

March 2003

# The LINK



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**Q:** What comes between 5<sup>th</sup> March and 17<sup>th</sup> April?

**A: LENT**

**... but is Lent out-moded?**



**NOT** if you...



- want space to see where you are going
- feel that you may be too engrossed in yourself
- need to find an antidote to stress
- are disenchanted with people or things around you
- need to look up rather than down
- feel that Easter must mean something

**LENT GROUPS** will meet in the Quaker Meeting House at 8 pm on:

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March



Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April

***Open to all - just come along...***

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All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel 01279 812593

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by 13<sup>th</sup> March for publication on 29<sup>th</sup> March  
by 10<sup>th</sup> April for publication on 26<sup>th</sup> April

# 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

The churches lectionary year moves on and people will be saying Easter is late this year. Ash Wednesday is on the 5th March and is the start of Lent and we enter a penitential period as we prepare ourselves to greet the Risen Christ at Easter.

The days of sackcloth and ashes may have past but it is still a period when we should consider some form of penitential experience for the benefit of our spiritual life.

The gospel on Ash Wednesday is from Matthew and is Jesus telling the disciples that one should not make a show of doing good deeds or pray aloud in a public place, but should go to one's private room and pray quietly.

Today we tend to live in a materialistic society and want to have, perhaps, things which we could well do without.

I would like to suggest that perhaps for this Lent we examine what our real needs for life are, go to that private room and think of how, perhaps, we could help those who are less fortunate than we are, spend an extra minute in the quiet of our heart and offer up a prayer for those in need, or maybe find time to come to St John's Church on a Wednesday evening for 20 minutes for quiet meditation and prayer, or, on a Friday evening during Lent at St Theresa's Church. There is a service known as the Stations of the Cross, which is a meditation on Christ's journey to Calvary. Whatever you decide to do, your journey through life will be benefited from quiet reflection in your private room, listening to your inner thoughts.

I found this short saying of William Penn (1644-1718) and I find it expresses the need that we all have for periods of quiet reflection -

In the rush of life, as you have intervals,  
step within yourself and be still.  
Wait upon God and feel his good presence  
this will carry you through your day's business.

Francis Mercer

## 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

Each time one reads the Parable of the Good Samaritan it seems to throw light on whatever is happening at the time you read it. As I write this there is a renewed crisis and some scare-mongering about asylum seekers - and even (to the horror surely of all Christians) that they might be sent back to their homeland although likely to be tortured when they got there. For Britain to withdraw from supporting the Human Rights Act seems almost unbelievable in a nominally Christian country.

The rules for asylum seekers are stringent, to say the least. As I read in an article last week "the rules were designed by ministers who seem to think seeking asylum is comparable to flying to Tuscany with Buzz". Most applicants arrive with no knowledge of the regulations covering them, exhausted from desperate journeys, with very little knowledge (if any) of English. They need our help.

Inevitably there will be wrong-doers or potential terrorists among them. The disadvantaged and penniless are very vulnerable and more easily exploitable. But dedicated terrorists, drug dealers, gun smugglers, etc. usually have plenty of money to come into a country in a much more comfortable way, and have no need to use such desperate measures.

The Samaritan treated the brutally injured man with compassion and generosity despite him being a stranger belonging to an alien tribe. Can we not try and do the same? Those men and women, and children, arriving in this country from restrictive regimes are much less likely to become offenders if they are made welcome. Last year there was a possibility that a detention centre for asylum seekers might be set up in this area but whether this is still a possibility is unclear. But it would give us an opportunity to hold out a friendly hand.

Katharine Hurford





The Parishes of  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
with Birchchanger  
and Farnham

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

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

(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  
Cams, 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

#### From the Registers for January

**Baptism:**  
20th Phoebe Jane Elms  
**Funerals:**  
20th Daphne Eva Buxton  
age 85 yrs  
31st Edward Charles  
(Angus) Gawen  
age 97 yrs

## Timeless Truth

**T**wenty five years ago I would regularly detour through the cloister and nave of Durham cathedral on the way back to college from lectures. It remains one of my favourite places in the country, massive, austere, airy with no decadent baroque froo-froo to interfere with the clean lines of the place.

I was there reading for a degree in theology, and would often sit in the Galilee Chapel next to the tomb of the Venerable Bede, the first English church historian, if I was trying to understand an intellectual problem. Sometimes I would sit behind the high altar next to the remains of St Cuthbert, one of our earliest missionaries, if I was trying to figure out how a theological idea could ever be preached. I didn't expect to hear voices from either end of the cathedral but, I guess I was there to remind myself that I was just passing through, and engaged in a task which others had done for over a thousand years.

All through the year there would be a constant trickle of tourists in the back-ground, marvelling at the magnificence of the place and, occasionally remarking that we can no longer build in the way that our forebears could.

However much I loved that place, I could never get away from how the massive chevroned pillars reminded me of the iron fist of the bishops, who ruled from the castle across the green, not only as lords of the Church but as princes of the

world. While I still find myself drawn there, a part of me wonders about the kind of labour that was used to build it, the conditions under which they worked, and how many lives were lost while it was being constructed.

One of the best ways of undermining Christian faith is to be romantic about its buildings, and to look for a sense of spirituality which is timeless and eternal. Every building or religious artifact has a human story, and is created out of motives which may be far from being spiritual.

I am told from time to time that I am not spiritual, I am political (as if the world really does divide so neatly that way). My pattern of faith comes from what I see Jesus doing in the gospels and how his followers interpreted him in the New Testament. Time and again, I read that the timeless spiritualities begin with the person sitting next to me, and what my relationship is to them. It is also about people whom I prefer not to sit next to, whom God also created.

The nice thing about praying in a great building is that my mind can be drawn up by the lines of the structure, all the way to uncomplicated heaven. Heaven is obliging like that, it can be whatever we imagine it to be.

The problem is that Christians are called to pray that God's Kingdom will come 'on earth as in heaven', and work to make it happen. Jesus calls his followers to find him in the eyes of the broken, wounded and worn-down, and to ask why they end up that way. If this makes faith political, so be it. Jesus' life was terminated by authorities who worried about the political consequences of what he was doing. Durham cathedral was built to show the world that the local political regime went all the way to heaven.

There is no escape to timeless, disconnected, eternal truth for the follower of Jesus, the truth is always local because we are called to love God, and to love our neighbour and begin, one person at a time, to make God's love felt in the here and now.

Of course there are spiritualities which can free you from the changes and chances of the day-to-day world, but Christianity is not one of them.

**Andrew Spurr**

### St. John's Diary

Sundays	8:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i> 9:30am Parish Communion <i>sung</i>
	11:00am Open Door Service on the 2nd and 16th of March
Wednesdays	10:00am Holy Communion <i>said</i> followed by coffee 7:30pm Intercessions and Night Prayer

**Children's Church** meets at 9:30am on Sundays in the Church Hall. **Tiny Tots** is a mother and toddler group that meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons in term-time. **Laser Group** is a 12-16 youth group which meets fortnightly on Sunday evenings at 7:30pm for activities in the church hall. The evening concludes with candlelit Night Prayer in the chapel in church. A housegroup meets fortnightly and is currently studying Paul's letters.



(continued)

### Essex Police Choir Concert

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Essex Police Choir Concert due to take place on Saturday, 22nd March in St John's Church has had to be postponed until 2004. Apologies to all those who were wanting to buy tickets but a new date will be published later in the year

### Munch-a-Lunch

Our Annual Munch-a-Lunch taking place on Sunday 23rd March 12.30 for 1pm in St Mary's School. Tickets £6 each (£4 children) for a splendid 2 course meal are now available from the Benefice Office, after Sunday morning services and from Rosemary Thomson, 834053. All proceeds this year are for Stansted Charities, so please support this event.

### Dates for your Diary:

**Grand Sale and Afternoon Tea** on Saturday, 17th May in St John's Hall.

**The Rector's Annual Lunch** will take place on Sunday, 13th July (allowing diners to proceed to the Open Gardens later in the afternoon).

**St John's Hall Committee** have succeeded in booking the **Cantate Choir** for a concert in the church on Saturday, 5th July at 8pm.

Further details of these events will follow later.

## METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Secretary** Mrs Catherine Dean  
49 Recreation Ground  
Stansted  
Tel 01279 813579

**Email** [methodists@stansted.net](mailto:methodists@stansted.net)

All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated

### Services and preachers for March

2nd Margaret Richardson  
9th Rev'd Jim Gill - Holy Communion  
16th John Banks  
23rd A joint service with the URC at 10.30am at the United Reformed Church  
30th Christine Heyhoe

Friday, 14th March - Fellowship Meeting.

## 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 March

2nd	10.30am	Mr Ralph Friday
9th	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson Communion
16th	10.30am	Mrs Maureen Kendal
23rd	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson - Joint Service with the Methodists
30th	10.30am	Mrs Sue McKenzie Mothering Sunday - see below

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY . . .

## ACTIVITY FUN DAY

Art & Craft . Music . Drama . Games .  
Cooking

**SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2003**  
*Stansted URC Premises - 10 am to 3 pm*

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION FROM:  
Valerie Trundle (01279) 818433 or  
Michelle King (01279) 758611 by  
March 15<sup>th</sup> 2003

*Book early - Places limited to 40 children*

Children 5 to 14 years Bring a packed lunch plus: £1



*Come and join us at our:*

**Mothering Day Service**  
**STANSTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
*Chapel Hill*

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2003 at**  
**10.30 am**



*The service will incorporate some of the*  
*Activities from Saturday's*  
**FUN DAY**

**JOIN US FOR COFFEE AFTER THE SERVICE**



### Lent Course

Lent groups this year will meet on the following dates:

Tuesday	11th March
Monday	17th March
Tuesday	25th March
Friday	4th April
Friday	11th April

We will be following a five part course "Where the heart is..." on the theme of home, belonging and identity.

All the sessions will start at 8pm, and will take place in the Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill. Everyone is very welcome, and as the sessions are free standing, it doesn't matter if you can't come to all of them. Please ring 814222 for further information.

Ruth Rawlinson

### R.A.P. (Regular Aid for the Poor)

I am very pleased to report through The LINK that we have been able to start the year by making a donation of £200 to our three charities.

I would like to thank you for your continuing generosity in supporting R.A.P. I am pleased to say that our three charities always acknowledge the support we provide for them.

### 50's AND 60's ROCK NIGHT DANCE in aid of RAP funds for the relief of famine in Malawi

I am pleased to say that the above postponed event will now take place on **Friday, 21st March**, at St John's Church, 8-11 pm.

We were very sorry to have had to postpone this concert, originally scheduled for 31st January 2003, due to the weather conditions. I hope that everyone who has bought tickets, and those who have ordered them, can still come. Please also encourage friends!


Please contact me for any further information -  
David Morson 01279 850209.

See you on **21st March!**

Dave Morson, Chairman, R.A.P.

### Quiz

In aid of Chevetogne visit  
St John's Hall  
Saturday April 5th  
7.00 for 7.30 p.m.  
£5 including refreshments  
Bring a bottle and a glass

Tel Eileen or  Brian 812109

# Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

### Fair Trade Fortnight

On Tuesday 11th March 10am - 12 noon, there will be a **Fair Trade Coffee Morning** and stall at the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill. Proceeds will go to Christian Aid.

Catherine Dean



# SHALOM

### March Meetings

March 10th - An evening with the Christadelphians at the Quaker Meeting House.

March 24th - Who was the Greatest Christian?  
Four people will present their case at  
7 Blythwood Gardens.

All meetings start at 8pm and are open to everybody.

### Fraser Simpson

At our meeting on 10th February, we remembered our friend, Fraser, who died a few days before. Members spoke affectionately of their memories of Fraser, who was involved in so many activities, in particular the Youth Group at Bishop's Stortford Methodist church and with the White-chapel Mission in London. Fraser was totally committed to everything he did and he will be sorely missed at Shalom. His wife, Pat, and his family are in our thoughts and our prayers.

You are invited to join  
**The Stort Valley Schools Trust**  
in prayer for our local schools and the work of the Trust



Come along on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March** at  
7:45pm  
in **Stansted Quaker Hall**  
(Parking is available in the car park opposite.)

Join us for:

- \* Hot drinks & Biscuits
- \* Reports about what God is doing in our schools
- \* Prayer for the needs of our schools and the future of education.

For more information please call Suzi 01279 777 967

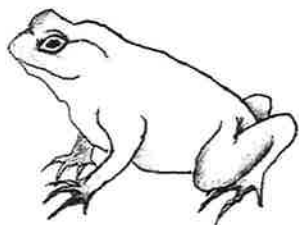


## Nature Notes

Amphibians evolved about 370 million years ago, some 180 million years before mammals. They developed from fish with paired fins which became two sets of limbs, each with their own toes and fingers. They are cold-blooded like fish, that is, they cannot maintain a constant body temperature and are therefore dependent on the temperature of the surrounding air or water. If this temperature falls too low they become inactive. On cloudy or cool days one rarely sees amphibians. Their name is from the Greek *amphibios* (both kinds of life) because they can live in water and on land. They can absorb oxygen from air and water through their moist skin. Adults can also breathe through lungs.

Common frogs, one of our most frequently encountered amphibians, should by now have emerged from hibernation. Some have spent the winter months in the mud at the bottom of a shallow pond, others under stones, in compost heaps or in holes in the earth. On mild, damp nights they travel from these winter quarters to their chosen pond. They prefer warm shallow ponds to colder deep ones, so a garden pond is ideal. After pairing, the fertilised eggs (or spawn) sink to the bottom of the pond, but the jelly surrounding the spherical eggs absorbs water and they soon float back to the surface. Females leave the pond after spawning, but the males stay there for three to four weeks. The familiar tadpoles hatch within 21 days and by eight weeks they can use internal lungs to gulp air from the pond surface. They can be predated on by birds and newts and are highly vulnerable, so that by the time they leave the pond as froglets in May or June, fewer than 1% of the hatched tadpoles have survived to this stage.

Another of our amphibians, the common toad, will end hibernation slightly later than the frog, usually toward the end of this month. On mild drizzly nights they move from their hibernation sites (under piles of wood and in hedge



Common Toad

rows and copses) to their traditional breeding pools and lakes, sometimes en masse in enormous groups. Their instinct to breed is so strong that they can travel for several days and cover over 2½ miles. Males, which are smaller than females, will often grab a female, climb on her back and

hitch a ride. They can even mistakenly grab another male who will croak his objection (only males croak). When they arrive at the pool, the paired toads spawn: long strings of fertilised eggs in double rows are released, often winding round water plants. Tadpoles hatch in 10 days (black with short tails) and by May the half-inch toadlets are ready to climb out onto land.

The draining of wetland areas and loss of farm ponds have drastically reduced the breeding habitats particularly of frogs

and sadly their numbers are declining. Garden ponds can play an important part in checking this decline. Both toads and frogs are valuable assets to any garden as their diet includes slugs, snails and caterpillars.

Rosina Kirkwood

## WELL DESERVED

The news that Mark Gerber of Mount Drive received a Community Award for services to the disabled from Uttlesford District Council on February 13th delighted all who know him. As a boy helper, Mark was a founder member of the Tortoise Scout Troop in 1976 and rose to become Assistant Scout Leader and, since 2002, Scout Leader. No Troop could have a more diligent and loyal leader. The Tortoise Troop, which is a Special Needs Group serving the whole of Hatfield Forest District, meets on Tuesdays in the Stansted Scout H.Q. in Water Lane. It is thanks to his personal effort that the site has a fine security gate, an unfortunate present-day necessity. Mark was responsible for the Tortoise Millenium Reunion, which was attended by some 80 Scout Leaders, helpers and friends from over the 24 years, and, faced with a possible financial deficit he master minded a Barn Dance at Elsenham, which raised the astounding sum of almost £1000.



Mark Gerber

In these days of changes in the Scout Movement, Mark stands as an outstanding example of constancy. In addition to serving Tortoises he spends most Saturday mornings at Skreens Park assisting Malcolm Treacher (another vintage Stansted name) with maintenance and often catering for the courses held there. It was Elsenham Parish Council who nominated him. Congratulations Mark, keep it up. For Mark the most encouraging result of the Award would be for more Special Needs boys and girls to join the Troop.

Derek Honour



## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

2 pm Friday 7th March  
Quaker Meeting House

**'Holy Spirit Fill Us'**

Prepared by the women of The Lebanon

**Speaker: Mary Mansfield**

Everyone Welcome (ladies & men)



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

## Collegium Regale

Music from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries  
Madrigals, Folk Songs, Close Harmony

8 pm Sat 8th March  
St John's Church

Tickets from Stansted Carpets 812019  
Nockolds, Mkt Square Bps Stortford  
Options Hairdressers, Elsenham  
Sonia Levy 815282 and at the door  
£8 adults £6 conc £3 school children

Bentfield School PTA

## BIKE AUCTION & REPAIR

Sat 15th March at the school

Sale 2 - 4 pm

Repair & Maintenance all day

**Buy & Sell all sizes of good  
quality used bicycles**

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### March

- 5 Wed Mountfitchet Seniors  
Garden Club
- 6 Thu Local History Society
- 7 Fri Lib Dem Supper Club
- 8 Sat Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch  
Village Music Club Concert
- 10 Mon Shalom Group
- 10 Mon -14 Fri Amenity Skip
- 11 Tue Fair Trade Coffee Morning  
Lent Group
- 12 Wed RBL (Women) Coffee Morning
- 13 Thu WI
- 15 Sat Bike Auction & Repairs  
PTA Quiz
- 17 Mon Lent Group
- 19 Wed Huw Johnson Club Coffee  
Mountfitchet Seniors
- 20 Thu RBL (Women)
- 21 Fri Rock Concert (new date)
- 22 Sat Green Waste Skip  
Music Quiz  
Quiz Night
- 23 Sun Car Boot Sale  
Munch-a-Lunch
- 24 Mon Shalom Group
- 25 Tue Lent Group
- 29 Sat Activity Fun Day

### April

- 1 Tue Fashion Show
- 2 Wed Mountfitchet Seniors  
Garden Club
- 3 Thu Local History Society
- 4 Fri Lent Group
- 5 Sat Chevetogne Quiz
- 14 Mon -17 Thu Amenity Skip

- Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
- Day Centre 8 pm
- Day Centre 8 pm
- Day Centre 8 pm
- Day Centre noon - 2 pm
- St John's Church 8 pm
- Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
- Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
- Quaker Meeting Hse 10 am - noon
- Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
- Day Centre 10.30 am
- St John's Hall 7.45 pm
- Bentfield School 2 - 4 pm
- Mountfitchet School 7.30 pm
- Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
- 62 Chapel Hill 10 am
- Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
- Day Centre 7.30 pm
- St John's Church 8 pm
- Lower St Car Pk 1 - 4 pm
- St Mary's School 8 pm
- B Stortford Meth Church 7 pm
- Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon
- St Mary's School 12.30 pm
- 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
- Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
- United Ref. Church 10 am - 3 pm

- Bentfield School
- Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
- Day Centre 8 pm
- Day Centre 8 pm
- Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
- St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
- Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm



Mountfitchet High  
School PTA

## QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 for 8 pm Sat 15th March

Tables of 6 to 8

Tickets £6 incl supper

Please tel Mike on 812780

**Licensed Bar**

**Postponed from 31st Jan**  
(original tickets still valid)



**"THE BEST BAND EVER"**

8 - 11 pm Friday 21st March  
St John's Church

Bar ~ Tickets £5 ~ Tel 850209  
**In aid of Malawi Famine Relief**

## Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church Centenary Quiz Night

7 pm Sat 22nd March  
Teams maximum of 6

Tickets £3 & £5 inc chips with  
Fish/Sausages/Vegetarian option.  
Available from the Church  
(mornings only) Tel 652339

**All Welcome**

## St John's, Stansted MUNCH-A-LUNCH

12.30 pm Sun 23rd March

St Mary's School

Tickets £6 Children £4  
from 815243 or 834053

Proceeds to Stansted Charities

Mountfitchet High School PTA

## Car Boot Sale

8 am to noon Sun 23rd March

£6 in advance £7 on the day

Indoors if wet



Tel John 813531

ST MARY'S SCHOOL  
PTFA

## MUSIC QUIZ

8 pm

Sat 22nd March

Tickets (incl supper) 812212

BYOB

**A Fun Evening Guaranteed**



## UTTLESFORD CARERS

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We have hit the ground running this term, and have been busy with many varied events. Year 5 organised a huge Blue Peter bring-and-buy sale on February 4th, selling many items including toys, books, videos and cakes. All the money collected will go towards the Blue Peter Water Works appeal.

Our Open Morning was well attended on Thursday 6th February, this was an informal event designed for parents of pre-school children to look around the school on a normal day, and to observe the children learning in their everyday classroom situation. There was a chance to enjoy a cup of coffee, and chat to staff, governors and PTFA members. It was a great opportunity to witness the friendly and studious atmosphere of St Mary's.

The end of this busy week saw Education Sunday, Year 3 children from St Mary's gave a presentation at the morning service at St John's Church. The children celebrated teachers of all kinds through poetry and song, which was hugely enjoyed by the congregation. They took part in the Intercessions, and were individually presented with a bible, which they keep for use in the school during Key Stage Two, and take with them on leaving school. Five children higher up the school, who have joined St Mary's since Year 3 were also presented with their bibles.

Romance was in the air on 13th February when the PTFA held a Valentines Disc; there were spot prizes for the best of the dancers, and a decorated heart competition. The children had a tremendous time, but were not particularly interested in the slow dances!

Looking ahead, the PTFA are holding a second hand uniform sale after school on the 20th March, where you can buy good quality items of uniform, at bargain prices. The PTFA have funded a Jig-Saw Theatre Company production of Oliver Twist, which will be performed to the whole school on 3rd April during school time, and promises to be a good afternoon's entertainment. Our Music Quiz will now take place on Saturday, 22nd March at the school; all are very welcome, so make a note in your diaries. Tickets will be on sale at the school.

It was with regret that we heard the news of Mrs Cashman's decision to take early retirement from the end of the summer term. She has been at St Mary's for seventeen years, and has been a dedicated and imaginative head teacher, who has led the school to its current level of achievement and success. We wish her every happiness and success and hope that she will still be a regular visitor to St Mary's. In the meantime we look forward to the remaining spring and summer terms with her at the helm.

Nicki Kelly  
PTFA Vice Chair



It has been a busy and successful term at Rainbow pre-school. We were pleased to welcome new faces in January and are glad that the children are settling in well.

The children have been working on the theme of the well known story "The Little Red Hen". The older group have visited the Stansted Windmill to learn about making flour and very much enjoyed baking (and eating!) their own bread. On the 21st of January the children took a coach up to the Tesco store at Bishop's Park where they were given a tour of the bakery and shown how the bread is made. They also had the opportunity to sample some doughnuts. The craft activities have also reflected the theme of the term, with the children making their own windmills and chef's hats.

Rainbow has also celebrated the Chinese New Year with the children sampling Chinese food and choreographing a special Dragon dance.

On the 10th February Rainbow welcomed a very special visitor. Sir Alan Haselhurst came to see us in our new premises for the first time and to experience at first hand the work of the pre-school. He enjoyed talking to and playing with the children. It is good to feel that our local MP takes an interest in Early Years Education.

We have been busy fund raising for our badly needed outdoor shelter. In December we made nearly £200 from our stall at the St Mary's Christmas Fayre and the Christmas Raffle. We would like to say a big thank you to all those who supported us. Thanks must also go to Kelli Burgess and Sally Elliott whose sponsored horse ride raised £305 and the Arts and Craft Fayre which donated £100 of its proceeds to Rainbow pre-school.

February 7th and 8th were particularly busy mornings at Rainbow. Children in all groups took part in a sponsored cake bake. We have never seen so many chocolate crispy cakes in our lives!

We are now looking forward to our Spring Treasure Hunt and lunch on Saturday, March 1st, celebrating Pancake Day and our Easter party on Sunday, 13th April.

The Rainbow Committee



# Pub Profile No 3

## The Cock

Trevor and Jean Emery, The licensees of the Cock Public House on Silver Street fell in love with the village of Stansted when they were passing through many years ago. When an opportunity arose to take over the Cock Inn, as it was once called, they jumped at the chance, even though in those days, nearly 27 years ago, the pub was a far cry from the comfortably fitted public house that we all know today.

At one time the publican's living quarters were a part of the bar, and as Jean explained, previous landlords often had another job and more or less used the premises as economic housing. A reference to the 1881 Census tells us that the Cock Beer House was occupied by William Amey and his wife Martha, both in their 60's, and probably appearing much as it does in the old postcard below. It's a very different picture today. The living quarters are now on the first floor and the premises have been extended many times.



**The Cock in its original form**

An enlarged copy of an old photograph, hanging in the bar shows the pub in its original form, before the later Georgian Style additions were added. Eight years ago the attractive restaurant was added to the side of the building and it has become a much loved venue for regular diners.

The kitchens were also completely renewed and Jean and Trevor are now able to offer a very varied menu for both the restaurant and bar meals. Some of the more popular 'blackboard' meals, in line with the changing British taste, are the Balti and Thai Curries, Spanish Chile and Creole Salmon. Some nights every table is taken and Jean likened the catering to childbirth – hard at times, but lovely when the compliments come in!

In summer it is very pleasant to sit outside on the patio amongst the magnificent displays of flowers in tubs and hanging baskets, which have become a feature of the Cock. Jean and Trevor are justifiably proud of being the current holders of the best Public House Garden section of the Essex in Bloom Annual Competition, having also won it in two previous years and been highly commended several times.



**Trevor and Jean**

Apart from their valued regular local clientele, Trevor remembers having been host to many celebrities over the years, among them Barry Foster, Geoff Hurst, Terence Donovan, Simon Hughes MP and Brian Wilde alias 'Foggy' from 'Last of the Summer Wine'. Even a John Major look alike found time for a pint!

Trevor holds an annual Petanque Competition for the Francophiles in our midst, however they both like to relax away from their busy life in Stansted and make tracks to their home in Spain. Jean particularly enjoys her Winter breaks there when they can drink-in (forgive the pun) the culture of the Cities which she finds particularly fascinating.

Trevor with a handicap of 17 enjoys a game of golf each week at the Bishop's Stortford Golf Club and no doubt his fellow players enjoy coming to the Cock to review their play over a well pulled pint!

The Cock is a very different type of pub to the Hollybush at Loughton where Trevor and Jean started their careers. Then there were queues waiting to come in as soon as the doors opened at 10am! Drinking habits have also changed, bitter now competes with lager and wine. They pride themselves on the good wines on offer, varying from light wines from the Adriatic coast to the full bodied wines of Argentina.



**The Cock as it is today (complete with snow!)**

Trevor and Jean have loved every minute of their life in Stansted and remarked how they had noticed over the years that the pull (another pun – sorry!) of Stansted meant that many people moved within the village rather than choosing to move away as so often happens today. However, as much as they love the village they know that their son, whilst happy to help out on occasions, will not be taking over from them as he will be carving out his own career in his chosen field of photography.



**Eileen and Derek with Jean and Trevor**

When retirement eventually beckons Trevor is looking forward to having the time to enjoy more golf, but Jean is already well advanced on a computer course with a view to keeping usefully occupied. Having spent over 30 years leading such a busy life, she does not intend to have too much leisure time on her hands!

Interview by Derek Honour, Eileen Quinn and Mike Dyer

Photographs – Mike Dyer



## The National Childbirth Trust

### Education for Parenthood

Again, another active month lies ahead for the NCT with the calendar full of fun events to get us in the mood for Spring. For the children we have a Saturday morning visit to the Cinema, a trip to Hatfield Forest to make the most of some (hopefully) better weather, as well as our now popular music session. Our regular Open House event is on Tuesday, 11th this month at the Quaker Hall at 10am. This is a chance for everyone to get together over coffee and toys - who could ask for more? For the grown ups we have a Couples Night out on the Friday, 14th and a Bowling Night for the girls on Wednesday, 19th which always proves interesting!

With Spring comes Spring cleaning of course! But don't worry, once you have sorted through your cupboards, the NCT is on hand to relieve you of some of your clutter, assuming of course it's nearly new! Yes, it's time for the Spring Nearly New Sale. If you are looking to sell your good quality unwanted babies and children's clothes, maternity wear, toys, books or equipment then this is a fantastic opportunity. The sale is on Saturday, 5th April so if you wish to buy or sell do put the date in your diary now. Please phone Sheena Harrison for a seller's number (07020 936552) if you wish to sell anything. We are limited to how many sellers we can have so please phone soon if you wish to sell.

A reminder that our regular weekly coffee events are at the following times:

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

These are held in members homes and cost just 50p towards refreshments. All parents/carers are most welcome. Please come along and meet new people, or catch up with those you already know. For full details of venues, and other events organized by the NCT, please see the village noticeboards.

If you think you'd like to join in with what we're up to, please don't be shy. You don't have to be a member to come along and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Call Sarah on 01279 647022 to get your free information pack which includes a free diary sheet of events.

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

Marnie Tait



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## Bentfield Primary School PTA

With the arrival of Spring our PTA fundraising has really taken off. On the 15th March we will be holding a Bike Auction and Repair. Have you outgrown your bike? Would you like to save money on your next one? Are you learning to ride and need a starter bike? This is an ideal opportunity to buy or sell a good quality used bicycle. The sale will take place at Bentfield School from 2 - 4pm with repair and maintenance available throughout the day. We have the great support of Tim Turner of Sworders who has volunteered as auctioneer for the sale.

To enter a bike for sale at the auction, it should be in rideable condition with reasonable tyres and brakes. Each bicycle entered in the auction will be checked by an experienced bicycle mechanic on the day. The mechanics will also be on hand throughout the day to check those bikes purchased and adjust them to fit as required. In addition we will be selling new bicycle accessories. So if your children have outgrown their bikes over the winter, you are looking for one for yourself, or if you have a bicycle you wish to sell, then please come along on the 15th.

The children will be busy this month taking part in a Sponsored Skip to raise money for new PE Equipment. I'm sure the children will take up the challenge with relish and raise a hearty sum while keeping fit! We may even persuade some of the staff to take part too!! Also, later in the month we are holding a craft afternoon, where a wide range of locally produced crafts will be available for sale in the school hall during the afternoon to enable parents to have a good look around in peace while the children are in class. The date has not been finalized as yet but do keep a look out for information about this event around the village.

Tuesday, 1st of April sees us hosting a Fashion Show of children's and adult's clothes. The children will have an opportunity to model all the latest fashions (along with some willing parents and teachers!) and the adults will have a chance to buy them at a fraction of the retail price. Brands available include Gap, Marks and Spencer, Principles and Adams. The Show takes place in the School Hall from 6.30pm so come along and buy all your Spring Fashions at bargain prices.

Preparations are also well under way for our two big summer events. The May Fair will be held on the Saturday, 10th May and the live music event, Music in the Park, will be held on Saturday, 19th July. There will be more news over the next couple of months, but please put these dates in your diaries now!

And finally, just to prove that our job is not all about raising money, we have in fact been busy spending it too! With the money we raised in 2002 we were able to purchase two new play structures for the playground, which should be in place by Easter and we're sure will be a real hit with the children. Reception now have a new shed for their playground to house their ever-growing outdoor play equipment. We have also provided the school with an interactive white board,

music equipment, new library books and a very smart new kit for the netball team. This is a fantastic achievement, so thanks once again to everyone who has helped and supported at all our events to make this possible.

Marnie Tait

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## Stansted Art & Craft Market

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The times they are a-changing.

The Annual Stansted Art and Craft Market is on the move – changing not its location but its timing.

In 2003 the Market will take place on the weekend of 13th-14th September. The committee decided to make this major adjustment of date largely in the hope of finding better weather earlier in the year.

The Market has fought against the elements for several years now, with gales and floods both playing their part in making life difficult for people wishing to attend.

It is to be hoped that September may look more kindly on this important part of Stansted's fundraising efforts.

An added bonus of the new date will be that the evenings are lighter much later than at the end of October: as a result, the Market will be open an extra half hour until 5pm each day.

So, mark your diaries now: Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September. See you there!

Mark Mackay



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## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

The Chairman, Mr Cyril Stoneham welcomed members and friends to the February meeting, and, being the first meeting of the year, wished everyone a good gardening year. He then introduced Mr Alan Gillingwater to the meeting who spoke and showed slides on the "Sweet Pea". He began his talk by explaining the history of sweet peas and how sometimes they are known as the Queen of Annuals, because the seed can be sown and will flower in the same year, although some growers will sow their seed in October for the following year, and overwinter them in a cold frame ready to plant out at the end of March, others will sow their seed in February/March and they will be ready to plant out at the end of April. The plants like a lot of water and do not like too much heat. They will flower for a long period providing the blooms are cut frequently and the temperature is not in the nineties for too long!! If it is perfume you are after then go for the stronger colours, as the pale colours have a lot less scent.

He then said that the National Sweet Pea show this year, is to be held at the Unwins trial grounds at Histon, Cambridge, on the 2nd and 3rd July, and would be well worth a visit.

Mr Gillingwater answered many questions from the members present and was then thanked for a very interesting talk.

After coffee the Summer coach outing was discussed. Several places were suggested and by a majority vote the Royal Horticultural Society garden at Wisley was chosen as this year's outing. This outing will be on a Sunday in July, more details later.

Members were also reminded about the Spring show on 5th April and to begin sorting out their photographs for the Photograph Section. The classes are "A Spring Scene" and "A Form of Transport".

Our next meeting is on the 5th March when we welcome back Mr James Buttress, this time talking about Greenwich Royal Park. Come and join us in the Day Centre at 8-00pm.

Janet Townsend



## Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

A note for your diaries - a Fish and Chip Supper is to be held at the Day Centre at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 23rd April. Further details will be included in the April "Link" but the event is open to all and please do give your support. There will also be a raffle.



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

On a cold evening members were entertained with some lovely slides of better weather taken by Brian Tester and his wife who are keen photographers and belong to a Barking photographic club. His photos covered the four seasons in various counties and he gave helpful tips on taking good pictures with a difference. He also brought along to the meeting a selection of mounted pictures and greeting cards with his own photos on them which members were able to purchase. He was thanked by Linda Gurr.

On our trading stall members were able to sell off any unwanted items that other members might find are just what they need.

The competition of an animal ornament proved very popular with the members with a large entry of animals of all description. This was won by Chris Morris with her sleeping dormouse.

During business members voted on a resolution on Pollution from Aircraft, to be discussed at our next County A.G.M. Our representative at this meeting, Mrs Rosemary Minshull, will vote for the resolution on our behalf.

Our March meeting will see us going on a journey through the USA with Susan Walker with her talk called "Hi You Guys" and our competition for a Pretty Scarf could prove interesting.

Visitors are always welcome to join us for the evening at St John's Hall, the meeting starting at 7.45 pm.

Brenda Ryan  
812725



## Royal British Legion Women's Section

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 20th March in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm when our speaker will be Frances Spalding.

On Wednesday 12th March we shall be holding a Coffee Morning in the Day Centre from 10.30 am - tombola, raffle, cakes, bring-and-buy.

Everyone very welcome.

Pat Clower



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Although the thought of more air activity at Stansted Airport is causing much local concern, it was obvious from the high turn-out at our meeting on 6th February that there is great interest and pride in what was achieved by the Allied Air Forces from East Anglian aerodromes during World War II. Mr Keith Braybrook gave us a fascinating talk on the history of Debden Airfield, followed by slides illustrating many of the aircraft and crews involved.

2003 celebrates the centenary of the first flight made by the Wright brothers and it was evident from an early time that aircraft would have a military application, particularly in Army reconnaissance. In fact, a BE-2 bi-plane force-landed in Saffron Walden in 1912. During the 1914-18 war, military aviation developed dramatically - proportionately, the attrition rates in the Royal Flying Corps were as high as in the Army. Duxford and its satellite, Fowlmere, were developed for training at that time, although only Duxford was retained after the war's end.

There followed a period of cut-backs, but with the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany, Parliament gave authority in 1934 for the expansion of the Royal Air Force. This resulted in the provision of a number of aerodromes in East Anglia, all built to a common plan and with a high standard of accommodation. A little earlier, a plane had force landed on some farmland and it was noted at the time that the site would provide an excellent aerodrome. It was from this that Debden Airfield was developed - the only fighter base - all other Expansion Stations being devoted to bombers.

Debden was commissioned in 1937 as a Sector Station in 11 Group, which covered all Southeast England. The Sector Stations all had Operations Rooms to control their fighters in the air and were provided with hard runways to enable all-weather flying. The airfield was blitzed twice in August 1940 during the Battle of Britain, after which the Operations Room was transferred to Saffron Walden Grammar School. As the Blitz continued on London, Debden converted to night fighter operations. Then as things quietened down, the airfield became an Operational Training Unit, becoming active again as Spitfires replaced Hurricanes, and Wings comprising several Squadrons were formed in 1942.

With the involvement of the USA in the War, Debden became home for the 4th Fighter Group of the 8th Army Air Force, flying first Spitfires then Thunderbolts and finally Mustang; the latter able to escort the bombers right the way across Europe.

After the War, Debden remained busy as the base for the RAF Empire Radio School until 1949, then became a

Technical School for aspiring RAF tradesmen, and from 1960 to 1975, was the headquarters for the RAF Police. It was then transferred to the Army and today not much remains of the RAF's occupation.

Our next meeting on 6th March at 8 pm at the Day Centre will have a more peaceful theme. Our own Peter Brown and Ralph Phillips will be speaking about the Stansted Recreation Ground, and we hope you will be able to join us.

Ian Seavers



## Huw Johnson Club

Last night (February 5th) we completed our first Carpet Bowls Championship. There was much clapping and cheering to encourage the 12 members who have reached the finals. So far we have made up our own rules so that whatever their disabilities everyone stood a chance of reaching the finals. The improvement in their play means that when we start the next Championship, members will compete against each other eliminating their opponents. We also celebrated four birthdays with a present, card, lighted candles on the birthday cake and much enthusiastic singing of "Happy birthday to you". David, Florence, Emma and Samantha blew out the candles amid vigorous applause.

Please put the following dates in your diary: March 12th at St Mary's School 7.30 for 8 pm Cheese and Wine evening and A.G.M. This is always a light-hearted evening so please come and join us.

On Wednesday March 19th at 62 Chapel Hill we are holding a Coffee Morning beginning at 10 am and ending at 12 noon. We do hope that we can welcome some new customers as well as our faithful regulars.

Marion Johnson

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**Stansted Post-Office:**  
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## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Your Council Tax 2003/04

At the full council on 11th February Councillors were asked to approve the budget for the next financial year. The recommendation will be for a 7.5% increase. Although this is higher than some of us would like it does not come as a surprise. The Budget will include £100,000 for the Stansted Airport Campaign and £50,000 for Community Wardens. This year will not be a good one for council taxpayers. It looks as if the County Council precept will be up by 16.7% and the Police Authority precept by over 19%. I leave it to others to justify these increases. The District Council is the billing authority and is responsible for sending out council tax demands but only a small part of it goes to Uttlesford. The B & D charge for the District will be £108.69 and for Stansted Parish Council £46.14. Combined Parish and District is £154.83 At the time of writing the County Council and Essex Police Authority had not set their budgets and precepts.

### Community Warden Scheme

Cllr Robert Chambers, Leader of the Council and Chairman of Essex Police Authority has proposed that the Council consider introducing Community Wardens for the District. Community Wardens are employed in many other parts of the country. They can play an useful role in helping the Police. However, they have only limited powers of enforcement, some of which are:

- a) Detain, for up to 30 minutes, suspects who fail to give details
- b) Use reasonable force to detain, as at a)
- c) Issue fixed penalty notices
- d) Enter any premises to save life and limb or prevent serious damage to property.

The scheme if implemented would cost £300,000 per annum of which Uttlesford would be asked to contribute £50,000. Although community safety is high on the agenda of many residents, should Uttlesford be expected to partly fund this scheme? I would be interested to hear from readers on this topic.

### Correction

Electors are as of right entitled to a postal vote and not as stated in the last issue of The Link.

Councillor Geoffrey Sell  
Tel: 01279 815925  
Email: [cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk)

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Christmas has come and gone and the New Year is here. It is to be hoped that readers are in good heart and ready to face the vicissitudes of the coming year with confidence.

At least in most cases, and to date, flooding has not been the problem it was in 2001/02. Readers should be alert, however, and continue to take steps to prevent further damage to their homes.

So far as the County Council is concerned, the Christmas break was preceded by a vote on the Council's reply to the Secretary of State on the Airport development. Now thoughts are turning to the question of the Budget for 2003/04 and the rate of council tax to be set. Many will have read in the national press that the settlement from Central Government was, in Essex's case, very bad - an increase of only 3.4%. Hence, in spite of every best effort on the part of Members and Officers, there can only be a proportionate increase in contributions from residents. Readers should therefore be aware of this and be prepared.

At present the Budget will be set at the meeting on 18th February, and thereafter a report will be written for publication in March. On this sad note these notes are ended.

Should any reader wish to investigate further on this subject, they should make contact with the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace  
County Councillor  
Stansted Division  
01279 812588

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT INTERVIEWS

### SIR ALAN HASELHURST

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

#### Friday 7th March 2003

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

#### Friday 4th April 2003

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

NO APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY

# Stansted Tennis Club



## Annual General Meeting

This will take place on Monday 17th March at 8.00pm at 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted. All members are welcome to attend. If you have any issues concerning the Tennis Club, this is your chance to air them, so please do come along!

## New Season

The 2003 season will start on April 1st.

## Spring Meal

In place of the usual Christmas meal, there will be a lunchtime meal (after the Sunday club session). This will be held at The Cock in Stansted on Sunday 9th March. Please see the notice board in the clubhouse for more details. All members are welcome to come along!

## Sweat-shirts/T-shirts

These are still available in varying shades and sizes sporting the Stansted Tennis Club logo. If you would like to see samples and are interested in purchasing these, please see either Kate Rutter (senior sizes) or Chris Hollis (junior sizes).

## Coaching

At present the only coaching available at the club is for juniors on a Saturday morning. In March mid-week junior coaching and match practice sessions will start up again. There is now a waiting list for juniors aged between 7 and 15, so if you would like to find out more and get your name on the list, please call Chris Hollis on 01279 319155.

## Used Tennis Balls

A tube of 4 used tennis balls for £1 - who can resist this offer! Please contact Janet Hollis on 01279 812073 if you would like to purchase a tube.

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.



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

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

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

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

The concert, in St John's Church, Stansted, will start at 8pm and tickets are £8, Concessions £6, Children £3, and children of members £1. Available from:

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Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282)  
and (if still available) at the door on the night.

Alan Corbishley



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Our next ploughman's lunches are on Saturday 8th March and Saturday 12th April at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2pm. All are welcome.

The Supper Club will be meeting on Friday 7th March at Stansted Day Centre, 7.30pm for 8pm. The speaker will be Dr Jangu Batnavala, who will be talking about the effects on health of the proposed expansion at the Airport. Cost of the evening, to include supper, is £8, and there will be a Bar.

For further details and tickets, please ring 814222 or 813432.

Ruth Rawlinson



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This term's topic has been about PATTERNS; we have made a very effective black and white display of stripes, spots, zigzags and checks. We have looked at reference books on animal prints and camouflage. The children and staff have all tried to wear clothes relating to the pattern of the week; it's been good fun searching through our wardrobes! We have also looked at the patterns in Mathematics and language, e.g. Symmetry, rhyming words and the children made their own books that have a beginning, middle and end.

Next term we are doing a topic called "In The Air" hoping to include a trip to the airport which we are all excited about!

We have done lots of fund raising recently and the nursery now has a new camera to record the children's activities, and a laminator for any extra special work the children do!

One member of staff has recently finished a course in nursery education, which means we now have three qualified members of staff. Other courses we are attending this year include special needs and equal opportunities.

We would like to congratulate Mrs. Howell on her appointment as head teacher at Birchanger school, and look forward to continuing our excellent relationship with all the staff there.

The things they say: "I love you" it makes it all worthwhile!!

After Easter this year we will be opening two afternoons per week, which should accommodate our growing waiting list.... so if you are interested in a place at Birchanger.....

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Carol Bullot (Nursery Manager)



## **STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL**

This month should see a start being made on the next phase of repairs and renewals. Much of it will be millwrights work and give us the wherewithall to have the sails turned by wind. More on this significant development later. In the meanwhile the mill will be closed to visitors from mid-month for some weeks.

## **UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET**

Farmers' markets have become very popular over the last few years. There is now a local market - down the road at Ugley.

The market is held on the third Saturday of every month at Ugley Village Hall (on the B1383, just past the turning for Ugley Green and Elsenham) from 11.30am to 1.30pm.

The main hall contains stalls that will probably be appearing every month, which include:

- beef, lamb, pork, chicken, venison
- sausages
- fresh fish
- eggs
- home-made cakes and pies
- honey and beeswax
- plants
- apple juice and apples

The small adjoining hall will house stalls stocking seasonal produce, so they will vary during the year.

It is a very pleasant shopping experience to be able to talk to the producers of the food one buys, and there are also refreshments available.

**Next market: Saturday 15th March**

Susan Bone

## **SNIPPETS**

In addition to Mark Gerber (see page 6) we are delighted to note that Nancy Tennant of Ugley has received a Community Award from Uttlesford District Council for services to the community and the environment. Nancy, 105, has become a legend of our times and we heartily congratulate her.

Some readers will remember David and Barbara Lodge who left Stansted for Pytchley in Northamptonshire some 18 years ago. They were active in Stansted life and continue to be so in Pytchley with David being Vice Chair of the Parish Council. They occasionally visit Stansted and follow our windmill news with interest.

The Revd. Lydia Rapkin from the United Reformed Church is recovering well after the amputation of one leg below the knee and has progressed to a wheelchair. She is in the Radwinter Road hospital in Saffron Walden and takes a lively interest in all around her. Lydia is very pleased to receive visitors.

There must be many snippets similar to these which come to the ears of readers and are deserving of a wider audience. Please feel free to pass them on to us via the E-mail address, a note to 58 Chapel Hill or a call to the Editor on 647213.



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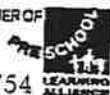
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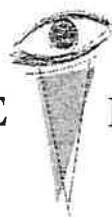
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