

May 2003

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Photograph by courtesy of Sid Stringer

This month's Pub Profile features the Dog and Duck, so we feel that this is an appropriate time to reproduce an illustration of the approach to Gall End in the 20's.

The pair of Tudor cottages was dismantled - we think circa 1929 - and re-erected near Horsham in Sussex. During the 30's the site became a centre of interest, and later controversy, as the then owner had offered it to the community for the building of a Village Hall. A trust fund was set up and several hundred pounds at least were raised, but unfortunately the scheme did not come to fruition. Any firm information on those days would be helpful for a future edition of The Link. Apart from the substitution of a modern house for the Tudor ones, the scene remains much as it did, although smaller trees have replaced the stately elms of the past.

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Advertising enquiries Tel 01279 812797

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**Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill or email to
stanstedlink@aol.com**

by 15th May for publication on 31st May

by 12th June for publication on 28th June

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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High Lane
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Tel 01279 814349

Masses Saturday 6.00 pm
Sunday 9 am and 10.30 am

Holy Days of Obligation
8 am and 8 pm

Tuesday 9.30 am
- Saturday

Confessions

Saturday 10 am
and by appointment

Baptisms

By appointment

Over the last month we have been watching the tragedy of another war unfolding in front of our eyes.

Whenever there is a tragedy in any part of the World we know about it almost as it is happening. Through "Globalisation" we are becoming more aware, more world conscious and we now know about the imbalances in our World today.

Much of our Western wealth is built on the poverty of the Third World. With our great consumption there is also a huge misuse of resources.

The Scriptures remind us that the wealth of the world is for the common good of all. Our own Government has to help those in need and it is even more necessary on the global level to come to the help of the millions in need.

The Bishops in Vote for the Common Good said that even today more than 800 million people do not have enough to eat and many millions die of starvation. It is essential that we do not forget these people and that Governments try to reduce the burden of debt to the poorest nations, to reform financial systems and commit to well-targeted aid, environmental protection and sustainable development so that globalisation proceeds in a way that benefits the poorest instead of making their lot even worse.

PAX CHRISTI DAILY PRAYER

Thank you loving God for the gift of life
For the wonderful world which we all share
For the joy of love and friendship
For the challenge of helping to build your kingdom

Strengthen -

My determination to work for a world of peace and justice

My conviction that, whatever our nationality or race, we are all global citizens – one in Christ

My courage to challenge the powerful with the values of the Gospel.

My efforts to forgive injuries and to love those I find hard to love.

Teach me -

To share the gifts you have given me

To speak out for the victims of injustice who have no voice

To reject the violence which runs through much of our world today.

Holy Spirit of God -

Renew my hope for a world free from the cruelty and evil of war so that

We may all come to share in God's peace and justice.

Amen

Eileen Quinn

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

All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated

Services and Preachers for May

4th Don McGregor
6.30pm - Circuit Service at Bishop's Stortford
11th Margaret Richardson
6.30pm - United service for Christian Aid at
Friends Meeting House
18th Betty Kime
25th Rev'd Ronald Rawlings - Holy Communion



The Parishes of
Stansted Mountfitchet
with Birchchanger
and Farnham

All enquiries
are welcome at
The Church Office
located in the
Upper Room,
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Monday	Open
Wednesday	from
Friday	9:00am-
	12:00noon

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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>

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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

Building on Rock

Easter is about all sorts of things. The main driving force of the early church after the first Easter was to continue Jesus' work of sharing food among the down-trodden. The Easter sightings of resurrection were often associated with eating in common.

We have a long way to go in terms of raising the questions of why much of the world is in poverty, and there are plenty of Caiaphas' and Pilates to make sure we don't. In the meantime, once in a while, the church honours its vocation, (when it is not keeping up buildings), and continues to work at poverty. In March, a rock 'n' roll evening at St John's raised over a thousand pounds for the Southern Malawi Famine through Dave Morson's Regular Aid for the Poor. That was one week where I could honestly pray that we'd been busy about the Lord's work. I also learned that, if you want to make a party swing, invite lots of Catholics! AS



St. John's Diary

Sundays 8:00am Holy Communion *said*
9:30am Parish Communion *sung*
11:00am Open Door Service on
the 4th and 18th of May
Wednesdays 10:00am Holy Communion *said*
followed by coffee
7:30pm Intercessions and
Night Prayer

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





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 May

4th	10.30am	Mr Ralph Friday
11th	10.30am	Rev'd D Simpson - Communion
20th	10.30am	Dr Pamela Cressey
25th	10.30am	Mrs Sue Mckenzie

Mrs Sue Mckenzie has been attached to Saffron Walden and the Stansted Group for her internship year, under the watchful eye of Rev'd David Simpson. Her time with us is coming to an end now, but our loss is someone else's gain, because Sue has accepted a call to Barnet United Reformed Church in Hertfordshire and her ordination and induction will be on July 12th. Her last service at Stansted will be on May 25th, however, throughout May she will be leading a Bible study discussion group based on the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount in St Matthew's gospel. There will be four evening meetings, two at Stansted and two at Newport. The dates are as follows:

1. Tuesday May 6th at Stansted URC.
2. Wednesday May 14th at Newport URC.
3. Wednesday May 21st at Stansted URC.
4. Tuesday May 27th at Newport URC.

All meetings begin at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome. For more details ring Janet on 01279 812593.

Want somewhere to go on "May Day" Bank Holiday May 5th? Then come to the Church on Chapel Hill for a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat. We will be open from 3.00pm to 5.00pm, so if you are out for a walk or just simply want someone to talk to, drop in and see us. Anyone and everyone welcome.



This photograph by Peter Trundle shows some of the activity in church on the recent Children's Day.

Janet Townsend

(continued)

From the Registers for March:

Baptisms:

16th Cara Grace Thornton
23rd Arwyn Ceris Monk

Funerals:

6th Olive Lee age 82 years
24th Joan Chadwick age 62 years
25th Kenneth Herbert Player age 77 years

Dates for your Diary:

Grand Sale and Afternoon Tea on Saturday, 17th May in St John's Hall - for details, see Village Events page.

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

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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

Agnes Dalrymple (Nancy) Tennant
(27th May 1897 - 13th March 2003)

Nancy Tennant's death has affected us all very deeply. She was a greatly loved member of Stansted meeting, where she had worshipped for over sixty years. We all feel privileged to have known her and to have had her as a friend for so long. There are so many things one could say about her and why she was such a valued person that it seems almost impossible to begin! George Fox encouraged early Quakers to be "patterns and examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach amongst all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone".

Nancy was generous with her affection and concern for everyone she met. She was always the first to recognise the needs of others and offer them unstinting and kindly support. Everyone's experience of her was different because she could, and did, tune in to people's lives, really giving an example of how to seek out the good in each person and somehow help them esteem themselves.

She was supremely hospitable and always made everyone welcome in her home. We all have wonderful memories of her parties and dinner parties, which were a delight. She was an excellent conversationalist, being well-informed, amusing and honest, though never judgmental and her guests blossomed in her presence. She appreciated the natural world and loved her garden, always enjoying showing you the flowers that were in bloom when you visited her. I can remember being shown the pink flowers of a horse chestnut tree (planted by her sister ninety years previously and therefore not too enormous) and seeing, for the first time, that they were like small orchids. Recently she bemoaned the fact that her zimmer frame didn't allow her to do the weeding properly!

Nancy's family moved to Orford House in Ugley when she was eleven. She left school when she was sixteen and went to Paris to be "finished" and study French and music. However, the First World War intervened and she came home, as she said "half-finished"! The war devastated her family (two cousins and her favourite brother were killed in one week) and she remembered that at one time "a deadly sense of peace" came over her because she realised that she didn't know anyone else who could be killed. During the Second World War, Nancy's great friend, Humphrey Waterfield was a conscientious objector who served with the Friends Ambulance Unit. He attended the Quaker

meeting (then in Elsenham) and this association led to Nancy attending the meeting and then becoming a Quaker.

We all have our particular fond memories of Nancy. She was the mainstay of our meeting and her life will be celebrated at the Friends Meeting House, Stansted, at a Memorial Meeting on Sunday 11th May at 2.30pm and again at St John's church at a Memorial Service on Saturday 7th June at 3.30pm.

Anthea Lee

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

Christian Aid Week will begin with a **Service** on Sunday 11th May at 6.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill.

On Saturday, 17th May there will be a **Market** from 10am to 12 noon at the Friends Meeting House. Contributions of books, toys, bric-a-brac, plants, cakes, etc. can be given to me in advance or brought in on the day.

On Sunday, 18th May there will be a sponsored **Circle the City Walk** in London.

It is not too late to volunteer as a collector!

Please contact me for details of all events.

Catherine Dean
813579



SHALOM

May Meetings

Monday, 12th - a talk by R. E. teacher, Andrew Thelwell at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Monday, 26th - the Cosmos, God and me by Derek Honour at the Friends Meeting House.

All meetings to start at 8pm and all are welcome.



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

At the April club meeting members heard an interesting talk with slides on Cacti by Mr Abel. He spoke about the incredible range of Cacti growing in such diverse habitats as desert to mountain top, with a temperature range of - 20 C to +40 C. His slides showed the glorious colours of the flower heads which most of them produce. He was thanked for a very interesting talk by the Chairman, Cyril Stoneham.

After a coffee break there followed a short AGM at which the committee was re-elected for the coming year with the exception of Wilf Wood who was replaced by David Loynds. The outing to Wisley on 6th July was discussed. The coach will leave Stansted at 9.00 am, returning at approximately 6.00 pm. The cost is £8.00 per person (including entry) and there are still a few seats available. For more information and/or details contact Cyril Stoneham.

An interesting programme of speakers has been arranged for 2003/2004 beginning on 7th May with "A Year in the Life of a Park Warden at Wandlebury". Come and join us, all of our meetings begin at 8.00 pm and are held in the Day Centre.

On Saturday, 5th April, 200 entries filled the URC Hall for the club Spring Show. Unfortunately there were no children's entries this year, but the photographic classes proved very popular again. The Horticultural Section classes were judged by Mr Abbott from the Essex Guild of Judges, who said the standard of the Daffodil exhibits was excellent. The main prize winners were: The Committee Shield, the Oldfield Shield, the Prentice Cup and the Daffodil Society's Bronze Medal were all won by Brian Townsend. The Maud Banks Trophy for the highest points in the Vegetable Section was won by Cyril Stoneham and the Humphrey Vase for Floral Art was won by Margaret Chastaney.

Janet Townsend

POETS CORNER

Our resident poet Phyllis Harrison, with her usual sensitivity on timings, has noticed the coincidence of the Green Waste skip and Easter weekend.

Midst the Church's Easter tidings
Haste go to the railway sidings:
Over now your Lenten fast -
"Skip" with joy and cast your waste !
Who would LINK this heaped display
With "a green hill far away"?



Nature Notes

Last month blackthorn was flowering in our hedgerows: this month it is the hawthorn that provides white blossom in the landscape. It is also known as may because of its time of flowering and is sometimes called quickthorn on account of its rapid growth. If left uncut, it grows into a sturdy tree of up to fifty feet.

Planted traditionally for hedging and windbreaks as its thorns are avoided by animals, it soon produces an impenetrable barrier. It was the most popular shrub used by landowners to enclose their land between the 16th and 18th centuries.



Hawthorn flowers contain trimethylamine (a carbon compound of ammonia) which is also present in herring brine. This explains the unpleasant fishy smell of may blossom when you are close up to it. Walter de la Mare wrote: "The hawthorn hath a deathly smell". However, the flowers also contain anisic aldehyde (also found in cowslips) which gives a sweet aniseed scent from a distance. Hawthorn is pollinated by midges and dung flies which are also attracted to the trimethylamine in rowan and cotoneaster flowers. Interestingly, the unpleasant smell of hawthorn disappears altogether after pollination.

Hawthorn wood is very hard and dense and is used for woodcarving and engraving and was formerly used for cudgel making. At the battle of Bosworth it is said that Lord Stanley found Richard III's crown in a hawthorn and straight away placed it on the head of Henry Tudor, his son-in-law. He was crowned as Henry VII in London and the hawthorn tree became the badge of the House of Tudor.

Rosina Kirkwood




Yes, it's going to happen this year! The Association is organising a Summer Fair on Saturday, 5th July to take place on the Recreation Ground. They are looking for Arena displays, competitions, hobbies and crafts plus the usual stalls and games. If you can contribute or have any useful ideas please get in touch with Cheryl on 814550 or Sarah on 812630. The Association is also running a Boot Sale in the Lower Street Car Park on Sunday June 8 from 9am to noon.



Piazza

Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church
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 Sat 3rd to Mon 5th May

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Mariners' May Fair
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 Treasure Hunt • Surfboard Ride
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 Plants • Crafts • Raffle
 Games • Refreshments
Fancy Dress Competition

 **Mountfitchet High School**

MUSIC QUIZ 
 8 pm
 Sat 10th May
 Refreshments
Tickets from Mike 812780

VILLAGE EVENTS

May		
1 Thu	Local Authority Elections Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
2 Fri	East Herts Home-Start Quiz	Wisdon Pk. Leis. Ctr, Ware 7.30 pm
3 Sat	Bowls Introductory Day Rainbow Chinese Auction	Bowls Club 10 am - 1 pm St John's Hall 7.30 pm
7 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Outing Garden Club	Day Centre Day Centre 8 pm
8 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
10 Sat	Plant Sale Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch Mariners' May Fair Music Quiz	Fire Station 10 am - noon Day Centre noon - 2 pm Bentfield School 2 - 5 pm Mountfitchet High School 8 pm
12 Mon - 16 Fri	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
12 Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
13 Tue	PTA Fashion Show	Mountfitchet High School 7.30 pm
15 Thu	RBL (Women)	Day Centre 7.30 pm
17 Sat	Christian Aid Market Green Waste Skip Summer Sale & Tea	Quaker Meeting House 10 am - noon Lower St Car Pk 1 - 4 pm St John's Hall 2.30 - 4.30 pm
21 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
26 Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
June		
4 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
8 Sun	Stansted Village Ass. Boot Sale West End Stars for SSE	Lower St Car Pk 9 am - noon Gaston House 6 for 6.45 pm
9 Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm 789
12 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch Jazz Concert	Day Centre noon - 2 pm 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
23 Mon - 27 Fri	Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm

 **Mountfitchet High School**

Ladies Fashion Show
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 7.30 pm Tues 13th May
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Christian Aid
 We believe in life before death
MARKET
 10.00 am - 12 noon
 Saturday 17th May
Quaker Meeting House
 Toys, books, bric-a-brac, plants,
 cakes, refreshments

St John's, Stansted II
Grand Summer Sale and Tea
 2.30 - 4.30 pm Sat 17th May
 St John's Church & Hall
 All manner of goodies on sale
 The place for bargains and a good cuppa!

St John's, Stansted II
Hill Chili
 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

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

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



I hope everyone had a well-earned rest over the Easter period and hasn't eaten too much chocolate. We have had quite a busy time at school this month. On the 3rd April the whole school enjoyed a performance of 'Oliver Twist' performed by Jigsaw Theatre Group, paid for by using funds raised by the PTFA. Grannies and Granddads Day shortly followed on Friday, 4th April when the Key Stage 1 children invited their Grandparents (or borrowed some) to come to an open afternoon at the school. They were shown around the school by their Grandchild, looking at all of the children's work, then were taken for a cup of tea and cakes in the hall, which were provided by the PTFA. Afterwards, the children entertained them with their performance of 'Ballooning around the World'. As parents were not allowed to be involved on this afternoon, they were treated to a preview at the dress rehearsal. Both days created many happy, smiling, proud faces.

It seems to have been a month of entertainment as on the 7th, April Puppets Galore treated all of the children in the school to a Puppet Show. This was about the real Easter story to help the children understand that there is more to Easter than chocolate!

There has been quite a lot of money raised recently with a big thank you going to Rebecca Carter who made a wonderful Quiz mistress and helped the PTFA raise £350 for their funds. This was a fun filled evening, enjoyed by everyone who attended.

The school raised £519 for Comic Relief. The children were sponsored for changing their hair for the day. There was also a cake stall run by the PTFA, which helped contribute to this total.

The PTFA also held a separate Second Hand Uniform and Cake Sale after school one afternoon, which raised £85 for their funds.

The school finished for the Easter break on Friday, 11th April with an Easter Church Service, which was attended by the whole school as well as many parents who had come to join us and watch the presentation by the Year 5 pupils, which was very enjoyable.

On Friday, 18th April The Good Friday Project was held at the school. This was a day full of a variety of fun activities including art and craft projects and performance activities for the older children. It was well attended and open to all school age children. The day ended with a celebration in St. John's Church at 2.30pm, where parents were welcome to join in.

When everyone returned to school on the 28th April, the school kitchen re-opened for healthy hot meals for the children at lunchtimes. This has come about after much discussion and a meeting held during the evening of 27th March where the general consensus was that parents would be prepared to pay more for healthier meals cooked at school. Good luck to our new cook, Judith Davies.

The school looks forward to its SATS during the week commencing 12th May and the next Parents Focus Group Meeting is to be held on the 16th May.

You can always find out more information about the school from our new web site, which is growing all the time as more information is added. Each class has its own E-Mail address so that the children can receive messages from relatives. One class has even received E-Mails from a parent working away in Doha, Qatar. Even from far away parents are able to see the children's work and events that the school has been involved in.

The web site address is

[<www.st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk>](http://www.st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk)

Sam Fairweather
PTFA Committee Member

Bentfield Primary School PTA

April was an incredibly busy month for the PTA at Bentfield. We began with a Spring Fashion Show on the 1st of April which was a great evening of entertainment and shopping. The school hall was packed as parents and pupils strutted their stuff, watched by friends and family. Afterwards everyone took the opportunity to buy the clothes on offer at prices that were too good to resist! The evening raised nearly £400 for the school.

On the 8th April we held a Craft Afternoon, where a wide range of crafts from locally run businesses were available for sale. We also held our termly second hand uniform and cake sale, so there was something for everyone. The afternoon was well attended as people took advantage of the chance of a quiet look around while the children were at school. The cakes however went down very well once the bell had gone! Just before the Easter holidays on the 10th April, the children took part in a Sponsored Skip to raise money for new PE Equipment. The children all did fantastically well at both skipping and collecting sponsors, so well done to everyone!

This month all our minds are on the **Mariner's May Fair**. This will be held on 10th May from 2-5pm and promises to be a fabulous event. We've got all sorts of attractions lined up to suit sea-lovers of all ages, such as a surf board ride, an octopus bouncy castle, walking the plank, treasure hunt, and mermaid make-overs to name but a few! We'll also have a few old favourites such as a raffle, tombolas, plants, cakes, crafts, refreshments, children's craft activities and countless games to keep everyone amused. The afternoon will begin with a fancy dress competition, so start digging out those mermaid tails and pirate hats. The fun starts at 2pm, so come along and join in.

And lastly, just a reminder that Music in the Park is on 19th July this year. We've booked the sunshine and blue skies so make a note of the date for a really good family day out.

Marnie Tait

Pub Profile No. 5

The Dog and Duck

This is a truly village pub in the old tradition. Eric Wrighton has been landlord for three years and has maintained the ambience established by his predecessors. It is worthy of note, however, that the Dog and Duck is at present unique in Stansted in that it does not serve meals. From what we see, this has resulted in good patronage from its many regulars as a pub for locals with well-kept beer, which is what any village, especially a large one, needs. Eric came to the landlord's trade after 20 years in the chemicals export business, but he took pains in obtaining membership of the British Institute of Inn-keeping before taking on this, his first pub. The years spent dealing with multifarious regulations now stand him in good stead in dealing with laws for licensed premises. The Dog and Duck has low ceilings and varying floor levels, both of which make for the cosy atmosphere which is immediately apparent as one steps over the threshold. Whether the floor changes have caused problems as closing time approaches is a matter we didn't pursue, but it has to be said that if you wanted a mellow end to your evening this is the place to be, especially if you have a mineral drinking companion to assist you out.



The Dog and Duck

The building is said to date from the 15th century when it was probably the only ale-house to serve the inhabitants of the Street, as the area now centred on Lower Street was known. It was interesting to note from the 1881 census that a Mr & Mrs Haggerwood and their ten children were then resident, and that the address was Stanford Street (or is this a misrepresentation of Stansted Street?).

There was a separate cottage at the north end which has since been incorporated into the pub and which accounts for the principal floor level variation. The outline of the old cottage front door is still visible in the characteristic Essex weatherboarding. This is the only pub in Stansted to have a board spanning the yard with the inevitable dog in pursuit of a duck. It is interesting to speculate whether an earlier version spanned the old road.



Eric

Like other local hostelrys the Dog and Duck has its "games" speciality. In this case it is the annual conker championships held each autumn. In 2001 Eric was the winner, but the accolade for last year went to one of the regulars, Simon Clifford. The winning fruits are hung within frames in the bar as a guide to aspiring challengers.



The Champion Conkers

Eric himself is no believer in ghosts, but there is a legend that a "presence" occasionally enters – although not actually appearing. Eric concedes that one day his dog followed the entry of an invisible guest with his eyes and movements, and on another occasion his son who was behind the bar was sure that someone stood at the bar, but on turning to serve him – he wasn't there. There have also been sounds of the optics emptying, but with no liquid spirit in sight. A lot can have happened in 600 years!

Eric lamented that his younger customers prefer lager to the traditional bitter beers, but he keeps a full selection of Greene King brews including their fine brown ale. One

regular customer was the former curate, Rhys Martin, who was always given a warm welcome, especially when accompanied by his charming wife Caroline.

The authors hope that this pub will be able to maintain its simple no-frills hospitality in the face of market forces, which indicate that food service is the only way forward.

Interview by Derek Honour and Mike Dyer

Photographs by Mike Dyer

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Many readers will be concerned over the development of the Airport and no doubt are actively involved in the campaign to resist any further increases in size. Many will know also that a further consultation period is in progress with submissions due in by late June prior to the publication of a White Paper in the early part of the New Year 2004. This will outline our fate one way or the other.

With this cloud over our heads, further and perhaps longer clouds are rising over the horizon, which readers must take note of and prepare to resist, if the local environment is not to change beyond recognition.

These clouds are represented by the proposals for large-scale housing developments in and around the M11 corridor, the building of a further Thames river crossing with associated road systems, and the possibilities of further development of the A120 towards Puckeridge to link the area with the development of the A10 to the same place.

Whilst, of course, there is no immediate need for panic or action on any of these matters, readers should take note of the possibilities - so when the time comes they are ready to consider the proposals in a measured and confident way.

It will be no use objecting to the proposals; it is essential that they be fought with sound and realistic arguments which will prove beyond doubt that the developments will not meet the needs either of the local communities or of the would-be residents. The watchword should be 'brown-fields' not green fields - and any campaign should be based on this.

Should any reader wish to discuss these ideas further they should consult with the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace
County Councillor
Stansted Division



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our April meeting proved to be an evening to be remembered. I started it off by falling over before I even got into the Church Hall so members were greeted as they entered the Hall by me with my elevated foot covered with a cold compress.

Members were first reminded of the pottery classes that some will be attending at Castle Hedingham in June when they hope to produce wonderful crafts. The WI County's Garden Party in July is to be held in Hedingham Castle, when members and families can attend on two separate days and one evening.

It was agreed to take a stall at the Stansted Summer Fair organised by the Stansted Village Organisation on 5th July.

By now our speaker Valerie Day had arrived with her hanging baskets and plants. She told members how she had begun working at Thomas Rochfords Nurseries many years ago and of all the various tips she had picked up. She showed how to make up the perfect basket, what types of plants to use and the ones not suitable, how to fill baskets and troughs, how not to overfill them with potting compost and described the use of slow release fertilisers. Altogether this was a most interesting and informative talk and demonstration. Mrs Day was thanked by Sue Hitchmough.

We continued our meeting by agreeing to sponsor Emma Pirie-Stockton who lives in Stansted on an Outward Bound Trust adventure. This is a three week personal development course for which our raffle raised £20.

Jean Fuller and Marion Pretty were the lucky recipients in our Denman College Bursary draw and will be able to attend our college in Oxfordshire on a course of their choice.

Three members will act as models at our May meeting when we will have a "Week-enders" clothes presentation. We will also be taken through the W.I.'s Resolutions by a county adviser, Liz Buxton. These Resolutions will be discussed and voted on at our AGM in June at the Albert Hall. Our delegate to this is Mrs Judy Colliver who will be accompanied by other members.

Our May meeting is on Thursday 8th, 7.45 pm in St John's Hall. Visitors are welcome.

Brenda Ryan
812725



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society's April meeting welcomed Lt Col J Sainsbury who gave a presentation on "The Home Guard" in Hertfordshire. He first gave a little of the background and history relating to the raising of volunteer forces to defend the country in response to the fears of a threatened invasion, beginning with William Pitt's plea during the threat from Napoleon.

The next such requirement was to come in 1914 when the next threat was foreseen, thus prompting the need for the defence of immediate localities and many other duties. Such a volunteer force amongst other requirements were to: abide by the book of rules, have an approved uniform, originally of a duck egg blue colour, so they did not look like forces of the Crown, later c1916 the uniform was to be dyed khaki. They were disbanded 1918-19.

On 14th May 1940, the Secretary of State for War, Anthony Eden made a radio broadcast calling for men not presently engaged in military service between the ages of 17-65 to come forward to offer their services. They were to report to the local police stations to enlist. The police were not only surprised (some knew nothing about it) and somewhat overwhelmed by the rapid response, but nevertheless took names down on whatever material came to hand. (It has been recorded that within a week some 250,000 men had volunteered). As a result the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV) was formed and originally armed with little more than armbands and hastily devised weapons. By July the LDV was to be renamed at the suggestion of Winston Churchill and now became "The Home Guard". Soon things began to change and improve with the issue of uniforms (although at first some only fitted where they touched) and a selection of armaments (many and varied were these arms) and many ingenious inventions were devised using local skills and knowledge to promote and propel these armaments. The "Home Guard" became a proud and highly respected force, their duties were many and varied (far too many to tell of today) local knowledge playing a very important part in the home defence of the country, where so many from all walks of life worked together in a great cause. On Sunday, 3rd December 1944 the Home Guard paraded for their "Stand Down".

Footnote: Many memories and stories of the Stansted Home Guard are still recalled and research has been and is still ongoing. If you have any such memories, photographs, stories, etc. you would like to share or have recorded, the History Society would be pleased to hear from you.

A verse taken from a quiet Stansted story:

"There are two kinds of mortars" said corporal,
A man, who had earned great renown,
"One sort is used for building things up,
This one's for knocking 'em down".

The Society suggested summer visit this year is to the Kelvedon Hatch Secret Bunker. Please make your thoughts known at the AGM on 1st May. Following the Society business, we have a Presentation by Peter Sanders.

Peter Brown



Royal British Legion Women's Section

At our branch meeting on 20th March, our Chairman told us that the Princess Royal has become National President of the Women's Section from 1st March 2003.

As we had no speaker we played a few gentle sessions of Bingo with Doris as caller. Prizewinners were Bertha, Grace, Julie, Lily and Margaret. A very generous raffle was then drawn with almost everyone winning a prize!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 15th May in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm when we hope to have Frances Spalding as our speaker. Visitors very welcome - 50p.

Pat Clower



Registered charity number 10049801

*St John's Road
Stansted*

For children aged
2½ to rising 5

For details please contact

**Ann Conroy on
07966 506997 or
Gill Pursglove on
01279 814701**



Stansted Tennis Club



April has been a busy month at Rainbow. The children have really showed their artistic talents once again, producing wonderfully ornate photo frames for the baby pictures that they were asked to bring in and full size portraits of themselves.

Easter has been one of the main themes this month. The children have enjoyed egg-painting and making chocolate birds' nests which did not last very long once they got them home!

We were very lucky to be invited to both St Mary's School's Easter Puppet show and Bentfield School's assembly this month and very much enjoyed both events. We have also been out and about in the village, visiting Bentfield pond to see the frog spawn and a couple of weeks later the tadpoles. The children are now waiting expectantly to see how the tadpoles in the aquarium at Rainbow develop into frogs.

On the last day of term children in the older group showed their performing talents in an excellent Easter concert for their parents and were rewarded for their efforts by collecting an Easter egg each in the Rainbow Easter egg hunt.

We have continued fund-raising this month and our Easter Party on the 13th April was a great success. The Easter bonnet parade showed impressive creative skills and around 50 children took part in the fun and games.

Our next major event is the Chinese Auction on Saturday 3rd May, 7.30pm at St John's Hall. Various items will be up for auction with bids at 20p increments – the interesting twist is that all items are boxed so that you do not know what you are bidding for. This promises to be a fun evening so please support the pre-school. Tickets are £6.00, which includes a fish/chicken/veggie and chip supper and one drink. All proceeds will go towards the costs of building a new outside shelter.

We are very grateful at Rainbow pre-school for the support provided by local businesses. We would particularly like to thank Natasha Caton of the Mill House Tea Room, who has donated a Sunday Lunch for two to be auctioned during the Chinese Auction and Dorringtons, who donated 150 hot cross buns to help provide adult refreshments at our Easter events.

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

Wednesday Senior Club Evening

This activity started on 2nd April. All senior members and potential new members are invited to come along and join in from 5pm onwards. This also applies to the regular Sunday mornings from 9.30am.

Sweat Shirts/T Shirts

These are still available in various shades and sizes sporting the Stansted Tennis Club logo. If you would like to see samples and are interested in purchasing these please contact Kate Rutter (senior sizes) 813053 or Chris Hollis (junior sizes) 319155.

Coaching

Chris Hollis has started the spring/summer junior coaching programme at the club. Classes are on Saturday morning, Monday, Thursday and Friday afternoons and a match practice session is held on Tuesday afternoons. If you would like to find out more details please contact Chris on 319155.

Used Tennis Balls

Tubes of four used tennis balls in good condition for £1. Balls for dogs are free! Please contact Janet Hollis on 812073.

Chilli Tournament

A very successful tournament was held on 6th April. It was won 6-2 in the final by Roger Loveday and Tony Brown, who beat Jane Harrison and Richard Mott. A delicious chilli lunch was served.

Boyd Tournament

The next tournament will be the Boyd Tournament held in memory of Fred Boyd on Sunday 11th May starting promptly at 1.30 pm. Please enter your name on the list in the clubhouse.

Club Tournament & Saffron Walden Hospitals Cup Tournament

Please enter names on the lists at the clubhouse. Closing date for entries 31st May for club tournament and 13th May for Hospitals Cup.

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



This year's Open Gardens afternoon is on Sunday 13 July from 2-6 p.m. Book the date now and ring 814265 for offers, etc. Details will appear in the June issue.

STANSTED AIRPORT EXPANSION IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The Government has recently re-launched the consultation on its far-reaching plans for Stansted Airport and is inviting comments from the public. Here's what the plans could mean for our community.

Scale of Proposals

The proposals include options for one, two and three extra runways at Stansted. The sheer scale of these proposals is hard to imagine. With three extra runways, Stansted would become the world's biggest airport - capable of handling 129 million passengers a year.

At present, the world's biggest airport is Atlanta, USA which handled 77 million passengers last year. Heathrow handled 63 million. **With just one extra runway** Stansted would grow to 82 million passengers a year, 30% bigger than today's Heathrow and even bigger than Atlanta.

The Government plans to transfer 40% of Heathrow's scheduled transatlantic and long haul services to Stansted as soon as the second runway opens. Plans to build a second runway could be submitted as early as next year.

A massive increase in freight traffic is also envisaged, making Stansted the busiest freight airport in Europe. The majority of air freight movements would be during the night.

Aircraft landings and take-offs at Stansted could increase to over 2000 a day under the Government's plans - one every 30 seconds by day and every 3 minutes by night. One third would be jumbos. The noise would be intrusive over a huge area involving four counties: Essex, Hertfordshire, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

Related Development

Building such an airport would be one of the biggest construction projects ever undertaken in the UK, destroying hundreds of homes and whole communities in the process but the real worry is the effect which associated development would have on this predominantly rural region, completely transforming its character and creating one large urban sprawl.

Thousands of acres of open countryside would be bulldozed to make way for the runways, terminal buildings, warehouses, roads, office blocks and hotels needed to serve the airport.

An estimated 83,000 new 'affordable' homes would be needed to accommodate the influx of new airport workers and between 30 and 40 hotels of similar size to the present Stansted Hilton would be needed if three extra runways were to be built.

For one extra runway, the requirements would, of course, be less - around 47,000 extra homes and about 20 hotels of

similar size to the Hilton. But the scale of development would still be enormous.

Transport

With three extra runways, traffic to the airport is forecast to increase by seven fold. The impact upon the local road network are not difficult to foresee. No matter what new roads were built to accommodate this increase, the prospect of gridlock seems inevitable.

The rail network is no better placed to cope with the vast increase in passengers en route to the airport: an extra line between Stansted and Liverpool Street is not planned for another 20 years. Regular commuters to London will clearly understand the implications of this.

Health & Education

There would be significant health issues for the local area - especially for our children, the elderly and those with respiratory problems - as a result of higher concentration levels of aircraft emissions in the vicinity of the airport.

There are also implications for the education of our children. Studies elsewhere show that interruptions from aircraft noise cause lapses in classroom concentration and damage the quality of education in schools which are near to airports.

Environment & Heritage

Expansion to accommodate three extra runways would increase the current airport site from 2,300 to 5,400 acres - devouring good quality agricultural land and countryside. 326 homes would be destroyed and 64 Grade II listed buildings lost. Ancient woodlands and hedgerows would disappear forever, while enjoyment of sites such as Hatfield Forest and Dedham Vale would be severely compromised by the constant noise.

Even for one additional runway, the airport site would increase from 2300 to 4000 acres and would destroy more than 1000 acres of the Countryside Protection Zone which surrounds the airport. Two scheduled ancient monuments and more than 111 homes would be bulldozed, including 29 Grade II listed buildings.

More countryside would disappear under the pressure to build all the support services which the airport would need and to house the influx of new airport workers.

Jobs

With unemployment currently at very low levels in the areas around the airport and with a further 7000 jobs already in the pipeline as a result of the agreed expansion to 25 million passengers per year, there is no prospect that the 93,000 staff needed for a 129 million passenger airport at Stansted could be recruited locally. Hence the need for a massive housebuilding programme to provide affordable homes for the airport workforce.

What can I do?

If enough local people oppose these plans, the Government will think again. Please write to:

The Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
LONDON SW1P 4DR

And send a copy of your letter to your local MP, Sir Alan Haselhurst, asking him to follow up your concerns with the Secretary of State. The address for Sir Alan is:

Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
House of Commons,
Westminster
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The local community campaign opposing the airport expansion plans is spearheaded by **Stop Stansted Expansion**. Contact <www.stopstanstedexpansion.com> or phone (01279) 870558 for details of how you can play your part in opposing the Government's proposals – including sample letters to send to the Government on ten different themes.

Carol Barbone

De'coupage

Since my retirement four years ago, I have discovered a really interesting and fascinating hobby, De'coupage. With the use of a scalpel and specially designed prints I am able to create all types of pictures and with the help of my husband place the pictures in specially extended frames. Although each picture takes a lot of patience each one is different.

With the aid of a special curling tool I curl the paper to bring out the picture to resemble a 3-D effect and with several layers of varnish the picture can resemble china.

De'coupage gives me hours of pleasure but to fund my hobby I now attend Craft Fairs and talk on the subject, passing on what I have learned.

The history of De'coupage is interesting; I learned about this craft from a lovely lady I met on holiday and now I can pass it on to you.

If you or your Club are interested in hearing more why not give me a call.

Eileen Swain
01279 655401

STANSTED YOUTH PROJECT

I have reported many times in the past about the Stansted Youth 2000 Project. This brought about the modernisation of the Lower Street Youth Centre with its Coffee Bar in 2001. The other half of the project was a place for young people to use their skateboards. Geoffrey Sell and I have been pushing at Uttlesford for several years to get this set up on the spare land at the end of the car park in Lower Street. The Parish Council took up the project and applied for planning permission.

I was delighted that Uttlesford's Development Control Committee approved the application in April despite continuing opposition from council officers and a small minority of councillors. I hope the youngsters of Stansted are soon able to enjoy this new facility.

One of the messages I have picked up on the doorstep recently is that Stansted Mountfitchet is bursting at the seams, with shortages of space for outdoor recreational activities. We have to find ways to make the best use of what little land exists within the village. The alternative is to sit around talking and hoping a perfect solution will appear. It won't. So now we need to move forward to find the best solutions for a new health centre and more football pitches. There should be a second public meeting about the health centre in June or July.

Councillor Alan Dean
49 Recreation Ground, Stansted
Tel: 01279 813 579

Afternoon Tea at Durrington House, Sheering

Monday 16th June 2003 - 11.30am to 4.30pm

Celebrity Guest Speaker - Penelope Britain

Various High Quality Trade Stands

Programme of Events

11.30am Arrival - Trade stands open

1.30pm Sandwiches will be served in main marquee

2.15pm Celebrity Speaker

3.00pm Afternoon Tea

3.45pm St Clare Chief Executive

4.00pm Raffle & Auction

Ticket Price £20

Money raised from this event is for
St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood

For further information please contact The Fundraising Dept.
St Clare Hospice, Hasting wood Rd, Hastingwood Essex. CM17 9JX
Or ring 01279 413590

St Clare Hospice Registered Charity No. 1063631



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

Thank you to all of you who supported our Nearly New Sale at St John's Hall in April. The afternoon was a huge success and it looks like we will have raised around £400 when all the expenses have been paid out.

Following on from last month's article when I explained what the NCT is and what it does, this month I thought I would share with you some of the things that the NCT nationally has achieved from its campaigning activity in its 46 year history.

Did you know that largely thanks to the NCT:

Fathers and birth partners are not just allowed but are encouraged to attend and give support in labour and childbirth;

Healthy babies born in hospital are not routinely separated from their mothers straight after the birth;

Pubic shaves and enemas in early labour are a thing of the past;

Labouring women are no longer forced to accept painkilling drugs;

It is Government policy that maternity care should be centred on the needs, wishes and choices of the woman.

All of these changes took time and money, so you can be sure that all of the money that was raised at our Nearly New Sale and our other fund-raising events will be put to very good use, ensuring even more improvements in maternity services not only for us, but for our daughters and granddaughters too.

Turning to local matters, our activities for all members of the family continue with a vengeance throughout May and during half-term week. All parents or carers with babies, toddlers or pre-school children are most welcome to join us at any of our activities, coffees or events. Coffee events take place three times a week, with one meeting for each age group (babies, toddlers and pre-school).

See village noticeboards for details of what's going on or call Sarah on 01279 647022 for a free diary sheet listing of events. Sarah is also able to provide information about membership and our branch activities and services.

And, if you're not sure if the NCT is for you, then come along and meet us a few times before you join. You will be made most welcome and you can come as many times and to as many things as you want to.

For details of ante natal classes for first or second time parents, contact Rachel on 01279 718632. Breast-feeding support from a qualified counsellor is available 8am to 10pm 365 days a year by calling 0870 444 8708.

Tracy Todman



Hello again,

This spring term has really flown by and here we are getting ready for Easter. The children have been very busy learning all about new life and growth, after the long winter; planting runner beans in pots ready to put outside when safe to do so.

"Guess the weight of Yvette's Baby" raised more money for Nursery funds and Molly's mum Gill was the nearest to 6lbs 10oz so she wins an Early Learning voucher.

Red Nose Day was great fun; everyone wearing something red. The children made cakes and decorated them to sell to parents and friends and afterwards they sang nursery rhymes and action songs for them. There was a super picture of them all in the Observer.

There will be an Easter Egg hunt on the last two days of term and the children will make Easter Cards and Bunnies.

During the holidays I Spy Round the Village competition will again raise money for Nursery funds. The children will be sponsored to collect 10 items and mount these on a board. The best ones will be displayed for all to see (that means all of them!).

Sideways would like to thank the mystery donor who gave us some really lovely books. They have been well used.

The topic for next half term will still be about the Seasons, Spring into Summer. Also "All about me" when the children will keep records and find out all about themselves and their families.

A visit to the fire station, train trip to Newport recreation ground, another visit to Mole Hall and visits from the police and lollipop lady are just a few things to look forward to.

Our 30th Anniversary Celebrations are not yet finalised. More information in a later issue.

Do call in and see us in St John's Church Hall any morning. Stay and play; you will be most welcome.

Auntie Helen

ISABEL HOSPICE

A sponsored walk is to take place at Furneux Pelham on Sunday 22nd June in aid of Macmillan Nurses. A worthy cause for which forms are available from Mary Gethin on 01279 777610.



**STANSTED &
DISTRICT LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS.**

Our next ploughman's lunches are on Saturday 10th May and Saturday 14th June at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2pm. All are welcome.

The next social event is a Spanish evening at Henham on Saturday 21st June. Please ring 814222 or 813432 for details.

Ruth Rawlinson



GRAHAM SCHOOL OF DANCE

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email: philip@grahamschoolofdance.fsnet.co.uk

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SATURDAY 7th JUNE

6.30pm for 7.30pm

**St Peter's Church and Ugley Hall
Gardens**

Tickets £17
(includes champagne reception)

Bring your own picnic

For tickets, please call 01799 543480
In aid of St Clare Hospice

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT INTERVIEWS

SIR ALAN HASELHURST

Friday 9th May 2003

Parish Council Office, Crafton Green, Stansted
5.45pm-6.30pm

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

SNIPPETS

We are pleased to report that the Revd. Margaret and Geoff Booker are now recovered from their maladies. Margaret resumed her duties at Houghton at Easter.

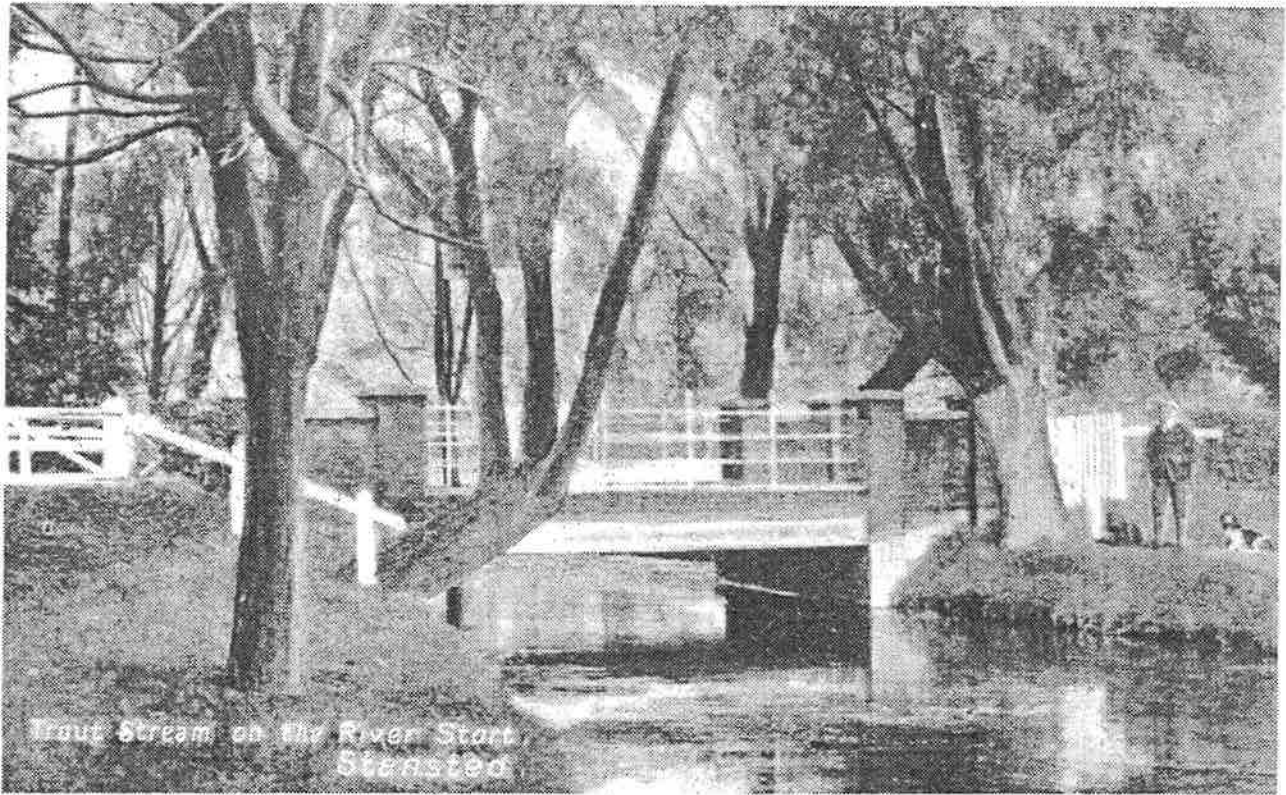
We are also happy to congratulate Lily Brett, formerly of Millside and now in Broome End Nursing Home, on her 103rd birthday. Lily is a lifelong resident of Stansted and on her 100th birthday featured in our Stansted Profile series.

This month Bernard and Lyn Irving are leaving the Queens Head pub in Lower Street after 14 years. We wish them well for the future, and welcome the new Mine Host who was at one time landlord at the Chequers in Ugley.

Bentfield Primary School said goodbye to their reception teacher Abbey Dean before Easter at a special assembly. She moves on to a school near Braintree. We wish her much luck in the future.

The Editor is considering issuing a "Pothole of the Month" Award for the largest or most significant pothole in Stansted. At time of writing a clear winner is Stoney Common which boasts a real suspension-buster. Now that those in Mill Hill have been repaired the runners up could be the entrance to St. John's Church car park or of course Woodfields. Other nominations, please.

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.



The bridge over New Farm Road or Gypsy Lane has been rebuilt since this pre-war photograph was taken but is not seen to good effect from a fast moving car. It still retains its pleasing proportions. In those days the river was higher and supported a good fish population to the benefit of local anglers. The picture illustrates how well-maintained fencing can enhance the scene. Does any reader know if there are still trout in the river?

Photograph by courtesy of Sid Stringer



Adult Learning – on your doorstep!

NORTH & WEST ESSEX ADULT COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Essex County Council

*Centres in Stansted, Thaxted, Dunmow,
Saffron Walden, Harlow & Epping*

GET ON WITH ENGLISH & MATHS

FREE adult classes in English & Maths, Stansted, Saffron Walden, Dunmow

ONE DAY HOLIDAY LANGUAGE COURSES starting soon!

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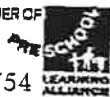
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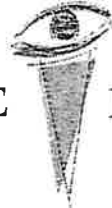
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