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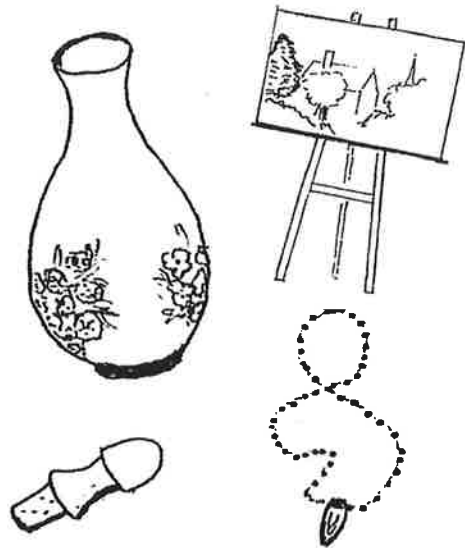
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Carter Hill Manuden

Two Lively Events to Round-off the Summer



WINDMILL FÊTE

Monday 30th August at 2 pm

Live Music by 'CHARITY'

Tombola • Local Bread
Coconut Shy • Bric-à-Brac
Cakes • Plants
Various Games & Stalls
Refreshments

*Mill open throughout
(and on Sunday 29th August)*



ART & CRAFT MARKET

St John's Church & Hall
Sat 11th / Sun 12th September
11 am to 5 pm

Paintings • Crafts
Pottery • Jewelry
Novelties
Refreshments

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

Editor: Derek Honour

Advertising enquiries to Wendy Moss Tel 01279 812797

All other enquiries to Janet Townsend Tel 01279 812593

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of CTS, its member churches, village organisations or advertisers. Printed by Copyzone, Bishop's Stortford.

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

by 9th September for publication on 25th September
by 14th October for publication on 30th October

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 6.00pm
Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am

Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm

Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

The Virgin Mary

On 15th August our church celebrates the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, when we believe that Our Lady was assumed bodily into Heaven. This is quite a difficult concept to grasp if you need proof, but we accept this as an article of our Catholic belief.

As early as the 2nd century Christians venerated Mary calling her 'Mother of God'. This title that primarily stresses the divinity of Jesus, has, after much contesting, been used since that time in the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches.

Closely allied with the title 'Mother of God' is the title 'Virgin Mary', affirming the virginal conception of Jesus. Initially this title stressed the belief that God, not Joseph, was the true father of Jesus. By the middle of the 7th century the understanding of the title came to include the conviction that Mary remained a virgin for the whole of her life. The passages in the New Testament referring to the brother of Jesus have accordingly been explained as references to relatives of Jesus or to children of Joseph by a previous marriage, although no textual evidence supports these interpretations.

Beginning in the 2nd and 3rd centuries Mary was called Holy or Blessed Virgin to express the belief that, because of her intimate union with God through the Holy Spirit in the conception of Jesus, Mary was free from any taint of sin. A Roman Council in 680 spoke of her as the "Blessed Immaculate Ever Virgin".

During the late Middle Ages in the 13th-15th centuries devotion to Mary grew vigorously. One of the principal reasons was the image of Christ that developed in the missionary efforts of the early Middle Ages. As Christ became an awe-inspiring judgemental figure, Mary came to be depicted as the one who interceded for sinners. As fear of death and the last judgement intensified following the Black Plague in the 14th century, Mary was increasingly venerated in popular piety as mediator of the mercy of Christ. Among the popular

devotions that came into being at this time were the rosary, the angelus, litanies to Mary, and invocations of Mary using such biblical titles as Mystical Rose, Tower of David, Refuge of Sinners etc. Hymns, psalms and prayers were incorporated into the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin.

The principal theological development concerning Mary in the Middle Ages was the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. This doctrine, defended and preached by the Franciscan Friars, maintains that Mary was conceived without original sin. Pope Sixtus IV established the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1477 and decreed that Mass be celebrated to that effect on 8th December. In 1950 Pope Pius XII solemnly defined as an article of faith for all Roman Catholics the doctrine of the bodily assumption of Mary into heaven.

I find it quite fascinating that after so relatively little mention in all the four gospels, Mary has become such a beloved figure of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Church. She has been kept alive by Christians since the 2nd century; what happened in the 200 years before that is not recorded.

Mary Warnett

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 11.00am

Quakers have always been very interested in prison reform as part of their concerns about Social Justice. The following is an extract from Quaker Faith and Practice written by Elizabeth Dudley in 1818:

"In the evening Martha Savory, my mother [Mary Dudley] and I went to Newgate [Gaol], where we met Elizabeth Fry, Peter Bedford and Edward Harris. We saw about fifteen poor men under sentence of death, who soon collected round us and stood with the most becoming and quiet attention, whilst my mother was engaged to preach the gospel of reconciliation ... The two especially who had but a few hours to live, were encouraged to cast themselves upon the mercy and forgiveness of an all-gracious God whose power and goodness are the same as when they were manifested to the thief upon the cross ... They wept freely, and though not able to say much, we fully believe they felt. It was difficult to tear ourselves from such a scene, and we turned from these poor sufferers under the feeling of indignant repugnance to the sanguinary nature of those laws which put so little value upon human life, and adjudge punishments so disproportioned to and so unlikely to prevent the renewal of crimes."

Jane Mitchell

UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

Minister Rev'd David Simpson
11 Church Manor
Bishop's Stortford
CM23 5AF
Tel: 01279 504900

Contact Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Stansted
Tel: 01279 812593

Preachers for August – September

August

1st	2.30pm	Mrs K Beady
8th	10.30am	Elders
15th	10.30am	Rev'd D Simpson Communion
22nd	10.30am	Mrs G Taylor, joint with Methodist
29th	10.30am	Rev'd M Cressey

September

5th	2.30pm	Mrs M Kendall
12th	10.30am	Mr J Taylor
19th	10.30am	Rev'd D Simpson Communion and Harvest, joint with Methodist
26th	10.30am	Mr M Dyer

Dates for the Diary

1st August	3.30pm-5.00pm	Afternoon Tea
16th August	2.30pm	Monday Club Holiday in Spain and Morocco
5th September	3.30pm-5.00pm	Afternoon Tea
11th September	10am-4.00pm	Church open for Essex Cycle Ride Participants
18th September		Harvest Supper. For tickets 814850
20th September		Monday Club Mr Peter Calver

Message from our clergy

As many of you are aware, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church in Stansted have, at times during the year, shared worship together. Following meetings of both congregations it has been agreed that the sharing of worship should be increased in the new year to twice per month. It was also agreed that both congregations should embark on a journey together with the purpose of leading to a Local Ecumenical Partnership by 2006.

The Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church are fully committed to this exciting prospect of two churches working together to combine skills and energy in mission and outreach in the community, as they continue, through prayer, to seek God's purpose for their churches in Stansted.

Keith Page and David Simpson

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 August

1st	Rev'd Keith Page – Holy Communion
8th	Jerry Heyhoe
15th	Kenneth Mark
22nd	Joint Service at URC at 10.30am
29th	Fran Page

Services and preachers for September

5th	Michael Render
12th	Rev'd Jim Gill – Holy Communion
19th	Joint Harvest Festival Service at URC at 10.30am led by Rev'd David Simpson
26th	Christine Heyhoe

Other events

Our loss will be Harlow's gain, when Rev'd Jim Gill takes up his new appointment in September. We have been enriched by Jim's ministry in our Methodist Circuit over many years and will greatly miss his enthusiasm and keen sense of humour. Jim's 'official' farewell from the Circuit takes place on Sunday **22nd August** at his Chrishall and Ickleton churches, but we are privileged to have him with us in Stansted on Sunday **12th September**. Hopefully that will not be the last time we see him, but for now we do wish Jim and Jean every blessing as they take on this challenging task.

Having said farewell to Rev'd Harry and Isabel Wood in July, on Saturday **4th September** we will be welcoming our new minister for Saffron Walden, Rev'd Hilary Cheng and her family in Saffron Walden Baptist Church at 7.00pm. The preacher will be the Chairman of the District, Rev'd Ermal Kirby.

On Friday **10th September** there will be a Church Fellowship meeting at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

We are delighted that the joint services with our friends at the United Reformed Church are being well received by all our members. In order to keep up the momentum we are holding monthly informal 'eat and pray' meetings on Saturday lunchtimes. The first of these will be held on Saturday **18th September** at 12 noon in the URC Lecture Hall. All members and friends of both churches are encouraged to join us. Drinks will be provided, please bring your own lunch.



All enquiries

are welcome at
The Church Office
located upstairs in
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

Diary

Sundays

8:00am Holy Communion
9:30am Parish Communion
with Sunday School
11:00am Open Door Service
(1st & 3rd Sunday of the month)

Wednesdays

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

Groups

Lazer Group is a 12-16 youth group which meets weekly on Sunday evenings at 7:30pm for activities in the church hall. The evening concludes with candlelit Night Prayer in the chapel in church.

Prayer Group for Healing meets monthly in the parish. Contact the office for details of meetings.

Housegroups

Meets fortnightly on Tuesday evening at the Rectory. The Autumn Term begins with *The Bluffers Guide to the Bible*. Leader: The Rector. There will also a Book group at Andy Thornton's, details to follow.

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

Assistant Curate
The Revd Dr Caroline Currer
The Church Office
(01279) 815243
curate@stansted.net

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

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

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

Sunday School
Mrs Sandra Wood
(01279) 647054

Lazer Group
Mr Gary West
phone
(01279) 815243
gary.west@zetnet.co.uk

Housegroup
The Rector

Registers for June

Baptism

6th Lauren Alyce Jones

Funerals

7th Rose Marie Lawrence age 73
11th Kathleen Alexandra Levey age 89

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

Thank you to all who helped with fund raising in Christian Aid Week. The official amount is £2140, but there is another £90, which came in after the form was sent off.

Sudan – more than a million people have had to flee their homes.

These are innocent people, not members of rebel groups, who need our help now. It is the rainy season in Sudan and there is a great risk of malaria. Because of poor sanitation, water sources could become contaminated and this leads to typhoid and diarrhoea. People are desperately short of food.

Christian Aid, through its partner organisation 'Action by Churches Together' is responding to the crisis by distribut-

ing materials for shelter, food and cooking utensils and through erecting basic schools and digging wells, but it will also continue to support long term development, peace and reconciliation.

Churches Together in Stansted is to hold a Quiz on Saturday **21st August** at 7.00pm for 7.30pm in St John's Hall to raise money for the people of Sudan. The question master will be David Morson, so you can expect to be educated as well as support a worthy cause! Tickets will be £5 and available through the churches or from me. If you cannot make the quiz, but would like to make a donation it can be done through me, direct to Christian Aid, or on line at www.christianaid.org.uk/sudanappeal.

Catherine Dean

THE BRADWELL PILGRIMAGE – 3rd JULY

This is a special year at Bradwell as the Pilgrimage was celebrating the 1350th anniversary of St Cedd landing in East Anglia and bringing Christianity. Encouraged by the Stansted Fraternal, 16 of us, representing all the denominations in Stansted, set off in a minibus to take part, and arriving in Bradwell we met several others from Stansted among the hundreds of pilgrims there. A short open-air service was held in the village before we set off on the 2-mile walk to St Peter's Chapel, by the seashore, singing "Onward Christian Pilgrims, Christ will be our light; see, the heavenly vision breaks upon our sight".

On arrival at the site we had plenty of time to enjoy our picnic lunch and meet friends. There were high winds, lots of sun and clouds, but no rain.

The main service began at 1.15pm with a dramatic presentation by the Bradwell Amateur Dramatic Society of an abridged history of St Peter's Chapel from its inception in 654 AD, sweeping through the centuries – Vikings, Romans etc – to the present day. It had a Shakespearean feel with two comic characters acting as commentators. The service was conducted ecumenically by Church leaders and representatives of every denomination – standing on a rather rickety platform against the side of the Chapel. Brother Damian, the Vicar of Holy Island, brought greetings from Lindisfarne – 'The Windy Isle' where St Cedd was trained. The whole service, carefully planned and led with enthusiasm by the Bishop of Bradwell, underlined the feeling of unity and informality as well as the deep meaning of the occasion. The address by the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Rev'd John Gladwyn, was down to earth and left one with a feeling of confidence and challenge. The sturdy stone Chapel still stands there after all the ups and downs of its history – steadfast and simple, like the faith it symbolises. This is best expressed in a few lines of a poem by Margaret McGeary:

At meeting point of earth and sea and sky
It stands alone
A monument to thirteen hundred years
Of Christian faith
Its stones imbued with centuries of prayer,
A sacred space, a place of peace.

After the service there was time to walk to the sea, visit the Othona Community, sample a variety of stalls and have tea in the large marquee, or just sit in the sun, before the closing hymn and prayers. There were one or two nice light touches – the Bishops' crooks leaning rather haphazardly against the old Chapel wall; a Bishop striding across the grass in purple robe – and a sun hat!

We will all have different memories of a special day, my lasting ones will be of wind, sky and a feeling of hope.



Katharine Hurford

photos: Andrew Spurr



Combating AIDS in Malawi

Last Christmas a concert was held in St John's Church to raise money to help the victims of AIDS in Malawi; especially the widows and orphans of the many who have died of AIDS. Malawi is one of the countries in Africa, that has suffered most from this terrible affliction. With over £700 raised, the charity we are in touch with was able to buy eight sewing machines, so that widows could learn basic tailoring skills to make and sell clothes – up to this point, they were having to pay to hire machines. The charity is very grateful for our support.

Much work is also being done with pre-school children, mainly orphans, with training workshops for teachers so that vulnerable children will not miss out on this stage. Moira Chimombo, our main contact, also says that one major need is for a mechanical knitting machine for use by the widows, which will cost about £300. So there is plenty to raise money for.

To help with these projects, we are having a coffee morning in September. This will be on **Wednesday 15th September, 10am – 12 noon** at Stansted Day Centre. We hope that all who are free at this time will come, and we are arranging stalls for a tombola, books, cakes, bric-à-brac, as well as coffee and biscuits and a raffle. Please make a note of the date in your diary, as there is no 'Link' at the end of August; we hope it will be a real village occasion that we can all enjoy.

Margaret Whitelaw
816972

RAP

In September, the charity Stansted Regular Aid for the Poor (RAP) reaches its tenth anniversary.

To celebrate this milestone, a Garden Party will be held at Chantry Hall, Crow Street, Henham, on Sunday 5th September, 2.00pm-4.30pm. Tea and cakes will be served and there will be musical entertainment by 'Charity'.

All contributors to RAP will have free entrance, and for non-contributors the charge will be £1.50. For further information, please contact David Morson 850209.



SHALOM

Join us for a delicious cream tea and hilarious auction at the Friends' Meeting House on Sunday 1st August at 3.00pm.

We start our autumn programme on Monday 13th September with an evening of Prayer and Praise at the Friends' Meeting House.

On 27th September, Pat Kern will tell us about Early Christian Sects, at 8.00pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Catherine Dean

STANSTED DAY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

We are most grateful to all the people who have helped to raise money towards the curtains. We have so far received approximately £900 and we have purchased the new ones that cost £1,826.32, so do please come in to see them.

The Volunteer Bureau brought along helpers, who have had a really good spring clean in the shrubbery (this is usually done by the UDC, but not so thoroughly!). It now looks much better and Vanessa, our organiser, is going to plant some herbs for the home cooking that usually takes place on a Thursday and is very good value, costing £3.50 for two courses. This is cooked by Bridget and we would like to increase this to another one or two days per week, so if anyone knows of a good cook we would be very interested. This is, of course, a paid position. We also need a volunteer to serve teas on a Tuesday afternoon 2.00pm-4.00pm, once a week or once a fortnight. Please contact the Day Centre on 01279 815091.

Brenda Scarr

UTTLESFORD CROSSROADS

As the Chairman of Uttlesford Crossroads - Caring for Carers, I would like to appeal for volunteers to sit on our management committee and especially for someone to become our treasurer. Our valued present treasurer wishes to retire having taken us through Incorporation (we are now a Limited Company) and the complete computerisation of our accounts.

We are a most worthwhile charity. We provide support to carers (many in Stansted), who quietly and unseen care for a relative or friend, by providing respite care at home (several hours in a day, a night or a weekend) while the carer has a break.

We currently employ 15 part-time staff comprising 12 care workers, two administrative assistants (includes a book-keeper) and a manager who is responsible for the day to day running of the service. A management committee of volunteers is responsible for policy and the overall management.

Jim Ketteridge, our manager, or myself, would be very happy to talk with anyone who might be interested in joining us. Contact telephone number: 01799 513496

Kathleen Huey

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St John's Hall

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Sat 4th September

2.30 pm

United Reformed Church Hall
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7.30 pm Sat 4th September
Ugley Village Hall

Tickets £5.50 ☎ 01279 816219

refreshments included

VILLAGE EVENTS

August

1 Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
	Afternoon Tea (after service)	UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm
	Shalom Auction & Cream Tea	Quaker Meeting House 3 pm
2 Mon	Summer Playscheme starts	St Mary's School 10 am
4 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
7 Sat/8 Sun	Green Waste, Wood, Metal	Lower St Car Pk 9 am - 3 pm
9 Mon	RBL (Women)	Gill Reeves' Garden 2.30 pm
12 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
15 Sun	Lib Dem Sparkling Wine Lunch	7 Blythwood Gardens 12.30 pm
18 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
21 Sat	Christian Aid Quiz for Sudan	St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
21 Sat/22 Sun	Green Waste, Wood, Metal	Lower St Car Pk 9 am - 3 pm
29 Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
30 Mon	Windmill Fête	Windmill 2 - 5 pm

September

1 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Outing	Day Centre 9 am
	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
2 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
4 Sat	Garden Club Autumn Show	URC Lecture Hall 2.30 pm
	BS RNA "The Entertainers"	Ugley Village Hall 7.30 pm
4 Sat/5 Sun	Green Waste, Wood, Metal	Lower St Car Pk 9 am - 3 pm
5 Sun	RAP Garden Party	Chantry Hall, Henham 2 - 4.30 pm
	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
	Afternoon Tea (after service)	UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm
11 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
11 Sat/12 Sun	Art & Craft Market	St John's Church 11 am - 5 pm
12 Sun	SSE Runway Ramble & BBQ	Molehill Green from 8.30 am
13 Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
15 Wed	Coffee Morning for Malawi	Day Centre 10 am - noon
	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
17 Fri	RBL Fish & Chip Supper	Day Centre 7.30 pm
18 Sat/19 Sun	Green Waste, Wood, Metal	Lower St Car Pk 9 am - 3 pm
20 Mon	WEA enrolment / course start	Day Centre 7.30 pm
24 Fri	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Old Lane Hse, Ch. Rd 10.30 am
27 Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
29 Wed	Crossroads Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon

October

2 Sat/3 Sun	Green Waste, Wood, Metal	Lower St Car Pk 9 am - 3 pm
3 Sun	Windmill Open	2 - 6 pm
	Afternoon Tea (after service)	UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm
6 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
7 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8 Fri	HEAL 'Wot Poetry' Supper	St John's Church 7.30 for 8 pm



Garden Party

To celebrate the 10th year of
Stansted Regular Aid for the Poor

Sunday 5th September
Chantry Hall, Henham
2.00 to 4.30 pm

Live music by CHARITY
RAP contributors FREE
Non-contributors £1.50



Coffee Morning

for the victims of AIDS in Malawi

Wednesday 15th September
Stansted Day Centre
10.00 am to noon

tombola • raffle • cakes
books • bric-à-brac
refreshments

Entry 50p ☎ 01279 816972

Macmillan Cancer Relief

COFFEE MORNING

Fri 24th Sept
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Old Lane House, Church Road, Stansted
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St John's, Stansted

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Ever fancied taking close to 100 children on the train to Harlow? No, - it's not your worst nightmare, just a very enjoyable way to go to the cinema! Years 3,4,5, and 6 walked down to Stansted station, accompanied by about 20 assorted adults, caught the 9.15 train to Harlow (with year 5 sitting in first class!!) and then walked from the station to the Odeon cinema for a private showing of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. We all then walked back to the station, stopping in Harlow Park on the way to have a picnic and a play. We returned to Stansted by the 2.30 train (Class 6 sat in first class this time!). It all made for a wonderful day out, many thanks to the rail service, ONE, and in particular Stuart, who looked after us at Harlow station.

The very next day Class 6 took advantage of the good weather and had a wonderful time at the seaside on their trip to Walton on the Naze. They looked at erosion and the power of the elements on the coastline. Classes 1 and 2 also made Walton their destination later in the term following up their topic work on the subject.

Class 4 went back in time and donned Tudor costume for a fantastic day at Kentwell House seeing life as it was lived in the past. A truly memorable experience for all involved.

Our choir performed in the annual Music Festival at Newport Grammar School looking very smart in their special new T-shirts - We're sure it helps their singing!

Year 5 were invited to Mountfitchet High School for a taster day and all agreed it was very interesting and exciting seeing what they will be doing when they move on.

Our younger children had a lively visit from the excellent Chicken Shed Theatre Company, which they really enjoyed.

Sport has featured very highly this term. We sent a team to the Kwik-Cricket tournament where we came second in our group. Our representatives at the District Sports, held on a beautiful sunny day at the County High School, did very well, winning certificates in many events. We held our own Sports Evening for the juniors; a great time was had by all competing in traditional events, including egg and spoon race, three-legged race and off course, the mums and dads races!! We also had a very enjoyable Challenge Afternoon for the whole school. The children tackled various activities in teams, with the team earning most points being the victor. We finished the term with a spectacular production of "Alice.com". Performed enthusiastically by Classes 5 and 6, this is a new working of the Lewis Carroll classic. Weeks of hard work by children and staff saw this highly polished musical given an enthusiastic reception by both parents and other pupils alike.

Year 6 completed their final days at Bentfield with a Leavers Trip to the Aqua Splash at Hemel Hempstead and their Leavers' Assembly on the last day of term, a very emotional time for them all!!

Did anyone see our float in Bishop's Stortford carnival? The theme was Wheels and Wings. Every child in the school made a feather (silver to celebrate our 25th Anniversary) and a wheel with their self-portrait in the middle. Mrs Louise Sims and her team worked very hard, and very late, to put

everything together and we were rewarded with a cup for coming in second place. The children on the float had a great time. We must say a big 'thank you' to Millways Stationers for their sponsorship for this event.

Messy Play will start again on 20th September. This is great fun and runs in the Nursery every Monday from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. It is open to children 18 months and older. If you are interested contact the school or just turn up!

The PTA rounded off a very busy fundraising year with Music in the Park. Once again, this event proved a huge hit with everyone who attended (even when the rain came!), whether to listen (and dance!) to the live bands, or be entertained by the many activities and games on offer. The PTA would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make the event such a success including of course our generous sponsors without whom we could not have staged the event. The money raised from the event is helping to fund a new climbing structure for our reception playground. Thanks to Music in the Park we are now in a position to start the project and make our new reception children very happy!

We said a final goodbye to our Year 6 children at our Leavers' Disco on the last day of term. The children had a great evening even though several tears were shed!! We wish them all the very best for next year.

Looking ahead to next year, we have a couple of dates for your diaries. Our first main fundraising event of next term will be a Music Quiz on Saturday 9th October. This is usually a great evening, so make a note of the date now. Our AGM & Cheese and Wine Evening will be held on Wednesday 29th September. We'll keep the business side of things down to about half-an-hour, leaving the rest of the evening to have a chat and for new parents to get to know each other. Do come along and join us.



The autumn course for this year is entitled 'Coins and Trade' and our lecturer will be Mr Mike Bonser.

The aim of the course is to consider the English medieval monetary system against the historical background that shaped it and the patterns of trade that resulted from it. The course starts with an explanation of the major differences between medieval money and today's currency and how attitudes towards coinage and its usage have changed. It is hoped that this will stimulate initial discussion.

As usual, the course will consist of ten lectures and we shall meet on Monday evenings at the Day Centre beginning on 20th September at 8.00 pm. (The first session enrolment is between 7.30pm and 8.00pm.) The fee for the 10 week course is £29.50 but the concessionary charge will be £21.

If you would like any further details please contact Harold Thistle on 813250.

Stansted Tennis Club



Tournament results

Secondary Boys Singles

On Sunday 11th July, 14 boys aged between 12 and 15, competed for the Secondary Boys Singles trophy. This splendid trophy has been donated by honorary club member, Pat Clower, and 2004 is the inaugural year. We were very pleased that Pat was able to attend the tournament and present the prizes at the end of a hard-fought competition. In the round-robin stage, the boys were split into three groups according to age, with each competitor playing a match against all others within that group. Depending on the final position within the group, players were then seeded for the main knockout draw. The winner of the oldest group was Fred Kirby with 15 points. The middle group was won by James Brown also on 15 points and the winner of the younger group was Charlie Kirby on 18 points. The semi-finals and final were the best of seven games. In the first semi-final, Fred Kirby defeated Joshua Wesley 4-2. This match produced several hard-fought games, one of which included 10 deuces. Meanwhile on the other court, James Brown came very close to defeating James Ingram, but finally succumbed 4-3. With the time approaching 8.00pm, the final, watched by a valiant crowd of family and friends, saw Fred Kirby beat James Ingram 4-1. Pat presented Fred with the trophy, a replica to keep, tennis balls and chocolates.

'HEAL' Cancer Charity tournament

On Wednesday 7th July, 16 club members took part in a tournament to raise money for the 'Heal' Cancer Charity. The matches were played in a round-robin competition in the morning. After a delicious buffet lunch, semi-finals and finals were played in increasingly blustery conditions. The eventual winners were Sue Sebley and Martin Mackeonis, who beat Laura Andes and Martin Nankivell 8-6 in a highly contested final. Third place went to Fiona Pye and Jenny Kirby who beat Nikki Taplin and Roger Loveday 6-2.

Club Tournament

We have reached the quarter-final stage and all players still involved are reminded to arrange their matches as soon as possible to prevent a backlog.

Club Open sessions

All adult members are welcome to come along and join in any of the following open club sessions:

- Sunday mornings from 9.30am
- Wednesday mornings from 10.00am
- Wednesday evenings from 5.00pm
- Friday mornings from 9.30am

Coaching

Martyn Taplin is currently holding adult coaching sessions for club members who wish to improve their game. Two classes take place between 2.30-4.30pm on Saturday afternoons. Please call Martyn on 816386 if you would like to find out more or would like to join in.

Chris Hollis' junior group sessions will recommence after the school holidays (week commencing Monday 6th September). During August Chris will be available for individual lessons, so whether or not you are a current member of the club and are interested in having a lesson, please call Chris on 319155.

From September onwards Chris will also be available during the day on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Tennis balls

Janet Hollis still has a lot of tennis balls (of varying standards) for sale. Please contact her on 812073 or call in at 105 Cambridge Road, if you would like to buy any.

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.



Huw Johnson Club

The Huw Johnson Club would like to thank everyone for the support we have received from the village over the last few months. Thank you to Sandra and Paul Embleton with their gallant team who organised the barbecue at the Fun Run, and to Julie and Richard Lenton who, along with the music group 'Charity', raised over £1,300 with their evening of music. We are grateful also for the donation from the Stansted Lodge of Instruction which has been an annual event for many years. Of course we must not forget Garry King who entertains our members with quizzes and discos, although I strongly suspect he gets just as much fun out of this as our members. Then of course we also all enjoy line dancing with Alice and Teresa who bravely joined a Line Dancing Group in order to teach our members.

We must also say a big thank you to the Fun Run Committee for making us one of their 'charities' this year. Organising such an event is an enormous task and one which they do very well. Congratulations to everyone involved. We are now raring to take off to Eastbourne for our week's holiday. No doubt this will provide plenty of news for the next 'Link'.

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Fun Run & Walk

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www.stansted10k.org.uk
info@stansted10k.org.uk



warm-up time



Patrick entertains the kiddies

Once again the Stansted Fun Run on 11th July was a great success. Our pleas for extra marshals were heard, and this clearly was appreciated by the runners (see feedback).

We had 352 entrants, and many of these took advantage of our new website to obtain entry forms and maps of the route and where to find the Car Park. All supporters and helpers should have received individual letters of thanks, but in case we miss anyone please accept our thanks now!

The money raised so far exceeds £3,500 and this will be shared equally between the Huw Johnson Club and the Assin Endwa Trust.



Dick squeezes his hooter...



... and they're off



Dave tries multi-tasking



others wreck a gazebo



some are serious runners ...



... but Katie & Hannah prefer to pose!



Marion remains inscrutable

photos by Alan Wheeler & Mike Dyer

to see further pictures and full results please visit our website www.stansted10k.org.uk

Some feedback from participants...

It was one of the best organised races I have been to and I was very grateful for the many water stations you supplied and for the constant support of the marshals on them, who also made us laugh and encouraged us throughout.

Tanya Tatchley, Biggleswade

Enjoyed the day although the course was tough - but please don't change it. So many runs these days try to attract competitors by offering "a fast flat course". There is nothing wrong with that but it's nice to know there are still some "testing" courses about.

Garry Walker, Ilford

Many thanks for the race. It was well organised & deserves to be better known in running circles.

John Clarke, Black Notley

I must say everything was extremely well organised with plenty of water stops and the Marshals were fantastic with their support and encouragement on the way round. What a fantastic course. I loved every minute and can't wait to get back next year and beat my time!!

Lisa Southgate, Saffron Walden

Just a quick note to thank everyone who organised and helped-out with the fun run yesterday. It was my 1st Stansted run and I was impressed with the organisation and the toughness of the course ... most demanding!

Aaron Judd, Ware

Thanks for such a well organised local event, I will definitely be back in 2 years time.

Ian Rodgers, Bishop's Stortford

I thoroughly enjoyed the day and felt it was very well organised and will definitely be entering again in the future.

Fiona Halls, Saffron Walden



ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

We believe that one of the village success stories of recent years is the The Village Music Club, now about to embark on its ninth season with a concert on 23rd October by the City of London Sinfonia chamber orchestra, whose programme will include Vivaldi's Four Seasons – a treat not to be missed!

Under the auspices of the Club, musicians of international standing have performed in Stansted. They have brought a quality and variety of music to the village normally associated with such famous venues as The Barbican, the Purcell Room and St John's Smith Square, thus giving villagers the opportunity to hear top musicians without the hassle and expense of going to London and back!

Each 'season' runs from October through to March with a series of four concerts, held in St John's Church, and in alternate years the Club organises a 'Summer Soirée' with the aim of giving an opportunity to up and coming young musicians to perform publicly. In 2000 and 2002, the Parish Council teamed up with The Village Music Club to put on special concerts to celebrate both the Millennium and the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

While the Club tries to meet as much of its expenditure as possible from subscriptions and ticket sales, there is always a shortfall and the Club is grateful to the many local businesses and individuals who help financially by becoming Patrons and Sponsors. However, to continue to be able to attract high calibre musicians, the Club needs more members and sponsors. Could that be you?

The Village Music Club contributes much in the field of the arts and culture to Stansted and to the surrounding villages and hopes to continue to do so for many years. Please give our concerts your support. The dates for the next season are:-

23rd October at 7.30pm
5th December at 3.00pm
23rd January at 3.00pm
5th March at 7.30pm
(all take place in St John's Church)

Membership for the whole season cost £26 for individuals, £50 for couples, £20 concessions (over 60 and university and college students). Sponsorship can be in the form of a lump sum to be applied across the whole series of concerts, or sponsorship of a specific concert. Full publicity is given to all our sponsors in our programmes and advertising.

Concert enquiries and tickets – Sonia Levy 815282
Membership enquiries – Dorrie and Rob Giles 813211
Publicity and Sponsorship – Jackie and Alan Corbishley 813040

Summer holidays are upon us and the County Council (Members and all) are looking forward to a break from the round of meetings and discussions which, in the end, produce policy. There is little to report that is new or up-to-date. As a result, now is probably a good time to draw the attention of readers to the advent of winter and all the related problems of flooding and the associated dis-benefits.

Many will have suffered from flooded drains, gutters and ditches and roads inches deep in water – the result of lack of attention in the summer months. For this reason the thoughts of readers are drawn to the problems and to the simple good housekeeping actions necessary to prevent trouble during the wet winter months. Some of the simple remedial actions are outlined below:

On country walks

- look around and check that ditches and field drains are free of rubbish. Warn the landowner or the District Council as appropriate, or remove obstruction yourself. Ensure that water channels can flow freely at all times.

At home

- clear garden drains and ditches
- clear house roof gutters and down pipes
- clear drains and manholes
- ensure that draining water has a free flow and that it can flow unimpeded
- know to whom reports of flooding should be made [Parish Clerk/District Emergency Planning Control Officer]
- know what kind of flood reports should be made
- be prepared for unexpected flooding and know what self-help actions should be taken
- be prepared for failure of services (electricity/gas etc.); it is no use complaining after the event or expecting local services, which are normally overstretched, to react speedily to a particular and possibly personal problem.

If readers remember these simple recommendations and carry them out this summer, let us hope they can expect a flood free winter.

Should any reader wish to know more about this subject, they should contact their Parish Clerk or the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace
County Councillor
Stansted Division

WANTED
by the Link



An illustrator for line drawings and/or cartoons. If you have talent and would like to enliven our magazine please ring the Editor on 647213.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Post Office Update

The Post Office's plans for a new counter in Stansted have fallen through. They have withdrawn from the franchise arrangements they had previously made and have decided to start again to look for new premises. The further delay is, of course, disappointing. As I indicated last month, the District Council has offered to support Post Office Ltd in its search for premises. Let's hope that by the time 'Link' comes out again that there will be more positive news.

Community Care

I would be interested to know if anyone has any knowledge of people from Eastern Europe living and working in the area. I've heard of some very skilled craftsmen working in Elsenham. Some visitors may know little English. I was chatting to the leader of East Herts District Council recently about whether there is a need to offer support. I know that some of the churches in Bishop's Stortford are investigating what support they can give to people who can otherwise become very vulnerable to exploitation. Please let me know if you have any information.

Councillor Alan Dean
email: cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
Tel: 01279 813579

Transport and Highways

The first meeting of this committee met in June. Although the County Council is the highways authority, Uttlesford is responsible for a locally determined programme; the budget for the current financial year is £220,000. The programme is split into a number of areas

- a) Pedestrian Crossings
- b) Speed Reduction Measures
- c) Traffic Management
- d) Traffic Regulation Orders e.g. Waiting restrictions.

Readers may have seen the new Variable Message Signs on the B1383. These mobile signs warn drivers who are speeding after they have entered a speed limit by use of flashing lights and a 'Slow' message. Traffic police have told me that early indications are that these signs are having an effect. Many drivers do not realise that they are speeding. Currently Uttlesford has two of these signs, which cost £5000 each. The aim is to move them every two weeks.

Policing Matters

The Council works in partnership with Essex Police and I serve as one of its two representatives on the Police Consultative Committee. I attended a meeting recently where I and others raised with the police the issues of the significant reduction of the opening hours at Stansted Police Station. It will now only be open eight hours a week. Stansted Parish Council has invited Chief Superintendent Sue Harrison, the Divisional Commander, to come and speak to them. I hope she will take up the invitation.

Election Postscript

I missed the European elections (although I took the precaution of using a postal vote) as I was in Slovakia, one

of the new accession countries. For someone of my generation born in the 1950s one of the most significant events was the dismantling of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Consequently a popular destination from Stansted Airport is now Prague in the Czech Republic.

Local Government Association Conference

I recently spent two rather rainy days in Bournemouth with Alan Dean and the Council's Chief Executive Alasdair Bovaird. The conference was attended by councillors and officers from all over England and Wales. Highlights for me were speeches by the Leader of the Opposition, Michael Howard and Home Secretary David Blunkett. The latter commended councils such as Uttlesford who had helped to fund Police Community Support Officers. He said it was a "win-win situation".

Skateboarding

Younger residents may like to know that the Stansted Skateboard Park at the railway sidings car park in Lower Street is due to open on 24th July. This project has been supported by the District Council.

Councillor Geoffrey Sell
email: cldrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk
Tel: 01279 815925

PS Recently Essex County Council was advertising vacancies for its Highways and Transportation service. The advertisement claimed that Uttlesford was a rural idyll, voted Britain's best place to live. Will we still be able to claim that in 10 years' time?



**STANSTED & DISTRICT
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

Our next ploughman's lunches will be on Saturday 14th August, Saturday 11th September, and Saturday 9th October at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2.00pm. All are welcome.

We will be holding a Salmon and Sparkling Wine garden party at 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted on Sunday 15th August at 12.30pm. Tickets £8, including a glass of wine. Please ring 814222 or 813432 for tickets and details.

Ruth Rawlinson



North & West Essex Adult Community College



Essex County Council

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**Stansted
Evening
Women's Institute**

Miss Maureen Scollan, a former Inspector of the Essex Police, came to speak at July's meeting, which was well attended, despite the rain and gales of the last few days and of course summer holidays; though perhaps the weather is putting people off at the moment, preferring to be wet at home!

Maureen Scollan has long had an interest in the history of the police force and to that end has written a book entitled 'Policing the Past - Sworn to Serve,' which she wrote in 1990, to commemorate 150 years of policing in Essex. She has since retired from the Force and goes around the area talking of the early days of policing and showing how things have not changed that much at ground level. Women did not go into the Police Force until after the first World War in the Metropolitan Police, and not until after the second World War here in Essex, which surprised most of us. She gave us some interesting insights as to why some former police officers were dismissed from the Force, being late for duty or drunk on duty being two of them.

Members were told that the 'The Entertainers Concert' had raised nearly £300 for funds when all expenses had been paid. Grant-Aided Classes are being arranged for late November to do Christmas Flower Arranging; these to be held on a Thursday evening in the Lecture Hall. A coffee morning is to be held on 20th October in the Day Centre to raise money for County Funds, as they have to install wheelchair access at our County Headquarters. All Institutes in Essex have been asked to raise as much as possible and have been sent £10 to start them off! We are combining our coffee morning with raising money for the Essex Air Ambulance Service, which relies entirely on voluntary donations, and all Air Ambulance Services were the subject of one of our Resolutions at the AGM in Sheffield this year. Although our Resolution called for the Government to fund the services, it was narrowly defeated as it was realised by members when discussing this around the country, that most Ambulance Services prefer to retain their independence despite the cost of keeping these machines in the air. We hope to raise a little towards this, especially as with the M11 in our vicinity the Service is often in use.

A very successful trip was made to Chartwell on 16th June, which was an absolutely beautiful day, and we were able to roam about the gardens, enjoy a lunch on the terrace, and visit the House. Brenda Ryan took some good photographs for the scrapbook following her Photography Course at Denman last month! A trip to Buckingham Palace is taking place in August so Stansted W.I certainly gets around these days.

Even if you have no-one to come with, do come along one Thursday evening and we will make sure of a welcome.

Judy Colliver
812470

**Stansted
Art & Craft Market**

We are pleased to say the Art and Craft Market will be going ahead this year on 11th and 12th September, despite our many setbacks. With help from Mr Toby Lyons we now have storage space for the new boards that are being made for the pictures.

We have had many offers of help from a number of new people; they are willing to help set up the event on Friday afternoon and evening, to be stewards on the day, to make cakes for the refreshment and also help in the kitchen. Now all we want is good weather on the two days and people to come and buy and generally support us.

Just to remind you, most of the profit we make goes to various organisations in the village.

Brenda Ryan
Art & Craft Chairperson



**MOUNTFITCHET
GARDEN CLUB**

At our meeting on 7th July the speaker was Mr P Hughes from Braintree. His subject was saving your own seed. Among his other suggestions he told us that he had not bought any tomato seed for 25 years, always saving his own.

The speaker at our next meeting on 4th August is an old friend of the club, Mr. Colin Horner, telling us that, 'Roses are Easy'.

On 1st September the speaker will be Mr Peter Morris from Great Saling telling us how to grow 'Deep Bed Vegetables'.

4th September is the day of our Autumn Flower Show, at the UR Church Hall, Chapel Hill. It will be open to the public from 2.30pm, admission is free.

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New Chairman

Peter Sanders has taken over as Chairman of Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) from Norman Mead who had held the post since SSE's inception in 2002.

Mr Sanders was, until his appointment as Chairman, serving as SSE's Joint Deputy Chairman, a post held since early this year, and had been a member of the group's Executive Committee for almost two years. He has been centrally involved in the running of the campaign during this time and has made a number of representations to Government Ministers on its behalf. Between 2002-2003 he was also responsible for editing and writing much of the SSE response to the air transport consultation.

Speaking following formal confirmation of his appointment at an SSE Executive Committee meeting held on 28 June, Mr Sanders made clear his priority of ensuring that each and every realistic route to prevent the unsustainable expansion of Stansted Airport would be vigorously pursued and this would be supported by a well-rounded communications campaign to keep people updated.

"Our first major legal opportunity to overturn expansion proposals will come this autumn with the judicial review of the air transport white paper – subject to being able to raise sufficient funds to go ahead," he said, warning that an initial £25,000 is likely to be needed in order to see this through to a judgement, without taking into account possible appeals by either side which could have further financial implications. "My priority is therefore to ensure we attract the community support we need to see this through."

"We are determined to defeat expansion plans once and for all and, even if we are not successful in the High Court, we are ready to take the Government to task in Europe for breaching EU Directives on air quality and environmental assessment. Our ongoing campaign highlighting the lack of a firm commercial rationale for the development of Stansted amongst City audiences is already gathering pace, while we have begun the work needed to challenge BAA's impending planning applications every step of the way," he continued.

Peter Sanders paid tribute to Norman Mead, praising his commitment and drive: "During nearly 30 years of service to the local community Norman has won enormous respect and attracted overwhelming support. I am therefore delighted that he has agreed to remain very firmly at the heart of SSE as Joint Deputy Chairman alongside Peter Gowan so we can continue to draw on his knowledge and experience."

SSE Wood

On 27th June, Terry Waite CBE inaugurated the first Stop Stansted Expansion Wood on the site of BAA's proposed runway as a symbol of the determination of Stop Stansted Expansion supporters that a second runway will never be built at Stansted Airport.

The inaugural planting of the first oak tree took place at Broxted Hill Farm, Broxted, to officially launch Vanishing Villages featuring Broxted Open Gardens. The event, built around a five mile circuit of open gardens and special displays, organised by Stop Stansted Expansion and the parish of Broxted which is directly

threatened by the expansion plans, attracted visitors from across the region who would also suffer the broader impacts of expansion.

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) supporters have already reserved more than 500 trees for the SSE Wood and many more orders are expected in the months to come. The main planting of the wood, at both Broxted Hill Farm and on other land earmarked for destruction will take place during National Tree Week later this year. Anyone wishing to find out more about the initiative or to order trees is invited to contact SSE at 01279 870558, or see the website www.stopstanstedexpansion.com.

Runway Ramble

Stansted Airport, as it is now, is a fact of life and many of us use it. However, we are totally opposed to the unsustainable expansion of Stansted Airport and we ask you all to show your feelings by walking with us on 12th September and raising as much sponsorship (optional) for your walk as you can for the Judicial Review fighting fund.

Runway Ramble 2004 will walk through areas of beautiful countryside and past many homes, including listed buildings, which would be obliterated or blighted if an additional runway was given the go-ahead.

There are three easy and family-friendly circular walks all starting and finishing at The Three Horseshoes pub, Molehill Green. Choose your distance and join us on the 'SSE 5', 'SSE 7' or 'SSE 10'-mile walks and for the Fun Day at Molehill Green at the end of the walks.

Further details and a sponsorship form are on the flyer which is bound into this issue of 'The Link'.

www.stopstanstedexpansion.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The rain is pouring down and the wind is blowing in great gusts – yes, it's mid-summer during the Wimbledon fortnight and all is as normal. Just the time, then, to think about the pleasures awaiting us in the autumn and I am assured by my friend, David Harrison, that he has arranged an interesting programme for the Society during the coming season, 2004/2005.

We are getting off to a great start at our first meeting on Thursday, 2nd September, when we greet an old and ever popular visitor in the person of Robert Boltrope, who has joined us several times now. He has spoken on a variety of topics but this time he has prepared a new talk on 'Games from our Childhood', which I am sure will have us all recalling memories from our own past. We shall, of course, be meeting at the Day Centre and I hope you will make a note in your diaries to join us on what I believe will be a most enjoyable occasion.

Meanwhile, I sincerely hope that the weather will brighten up soon and that you will all enjoy a very happy summer.

Ian Seavers



The last half-term has been extremely busy with rehearsals and reports etc, but now we can all look forward to the August holidays and (hopefully) sunshine.

The money raised from the Summer Fayre is still coming in but should be around the £2,500 mark – a phenomenal total – helped in part by the Barclays £ for £ scheme. A very sincere thank you goes to all who supported the event, especially local businesses and organisations who gave so generously and helped by way of donations and prizes.

On 1st July, Year 6 competed in the 'Five Star Athletics Awards for Essex' held at Saffron Walden County High School.

Looking ahead to the next stage of school life, Year 5 enjoyed a taster day at Mountfitchet High School on 2nd July. Miss Mullis, Head Teacher, made the children extremely welcome and they were all impressed with the school and its current achievements as well as hearing about future goals and targets. Children in Year 6 will soon be starting at Mountfitchet High, Herts and Essex, Newport Free Grammar and The Boys' High.

6th and 7th July were the dates for this year's school production – 'School Daze' and what a performance. Years 4, 5 & 6 put on a fantastic production, in fact it was so good, I know of several parents who went back the following evening for a second showing! There were terrific performances from all, in particular Harry Bullock, Faye West, Nicola Mooney and Ashleigh Reed with narration by Lyndsey Barnes, not forgetting a super programme designed by Adam Park. Of course, productions like this are not possible without the teachers who put in a massive amount of extra time and effort in order for us to enjoy this kind of event. A huge thank you to Mr Brown and Mrs Atkinson especially, along with his able team of helpers, Mrs Blurton, Mrs Wilton and Miss Watson.

Mrs Wilton has had a busy time of late, as on 12th July she introduced a new initiative to St Mary's – that of Maths Week. The week turned out to be a lot of fun with some interesting visits to local businesses as well as receiving visitors at school to talk about how they use maths in their work and at home. With sponsors such as Castle Cars, Continental Cars, Barclays Bank and Mullucks Wells among others, competitions were held for both parents and children, and visits were organised to airside at Stansted Airport, Britannia Airways, Stansted windmill and Bishop's Stortford Bowling among others. Some children from the Early Birds Club wrote a Maths Trail around the school grounds for use during the week as well as helped to develop one for all the children to use in the village.

Parents were invited to school for Open Afternoon on 16th July. This provided an opportunity to look at our children's work, see the classroom displays and chat informally with teachers and other parents. Year 6 just had enough time to nip home for a quick costume change before dashing back for the annual Leavers School Disco, one of the last social occasions when they will be together as a year group.

Another highlight of the July social calendar is the Governors' annual Strawberry Tea held this year on the 19th, when all helpers and the PTFA are invited and thanked for their fund raising efforts during the year. The School Hall held an entirely different social event in the evening when the PTFA threw a final end of school term disco and the room reverberated to the sounds of J Lo, Justin and Britney. Everyone we're sure, had a super time.

And so to the final gathering of the academic year, the Leavers' Service in St John's Church held on 21st July - a poignant and moving occasion when proud parents looked on as the children were presented with their School Cross from our Head Teacher, Wendy Wood. It was especially sad this year as we also said goodbye to our Deputy Head, Julie Gibbons who has been a popular member of the

teaching staff since her arrival three years ago. St Mary's loss is Debben Primary's gain and we wish her well as she takes up her new role of Head Teacher. However, we are delighted to welcome our new teacher Miss Victoria Wood who starts in September with Year 4/5 and are sure that she will be made very welcome and soon feel at home.

Thoughts from our School Leavers

Finally, here are a few lines from the pupils themselves. We asked our Year 6 pupils to jot down some memories of their years at St Mary's and as before in this slot, they were all terrific. Here are extracts from some of the contributions;

Lauren: It was my first day in Reception. As soon as I walked through those doors somehow I had a feeling that there would be no more playgroup. The day went fast until it was time to go home. I went out of the door and gave my mum a big hug. From then on I always liked going to school.

Mackenzie: I remember on one Monday morning my school were having Star of the Week at assembly. It was Year 6's turn for who got Star of the Week, I was saying to myself in my head, I've been working hard for Star of the Week so I must get it – and I did. I was very proud of myself and I couldn't wait to tell my family.

Louise: When we were in Year 4 we went to the zoo. We went to see the monkeys and there was an old monkey and he threw a banana skin at Danielle...

Nicola: My memories are of one week in September 2003 and a group of children went to France. I loved the trip and wished I'd stayed. I waited for the trip for ages and I'll always remember it.

Michael: There's a memory that I couldn't forget from when I was in Year 1. A boy in my class pushed me off the wall and gave me a big bump. I still have it today...

Jack: It was the Saturday for the school football tournament. It was special for all of us but it was extremely special for me as I was only in Year 5 and I was playing for the first team. Virtually every player was huge. Unfortunately they beat us 1-0. Overall it was a great day and a great experience. We all got a medal.

Harry: My best memory is the talent show in France. My good friend Tom and I did a comedy magic show and Tom was my ugly assistant...

Lyndsey: I remember my first netball tournament. We won out of our group and came second overall. I will always remember this.

Jessica: On a nice pleasant day I was making a daisy chain when I felt something in my summer dress, then that thing stung me and I realised that it was a bee – a whole swarm of bees and I got stung all over the place. I've still got the scars today.

Faye: When we were in Year 1 one of my classmates tried to climb a tree. Unfortunately his knee got stuck in the Y shaped trunk. I remember the fire fighters coming and sawing him out...

Another version of events from Thomas: I will always remember when my friend Ash got stuck up a tree. He was running from a group of girls, they chased him into a tree. His foot got stuck, in the end the firemen had to get him out.

Gemma: If we were good, Mrs Putt took us to Peter Kirk School because it had a fun room. Mrs Putt and Brenda joined in and had fun too. That was one of the good times I had in this school and it was all because of Mrs Putt and Brenda who did that for us.

Sophie: My memory was when I wanted to be chosen for Secretary. I can remember having to stand up in front of everyone in class and assembly. I was worried and scared to stand up, but my speech and confidence has brought me to where I am now as Secretary for the School Council.

Ashleigh: In September our class went on a school trip to France. We went to a lot of places in just four days and I think these memories will stay with me forever.

I'm sure all 'Link's readers will join us in wishing Year 6 pupils at both St Mary's and Bentfield Schools all the very best for the future and hope everyone will be happy at their new schools. Good luck to you all.

Have a great summer – Stansted Playscheme here we come!

Claire Jonas



**Royal British Legion
Stansted & District
Branch**

Please note that a Fish and Chip Supper is to be held on Friday 17th September at 7.30 pm at the Day Centre. We are very fortunate to have as our speaker Mr George Foster, who will be telling us about his recent visit to Normandy for the 60th D-Day Commemorations.

Tickets, £5, will be available from the Chairman, David Challis, Bob Stoddart, Eddie Laird, Harold Thistle or any other committee member.

The event is to be held in aid of the Poppy Appeal.

David Challis
Chairman RBL



What a fun packed Sunday and what a choice! The Fun Run, the Rector's Barbecue or Heal's Open Gardens. For the fifth year we had lovely gardens to visit, including the old Lloyd's Bank car park, transformed into an Italian garden! £1,600 was made for our charity and we thank everyone who took part.



Our next event is a fun poetry evening called 'Wot Poetry!' This will be on Friday 8th October, 7.30pm for 8.00pm in St John's Church. Tickets £6.50, to include supper. Bar and raffle. Proceeds will be divided between St John's and Heal. Telephone 814265 for tickets and information.

Please note the Coffee Morning previously arranged for 8th September will not now take place.



**Royal British Legion
Women's Section**

On Monday afternoon, 10th May, we met at Janet Hollis' for our periodical 'get together' and were treated to some delightful slides by Doris and Harold Thistle.

They regularly holiday in France and recently had been to several well-known chateaux including Fontainebleau Palace, known as the 'Chateau Adieu' since Napoleon came down its famous staircase and said "Adieu" before his banishment to Elba.

We also saw shots of Chateau Chantilly and the twin towers of Chartres Cathedral which is said to be the finest Gothic Cathedral in the world. We then journeyed through the Loire and Dordogne valleys and came to the very sad town of Orador-sur-Glane, which the Germans completely wrecked just after D-Day killing 642 people and destroying 328 buildings, and which is now a National Memorial.

Then we were taken right back to Stansted with slides of the garden at Bentfield Place, the windmill, a mid-60s Carnival, Mead Court in its very early days and the Memorial Gardens with its fir trees – now all gone.

We finished with a chat, tea and biscuits and a generous raffle. We shall meet next on Monday 9th August at 2.30pm in Gill Reeve's garden – weather permitting.

Pat Clower

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STANSTED FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

As always, we have had a busy time at Stansted with the usual round of fire calls, including a large house and garage fire in Birchanger, a serious workshop fire at Rochford's nurseries, road accidents and other incidents, as well as a range of other activities. We have taken part recently in two exercises: one, at Stansted Airport, which has become a regular fixture, dealing with an aircraft incident; the other, using the then-unopened stretch of the new A120 dual carriageway for an RTA exercise, both of which went very well. The main object of the exercises is to improve procedures and inter-service co-operation between fire, police and ambulance services and to give all personnel practice in major incident procedures. Often such exercises call on the services of other vital parties, such as the WRVS, who often provide emergency feeding at major incidents, and for which we have been very grateful several times in the past; the Salvation Army, who provide vital information-gathering and sheltering resources for those involved but not seriously injured, the bereaved and the lost; and the Casualty Union, who provide the most amazing personnel of all ages who spend hours in 'make-up' to provide injured casualties 'trapped' in cars or aircraft. Some of the 'injuries' they have sustained are incredibly life-like and contribute immeasurably to the whole exercise.

Some 16 years ago the writer first came across the Union at work one Sunday morning in a train 'crash' staged in the old goods yard at Bishops Stortford, where several condemned railway carriages had been positioned by BR in a crash setting and filled with 'passengers' whose injuries ranged from cut fingers to fatalities. One elderly lady had been completely 'impaled' on her knitting needles!! Firefighters are to retrieve the casualties as efficiently as possible, whilst the ambulance service assesses the degree of injuries (triage) in concert with Medics, the flying doctor service. We now also benefit from the assistance of the Essex Emergency Helicopter, which has attended many incidents the Stansted Fire Crew has had to deal with. This is funded entirely by charitable donations.

Most importantly for the crew the highlight so far this year has been the acquisition of a new Rescue Pump to replace our older 'N' registered vehicle. Like the previous vehicle, the new one is by Dennis of Guildford, who make most British fire appliances (and dustcarts too! - though the fire engines are a little quicker...): also, like the previous vehicle, it is not 'new', being 'X' registration and having served at another full-time station in Essex before coming to us. However, it is bristling with new features, and many villagers may have already become familiar with the fact that it has wailers and sirens, as well as the traditional two-tone horns. The idea of wailers is that motorists are supposed to be able to identify the direction from which it approaches much more easily than the two-tones, which create an echo effect in built-up areas, although those who regularly drive the appliance would probably dispute this! The appliance has basically the same pumping ability as its predecessor, with a 1000 gallon a minute output through main delivery hoses and hosereels, carrying 400 gallons of water on board, as well as foam. The firecrew are able to enjoy a touch of luxury in that the hosereels wind themselves back in using compressed air, a fact for which many of us are grateful: at the end of many a long, tiring incident, there used to be the tiresome manual winding-in of the hosereels with handles that regularly fell

off! The equipment lockers now all have trays which pull out and tilt, to enable quick and easy access to all the firegear, without the need to clamber on the tyres or the bodywork to reach out-of-the-way items. Ladders, too, are more accessible from ground level, obviating the need for a firefighter to clamber on the roof of the appliance: always a dangerous job in foul weather conditions. Most impressively, the machine 'kneels down' hydraulically at the rear end to make this easier still! The appliance is also fitted with large scenery lights on either side, which illuminate the whole area around the machine, to improve safety when working in the dark. The traditional rotating blue beacons have also given way to a more modern light bar at the front. Most noticeable of all is the new red and yellow fluorescent chequered pattern along the sides of the machine. The crew appreciate the new light, airy and spacious cab, which has much more storage room for small gear and for the crew themselves! Many of you will have had the opportunity to inspect the new pump at close quarters at the various fêtes and events it has already attended. Many, too, will have had the chance to see it at our annual Open Day at the fire station on 3rd July, which was very successful indeed.

We also held our popular plant sale in May and sold out, as usual! Very many thanks to all who supported us. All the proceeds go to the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund, which supports firefighters and their families who have suffered injury or death on duty. The Fund maintains two superb convalescent homes, in Penrith, Cumbria, and Littlehampton, Sussex, together with a facility for recuperation from injury. It aids widows and dependent children with day-to-day problems, from housing to education. Because of the very strenuous nature of the job, firefighters are frequently subject to excessive demands on their bodies, often leading to back injuries or other strains. Naturally this is an expensive service to maintain and needs constant fundraising to keep it going: hence the need for fire stations to organise frequent events such as plant sales, car washes, and the like!

Until our next report, enjoy the remainder of the summer and keep safe!+

Philip Hastings

Jessica Pearce

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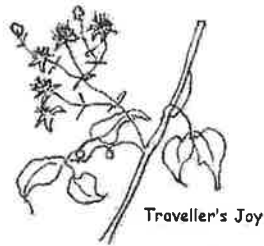
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Nature Notes

At this time of year the hedgerows around Stansted are festooned with the strong climbing stems of the wild clematis, *Clematis vitalba*. Its greenish-white flowers in July and August have a sweet vanilla scent. The plant is also known as traveller's joy. In his *Herbal* of 1597, Gerard explained that he had given the clematis this name because it was common in every hedgerow from Gravesend to Canterbury 'making a goodly show' and weary travellers could rest beneath it.



Wild clematis is a member of the buttercup family. Unlike other members of the family its stems are thick and woody and on older plants can often trail downwards from shrubs and trees like tropical forest lianas. In the autumn the seed heads bear long smoky-white feathery plumes which look very decorative and have led to the plant being given its country name of old man's beard.

Another common climber which also flowers in the summer months is the wild honeysuckle. It grows in hedges and in lightly shaded woodland. The various honeysuckle species bear the name *Lonicera* after Adam Lonicer, a Frankfurt physician. The highly perfumed flowers are creamy-yellow, sometimes tinged with pink. They are most strongly scented when fully out, 'ripen'd by the sun'. They smell even stronger at night when they are pollinated by moths, especially the hawk moths.

Wild honeysuckle is the woodbine of Shakespeare, mentioned twice in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. John Parkinson, botanist to Charles I, wrote that 'although it be very sweete' he did not grow it in his garden, rather generously preferring that it remain in the hedgerows 'to serve the senses of those that travel by or have no garden'.

Rosina Kirkwood

STJOHN'S BADMINTON CLUB

Stansted's oldest running badminton club, St John's, has moved location and now plays at the new Romeera Leisure Centre on Mondays from 8.00pm-10.00pm.

The friendly club was established in 1988 and has played throughout the year ever since. The standard of play is good and some members participate in local leagues (the mixed team came middle of the league and won the knockout tournament last year!).

The club welcomes experienced players; just turn up on the night or contact Tony Hersh on 01279 817030 for more information.

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk Ruth Clifford
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Council Offices
Crafton Green
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Fax 813964

Members are heading for their summer recess - at least a break from meetings until September. Current topics keeping us busy are the skate park and detailed planning application for development of the Rochford Nursery site.

Skate Park

As we go to print, the fencing contractors are erecting the boundary fencing, and the equipment contractors, Clever Curves, are nearing completion. We hope that the park will be fully operational early in the school holidays and that, once open, it will be well used by our youngsters. Funding for this project has come from the Parish Council (£20,000), Uttlesford District Council (£19,000) and the Bretts Landfill Tax Scheme (£9,400). There may be other sources also, but the Parish Council has agreed to underwrite a further £9,600 should this be required for Phase 1. Local youngsters have started a fund raising campaign for Phase 2 - anyone willing to contribute should contact the Clerk for further information.

Rochford Nursery Site

The detailed plans for construction of the first 315 houses are presently under consideration. Landscaping, play areas and Newt Conservation area are all included. Plans are available in the Council Offices.

Memorial Gardens

Quotes for the repair/replacement of the boundary fencing have been invited. We shall be removing the existing railings soon, after which we can root out the remains of the hedge and tidy up the front boundary. Work to clear the weed/bramble from the western shrub area will be put in hand over the summer. The four yew trees should be planted in the autumn.

Ruth Clifford
Clerk

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Well this term is winding down nicely and what a busy one it has been! The children have been learning all about food and how it arrives in the shops and on to the table. We have tasted other countries' special recipes, made cakes and sandwiches (jam seems to be a favourite choice!) and tried different vegetables.

We have enjoyed a train ride to Newport Playground, a visit to Hatfield Forest, looking at the windmill, and a picnic on the Recreation Ground. A special treat was a trip to the Fire Station; always great fun!

Auntie Joyce still comes to Sideways on alternate Wednesdays, for Music and Movement, Rhymes and Songs. PE is popular on the other Wednesday with the parachute, skipping ropes, ball games, hula-hoops (the children are much better than the adults at this!). Safety mats are used for jumping and head-over-heels etc...

We will finish the term with our Sports Day; everyone is invited to watch and enjoy a BBQ, (weather permitting).

Next term our theme will be the seasons, starting with autumn, a great time for collecting conkers, leaf printing and noticing colour changes. Sideways still has some places for next term and offers a wide range of activities with emphasis on learning through play. We offer flexible days, for parents to choose as many or as few, depending on the stamina of their children. If you are interested in a place, please call in on us at St John's Hall any morning between 9.00am and 12.15pm; stay and play! You can pick up a brochure and learn more about us.

To the children leaving us for big school, we will miss you, but enjoy school! To all the new ones, see you in September!!

Auntie Helen

AUGUST

This month is named after Augustus Caesar, the first Roman Emperor. He inherited money from his Great Uncle Julius Caesar and spent some of it in raising an army. He succeeded in bringing peace to Rome and reigned from 27 BC to 14 BC. On his death he was declared a god.



Lammas (Loaf Mass) is the first Sunday in August. It was when loaves of bread were baked from the first grain of the harvest and placed on the Church altar. The Christian Church probably took over the custom from an ancient rite.

P.S. To our feathered friends -
Watch out on the Glorious Twelfth!



SEPTEMBER

This was the seventh month of the Roman Year. Caligula renamed it 'Germanicus' in AD 37 in memory of his father, but it was overturned by the senate after his assassination. September was again renamed 'Germanicus' by Emperor Domitian after defeating a Germanic tribe, but was revoked when he also was assassinated. A dangerous job being a Roman Emperor!

As usual, Shakespeare had a phrase for it:
"But yesterday the word of Caesar might
Have stood against the world;
Now lies he there"

29th September is Michaelmas Day - the feast of St Michael and All Angels. A Quarter Day when rents are paid and accounts settled. Hiring Fairs were held at this time of year and consideration given to how many animals could be kept or had to be slaughtered and preserved to supply food for the winter.

Peggy Honour

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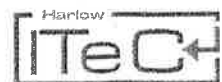
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Runway Ramble 2004 Sponsored Walk and Fun Day Molehill Green

Sunday 12th September 2004

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Runway Ramble 2004 will walk through areas of beautiful countryside and past many homes, including listed buildings, which would be obliterated or blighted if an additional runway was given the go-ahead.

There are three easy and family-friendly circular walks all starting and finishing at The Three Horseshoes pub, Molehill Green. Choose your distance and join us on the "SSE 5", "SSE 7" or "SSE 10"-mile walks and for the Fun Day at Molehill Green at the end of the walks.

- Free parking close to Molehill Green, just follow signs from The Three Horseshoes
- "SSE 5" and "SSE 7"-mile walks suitable for pushchairs/assisted wheelchairs
- Refreshments available at 5-mile checkpoint on the "SSE 10" walk
- Entertainment and refreshments, including beer tent and barbecue at Molehill Green at the finish and throughout the afternoon
- The Three Horseshoes pub at Molehill Green open all day

WALK WITH US – WITH OR WITHOUT SPONSORSHIP

More information/directions: Stop Stansted Expansion

01279 870558 info@stopstanstedexpansion.com www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

RUNWAY RAMBLE 2004 - SPONSORSHIP FORM

(please photocopy if necessary or obtain more forms from SSE – see below)

WALKER'S NAME:**TEL:**

ADDRESS.....

I plan to walk **"The Runway Ramble 2004"** on Sunday 12 September 2004 and I will start the "SSE 5"/"SSE 7"/"SSE 10"- mile walk *(please delete as necessary)*

Check-in times

- "SSE 10" Check-in from 8.30am, start from 9am (5-mile Checkpoint open from 10.30am)
- "SSE 7" Check-in from 9.30am, start from 10am
- "SSE 5" Check-in from 10.30am, start from 10.45am

Detailed route description, map and check-card will be given to you at the Registration Checkpoint at Molehill Green. Car parking will be available close to Molehill Green (follow signs from The Three Horseshoes P.H.). More information beforehand is available from SSE - see contact details below.

	Sponsor's name	Address or telephone number	Amount per mile	Total
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
+++continue on separate sheet if required +++			TOTALS	

REMEMBER:

- You must check in at each of the relevant staging points** to validate your walk on the card that will be provided at your starting point
- All monies collected should be sent with sponsorship forms** by 12 October (preferably cheques payable to Stop Stansted Expansion, sent to PO Box 311 Takeley CM22 6PY)
- Children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult** and those age 12-16 should have parental consent
- Further information is available from SSE: 01279 870558, www.stopstanstedexpansion.com, info@stopstanstedexpansion.com or by post: SSE, PO Box 311, Takeley CM22 6PY**

The Runway Ramble 2004 is supported by Uttlesford District Council and the use of Molehill Green is by kind permission of Takeley Parish Council

NOTICE UNDER THE DATA PROTECTION ACT:
SSE will use this form only for administration purposes relating to the Runway Ramble 2004. It will not be used for any form of marketing and no information will be divulged to any third parties.

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