Hadstock, where a thatched cottage had caught fire. Saffron Walden's crews attended the fire and immediately 'made up' for five pumps for manpower, which included us. By the time we arrived at the scene, the thatch was blazing internally from end to end, and the 'make up' had gone to 12 pumps, with appliances attending from Essex, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. Unfortunately the fire had been spotted too late and had seriously taken hold. Despite some sterling work, the building was not saved, with one gable end collapsing. Ten days later, on the 17th, we were again called out on 'make up' by Hertfordshire Fire Service to another serious thatch blaze at Stocking Pelham. This again was initially 5 pumps, and subsequently went to eight. Again the thatch was burning from end to end when we arrived, but this time it had been reported earlier, and firefighters in breathing apparatus were able to salvage almost all of the contents before the roof collapsed. The building (of timber) was saved, however. Thatch fires are the hardest jobs to successfully stop, with thatch being heavily compressed, awkward to get at, and usually under layers of wire. It acts as a natural chimney when alight, and can be four or five feet thick. An internal thatch fire (from wiring faults or a chimney spark) is almost impossible to stop, whereas an external fire (perhaps sparks from a bonfire) is a little, but not much, easier. Thatches are often in hard-to-access places, with little water supply available, relying mainly on manpower, planning, ingenuity and much effort to stop them. We often get one thatch in a year, but two within ten days is unusual!

A look at some more of our firefighting equipment and training has had to be held over till next time, as has some notes on planning effective escape routes.

I would like to thank those of you who supported our ever-successful Plant Sale on May 10th, which raised over £440.00 for the Fire Service Benevolent Fund.

Philip Hastings





The National Childbirth Trust

Education for Parenthood

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

So did you know that we:

- *Run evening and weekend antenatal classes* – in the last year 138 couples were helped to prepare for the birth of their babies
- *Run sales of nearly new baby clothes, toys and equipment* twice a year – allowing local parents to sell items they no longer need and buy quality goods at bargain prices
- *Offer postnatal support* to new mums – practical and emotional support when they need it most
- *Maintain a register of members willing to share their experiences* and talk to others about all sorts of pregnancy, parenting and child related topics
- *Hold weekly get-togethers* for parents and carers of babies, toddlers and pre-school children where the children play and the adults chat, have a coffee and provide informal support to each other
- *Arrange regular and varied activities for the kids* to keep them busy every single week and also arrange things just for the parents too
- *Hire valley cushions* (an inflatable V shaped cushion to ease the pain of sitting down if you are sore immediately after the birth of the baby)
- *Hire hospital grade breast pumps* to help you provide breastmilk to your baby when you are unable, for whatever reason, to breastfeed yourself

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

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

Tracy Todman

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Huw Johnson Club

Line dancing, carpet bowls and disco means that the summer term is well underway. A big thank you to The Cock Public House for making us welcome when we all popped in for a pint or two. It was a pleasant evening and we enjoyed sitting in the garden while we chatted and munched through several packets of crisps.

Tom and I have spent several days at the hotel in Weston-Super-Mare and I'm sure that we will all receive a warm welcome when 37 of us descend on them on August 16th.

In the past we have had some really excellent teenagers helping us out on Club evenings. Some have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, others just came to help. We would love to welcome some new teenagers now that our original helpers have left to begin college or work. Contact me on 812284 if you would like to know more about the Club.

Marion Johnson

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk Ruth Clifford
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The Annual Meeting of our new Council took place on 7th May when Catherine Dean and Geoffrey Sell were re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

Peter Jones remains at the helm of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and Valerie Trundle will lead the Open Spaces committee. Richard Wallace will continue to Chair the Civil Protection and Emergency Planning sub-committee.

Members of the Parish Council are as follows, and their contact details will be published, as usual, in the next Parish Newsletter: Catherine Dean, Johanna Freeman, Bridget Gott, John Hudson, Peter Jones, Janice Loughlin, Anne Marchant, Elsie Newman, Vanessa Ollier, Michael Procter, Ruth Rawlinson, John Salmon, Geoffrey Sell, Valerie Trundle and Richard Wallace.

Ruth Clifford
Clerk



Rainbow Pre-school saw in the month of May in traditional fashion with a dance round the May pole wearing crowns decorated with flowers. This certainly bought back memories for many of the parents!

This term's theme is people who help us and once again we have been out and about in the village gaining first hand experience.

At the beginning of the month we visited the Mill House Tea Rooms where the children each got the chance to order a drink and a biscuit. We would like to thank Natasha Caton for giving us such a friendly welcome – we hope the sight of 18 pre-schoolers didn't frighten off any potential customers!

Back at Rainbow the children have been putting what they experienced into practice by role playing in our "Rainbow Café".

Our second visit of the month was to the Stansted Post Office. In preparation for this visit the children made their own red post box and wrote their own letters to

send. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning how letters get from A to B and were particularly excited when the letters they had written landed on their own door mats.

Our Chinese Auction on 3rd May was a thoroughly enjoyable evening – more than 50 people joined in the fun and helped to raise more than £500 for the pre-school. Our photo shows Peter Thomson, auctioneer for the night, in full swing and the audience full of eager bidders.

The final lot of the evening was a week's accommodation in a Spanish villa kindly donated by Mark and Issi Anderson. This was auctioned in traditional style and swelled our total by a considerable sum. We would like to thank Mark and Issi for their generosity. Our thanks also go to our fantastic auctioneer Peter Thomson and everybody who helped in any way to make the evening such a success.



Peter Thomson makes a sale

After putting parents and friends through their paces on the 3rd May, it was the turn of the children to raise money at our sponsored obstacle course on the 21st May. Children from all groups (including our toddler group Rainbow Tots) completed laps of an obstacle course with great enthusiasm and after all their exertions a ploughman's lunch was served to parents and children.

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

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SNIPPETS

Audrey Rodgers, a lifelong resident of Stansted, and Link distributor, has moved to Elsenham. At that near distance we shall doubtless continue to see her but she knows that she goes to her new home with our very best wishes and thanks for all that she has done over so many decades.

We are delighted to congratulate Garry and Karen King on the birth of their son Samuel. We wish all generations of the family well.

A Quiz in aid of the Stop Stansted Expansion campaign has just been arranged for the Day Centre on Friday 11th July. 7.30 pm. Admission £7 including supper.

The opening of St. Mary's Church from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. will resume on 1st June and on subsequent first Sundays until September.

Please pass on any news you may hear by any of the usual Link channels i.e. e-mail, by hand to 58 Chapel Hill or call 647213.



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch



Some of the more senior residents of Stansted may remember that up to the 1930's there was a "Roll of Honour" hanging in St Mary's Church which listed all those who served in the First World War, 413 names in all, approximately 37% of the male population. This very important and historic document disappeared before the Second War and the Legion has taken steps to ascertain its whereabouts.

The good news is that it has turned up in a chest in St Mary's but the bad news is that it is very badly damaged, in fact in 3 pieces with 2 of the corners missing. However, steps have now been taken by Stansted RBL to have it repaired by experts in Cambridge and St John's PCC has agreed that after framing it can be hung in the church. Sadly 6 or 7 names listed in each corner are missing and if anyone knows of a forbear whose surname starts with a "D" or a "W" and who served in the Forces in the First War, 1914/18, will they please ring Harold Thistle (813250).

The Fish and Chips Supper held on 23rd April was a very successful and happy event and in addition £67 was raised for Branch funds. The ladies of the Branch, as usual, gave excellent help with the organisation and with catering and we are very grateful to them all and also to all who gave support. Garry King gave an interesting talk on his experiences in training to be a butcher and he gave us interesting insights into the running of a butcher's business.

Bob Stoddart, Vice Chairman, rounded off the evening with the story of the Stansted "Roll of Honour" and suggested that contributions towards this very worthwhile task would be appreciated.

Harold Thistle (Secretary)

Royston Choral Society

Something to sing about!

The Royston Choral Society goes from strength to strength, welcoming new singers from in and around Royston, and preparing for their third concert of 2003. Come along to Royston Parish Church on Saturday, 28th June at 7.30pm to hear the fruits of their labours. In keeping with tradition, the programme of music for a summer evening will be a rich mixture of both classical pieces by composers past and present and popular items, such as "Londonderry Air".

Another date for your diaries. If the summer concert inspires you to 'have a go' yourself, why not also join the choir for their annual 'Choral Workshop' at Greneway School in Royston on Saturday, 20th September from 10am to 4pm? Singers of all ages and abilities (whether attached to choirs or not) are invited to join Choral Society members for expert tuition in friendly surroundings.

For further information about the concert and workshop, call Chris Lee on 01763 245413



Royal British Legion Women's Section



During the exhortation at our meeting on 17th April, we remembered all British, American and Iraqi personnel who had been killed or injured during the recent war, and our thoughts were especially with the two soldiers from Carver Barracks who lost their lives.

Our speaker was Mr Markham who, appropriately, talked to us about the royal British Legion! The first branch that he joined was at Brixton and Stockwell where his father-in-law was a dedicated member. (In later years he also belonged to both Loughton and Thorley branches).

Following both World Wars an enormous amount of assistance was given to ex-servicemen, including advice and help in setting up their own businesses. Hundreds of disabled ex-servicemen were employed in RBL establishments. There was also a RBL Training School and 1 in 3 ex-servicemen passed through its doors.

The evening closed with refreshments and a very generous raffle.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 19th June, in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm.

Pat Clower

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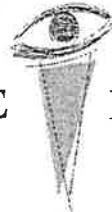
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