

Oct 2003

# The *LINK*



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Mountfitchet*

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# Voices for Hospices 2003

## Hospices in Harmony

IN AID OF ST CLARE HOSPICE HASTINGWOOD

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 pm**

**St John's Church**

**with St John's Church Choir**

Folk songs  
Spirituals

Close harmony  
arrangements  
of popular songs

Madrigals  
Anthems

*Wine & Refreshments*

**Tickets £7    Concessions £5**



*from St John's Benefice Office Tel 815243*

*Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10 am - 12.30 pm*

*Caroline Bore Tel 413590, choir members, or at the door*

**This will be just one of 490 performances being given  
in 40 countries at this time for hospices worldwide  
*The World's Largest Musical Event - be part of it!!***

**The Link (price £3.50 per year) is published monthly by Churches Together in Stansted**

Advertising enquiries Tel 01279 812797

All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel 01279 812593

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by 9<sup>th</sup> October for publication on 25<sup>th</sup> October

by 13<sup>th</sup> November for publication on 29<sup>th</sup> November



# METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

**Minister** Rev'd Keith Page  
2 South Road  
Bishop's Stortford  
Tel 01279 654475

**Secretary** Mrs Catherine Dean  
49 Recreation Ground

**Stansted**  
Tel 01279 813579

**Email** methodists@stansted.net

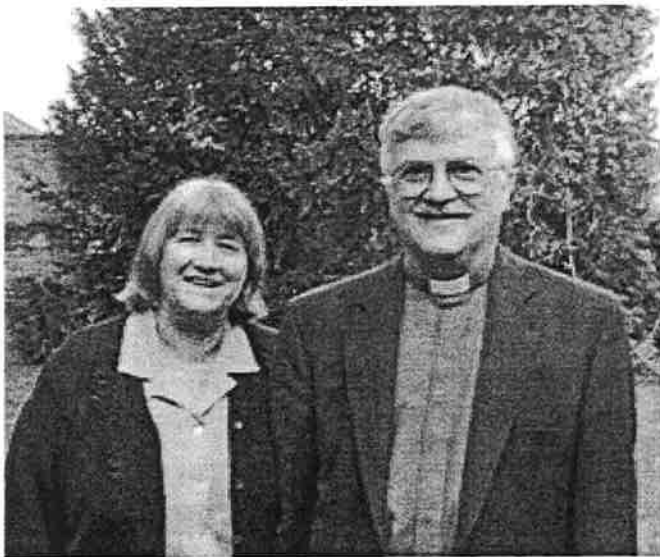
**All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated**

## Services and preachers for October

5th Christine Heyhoe  
12th Rev'd Keith Page - Holy Communion  
19th Rev'd Harry Wood  
26th Fran Page

Friday 10 October at 8pm:  
Church Council meeting at 7 Blythwood Gardens

We welcome our new minister Keith Page, together with his wife Frances and daughter Rosamunde. Fran is an active Local Preacher and Ros is currently training to be one, so we anticipate hearing some challenging and competitive sermons from the Page family!



**Fran and Keith Page**

## A message from Keith

About 20 years ago, the company I was working for in London gave us prior warning that they were planning to move onto a 'green field' site north of London – somewhere close to where Hertfordshire and Essex meet. It seems strange now, but the Page family made a few Saturday jaunts around this area with a view to living here.

The Lord had other ideas and our so-called well thought out plans took a different turn. I was accepted for the ministry and in 1987 we took up residence in Bristol where I did my training. I have had three appointments – Castletown, Isle of Man; Kingswood, Bristol (where John Wesley's ministry really started) and, until this year, on the Waterside (New Forest) section of the Southampton Circuit.

I was brought up not too far away in Dagenham. My wife Fran comes from the Isle of Man. She is a teacher and has just secured a position at a school in Roydon. Rosamunde (Ros) works for Barclays Bank, and has been most fortunate to obtain a transfer to the Bishop's Stortford branch.

From next September my responsibilities will be greater as I will be Superintendent of the Bishop's Stortford Methodist Circuit. Therefore, I consider the most important task for my first year is to look, listen, and to make myself known to you.

Currently I have pastoral responsibility for three churches; Bishop's Stortford, Braughing and Stansted, and am looking forward to being involved with Stansted folk as often as possible.

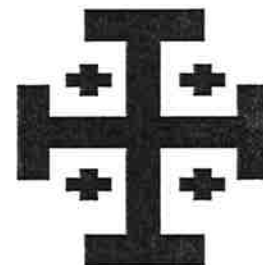
Keith Page



**CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
in STANSTED**

The CTS AGM will take place on Tuesday 14th October in the Lecture Hall of the United Reformed Church, 7pm for 7.30pm. Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. David Thompson, Ecumenical Officer for the Cambridge district of the URC, who will be talking about his experiences of ecumenism. All are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served from 7pm.

Ruth Rawlinson





The Parishes of  
Stansted Mountfitchet  
with Birchanger  
and Farnham

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

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

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

*Administrator*  
**Mrs Elizabeth Jennings**

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

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

*Honorary Assistant Priest*  
**Canon Derek Jackson**  
88 Stansted Road  
Bishop's Stortford  
Herts, CM23 2DZ  
phone (01279) 652664

*Director of Music*  
**Mrs Glynis Morris**  
Wakeley  
Leetes Lane  
Eversden  
Cams, CB3 7HH  
phone/fax (01223) 263640  
<church.music@stansted.net>

*Children's Church*  
**Mrs Sandra Wood**  
(01279) 647054  
<sandra@skygod.demon.co.uk>

## Lost innocence

Last spring I went to a church schools conference. One of the speakers began by asking us what we most hoped our children would have by the time they left our respective schools. The responses from the floor were about self-assurance, of being confident about belonging in the world, a spiritual sense, compassion, empathy. The speaker responded that none of these qualities was on the National Curriculum.

Two months later I was talking to a man in a City bar about the future of the church where he lived. He said he was keen to support it because his wife and children go there, and church is good for women and kids. A couple of beers later, he was saying that the church has nothing to say to the part of his life which begins on Monday morning, (he has a point.)

The thing that I can't get my head around is that, what we covet for our children we have given up on for ourselves. There is nothing wrong with wanting our kids to have awe and wonder at the world in which they are set, we want them to grow confident, strong and become fully rounded human beings. We also want things for them that we either didn't have ourselves, or that we once had, but lost along the way. We want a child to be sincere, because in adulthood you can't always be sincere, we prize honesty and candour knowing that, in the world of work, these won't always get you to where you want to be. We go misty-eyed when a child chooses a relationship over a toy, because in adult life we can easily slip into loving things and using people, rather than the other way round.

We want all these qualities for our children, without asking how we came to lose

them ourselves. When it comes to faith, it's good for a child to know how to pray, while for us it has become a device of last resort, when all else has failed.

It's not easy for adults to sit back and look at how things have turned out. In adolescence we make choices about how we want to live our lives, in middle age we have to ask whether we can live with what we have done. This is part of life, it comes to us all. But fewer of us ever ask about what our life has done to us? Has our life made us more human or less? What price have we paid for the choices we have made?

Jesus looked at his starving, malnourished and displaced countrymen impoverished as their Roman masters appropriated Jewish ancestral lands and commercialised them, and transferred the wealth to the cities. A commercial empire dehumanised his fellows and he set about a programme of creating communities where the unemployed and the cast-offs of empire were made to belong, the malnourished were fed, and the sick healed. He said that this was a snapshot of what the world looked like when God was in control, he called it the Kingdom of God, and it was a way of restoring humanity to people caught up in the callous, impersonal commercial machine of empire.

In two thousand years some things don't change, especially if we leave the human ideals to our children. Jesus said we had to be like little children to enter the Kingdom, but it takes adults to start making the world a place where we can each grow to become be fully human. This starts by creating communities where we treat our neighbour as if they were made in the image of God. AS

### St. John's Diary

Sundays 8:00am Holy Communion *said*  
9:30am Parish Communion *sung*  
11:00am Open Door Service on  
the 5th and 19th of October

#### Harvest Festival Service 9:30am October 5th

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. **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.

### All Souls Service of Remembrance of the Departed

Our annual All Souls Service will be on **Sunday 2nd November, 2003 at 6:30pm.**

This is a service in which the names of departed loved ones are read out in prayer and remembered before God.

Anyone can ask for a name to be included, whether or not they can attend the service.

Letters are sent out to all nexts of kin of funeral services the clergy have conducted in the last twelve months. These names are automatically included in the prayers. Apart from this, the list is made from scratch each year, so that it reflects current prayer needs.

If you would like to submit a name for the list, please send it to the Church Office, (not to the Rectory, please) by mail, hand or email.



(continued)

**From the Registers**

**Weddings:**

**August**

- 2nd Kellie Anne Bassick and Julian Michael Harrington
- 9th Caroline Anne Archer and Wesley Philip Burton
- 23rd Sarah Leverentz and Andrew David Jonathan Darbyshire (wedding blessing)

**Funerals:**

**July**

- 15th Dorothy Evelyn Thompson age 94 years
- 17th Ivy Parish age 84 years
- 24th Anabita De Lex (Charles) Rogers
- 29th Violet Dellow age 94 years

**August**

- 7th Maureen Anne Robinson age 58 years
- 8th Albert Sydney Whall age 85 years

**PCC Away Day**

On Saturday 6th September the Parochial Church Council members spent an eye-opening and exciting day together as a group, to identify where we are as a Church and where we feel we ought to be. The Rector had given the PCC some preparatory work to do in the form of four questions:

- What is the character of your God?
- What is the content of your faith?
- What is the purpose of your Church?
- What is the function of your worship?

As a result of the various responses, they were able to better appreciate and understand God's purpose for us and this led them on to consider the Church's strengths and weaknesses as a community.

All enjoyed the experience of talking, listening, and learning together, and the building blocks are now in place to move the initial thinking forward.

Over the next few months the PCC will be producing in stages a plan for the Church in this village in the 21st century. It is hoped that everyone; that is, the whole congregation, will take ownership of this plan and the PCC will be inviting and welcoming comments and views at any stage as the details unfold.

It should be an exciting time for all of us.

Alan Corbishley

**Hospices In Harmony**

"Voices for Hospices Concert"

The choir will be holding a concert in St John's Church on the evening of Saturday 4th October 2003 (7.30 pm) as part of the international 'Hospices in Harmony' event with all proceeds going to the St Clare Hospice in Hastingwood.

Tickets, £7 (£5 concessions - pensioners & under 16s) available from the Church Office and after the 9.30 am Parish Communion Service.

**QUIZ NIGHT**

in aid of the Monze Education Fund, Zambia\*

St John's Church Hall

Saturday 15th November

7pm for 7.30pm start

Tickets £7 to include fish and chip or chicken and chip supper. Tickets will be on sale after the 9.30pm service at St John's or contact Judy or Tony on 652766

\*Monze is situated midway between Victoria Falls and Lusaka, the Zambian capital. Schooling in Zambia is not free and only teachers' salaries are funded by the Government; no provision is made for the purchase of equipment, repairs to buildings etc. The object of the Monze Education Fund (MEF) is to sponsor the orphaned children (10 per cent of the pupils) and help to improve the school infrastructure and facilities. The teachers and parents are very motivated and they are currently engaged in making bricks at a site several kilometres from the school for the purpose of building new classrooms, but funding is needed for transportation to the school site. Our long-term aim is to provide support for post-secondary education in sustainable agriculture which will enable students to support their families and communities.



# 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 9.30 am  
- Saturday

## Confessions

Saturday 10 am  
and by appointment

**Baptisms** by appointment

Five years ago a Mass celebrated by the Pope in the Sistine Chapel was attended by a family especially invited from Poland. They were a father and mother, their children and their children's children. The Mass was the beatification Service of Fr Maximillian Kolbe, the first stage in the process of conferring sainthood in the Catholic Church.

Some fifty years earlier, the father of the family had been randomly picked out by the Kommandant of Auschwitz as someone who would have to die in the hunger cells in reprisal for an escape from the camp. He fell to his knees sobbing knowing he would never see his wife and children again.

Fr Kolbe, who was among the assembled prisoners, then stepped forward and calmly offered to take the man's place in the hunger cells. This offer was accepted and through tear-stained eyes, the father saw Fr Kolbe being marched to the underground cells in his place, to be left to starve to death.

Jesus said, "No greater love hath any man than he who lays down his life for his friends". The Church recognised Fr Kolbe's imitation of the total unselfish nature of God's love, and two years ago proclaimed him St Maximillian Kolbe.

The father and the family he had enabled to live through his sacrifice were present again to rejoice and ponder on the great mystery of God's love.

David Morson

# 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 October

5th	10.30	Mrs M Kendal
12th	10.30	Rev'd D Simpson - Communion
19th	10.30	Mr B Parkin
26th	10.30	Rev'd D Simpson

## Shoe Boxes

"Operation Christmas Child", a project of the Samaritan's Purse charity, has been sending shoe boxes to needy children around the world since 1990. Each year the number of boxes has increased. Last year 1.2 million children in 15 East European countries received a shoe box from the UK, and in most cases this was the only gift that these children received at Christmas. Worldwide through the Samaritan's Purse international offices, 6.2 million shoe boxes were distributed in 104 countries regardless of their Nationality, Political background or Religious beliefs, and where appropriate, the children are also offered a booklet of Bible stories.

Due to import regulations all items in the boxes should be new or nearly new, and they must **not** contain:

1. Mirrors, glass containers, or fragile items
2. Liquids, eg blow bubbles, shampoos, bubble bath or aerosols
3. Toys which depend on batteries for their operation .
4. Marbles or sharp objects
5. War related items, eg toy guns and soldiers
6. Clothing other than hats, gloves and scarves
7. Edible items, eg crisps, biscuits, tinned food or cake, but all types of sweets are OK.

To help with the transportation costs of the shoe boxes, the music group "Charity" are arranging a musical quiz and concert at the United Reformed Church on Saturday 1st November at 7.30 pm; see details elsewhere in The Link. There will be a coffee evening in the Lecture Hall on November 4th to make up the boxes, to which everyone is welcome to come. If you have any items but not sufficient for a whole box, please let Janet Townsend have them by that date, or any completed boxes that you have by November 10th. Help us to beat the 99 boxes we made up in 2002!! For further information and leaflets please contact Janet Townsend on 812593

# 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

## Thoughts on One World Week

One World Week takes place every October and gives us an opportunity to think about our relationships (both personal and national) with other countries and peoples. The inequalities of our world were brought home to me this year when on holiday in Kenya with our 16 year old granddaughter - in particular on two occasions. Once when we visited a school in the bush: two classes of about 20 children, ages ranging from 3 to 11, in a barn, two or three had pencils, two had exercise books; there were no books or teaching aids except a blackboard, and there were two dedicated (but often unpaid) teachers. The second occasion was being surrounded by young children begging in Mombasa. The gulf between the developed and less developed world was stark and uncomfortable. Our granddaughter said "Isn't there something we can do" - a question most of us ask without finding a satisfactory answer, except putting our hands in our pockets.

Two of the aims of One World Week are "to raise awareness about what's going on in the world - both on our doorsteps and far away" and "to take action to overcome poverty, promote justice and work towards sustainability". We seem rather better at the first than the second.

The Churches of all denominations have quite a good record of helping schools and promoting self-help projects in the developing world, but the problems are more fundamental than charitable works can cope with. In order to get a fairer distribution of the world's resources political action is necessary. Christian Aid has grasped this nettle and works hard to lobby MP's and national and international organisations in order to get a fairer trading system. Perhaps we should all urge our denominations and those who lead them to speak out much more strongly and use their influence wherever and whenever they can.

Katharine Hurford



# Shalom

"Father, in your Shalom is fullness of life,  
in your peace our healing and wholeness.  
Give us your peace that we may be at peace -  
with ourselves  
with each other  
with the world around us  
and with you.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

For the past 18 years we have begun each of our alternate Monday evenings together with this prayer; the words reminding us of our continuing need of the peace and wholeness that faith brings. As a group of most denominations, we have shared a continuous 'friendship in faith' sharing our beliefs and inner thoughts, drawing strength and inspiration from each other. The togetherness of our annual weekend retreat has become a special delight.

Throughout the past 18 years we have filled our evenings with worship, Bible study, social debate, faith discussions and so on, with fun evenings of music, poetry and playlets also being enjoyed. Ministers of most denominations, from within and without the village, have led meditational evenings and spoken on many and varied subjects. We have been visited by people of other faiths to speak of their beliefs and concerns, and by charity representatives to tell of their work, problems and needs.

But, we seek to be more than a 'Meeting', with individuals having involvement in CTS, Christian Aid, Amnesty, the local RAP fund raising, and ecumenical events. As a group we have a link with, and raise funds for, the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland and we have 'touched hands' with the communities of the Synagogue at Harlow and the Bishop's Stortford Mosque.

If our activities, both home and away, as it were, appeal to you, we invite you to join us. Don't ask - just turn up. News of the evenings can always be found in the Link under our own heading and in 'Village Events'.

## October Meetings

Monday 6th. - A Christian journey into Buddhism at  
7 Blythwood Gardens

Monday 20th. - An evening with the Clown Doctor at the  
Friends Meeting House.

All meetings start at 8p.m. Why not come along?

Harry Goreing



## Voices for Hospices 2003

Concert for St Clare Hospice

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

**7.30 pm**

**St John's Church**

*Wine & Refreshments*

Tickets £7 & £5 Concessions

from St John's Benefice Office


Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings

Tel 815243, or at the door

## Bentfield School PTA

### MUSIC QUIZ

Sat 4th October

 7.30 for 8 pm

£6 incl. Light Supper

**Tickets 647650**

## Hearing Help Uttlesford

### Coffee Morning

Wednesday 8th October

10 am - noon

Stansted Day Centre

Cake Stall & Raffle

Admission 50p

*incl coffee & biscuits*

*Pay & Display Car Park*

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### October

1	Wed	Mountfitt Seniors Clothes Show	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
2	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Sat	"Voices for Hospices"	St John's Church 7.30 pm
		Music Quiz	Bentfield School 7.30 pm
5	Sun	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Pk 1 - 4 pm
		Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
6	Mon - 10	Fri Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
6	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
8	Wed	Hearing Help Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon
9	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
10	Fri	Family Disco	St John's Hall 6 - 9 pm
		RBL Fish & Chip Supper	Day Centre 7.30 pm
11	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
		Auction of Promises	Mountfitchet High School 7.30 pm
14	Tue	Churches Together AGM	UR Church Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
15	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
16	Thu	RBL (Women) AGM	Day Centre 7.30 pm
18	Sat	Mountfitchet Sen'rs Autumn Sale	Day Centre 2 pm
		NCT Nearly New Sale	St John's Hall 3 - 4.30 pm
		Village Music Club	St John's Church 8 pm
20	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
29	Wed	Uttlesford Crossroads Coffee	Day Centre 10 am - noon

### November

1	Sat	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Pk 1 - 4 pm
		'Charity' music quiz / concert	United Reformed Church 7.30 pm
4	Tue	HEAL Coffee Morning	49 St John's Road 10 am - noon
		Shoe Box Coffee Evening	United Reformed Church 7.30 pm
5	Wed	Sparkler Night	Bentfield School 6 - 7.30 pm
6	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8	Sat	Village Bonfire & Fireworks	<i>to be confirmed</i>
9	Sun	Laying of Wreaths	War Memorial 10.45 am
15	Sat	Quiz for Zambia	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
16	Sun	Craft Fayre	M'fitchet High School 10 am - 4 pm



## GARRY'S FAMILY DISCO

*mainly for the under-14's*

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

**6 - 9 pm**

**St John's Church Hall**

*Admission £2*

*in aid of the Skateboard Park*



Mountfitchet High School PTA

## Auction of Promises

Saturday 11th October

7.30 pm

£6 including supper

*Licensed Bar*

Tel Jackie 816282 / Mike 812780



National Childbirth Trust

## Nearly New Sale

Clothes ~ Equipment

Toys ~ Books

**3 pm Sat 18th October**

**St John's Hall**

Entry by donation at the door



## COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 4th November

10 am - noon

49 St John's Road

Cakes ~ Home-made jams ~ Raffle

Tombola ~ Bric à brac

Entry 50p including coffee & biscuits

All welcome



**FUN MUSIC QUIZ**

&

**LIVE MUSIC NIGHT**

with **'CHARITY'**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

**7.30pm**

**United Reformed Church**

**Tickets £5 inc. refreshments**

All Proceeds to

**Operation Christmas Child** 



**ZEPHYR  
ENSEMBLE**

**Wind & Brass**

**8 pm Sat 18th October**

**St John's Church**

*Tickets from Stansted Carpets;*

*Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;*

*Options Hair Salon, Elsenham;*

*Sonia Levy 815282, or at the door*

*£9 adults, £7 conc, £3 or £1 children*



## UTTLESFORD CARERS

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

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



## HAZEL END FARM SHOP *(under new management)*

Gypsy Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 1HA

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

01279 810854

0776 5802157

All enquiries welcome

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



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## SNIPPETS

Tony Butcher, The Link's assistant editor and computer operator, has just relinquished the role he has held for three or four years. Tony's expertise will be missed, for he was a keen observer of detail and helped us to avoid many a pitfall. On behalf of the largely unseen readership, "thank you Tony for all that you have done". His space will be filled by greater input from Mike Dyer and Susan Bone. If nothing else, Tony's departure demonstrates how dependent we are on willing volunteers. Is there a thinly disguised appeal here? If you feel that you could help the team in any way, from preparing the copy to distributing, or perhaps as an emergent contributor, please ring the number on the front page.

July seems a long time ago but we should not let summer pass without congratulating the organisers and the good folk who opened their gardens for HEAL, both on the principal day, when a record number of gardens were available to viewing, and on the earlier one-off opening in memory of Brian Chopping, which itself raised £601. All this represents a great deal of planning, preparation, both administrative and horticultural, and a nerve-racking dependence on the weather. The monies raised are considerable, but so is the pleasure provided.

Once again the winner of the Stansted Pothole contest is Woodfields which now has an impressive selection of cavities. Travellers along this highway need to be sound in limb and sharp of eye in order to reach their journey's end, especially after sunset. In contrast, St John's Road has the appearance of a recuperated patient. The Stansted street scene rarely suffers from monotony, just a cyclical dearth of cash.

The Editor



**STANSTED &  
DISTRICT LIBERAL  
DEMOCRATS.**

Our next ploughman's lunch will be on Saturday 11th October at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2 pm. All are welcome.

The Branch AGM will be held at 11.30 am on Saturday 8th November at the Stansted Day Centre, followed by the usual ploughman's, 12 noon to 2 pm.

Also on Saturday 8th November, at 7pm for 7.30 pm, we are holding a Quiz at the Stansted Day Centre. The Quizmaster will be David Morson, and the cost of £6 includes light refreshments.

The Annual Constituency Dinner will be held on Friday, 14th November, 7.30pm for 8pm, at Elsenham Village Hall. The speaker will be Lembit Opik MP. Tickets £20. Please ring 814222 or 813432 for tickets and/or further information on the above events.

Ruth Rawlinson

## Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk Ruth Clifford  
Office Hours  
10 am - 1 pm  
Monday - Friday



Council Offices  
Crafton Green  
Tel 813214  
Fax 813964

### Skateboarding Project

Our working group continues to make progress on this, liaising with existing sites and speaking to local youngsters in an effort to ensure that what is provided is what is wanted. We are currently looking for a contractor to quote for laying the concrete surfacing on an area of 30m x 20m - if you know of anyone who may be interested, please contact the Clerk on 813214. Please also refer to the Village Events page for details of a Family Disco' to be held on 10th October in aid of the scheme.

### Dates for your Diary

November may be some time off yet, but please put these dates in your diary:

Saturday 8 November

- Bonfire and Fireworks

Sunday 9 November

- Remembrance Day Parade and Service at St John's

### Street Lighting

We have been experiencing further difficulties with our lighting contractors and the length of time it takes them to replace bulbs. If you know of any lights which are not working, or which are day burning, please report them to the office on 813214.

Ruth Clifford  
Clerk

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### Chemist:

Moss Pharmacy 812278

#### Dental Surgeries::

Marina Carew 870077

Hillside Practice 815041

#### Doctors' Surgery:

St John's Road 813200

#### HELPLINE:

07659 550127

#### Stansted Police:

812211

#### Stansted Parish Council:

813214

#### Stansted Post-Office:

813610

#### Local Schools:

Bentfield County Primary 813626

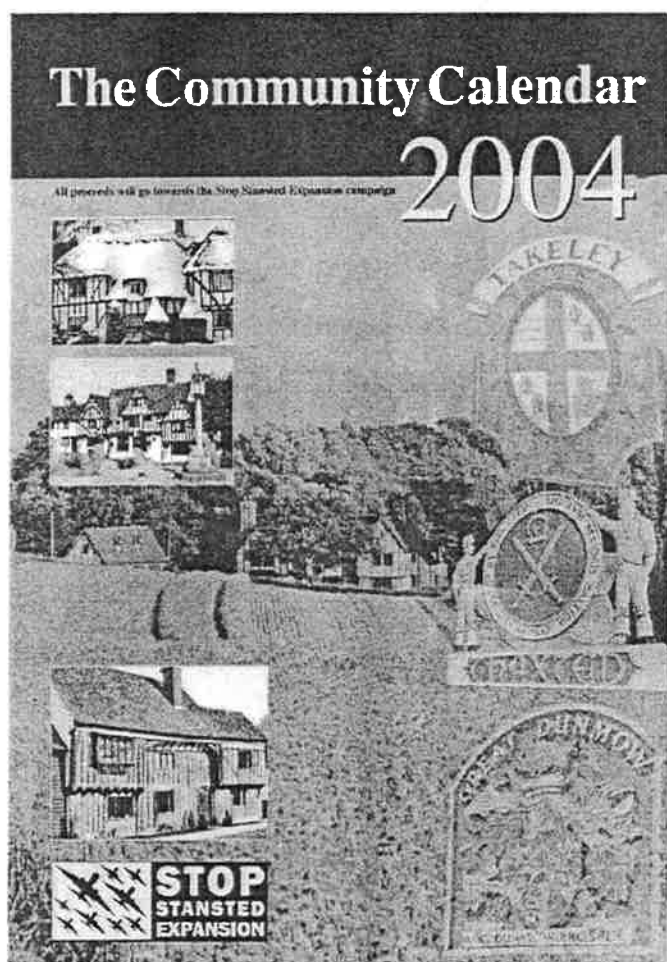
St Mary's C of E Primary 812212

Mountfitchet High 813384



## STOP STANSTED EXPANSION COMMUNITY CALENDAR 2004

In December 2002, Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) produced the 2003 Community Calendar, depicting places threatened by proposals to expand Stansted Airport. In order to raise funds, and also to raise awareness of what is at stake, SSE has produced a 2004 Community Calendar that will go on sale in October. Like its predecessor, the 2004 Calendar features images that are representative of the rich abundance of beauty, diversity and heritage that make the community around the airport so special. The month of December is devoted to Stansted Mountfitchet and will remind residents of 31st January 2003, the day when snow brought traffic to a halt on the M11 and the Airport fell silent.



All proceeds from sale of the Calendar will go to SSE's campaign funds. All photographers, distributors, sales outlets, door-to-door sellers and other helpers are generously giving their services free of charge.

## Help Needed

Support for the Stop Stansted Expansion campaign has always been strong in the village and the Calendar project team is being led by Stansted resident Ken McDonald. Some volunteers have already pledged to help sell the calendar door-to-door but more helpers would be most welcome. Those who ventured into selling last year, most for the first time in their life, found the experience most rewarding. After some initial trepidation, the Stansted sales team found the exercise, the contact with so many interesting people, and the satisfaction of raising much needed funds for the campaign most stimulating. If you think you might be able to help this year, please contact Ken by phone on 01279 813226 or by email at [Teskey@btinternet.com](mailto:Teskey@btinternet.com).

The calendar will also be available from a number of shops in the village and by mail order from SSE's campaign office. Details will appear in the local press, on village noticeboards and on SSE's website, [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com)

## PRESS RELEASE

Issued by Stop Stansted Expansion 1 September 2003

### Quash Industry Rumours about Runway Decisions, Darling Told

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has today (1 September) written to the Secretary of State for Transport, Alistair Darling, asking him to put a stop to aviation industry rumour-mongering about runway decisions - and is asking the local community to do the same by writing their own letters as soon as possible.

The campaign group took swift steps following a news report (London Evening Standard) that a new runway is to be opened at Stansted in 2017 "according to an industry source". The report is the second of its kind in a fortnight and clearly designed to mislead people into thinking that "it's all over" and no longer worth campaigning.

"If everyone can write a short letter to Alistair Darling calling on him to tackle the rumours head on and to confirm that no decisions have yet been made regarding Stansted, this will do much to demonstrate the fact that while we are upset by these rumours, they make us more determined than ever to fight the proposals." said Norman Mead. "Anyone who does write should also reiterate their opposition to extra runways being built at Stansted".

The address for people to write is: The Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP, Secretary of State for Transport, 76 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DR. Those writing should send a copy to their local MP at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA asking him to follow up the matter further. A sample letter appears on the SSE website at [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com) or can be obtained from the campaign office on 01279 870558.



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

At the **August meeting** members were treated to an interesting and informative illustrated talk by Mr. Louis Drake on "Italian Gardens". Although many present were expecting to see and hear about gardens in Italy today, Mr. Drake devoted his talk to the development of gardens in the area around Florence during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Until the Medicis brought peace to this area of Italy in the middle of the 15th century, the hilltop villagers were constantly fighting the neighbouring villages and states. The Medicis were an extremely rich family and once peace reigned, set about building magnificent houses with associated gardens. Initially the gardens were small but as more rich people built houses in the region during the 15th and 16th centuries, the sizes of the gardens increased. These gardens were very formal, most including parterres with box hedges, and included, especially during the latter part of this time, elaborate water features. Apart from cascades and pools these often had elaborate fountains and objects driven by water power.

Throughout his talk Mr Drake showed slides of paintings depicting how many of the gardens looked when they were created. Unfortunately many have disappeared and those that remain are often run-down due to the high cost of restoration and maintenance. At the end of this very interesting talk the Chairman, Cyril Stoneham, thanked Mr Drake.

On Saturday 30th August the United Reformed Church Hall was once again the venue for the Mountfitchet Garden Club's **Autumn Show**. As with most recent shows, the number of entries was down owing to the recent spell of very hot weather; however the judges praised the high quality of the exhibits.

The prize-giving was carried out by the Club Chairman, Cyril Stoneham, who had to be assisted by Show Secretary Janet Townsend, as many of the prizes were won by him. Following the prize-giving there was a spirited auction of many of the exhibits, conducted by Brian Townsend.

The winners of the cups and medals were as follows:

Mumford Cup	Most points in the show	Cyril Stoneham
Hoffman Vase	Best exhibit	Gordon Fuller
Mitchell Cup	Floral Art	Janet Townsend
Mitchell Cup	Domestic Section	Sheila Bowles
Pimblett Tankard	Vegetable Section	Brian Townsend
Pimblett Tankard	Tray of vegetables	Brian Townsend
Hart Rosebowl	Flower Section	Cyril Stoneham
Ernie Morton Cup	Best Rose exhibit	Cyril Stoneham
Belcher Cup	Best Fuchsia pot plant	Cyril Stoneham
Sam Moule Trophy	Floraveg class	Cyril Stoneham

Fruit Cup	Fruit Section	MonicaDedman
Jean Wilson Cup	Best Domestic exhibit	Meg Monaghan
Betty Stoneham Cup	Best Dahlia exhibit	Cyril Stoneham
Green Bowl	Conservation Class	Cyril Stoneham
Silver Diploma	Best Dahlia bloom	Gordon Fuller
Bronze Diploma	Best Dahlia exhibit	Cyril Stoneham
RHS Banksian Medal	Highest amount of money in the two shows in 2003	Cyril Stoneham

At the September meeting Mr. Dennis Gifford, Head Gardener of King's College, Cambridge from 1961-1986, gave us a brief rambling, illustrated account of the development of King's College.

King's College was founded by Henry VI in 1441 as part of his scheme to create a college to take graduates from Eton which had been created the previous year. The impact on the town was great as many buildings near the River Cam were purchased and demolished to make way for the building. King's College Chapel was the only part of Henry's plans to be completed, but only many years after his death, when Henry VII, in his will, ordered the completion of the work. Since the reign of Henry VIII there have been extensive additions made, including the Gibbs Building in the early part of the 18th century.

King's College have purchased many plots of land in and around Cambridge since its foundation, including an estate of about 1000 acres in Grantchester. This was purchased because as the number of students grew from the original twelve, it became impossible to obtain sufficient food supplies locally.

Mr. Gifford related several amusing anecdotes regarding the grazing of cattle and sheep on the grounds, including a story about the escape of several rams which were eventually traced in various parts of Cambridge (including one found in a room up three flights of stairs!).

After the Chairman, Cyril Stoneham, had thanked Mr. Gifford at the end of his talk, Club President, David Williams, presented the prize money for the Autumn Show.

The next meeting of the Club will be on Wednesday 1st October at the Day Centre, Crafton Green when Mr Brian Creasey will give a talk on "The Garden Restoration and History of Easton Lodge". For non-members the admission fee is 75p – you will be most welcome.

David Loynds







## Nature Notes

A footnote to the Nature Notes in the previous issue of Link:



Biologists from Bristol University believe they have discovered how honey bees choose a suitable nest site and measure the capacity of the internal space. The ideal space (which may be a hive or a hollow tree) is 40 litres; this can accommodate 30,000 bees in addition to the honeycombs. It is thought that the bees estimate the space capacity by crawling over the internal walls to measure the surface area and by making very short flights to estimate the length of the free path to the entrance.

This amazing feat is the equivalent of humans being able to estimate *in darkness* the size of a space that could hold 30,000 people.

Rosina Kirkwood

## COMMUNITIES UNITED

### Loates Pasture and Longcroft

A spate of burglaries in our two roads was one of the reasons why we had a street party last year - the other was of course the Jubilee.

It was a good way to get to know our neighbours and was so successful that it was decided to have another party this year. July 12th, like much of June and July, proved to be very fine and warm. At around 4.30 pm a procession of families arrived with tables, chairs and sun umbrellas, as well as their "share" dish to celebrate the theme of "Nations United".

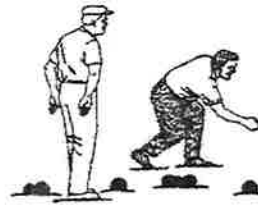
The marquee and long gazebo had been dressed overall with bunting and suitable flags. This, with the background music set the scene. The bar was declared open (it really was a hot day!) and the fun began.

A 'circulation/getting to know you' exercise got underway for the adults and the children - from "tinies to bigs" all set off on their treasure hunt. The star event as last year was the Tug o'War, with various heats and culminating with the children pulling against the adults - only to tumble over when the adults let go!

All the food was pronounced delicious and, together with the bar, just lasted out until the stragglers wandered home at around 11.30 pm.

Everyone seems to think that it was a great success so it is hoped to do it all again next year!

Pearl Wellings



## STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

We have once again had a very good bowling season, which when you read this, will sadly be over. We gained a few new members but are disappointed that there were not more; hopefully next year things will improve.

As well as our friendly games against other Clubs we have played a number of Cup games along with the Men's North West Essex League, the Ladies' Monday evening league and the new Ladies' Tuesday evening league. The Stansted Ladies successfully won the Tuesday League.

We held an inter-village competition, jointly and kindly sponsored by Daniel Robinson and Peasgoods Funeral Directors and Golden Charter. A total of eight local Clubs took part, with the winners being Thaxted, and Stansted coming second. Many thanks to those who donated raffle prizes. Next year Thaxted Bowls Club will host the event and we are most grateful for the continued sponsorship.

Being a small club we are always very grateful for any sponsorship, as the cost of maintaining the club is very expensive with minimal income from other sources. The Ladies held their own invitation afternoon, which was very enjoyable and raised some funds.

We held the Club Competitions Finals Day on Saturday 6th September. This was a super day and thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part and those who observed. It was good to see new faces winning some of the trophies this year.

The winners are as follows:

Men's Championship -	Rex Turner
Ladies' Championship -	Iris Hobday
Brett Cup (Men) -	Stephen Hill
Ladies' Challenge -	Pat Ainsworth
Alcock (Men 2 wood) -	Rex Turner
Newman Rose Bowl -	Dave Hunt
Buck Cup (Men's pairs) -	Tony Hobday and Paul Barnes
Dolly Thompson (Ladies pairs) -	Iris Hobday and Doreen Scraggs
Novices -	Dave Hunt

We managed to win the sponsored cup game against Elsenham Bowls Club again this year and they have, as always, threatened revenge next year - dreams can come true!

We now have a young member in our club, Daniel Barnes who really shows promise in becoming a good bowler. He has won the Emerson trophy in this, his first year and was runner up in the Novices Cup - well done Daniel. We would like to see some more young players join us - why not bring your son or daughter along next year?

Don't forget we are open each Friday evening and you can apply for social membership.

Rex Turner - Secretary/Chairman

## CHARITY

Welcome to 'Charity'; Stansted's newest band. It is the brainchild of sisters Rachel Warwick and Hannah Peachey (both née Warnett) who have had this idea in mind for some time. They wanted to use their musical talents for charitable events where they would have the opportunity to exercise their fine singing voices.

They were fortunate to be able to discuss the idea with Marion Dyer, Alan Wheeler and David Morson, who make up the members of the band. Marion is their excellent Musical Director and keyboard player. Alan and Dave are ace on their electro-acoustic guitars and the girls are the group's singers. They will occasionally be joined by the girls' old school pal, drummer Simon Baker, who stars in his own band, Uncle Funk.



**Alan, Dave, Hannah, Marion and Rachel**

Their choice of music spans the years from the 50s to modern day. The group charges no fee so the profits for good causes are higher. They find the enterprise immensely rewarding in itself.

The band's thanks go to Marion and Michael Dyer for providing amplification equipment to do the music justice. Michael is their 'Roadie' and configures the electronics to gain a professional sound. Thanks are also due to the Elders of the United Reformed Church who are letting the group use the Church premises for rehearsals.

'Charity' have already performed twice this year - you may have seen them at the Windmill Fête. They are gradually increasing their repertoire and are hoping to perform at various fund raising events in the village. Future bookings include concerts for Malawi and the URC Hall Restoration Fund. However, their next "gig" is to raise money for Operation Christmas Child, an event close to their hearts, and is on 1st November in the United Reformed Church starting at 7.30 pm. It promises to be a fun Musical Quiz Evening suitable for all ages from littlies to grannies. Look out for details elsewhere in The Link. *See you there!*

Mary Warnett



Essex County Council

## NORTH & WEST ESSEX ADULT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The image of adult education as 'evening classes' has long gone. Adult Learning Community Essex is now running more daytime courses than evening ones. The North & West Essex Adult Community College is committed to providing varied adult learning opportunities in a wide range of subjects whether you wish to learn for fun or to achieve a qualification to enhance your job prospects. Our programme takes account of changes in social and cultural life eg in employment patterns, domestic life, the retirement age and increased life expectancy and the increased time opportunities for recreation, as well as the increasing role of information technology in everyday life.

This year the N&WEACC is celebrating its 10th anniversary. We have centres in Harlow, Epping, Thaxted, Waltham Abbey, Saffron Walden, Dunmow and Stansted with experienced, well-qualified and committed tutors. We are also extremely proud of our numerous modern computer suites throughout the area, and our well-equipped gym at the Peter Kirk Centre, Stansted.

Not sure how the College can help you? Give us a ring for friendly advice and guidance. If you have a special need or disability, we may be able to support you. Prospectuses are being delivered to your door or you can pick one up at your nearest centre or library. Can't find what you want? We can set up extra courses if sufficient learners are interested. Need to train your employees? Look no further.

Perhaps you would be interested in teaching for us? If you have a skill you would like to teach, we can provide the teacher training to appropriate candidates.

Term started on Monday 22 September 2003

So call us now on 01279 427711 or 01279 813319



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The new season of History Society meetings commenced on 4th September, attended by a large and enthusiastic number of members. An old friend, Mr Robert Barltrop, got us off to a good start with further memories of his early years in the East End of London, this time concentrating on the days of horse traffic.

The great age of the horse was between 1840 and the end of the 2nd World War, when there were more horses and horse-drawn vehicles than at any other time. There were several reasons for this - the Industrial and Commercial Revolutions linked with the development of the Empire, involving the cities and the docks; the growth of public transport from omnibuses and horse-drawn trams to Hansom Cabs and Growlers; the replacement of oxen on farms by heavy horses; the door-to-door services provided by the railways; the expansion of military use through the cavalry but also the movement of men and material and the increased use of horses in hundreds of small businesses. Signs of the use of horses were everywhere, with stables, farriers' forges, wheelwrights' workshops, transport cafés, horse troughs, etc. and many of these old structures are still visible today.

Mr Barltrop's father was a dealer in green fodder - tares, lucerne, clover and rye grass - cutting 300 bundles daily in the fields at 4.30 am and starting his rounds by 8.30, whatever the weather. He supplied stables of all sorts, from small businesses to large breweries and the mounted police - helped by the young Robert from the age of 8 years, a tremendous experience for a youngster. Mr Barltrop gave us many anecdotes of the personalities he met and explained the hierarchy involving carters, carmen, horse-keepers and the like. London was always congested and road speeds were not a lot different from today's.

The use of horses was not an unmixed blessing. There was the constant noise of hooves and rumble of iron-rimmed wheels, stables swarming with rats, mice and flies, filthy roads in spite of the sweepers and smell permeating everything. Disease, largely carried by flies, particularly affected babies, and tetanus was rife. Even the horse-troughs were polluted!

With the increase in motors during the 1930s, the use of horses dropped off but revived during the petrol shortages of the War. Mr Barltrop's father eventually sold his business and retired. Bored after six months, he took a driving job, which he continued till he was 85. I am glad to say that Mr Barltrop himself looks as hardy as his father and we look forward to his next visit to us.

Our next meeting will be on 2nd October at 8 o'clock at the Day Centre, when Carolyn Wingfield will be telling us about The Saffron Walden Museum: "A World of Discovery at your Doorstep".

Ian Seavers

The first concert of our new, Eighth Season is on Saturday 18th October at 8pm and features The Zephyr Ensemble of London, which was formed in 1997 at The Royal College of Music. In December that year they won the RCM Wind & Brass Ensemble Prize, which they retained the following year. Since then, the group has enjoyed much success and now performs regularly at music clubs and festivals around the country.

The Ensemble comprises Emma-Louise Hible (flute) - Helen Barker (oboe) - Charys Green (clarinet) - Evgeny Chebykin (French horn) - Thomas Oxley (bassoon).

Their programme will include works by Malcolm Arnold, Samuel Barber, Jacques Ibert, Jim Parker and Taffanel. The concert is sponsored by The Countess of Munster - Recital Scheme. The concert, in St John's Church, Stansted, will start at 8pm and tickets are Adults £9, Concessions £7, Children £3, and children of members £1. Available from:

Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted  
Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford  
Options Hairdressers, Elsenham  
Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (01279 815282)  
or (if still available) at the door on the night.

#### **Future concerts in our current season are:**

Sunday 7th December at 3pm - Jack Liebeck (violin) and  
Katya Apekisheva (piano)  
Sunday 18th January at 3pm - Rodney Clarke (baritone) and  
Helen Clooyer (piano)  
Saturday 20th March at 8pm - Damian Girvin (piano)

We look forward to welcoming friends old and new at our new season of concerts.

#### **Jeremy and Elizabeth Wagener**

Sadly, for us, Jeremy and Elizabeth have moved away from Stansted, where they have lived for over 20 years. They, with Sonia Levy, were the inspiration behind the founding of The Village Music Club and have worked tirelessly for the club during its first seven years. We are all greatly indebted to them for their work and enthusiasm and wish them both many many years of happiness in their new home.

Alan Corbishley



The National Childbirth Trust  
Education for Parenthood

### Stansted and District National Childbirth Trust

It is that time of year, once more, to clear out your children's wardrobes and toy cupboards. Yes, our Autumn Nearly New Sale takes place on Saturday 18th October at 3 - 4.30 pm at St John's Hall, Stansted and entrance is by donation.

As always the sale will provide an excellent opportunity to stock up with good quality, bargain priced clothes for your baby and under 5s, and to grab some quality toys, games, books and videos at a fraction of the high street price. There will also be baby equipment and maternity clothing on sale. From experience it is definitely a case of "come early to avoid disappointment" and for those who haven't been before, it is busy, it is manic, but it is definitely worth it. If you are able to leave the children at home and come on your own, you will find it far easier to browse and shop. So whether you are after a winter coat, a spare potty to keep at grandma's or some early Christmas presents – put the date on your calendar now.

As usual we have a varied selection of activities lined up for October including playground trips, music time and an obstacle course, with a Halloween messy play and a forest walk for half term week. The parents are not forgotten either with a takeaway evening for the mums and pub night out for the dads.

Our three coffee groups continue to meet every week – Mondays for toddlers, Wednesdays for tiddlers and tums and Fridays for pre-schoolers. See village noticeboards for details or call Sarah on 647022 for more information.

You do not have to be a member to come along to any of our events, so do feel free to come along and join in. You will find we are a friendly bunch of parents who enjoy a natter and having a wide variety of activities laid on to entertain our children, all local and all very cheap (coffee events are 50p per family and many other things £1 per child).

For a free listing of what's going on or if you want any further information about the NCT or our branch, do please get in touch by phoning Sarah on 01279 647022 or emailing Stansted-nct@lineone.net. To book for our popular antenatal classes, call Rachel (early in your pregnancy) on 01279 718632.

Tracy Todman



## STANSTED HALL JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB

### Training to Win

The season for the Juniors ended in style, on a pleasantly warm 27 August, with an 8-a-side tournament for 32 players and a special match for infants, followed by a huge tea with 90 guests including our friends from Stansted Stort Valley Rotary Club. Their president David Earl presented the awards to the winning side (Huw's Dragons, led by Huw Davies of Brook Road). The Season Awards were also given out, plus a bouquet and memento to Linda Berry of St. John's Crescent, who has been our treasurer for five seasons. She will be hard to replace, but if you know someone, do contact David Sowter (details below).

On the playing front, our Under-11s reached the final of a strong 6-a-side tourney in Saffron Walden, winning seven of their nine games. They also won most of their league games and friendlies. The Under-13s started winning in the second half of the season, while the Under-15s had to wait till July to record their first win - very satisfying when it came.

Our development plan includes working through the winter on technique and skills, at the new Romeera Leisure Centre at Mountfitchet High School. They have some fine new cricket nets, and our links with the school have already resulted in several new players joining. If interested in the winter coaching and training, with a view to playing next season, please contact our Youth Development Officer, David Sowter on 01371 856396 or e-mail [sowters@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sowters@tiscali.co.uk).

## DYNAMITES TODDLER GROUP

**Every Thursday morning 1000-1145  
(inc summer hols)**

**For accompanied babies and  
toddlers of all ages**

**Toys galore & friendly atmosphere**

**£1.50 including hot drink & biscuits**

**At the Quaker Meeting House,  
Chapel Hill, Stansted**

**For more info, call Sharon tel: 813064**



## Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

### Poppy Appeal 2003

Time rolls on and this year the House to House collection will take place between the 25th October and 8th November. May I, as always, ask for your generous support?

Last year, we in Stansted and District had a magnificent record year raising £10,056.90. This is always attributed to the generosity of the public and dedication of the collectors.

Since last year I have received offers of help from several people, for which I thank them and I will have been in touch before the Link is published. However, I do need more help, and if you can devote an hour or so during the collection period please contact me. I particularly require help in Silver Street, Old Bell Close, the Maitland Road and Manor Road area, and Burton End.

The Legion work never ceases, and the deaths of Servicemen in Iraq - 50 to date - brings this home to us, particularly as two of the dead came from Debden Barracks. The local Legion has naturally been in touch with the families.

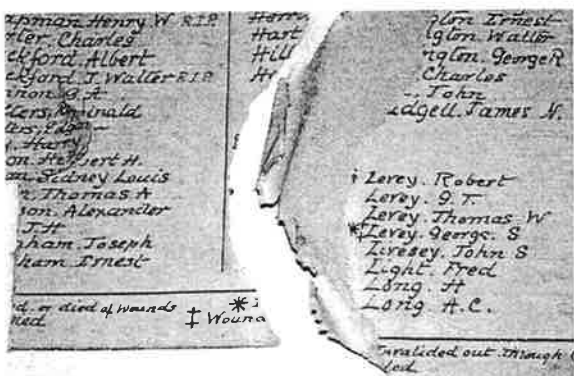
Many thanks for your support.

John L Segar  
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser  
Stansted & District  
Tel: 01279 813289

A **fish and chip supper** is to be held at the Day Centre at 7.30 pm on Friday 10th October in aid of the Poppy Appeal. Our speaker will be John Hollis talking about his experiences whilst doing his National Service. There will be a Raffle. Please give your support. Tickets, £5 each, are available from Committee Members: David Challis (815183), Bob Stoddart (814015), Eddie Laird (813458), and John Segar (813289).

### The Stansted Roll of Honour

The Roll of Honour referred to in the June "Link" that shows the names of the Stansted men who served in the First World War, has now been repaired and framed and is due to be hung in our Parish Church in time for Remembrance Sunday.



Part of the Roll of Honour before refurbishment

It had disappeared from a wall in St Mary's in the 1930s but was discovered last year in a quite disgraceful condition in a locked chest in that redundant church.

Thanks to two firms of experts in Cambridge, namely Brignalls Bookbinders and the Trumpington Gallery, as well as considerable help from Paul Embleton and Peter Brown, both of Stansted History Society, the refurbishment has now been completed. In addition, our Vice-Chairman, Bob Stoddart, has contributed his considerable skills in dealing with the calligraphy needed to complete some of the damaged and missing names and details.

Obviously it is a very important social and historic document. It lists 413 Stansted men who served out of a total male population of 1111 in the year 1911 (the nearest census to 1914).

The Roll has been framed in a suitable manner, not only as a tribute to these men, but also to meet the necessary stringent requirements for hanging in St John's church.

Many people have kindly offered to help towards the costs involved which total £564. If anyone would now like to subscribe towards this worthwhile project, will they please send their donation to the Secretary of Stansted Branch. Any cheques should be made payable to "Royal British Legion".

Harold Thistle (Secretary)  
Tel: 813250



## Royal British Legion Women's Section

After completion of business at our July meeting we were treated to three quarters of an hour of real enjoyment by our speaker, Gill Robinson (Mrs Gill Reeve). She was extremely entertaining and amusing as she told us about her four years as a courier in Switzerland.

After leaving Herts and Essex High School she gained her degree in French and German at London University. Then, after a short spell as a translator with an insurance company, at the age of 24, she saw an advert saying "Girls with fluent German needed to work in Switzerland". She got the job with SwissAir and was sent to Lucerne. She did six months on and six months off and covered 10 hotels with about 500 guests every week. Her tasks were to organise excursions, evening activities, deal with guests' complaints, etc. and generally keep people happy! She had to cope with at least one guest who had a heart attack and another whose husband suddenly died. But, altogether, she found the whole experience most enormous fun. She then produced a Quiz and Doris won the prize having just returned from - you've guessed it - a holiday in Lucerne!!

Our coffee morning on 13th August made a profit of £233.25; our thanks to all those who so generously supported us.

Our next meeting will be our AGM on Thursday 16th October in the Day Centre at 7.30 pm. Please come along - we need your support and ideas.

Pat Clower





After a long hot summer we were all glad to be back at Rainbow when term started on September 8th. Our new arrivals are settling in well and we are looking forward to meeting the children who will start later in the term as they turn 2 ½.

The theme for the term is creepy crawlies and the children have enjoyed learning about different types of insects and spiders. They have played with giant plastic insects and creative activities have reflected the theme of the term. The older group spent an afternoon pond dipping at Hatfield Forest.

During the summer more work has been done on our premises. A beautiful new bookcase has been purchased for storing the books that the children enjoy during quiet time; and racing around our new cycle track is proving a popular activity.

If you are interested in a place at the pre-school please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for information about our waiting list.

### **BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA**

With the summer holidays now just a dim and distant memory, and the children settling in well to their new classes, we start the new school year. A warm welcome is given to those parents of children starting in the nursery and reception or joining us further up the school.

Our fundraising starts afresh this month with a Music Quiz on the 4th October (please note the amended date!) at 7.30 for 8 pm. Last year's event was so popular that we have decided to hold another one. So if you fancy a fun-filled evening of eating, drinking, dancing, oh and answering the odd question or two, then do come and join us. Tickets are just £6, which includes a light supper. Phone Marnie on 01279 647650 for tickets.

We are holding a Cheese and Wine evening on the 30th October at 8pm, which will include our AGM. The business side of the evening will hopefully take no more than half an hour, leaving the rest of the evening free for a get together. We hope this will provide an opportunity for new parents to get to know other parents in the school and chat over a glass of wine.

The children will be joining in the Halloween festivities this year with a disco on the 24th October. I'm sure the children (and possibly the staff!) will enter into the spirit of the occasion with some suitably spooky costumes.

Looking ahead to November, on the 5th November from 6pm to 7.30pm we are celebrating bonfire night, as always with our annual Sparkler Party. This event is a favourite with the children and includes all sorts of activities such as apple bobbing, doughnut munching, face-painting, crafts, dare boxes and other games. There are supervised sparklers for the children, and of course mulled-wine to keep the adults warm!

And lastly a date for your diaries - our Christmas Fair is taking place on the afternoon of the 6th December this year. We'll have more details in the next issue but do make a note in your diaries now as this is always a great event and a wonderful way to start the festive season.

Marnie Tait

### **STANSTED DAY CENTRE**

On Monday 14th July, Stansted Day Centre celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a splendid Tea Party attended by over sixty members. The Stansted Women's Institute catered for us, providing a delicious tea and looking after everybody so well.

A plaque was presented to Brenda Scarr to thank her for running the Day Centre so very successfully for 20 years. It is inscribed:-

<p>BRENDA SCARR In recognition of 20 years leadership and voluntary service to Stansted Day Centre 14th July 2003</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

It will be displayed permanently in the Entrance Hall of the Day Centre. Brenda is now Vice Chairman of the Management Committee and continues to work at the Day Centre.

Vanessa Pedder is now employed as the main organiser and we congratulate her on her recent marriage. Bridget Gott is employed once a week on a Thursday to prepare "Home-cooked" meals which are proving to be extremely popular and are very reasonably priced at £3.50 for 2 courses.

If you are 60 or over or disabled, why not come along and try Bridget's delicious meals. You just need to telephone the Day Centre on 815091 on a Tuesday morning to book a meal on Thursday. You will be made very welcome.

The Day Centre is open for coffee, lunch and tea on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm.

There are various Social Events in the afternoons.

Janet Hollis  
Chairman of the Management Committee

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

**Reminder** - Remember that autumn is coming as will come the rain. Are you prepared? It is for you to do this - it is too late when the rain is falling.

Having made this point, it is time to move on to the activities of the Council since the last report, which dealt with the question of the disposal of the remaining Council owned Old People's Homes. Consultation on this subject is nearing its end and a decision will be taken in November. It is important that all are aware that whatever decision is taken, the occupants of a Home will not suffer and will receive the same standard of treatment which they have always had.

Another consultation which is ongoing is that related to the funding of 'home to school' transport to selected denominational schools. Under the current Act this is not a mandatory requirement; transport being provided under the Act for the school in the catchment area regardless of denomination. Essex County has provided transport in the past but now believes the expense cannot be justified. Whilst many disagree with the premise, the price is a charge on the council tax in the coming year which many others disagree with. Which way the consultation will go remains to be seen, but opinions and views would be welcome by the undersigned in order that a proper decision can be made.

Finally, readers are reminded that the new Planning Act is about to become law, with consequences that will remain unseen for the present. Yet, as has been made public, in addition to the current 5,000 houses a year authorised for building in Essex, 200,000 houses are to be built over the next ten to fifteen years. The County is preparing to resist this encroachment - your views and support will be welcome.

Should anyone wish to discuss these matters further they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace  
County Councillor  
Stansted Division

### Keep Fit for the over Forties

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Brenda Ryan, 812725

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Opening of Leisure Centres

I am pleased to report that the Mountfitchet Romeera and the Great Dumow leisure centres both opened on schedule last month. I have visited both and have been very impressed with the quality of work.

The Stansted centre is open 7 days a week:

Mon - Fri 7 am to 11pm

Sat 7am to 7 pm, Sun 7am to 8 pm

The facilities include a 38 station state-of-the-art Fitness Suite, a Group Training studio, a four court Badminton Sports Hall and a Crèche. Details of classes, induction for the Fitness Suite, booking, membership and prices can be obtained by ringing the centre on 01279 648580. I have been pressing the Council and Leisure Connection, the operator of the centre, to consider introducing a discount leisure card for those on benefits. This is now being investigated.

### Stansted Airport- some basic facts

At a recent meeting of the Airport Advisory Panel, councillors were presented with the following information.

- 17.22 million passengers a year (year to end of June 2003)
- Average number of take-offs and landings per day 502 (June 2003)
- 20% of all passengers on business trips
- 29% of passengers are foreign residents (year to end March 2003)
- Passenger profile – (social class) AB 40%, C1 43%, C2 10%, DE 7% (12 months end March 2003)
- Over 200 companies employed 10,300 people at the airport in December 2001

Despite Stansted's reliance upon low cost airlines, it is the better off who are making the most use of the airport.

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



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## IN MEMORIAM

**Michael Meadows**  
1933-2003

Michael Meadows or Mick as he was known by many people, had lived in Stansted for over 44 years and had worked as an electrician all his life until knee problems made kneeling impossible. All his working life Mick was a pleasure to have around and was appreciated by all his customers and friends alike, even during his final illness Mick always had a cheery word for those he met in the street.



Margaret, his widow, and his son Ian and daughter Alison were very grateful for all the help and support they received from the local Doctors and District Nurses during Mick's last few months and asked for donations in his memory to be given to the Stansted District Nurses fund. The magnificent sum of £830 was donated, and the following letter has been received from the Nurses.

"We would like to thank Margaret Meadows, family and friends, for their generous donation to the Stansted District Nurses on behalf of the late Michael Meadows (Mick). This has enabled us to purchase a specialised digital camera which will enhance patient care in Stansted".



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If you are interested in a place at the pre-school please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for information about our waiting list.



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The Windmill Fête on August Bank Holiday Monday was one of the most successful yet and raised £1122 for the preservation of the Mill. Being a local authority as well as a Trustee, the Parish Council administers the Mill Account and can thereby retrieve the 17½% VAT, which has to be paid on Mill restoration. The Millers were pleased therefore to hand over to the Vice Chairman a cheque for £2000 representing monies raised by open days and sales during last year.

Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex, declared the Fête open, supported by Mike Hibbs, Chairman of Uttlesford District Council. They were both appreciative of our efforts and enjoyed their visit and the Parish Council's hospitality.

There was disappointment that the wind was in the wrong direction for turning the sails but we hope this can be done on occasions in the future. A "trained" team will take care of oiling and operating, and any nimble person who is interested please contact the number below. We would also like to hear from you if you can help in any way at next year's Fete or with stewarding during the year.

Thanks to all who ran stalls, set up, cleared up and supported the event in any way. We are particularly grateful to the new group 'Charity', whose live music was widely appreciated.

Peggy Honour 647213

# Stansted Tennis Club



## Open Club Sessions

All current adult members are welcome to come along and join in these sessions, which get underway at 5.00pm on Wednesday afternoons (until the end of October) and 9.30am on Sunday mornings.

## Coaching

Martyn Taplin is currently holding an adult coaching session for club members who wish to improve their game. The class is from 2.30-3.30pm on Saturday afternoons. Please call Martyn on 816386 if you would like to find out more or would like to join in.

Chris Hollis is currently coaching juniors on weekday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

Pat Clower, who used to be a member of Stansted Tennis Club, has kindly donated a shield, which will be played for the first time by the secondary school age group on Sunday 12th October 2003, starting at 12.45pm.

If you would like to find out more about junior coaching and tournaments, please call Chris on 01279 319155.

## Clavering Junior Tournament

14 juniors represented Stansted Tennis Club at this tournament, which was held on Saturday 6th September. Other participating clubs were Henham and Clavering. There were four categories: Under 12 Boys and Girls Singles, and Under 17 Boys and Girls Singles. Stansted came away with 2 trophies for the winner and runner-up in the Under 12 Girls Singles. Ruby Hollis won the trophy and Rebecca Monk was the runner-up. Congratulations to the winners and also to all those who took part, as it was an excellent experience for all our budding junior members.

## Used Tennis Balls

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

## Pearce/Frodo adult tournament

This popular tournament will take place on Sunday 5th October, starting at 10am. If you would like to play, please put your name down on the list in the clubhouse.

## Christmas Dinner

This will take place on the evening of Saturday 6th December 2003 at the Mill House in Lower Street, Stansted. If you would like to come along and contribute to the festivities, please put your name down on the list in the clubhouse.

If you would like to join Stansted Tennis Club, please contact Kate Rutter (Membership Secretary) on 01279 813053. For any other enquiries, please contact either Richard Mott (Secretary) on 01279 466348 or Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 01279 812073.



# Stansted Evening Women's Institute

On a hot August evening members were shown how not to slave over a hot cooker, by using a microwave. Our speaker Frances Harper, produced five splendid dishes that she cooked in two microwave ovens. They ranged from an upside-down pineapple cake to kedgeree, baked cheesecake, and mackerel in cider. Though members were unable to taste the dishes, they looked and smelt delicious.

In September we were introduced to the National Trust by Colin Limming with his talk entitled 'A Room Stewards View'. Mr Limming is a steward at Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire. He told us of the history of the house and the families who had lived there, the last owner being Rudyard Kipling's daughter. He showed beautiful slides of many of the National Trust's other properties including John Lennon's house, the tiny house where Lawrence of Arabia lived, and the very stark and grim workhouse at Southwell. Kathy Poole thanked Mr Limming on behalf of the members for a very humorous and interesting talk.

A number of members intend to see The Calendar Girls film at Bishop's Stortford cinema. The half yearly council meeting is at Harlow in October with the past Trade Union President Ted Willis as Speaker. Our Christmas evening will be at Brentwood for a Carol Concert.

Our next meeting on October 9th is a talk by Mr Brian Whitelaw on Humanist Ceremonies. He is the Chair of Essex Humanists. As usual we meet in St John's Hall from 7.30 pm. Visitors are very welcome.

Brenda Ryan 812725



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