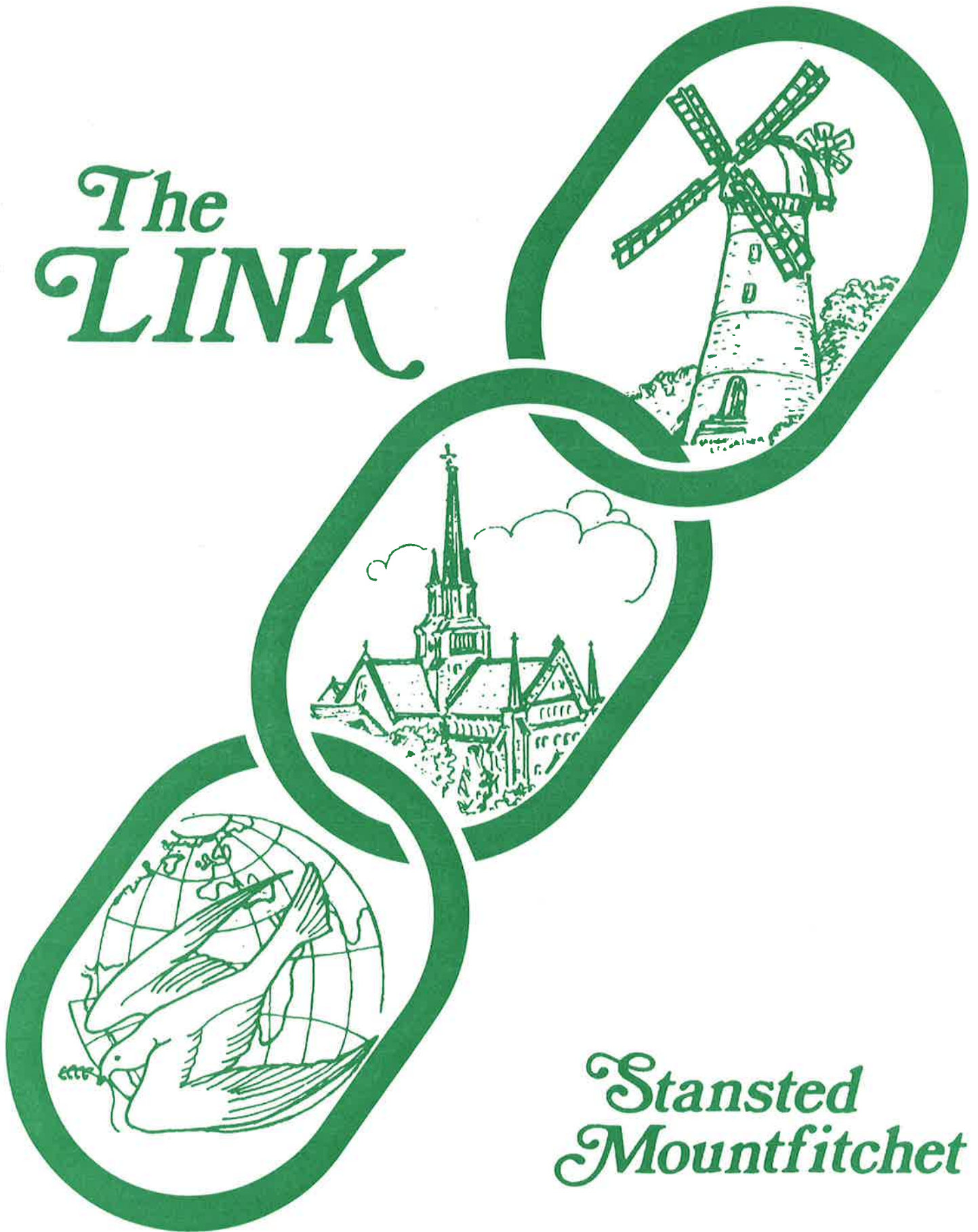


Jan 2024

# The *LINK*



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Mountfitchet*

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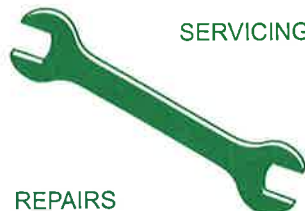
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Essex CM24 8HD  
info@genesis.co.uk

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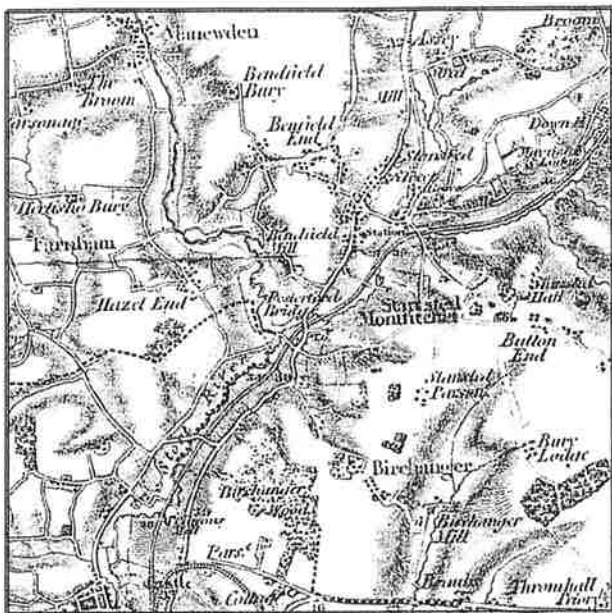
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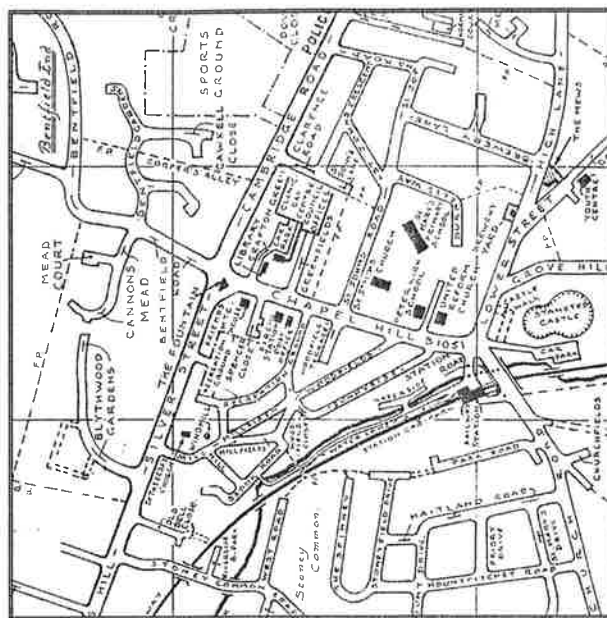
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Carter's Hill Maudon



Stansted Mountfitchet circa 1855

circa 2003



Whither Stansted Mountfitchet 2015? 2025? 2035?

Who will write our Story. Them or Us?

“Smile at us, pay us, pass us, but do not quite forget. For we are the people of England, that have never spoken yet.”

The Secret People G K Chesterton

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

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by 15th January for publication on 31st January by 12th February for publication on 28th February



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

Meet fortnightly on Tuesday evening at the Rectory. The Spring term begins with *The story of Ruth: twelve moments in every woman's life*.  
Leaders: Lyn Hillier & Sandra Wood.

*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*

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

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

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

*Honorary Assistant Priest*  
**Canon Derek Jackson**  
*phone*  
(01279) 652664

*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 November:

### Baptisms

16th Chloe Joan Marie Culling  
Hope Lily Wright

### Funerals

4th Marie Eastcott  
7th Richard Thomas Winder  
24th Denise Lorraine Thatcher

## 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](mailto:methodists@stansted.net)

All services start at 9.30 am unless otherwise stated

### Services and preachers for January

There will be no service in Stansted on 4th January as we will be joining with Bishop's Stortford for the Annual Covenant Service led by Rev'd Dr Neil Richardson, President of the Methodist Conference.

4th 10.30 am at Bishop's Stortford Church  
Covenant Service  
11th Jerry Heyhoe  
18th Rev'd Jim Gill

25th 10.30am Joint Service at United Reformed Church  
led by Rev'd Keith Page

Fellowship meeting - Thursday 15th January at 8 pm

# ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux

High Lane

**Priest** Father Joe White  
The Presbytery  
St Therese of Lisieux  
High Lane  
Stansted  
Tel 01279 814349

**Masses** Saturday 6.00 pm  
Sunday 9 am and 10.30 am  
Holy Days of Obligation  
8 am and 8 pm  
Tuesday - Saturday  
9.30 am

**Confessions**  
Saturday 10 am - and by appointment

**Baptisms**  
By appointment

## MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, as she was more commonly known, founded the Society of the Missionaries of Charity on 7th October 1950. The growth of the Missionary Sisters of Charity has been remarkable. Mother Teresa integrated herself into the world, caring for the abandoned, sick and destitute people of all ages, irrespective of cast, colour or creed. She was constantly reminded of her early calling: "I must do something. Something must be done" for the dying and hopeless cases.

The daughter of an Albanian chemist, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born on 27th August 1910 in Skopje, Yugoslavia. She was a pious young girl and at the age of 12 she got her first 'calling'. Six years later some Jesuit priests told her about the Sisters of Our Lady of Loretto in Calcutta and that was it! She was accepted as a postulant at the Motherhouse in Rathfarnham, Dublin; at the age of 18 she was on her way to Calcutta. After 9 years she took her vows and taught for many years in the famous school attached to the Loretto Convent. But all the while she heard the groans of the dying in squalor, in slums and on the pavements of Calcutta, which chilled her heart and she could no longer ignore the voice of poverty from beyond the cloister. Eventually she applied to Rome for dispensation to leave the Order (her Superior gave her blessing, but told her she could return if things did not work out!) to start her own Mission. On 12th April 1948, Pope Pius XII gave Teresa permission to leave Our Lady of Loretto Convent, while remaining a nun under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Calcutta. So she was then free to enter the world of the poor!

Her work and achievements are widely known and respected all over the world. A steadfast nun with a very positive disposition, she was "Mother" to all in the slums and leper colonies. Initially she used to walk till exhausted, washing and caring for the dying and destitute where they lay, taking them to hospital, where often treatment or admittance were refused. Initially she was given a house

with two rooms - one for males and the other for females - and the Home for the Destitute Dying in Calcutta opened in 1954. She relied on the goodwill and donations from local people, businesses, government officials and other sources sympathetic to her cause.

Mother Teresa also opened an orphanage called "Sishu Bhavan" where deserted children were taken, abandoned through misfortune, shame or circumstance. These children were always made welcome. Many premature babies were left overnight, put in packing cases fitted with a large bulb to keep them warm until they were rescued. They were cared for and specially loved by the Sisters, and eventually adopted. All children were taught to read and write and the older ones learned skills e.g. carpentry, typing, sewing, etc. in schools run by the Sisters.

In the logic of her charity, Mother Teresa considered that the individual was the only true value. Faced with the mass of starving and dying people she didn't see crowds, simply a starving or dying person. Only one. She said: "I never care for a crowd. If I visualised a crowd I would never get started. The important thing is the individual and a one to one approach". She believed - Love is a fruit which is always in season.

I lived in Calcutta in the 1950s and was privileged to help with Mother Teresa's first ever Christmas tree on Christmas Day! My parents were not too happy - their concerns were genuine - when I volunteered to take part in a team to help Mother Teresa, also, our Christmas Day celebrations at home would be disrupted! They were ordinary, but traditional folk, who liked the family celebrating Christmas together, especially meals. The Christmas tree party started around mid-day and went on until about 5 pm, so I would have been absent for most of the day! They appreciated my commitment to the YCW movement, and as we had been approached by Mother Teresa to help organise the event, they relented and gave their blessing!

It was the most wonderful experience! To see the little faces of children of all ages light up; some too small or weak to appreciate the occasion, others with appalling disabilities and / or health problems. For most, if not all, it was probably the first new toy they had received and the first party they had experienced. Sadly, for many it was the last. However, all had a ball; even those too frail to go outdoors were given toys and treats in the wards, which we decorated with streamers and balloons! Christmas is not generally celebrated by Indians, being a Christian event. Not just the children, but every one of the patients who received presents were aware of an abundance of love. They experienced fun, laughter and wonderment on that magical Christmas Day! For us it was great being part of a very special and humbling experience, all the more poignant at Christmas.

Mother Teresa was beatified in Rome on 19th October; six years after her death and the penultimate step before sainthood. A well-deserved tribute and recognition for the nun who devoted her life to caring for the poor.

Wendy Moss

# 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 January

4th	2.30 pm	Rev'd David Simpson - Baptism
11th	10.30 am	Mrs S Devereux
18th	10.30 am	Rev'd David Simpson Communion
25th	10.30 am	Rev'd K Page Joint with our Methodist Friends

## Afternoon Tea

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, we won't be open for Afternoon Tea on the 4th January. From 1st February we shall be having a service at 2.30pm followed by tea from 3.30 to 5.00pm on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to come to the service you will be very welcome, if not just come for tea as usual. If you need transport during the winter, or anytime if you can't manage the walk please phone 814850 by 1.30pm and we will arrange to pick you up.

## Lecture Hall

As I write, the repairs and renovations to the Lecture Hall are well on their way towards completion. As often happens, more work has had to be done than was originally planned, so costs are up by several thousand pounds. There are a number of fund raising ideas being planned for next year, including a festival weekend over Easter, more details later, and watch the Village notice boards for these events.

## Quiz winner

The winner of our Bird quiz was Mrs Eunice Bunting who lives in Pickering, North Yorkshire, (Olive Bunting's sister in law). Congratulations to her and thanks to the other 44 who returned their entries.

We wish all LINK readers a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Janet Townsend

# 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

If pressed to say what we are actually doing in a Quaker meeting for worship we would probably say we were waiting and listening: waiting expectantly and listening in our hearts for the touch of something beyond our everyday selves. It's not always very easy to participate fully in the silence but when we do manage to quieten the busy, anxious, thinking part of our mind, it's possible to enter into a state, not only of peace but also of inspiration.

Edgar Hope-Simpson, a Quaker doctor, who died recently, wrote the following poem "after a sudden, unexpected spiritual experience".

*The poet momentarily sees his surroundings transformed.*  
"The word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his beauty".

He saw the heavenly moment come  
Unheralded, unmarked, unsung.  
He watched the magic slowly pass.  
The frost still stood upon the grass,  
The sun crept up the rising day  
And swept the miracle away;  
Yet all was changed - the world was new.  
The poet felt what he must do:  
"Each time that God is fleshed" said he,  
"Someone must sing a litany.  
I am the angel choir that sings;  
The shepherds and the three wise kings,  
No gold, incense or myrrh I bring  
But this is all my offering;  
To tell the unbelieving earth  
That God himself is come to birth  
Here in this world of you and me  
For those that have the eyes to see;  
Again conceived, and yet again,  
The seed of God, the holy grain,  
The inward Light, eternal Word.  
My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
For I am Mary, too, and see  
The Spirit brooding over me.  
Here in my inmost part, I know  
A spiritual embryo".

"I sing that you, and you, and you  
May seek and know the infant too:  
"Magnificat" together cry,  
My soul the Lord doth magnify".

Anthea Lee



# Shalom



12th January

'Step into the New Year' with Michael Dyer at  
7 Blythwood Gardens

26th January

A Tranquility evening with Virginia Barnes of the Bahai  
Faith at the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill

All meetings start at 8 pm

Why not make a new year's resolution to find out what the  
Shalom group is all about? Come and join us at one of our  
meetings. You will be most welcome.

Catherine Dean



**CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
in STANSTED**

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

7.30 pm 21st January

St. John's Church

**An Act of Worship with Prayers**



PRESS RELEASE

Issued by Stop Stansted Expansion, 16 December 2003

WHITE PAPER PROPOSALS FOR STANSTED ARE 'PIE  
IN THE SKY'

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) described proposals for  
expanding Stansted Airport as 'pie in the sky' following  
publication of the Air Transport White Paper today, 16  
December.

"Governments don't build runways," said SSE Chairman  
Norman Mead. "BAA could only proceed with an extra  
runway at Stansted if there were no legal or regulatory  
barriers and if there was clear market demand. The project  
would also need to be environmentally sustainable,  
commercially viable and capable of being financed. The  
prospect of Stansted ever being able to meet these criteria is  
remote."

"The idea of a second Stansted runway is illogical and  
undeliverable," continued Mr Mead. "The government's  
'green' credentials are now totally discredited by this White  
Paper whose clear message is 'to hell with protecting the  
environment, our national heritage and local communities:  
planes take priority.' Well - we'll see about that!"

The group is also contemptuous of BAA which has hidden  
behind the government throughout the debate. It is calling  
on the company to put its cards on the table and declare its  
intentions for expansion without delay. "The community is  
entitled to know precisely what plans BAA now has for  
Stansted, and the company should prepare itself for massive  
opposition" commented Norman Mead.

SSE is committed to pursuing a vigorous and relentless  
challenge to a second Stansted runway which will include  
legal, regulatory and planning routes, notably the UK and  
European courts and authorities, as well as the European  
Commission.

"The phoney war is over and now the real battle begins,"  
said Norman Mead. "It will not end until we have forced  
the abandonment of these pie-in-the-sky proposals."

Further comment:

Norman Mead, Chairman, SSE  
M 07929 551181; (H 01279 659483)

Peter Gowan, Deputy Chairman, SSE  
M 07785 572878; H 01279 871019

Carol Barbone, Campaign Director, SSE  
0777 552 3091 cbarbone@mxco.co.uk

See also [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com)

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## End of year Reflections

As one year comes to an end and another dawns it is helpful to reflect on the last twelve months. It has been an eventful period for the Council, the highlight of which were the May council elections which ended eight years of no overall control. The boundary changes meant that I had to say goodbye to some constituents and welcome new ones.

Since May there has been a determined attempt by the Council to improve its efficiency and deliver greater value for money. It appointed an interim director (strategy), a policy and performance manager and a communications officer. In an effort to improve dialogue with residents focus groups were introduced. Four meetings were held throughout Uttlesford which gave residents the opportunity of giving their views of what should be the Council's priorities. I attended the meeting at Stansted which was very successful.

In June 2003 the Council agreed a Quality of Life Plan. The five long term themes that are currently emerging are:

- " Strong Community Leadership
- " Protecting the Environment
- " Improving Access to Value for Money Services
- " Improving Community Safety and the Health of the Population
- " Supporting Lifelong Learning and Better Opportunities for Young People

It will be now up to the Council to ensure that these ambitions are realised.

In the coming year attention will be focused not just on the twin threats facing the District (runway expansion and housing growth) but also on our budget for 2004/05. Central Government has realised that local government needs more resources if it is to deliver all that is asked of it. At the full council meeting in October councillors agreed to call upon the Deputy Prime Minister:

"To replace the council tax based on income, reinstating the principle of progressive taxation, that the more one earns, the more one pays."

With best wishes for a happy New Year.

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

## \*STOP PRESS\*

This item is being written just after Alastair Darling announced in the Commons the Government's preference of Stansted for a further runway.

The Secretary of State chose Stansted as the Government's first option for more runways in the south-east, with Heathrow close behind. I view this announcement as little more than a wish list and something that is far from certain will happen. They say they want to see a second runway to the east of the present airport operational between 2011 and 2012. But the Government does not build and pay for airports.

The reason I don't think Stansted will get more runways is because it doesn't stack up economically. BAA's investment in the 1980s is not being paid back. BAA has said that a further runway would have to be cross-subsidised from income at Heathrow. This suggests that a second runway at Stansted will not be viable economically and is unlikely to get commercial support.

The Council was due to renew its opposition at a Full Council Meeting on the day of the announcement and the day that Link went to press.

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

## STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Stansted Bowling Club held their annual presentation dinner on Saturday 22nd November at the St John's Church Hall. Some 50 members and guests attended the function, which included a time for dancing following the dinner. Our thanks go to Peter Howes and his staff for once again providing a superb meal, which everyone enjoyed immensely. Winners of the Club competitions were presented with their individual glass trophies.

On Wednesday 3rd December we held our Annual General Meeting at the club, which was attended by 37 members. One of the main issues raised was that of attracting new members so, as usual, if there are any of you who think you may like to try bowling and the club atmosphere, why not call in at the club on a Friday evening for a chat. The new season starts at the end of April 2004. This year's AGM marked a place in history for the club as we elected its first Lady President, Margaret Hill. This was because the club became an equal opportunities club in terms of its management a few years ago and Margaret was elected around that time as Deputy President. Margaret replaces Peter Bush who had been President for a number of years, but for personal reasons has now had to give it up. As Deputy President we are pleased to have elected John Hollis. We wish them every success in their new roles and Peter Bush for the future.

We would like to wish everyone the very best for 2004.

Rex Turner  
Secretary





## ESSEX CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Conductor - Patrick Bailey

Mozart - Divertimento for Strings (K136)  
Dvorak - Wind Serenade  
Schubert - Symphony No. 5 in B♭

7.30 pm Sat 10th January  
United Reformed Church  
Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford

Tickets - £12 adults, £7 students, from:  
Ottaker's Bookshop, 12 South Street BS  
St Michael's Church BS ☎ 651596  
BS United Reformed Church ☎ 657296



## Stansted Branch

SPRING COURSE

10 lectures

### Introducing Wales

by Rosemary Williams

DAY CENTRE

Enrolment Monday 12 January 7.30 pm  
thereafter at 8 pm

Secretary: Harold Thistle Tel. 813250



## THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

RODNEY CLARKE Baritone  
HELEN COLLYER Piano

3 pm Sun 18th January  
St John's Church

Programme includes:

Somervell's A Shropshire Lad  
Songs by Duparc  
Ravel's Don Quixote à Dulcinée  
Schumann's Liederkreis

Tickets from:

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Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, tel 815282  
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£9 adults, £7 concessions, £3 children  
£1 subscribers' children & grandchildren

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### January

7	Wed	Bookstart	Library 2.15 - 2.45 pm
8	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
9	Fri	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
10	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch Essex Chamber Orchestra	Day Centre noon - 2 pm Bishop's Stortford URC 7.30 pm
12	Mon	Shalom Group WEA course begins	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm Day Centre 7.30 pm
18	Sun	Village Music Club	St John's Church 3 pm
20	Tue	Art & Craft Public Meeting	URC Hall 8 pm
26	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
27	Tue	Conservative Branch Meeting	Parish Council Office 8 pm

### February

1	Sun	Afternoon Tea (after service)	UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm
4	Wed	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Thu	Conservative Debating Society Local History Society	details later Day Centre 8 pm
7	Sat	Quiz for Chevetogne visit	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
14	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Lunch	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
14	Sat - 15	Sun Amenity Skip	Lower St Car Pk 7.30 am - 3 pm
20	Fri	Jazz Concert	St John's Church 8 - 11 pm
21	Sat	Conservative 'Pie and Peas'	Day Centre 8 pm

## Art & Craft Market

Special Public Meeting  
to discuss future plans

8 pm Tuesday 20th January  
United Reformed Church Hall

**Please come along  
and save your Market!**



## PETE BAKER'S CRUSTY JAZZERS

Friday 20th February in St John's Church at 8 pm

Interval music from *CHARITY*

Bar ~ Light Refreshments  
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CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
in STANSTED

Ps'n Qs

## QUIZ NIGHT

in aid of

Chevetogne Exchange Visit

Ps'n Qs

Ps'n Qs

7 for 7.30 pm

Sat 7th February

St John's Church Hall

Do you know your Ps and Qs?

Ps'n Qs

Ps'n Qs

Pizza / Quiche n' Salad Supper  
Bring your own drink and glass

Tickets £6 Concessions £5  
Tel. Eileen Quinn 812109

Why not take advantage of some *free* publicity and  
advertise your special event on this page?

Please submit details by 15th January to 58 Chapel Hill  
or by email to stanstedlink@aol.com

Please note, all items are subject to the editor's approval

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# STANSTED CONSERVATIVE



# Stansted Evening Women's Institute

## Stansted Conservatives - Events and Contacts

### Events

- 27th January 8 pm Branch Meeting,  
Parish Council Offices, Crafton Green.
- 5th February 8 pm Debating Society, details TBA
- 21st February 8 pm Pies n' Puddings evening  
Stansted Day Centre  
Tickets £10. Bring your own drinks.
- 28th February Constituency Annual Dinner  
Black tie event  
Colne Valley Golf Club  
Guest speaker:  
Geoffrey Van Orden MEP  
Tickets £40.
- 9th March 8 pm Branch Meeting,  
Parish Council Offices, Crafton Green
- 26th March 7.30 pm Stansted Branch AGM  
Friends Meeting House

### Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst - Surgeries

- 9 January 7 - 7.45 pm  
Foakes House, Town Council Office, 47 Stortford Road,  
Dunmow
- 6 February 5.45 - 6.30 pm  
Parish Council Office, Crafton Green, Stansted
- 6 February 7 - 7.45 pm  
The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street, Saffron Walden

### Contacts

#### Branch membership & events:

Cllr. Richard Wallace (Chairman) 01279 812588  
Sian Lloyd (Secretary) 01279 817876  
or email [sian@sianlloyd.com](mailto:sian@sianlloyd.com)

#### CPF (policy discussion group):

Bill Stiles 01279 813172  
or email [bill@wjstiles@freeserve.co.uk](mailto:bill@wjstiles@freeserve.co.uk)

#### Constituency:

Darren Hector (Agent) 01799 506349  
or email [swcca@dial.pipex.com](mailto:swcca@dial.pipex.com)

At our Annual Meeting in November Marion Pretty was returned for a fifth year as our President to lead us into what we hope will be another successful year. Our membership is now over 50 members and we have welcomed several new people this last year. The Annual Meeting provides the opportunity to look back on the past year and remember all the things we have done. We have supported the Bone Density Scanner Appeal by way of a coffee morning, sent blankets to the Winged Fellowship Trust, donated the proceeds of some of our raffles to local causes and were represented at the Memorial Service in November at St. John's Church. Trips out have included a trip to Clarence House and to see the 'Calendar Girls' film in Bishop's Stortford - which we all thoroughly enjoyed - we were warned we might have an influx of new members after this - we're still waiting and no, you don't have to strip to join! Several of our members help at the Day Centre and with Helpline as well as dispensing tea at the blood donor sessions in the Peter Kirk School.

Our December meeting was very well attended, members were told of various forthcoming events at County, including the County Annual Meeting in March, when Simon Weston is booked to speak to us. Several of our members are hoping to attend this rare chance to hear him. Our unique W.I tablecloth is to be entered into the competition at the County Summer Event at Layer Marney Tower in July. Our speaker for December was Ursula Geller, who did four Christmas flower arrangements, all very varied and which were later put into the raffle. She had the gift of being able to chat at the same time as producing a 'work of art'! The end of the evening was devoted to discussing courses to be taken at our college in Oxfordshire as we have been granted an award through the AWARDS FOR ALL SCHEME so that 20 members of our Institute can attend a course during next year. We applied for this in September and were delighted to receive it on 28th October. More news of this at a later date. We are always pleased to receive visitors at any of our meetings, held in St. John's Hall on the second Thursday of the month.

Judy Colliver 812470

## JANUARY

So named after the Roman god Janus who guards the gate or the door. Because one goes out to begin an action, Janus became the god of beginnings and so the god of the first month. He is always depicted in art with two faces, one at the front and one at the back of his head - facing both ways.

## BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

Happy New Year to everyone on behalf of the PTA at Bentfield. It's hard to believe that it's 2004 and Christmas is over for another year!

Before Christmas we held our Christmas Fair (Saturday 6th December). This was a great afternoon and really got everyone in the mood for Christmas. Santa visited us in his wonderfully decorated grotto making sure he got all of those Christmas orders in nice and early, and of course gave out presents to some very excited children. The school choir entertained us with carols in the hall while we all enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies. There was a fantastic raffle with some amazing prizes, including a DVD player and an enormous Christmas hamper. We are very grateful to all the local businesses and friends who donated so generously. The Bentfield tombola was as popular as ever, as was the sweet tombola for the children. For the adults there were crafts, Christmas wreaths, cards, plants, DK books and homemade cakes for sale, while the children were busy all afternoon with the many games and activities on offer. The event raised £1,500 for the school, which brings our total fundraising this term alone to over £2,500, which is brilliant.

This Christmas the PTA held a Competition to design a Christmas Card. The children all worked incredibly hard to create some fantastic designs and a winner was chosen from each class. The 8 winning designs were then made into cards and are on sale in packs to friends, family and of course at our Christmas Fair! This new venture proved really enjoyable for the children, who took pride in designing the first official Bentfield School Christmas Cards. We hope that the cards will now become an annual event. We would like to thank Millway for their kind donation of materials.

We are already busy planning lots of events for the Spring term, so watch out for details in next month's 'Link' and around the village. Many thanks to all parents, families and friends for their ongoing support of the PTA.

Marnie Tait  
Chair, Bentfield PTA



St Mary's Primary School  
Parents Teachers and  
Friends Association.

We all hope that you had a wonderful Christmas, and wish you a happy and peaceful new year. The run up to Christmas was just as busy at St Mary's as it always is, and we began the festive season with the PTFA Christmas

Shopping evening, an opportunity to browse the stalls and shop for gifts in a much more relaxed atmosphere than the usual hurly-burly! Our Christmas Fayre was held on the 13th December, and was a really fun afternoon with games, sideshows and activities for the whole family to enjoy. Father Christmas managed to fit in a visit too - I don't know how he does it! Both events were very successful, and we are grateful to everyone who helped in any way.

The Year 6 girls held a Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale on the 5th December, which raised over £120, a great achievement, well done girls! 'Puppets Galore' visited again on the 17th and gave a performance to the whole school, and on the 19th was the carol service in St John's Church followed by the school Christmas dinner which, I am reliably informed, was delicious. It was particularly special as it was the first prepared by our new cooking team, and also Mrs Wood's first Christmas dinner at St Mary's. We look forward to many more with them.

Children from Reception and Years 1, 2, and 3 performed 'It's a Baby' to packed houses on the 11th and 12th of December, a traditional story with lively songs! The singing raised the roof, and the children performed exceptionally. They and the staff must have worked really hard to prepare such a brilliant performance, which the children clearly thoroughly enjoyed taking part in.

We had some great news just before the end of term when the Key Stage 2 performance tables were published. St Mary's was in the top 100 schools in Essex, and whilst the limitations of a test to measure a child's progress are acknowledged, it is pleasing to see us compare well with other schools. Also published was the 'Value Added Score' based on children's progress between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. This could be considered therefore to be a fairer measure of school standards, and our value added score puts us in the top 25% of schools nationally - really something to celebrate.

We are looking forward to the new term: we have golf lessons beginning in January run by Owen McKenna, who is a fully qualified PGA golf professional and operates from Elsenham Golf Centre. The PTFA are holding a Chinese Auction in February that promises to be a great night where, for only 20p a bid, mystery items are auctioned. Until you open the box you have no idea what you have bid for, so it will be a night of surprises! On 26th March is our Music Quiz. Don't miss this! It will be a fantastic and fun evening - bring your friends! Tickets for both events are £6.50 and include food. They are available from the school office and members of the PTFA committee. For the children, our Valentines Disco takes place on 12th February.

We look forward to a rewarding and action packed 2004.  
Happy New Year!

Nicki Kelly



The third concert of this, our eighth season, on Sunday 18th January at 3pm will feature one of the country's leading baritone soloists, Rodney Clarke with accompanist, Helen Collyer.

Rodney was born in London and educated at Dulwich College. He is currently studying on the Royal Academy Opera course and has taken part in masterclasses with Sir Thomas Allen and Robert Tear and has been the recipient of many prestigious awards including the RAM Foundation Prize. He has had operatic engagements too numerous to detail and has had recitals and concert appearances at The Academy of Music, the Purcell Room, the South Bank and the Millenium Dome. Recent engagements have been with the English Baroque Choir, St John's Smith Square, and Haydn's Creation at the Royal Albert Hall under Sir David Willcocks.

Helen read music at Selwyn College, Cambridge before continuing post-graduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music. She was awarded an Entente Cordiale scholarship from the French Embassy to study in Paris during 2000/1. She returned to England to take up the Hodson fellowship at RAM. Helen works for many musical bodies and opera companies including the English National and National Opera studios, for Live Music Now! and the Countess of Munster Recital Scheme. She has played for Barbara Bonney, Lesley Garrett and Magdalena Kozena, as well as for Rodney.

Their programme will include:

A Shropshire Lad by Sir Arthur Somervell  
Songs by Duparc  
Ravel's Don Quixote a Dulcinee  
Schumann's Liederkreis

The concert, in St John's Church, Stansted, will start at 3pm and tickets are £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 at the door.

The final concert in our current season is on Saturday 20th March at 8pm - Damian Girvin (piano)

Alan Corbishley



The month of December is always a busy time for Rainbow pre-school and this year was no exception. Children in all groups participated in various seasonal activities. Christmas cards were made for Mummy and Daddy; calendars were decorated and most impressively of all the annual Rainbow Christmas cake was baked. All children helped to stir in the various ingredients which were taken home and baked by Auntie Ann. The cake was then divided into individual portions which each child iced and decorated. The finished cakes were absolutely delicious!

We very much enjoyed our annual nativity play performed by the older group on Monday 15th December. We were once again lucky to have the use of the St Mary's School Hall which allowed the children to perform on a real stage. The costumes and singing were excellent and the occasion was a moving one for all the Mums and Dads whose children were appearing in a Nativity play for the first time.

We held parties for children in every group on the last day of term and were delighted to welcome a special guest in red who had taken time out of his busy schedule to deliver some special gifts.

Our play shelter has proved to be a great success and it will be officially opened on Friday 9th January at 10.00 am by Sir Alan Haselhurst M.P. We warmly invite all former parents and friends to join us for this special event.

Our Website is currently being redeveloped but a copy of our prospectus and previous link articles can be downloaded from [www.rainbowpreschool.net](http://www.rainbowpreschool.net).

If you are interested in a place at the pre-school please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for information about our waiting list or e-mail [info@rainbowpreschool.net](mailto:info@rainbowpreschool.net)



**Royal British Legion  
Stansted & District  
Branch  
Poppy Appeal**

The Poppy Appeal raised £1993.67p this year - a wonderful achievement. May I thank all the collectors and those who gave so generously.

I am please to say that we will exceed last year's total for the District of over £10,000.

John L Segar  
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser  
Stansted & District

# Stansted Tennis Club



## Nature Notes

### Sunday morning open adult club morning

All current adult members are welcome to come along and join in this session, which starts at 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 and 4 pm on Saturday afternoons. Please call Martyn on 816386 if you would like to find out more or would like to join in.

Chris Hollis continues to coach the juniors on Saturday mornings. If you would like to find out more and get your name on the waiting list, please call Chris on 319155.

Chris is also setting up a list of all those younger players aged between 4 and 6 who would be interested in starting mini tennis lessons. Again, please give Chris a call to find out more.

### Used Tennis Balls

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

### Christmas Dinner

Two years ago we had serious doubts about the future of this once popular event, when numbers dwindled dramatically. Therefore in 2002 there was no annual Christmas Dinner. This year, however, there seems to have been a dramatic turnaround, as 31 members met up for a fantastic evening on Saturday 6th December at the newly opened Bistro 49 in Lower Street. The food was delicious and we were looked after superbly - hopefully this new trend will continue and we are already looking forward to next year's event!

### Honorary Life Members

The committee are very pleased to welcome Derek and Win Bristow as honorary life members.

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.

Some random sightings made in and around Stansted during recent months.

Song thrush in full song in early December - a bonus at any time but especially so in the dark months.

Collared doves courting. Like pigeons they have a long breeding season - hence their increase.

House sparrows with feathers in their beaks - is this global warming extending their nesting season?

Green woodpeckers seen but less often heard in winter.

A lone buzzard in September.

A sparrow hawk mobbed by crows and another devouring its prey on a Bentfield Gardens lawn.

Fallow deer by night - this is their rutting season so motorists be wary.

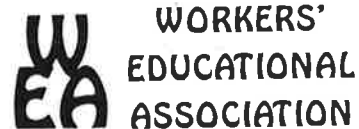
Muntjac deer frequently caught pruning choice shrubs (even as I write!).

Humming-bird hawk moth - fuchsias are a favourite flower.

Wild or dog violets in flower the whole year through.

There must be numerous sightings made by readers which would be of interest to a wider readership. Please let us have them.

Derek Honour



**WORKERS'  
EDUCATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION**

Our spring course in 2004 is entitled "Introducing Wales" and we are fortunate in having Rosemary Williams as our lecturer again. The aim of the course is to enhance students' enjoyment of future visits to Wales by increasing their understanding of the country, and to enable them to follow contemporary political and cultural developments in Wales.

The course will again consist of ten lectures and we shall meet on Monday evenings at the Day Centre beginning on 12th January and finishing on 22nd March with a half-term and our AGM on 16th February.

The meetings will start at 8.00 pm but on the first evening enrolment will commence at 7.30 pm. The fee for the course will be £28 but the concessionary charge will be £17.

If you would like more information please contact Harold Thistle on 813250.

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

January 2004

It is to be hoped that all readers have had a happy Christmas and that they look forward to having a happy and fruitful New Year. Unfortunately in this respect the New Year promises to be less happy than it might be because decisions taken by the Government are very likely to have an important effect on the environment in the area.

We are told the Government will announce their decision on the Airport runway problem on 17th December. Clearly the decision will not be well received by one interested party or another, depending upon what the decision is. So far as Stansted is concerned, we can expect overrunway: the problem is where and when. It is likely to be within the next 15 to 20 years, but where, rests with the Minister. We shall see.

More importantly the housing issue is under active discussion and consideration at this moment and the County, in conjunction with the Districts, is developing ideas for how many houses should be built and where they should go. Full details are to be published in late January or early February. Readers are invited to take note and be prepared to add their voices to the protests. Probably it is not an issue as to the numbers, which will be decided by 'fiat', but it is the question of the infrastructure - sewers, roads, power, medical support, schools, etc. - which is the very real issue and one in which everyone will have an interest. Again readers must be on the alert to discover what is proposed and lend their voices to the protests.

To move to another sensitive subject which will not lead to a 'Happy New Year'; readers should be aware that in March the county must set the Council Tax, which will be based on the Government Grant which is published as at an increase of 5.5% on last year's figure. Whilst this looks to be a generous figure set against the current rate of inflation of 2.8-2.9%, though even here which rate is used does present a problem. What is not made clear politically is the fact that much of the grant is "ring-fenced" or specially allocated and therefore must be spent as dictated and not as the County might prefer. Hence the Council Tax becomes a disguised tax increase!!

After last year's increase of 15.9% it is hoped that the increase - and unfortunately an increase there must be - will be kept below 10%. What the figure will be will be announced in late March. Let us hope the County financiers can meet the target, which readers must remember is another form of stealth tax imposed by the Government, who appropriate the Business rate, on we can only assume, to subsidise the grant.

Should anyone wish to develop these issues further they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace  
County Councillor  
Stansted Division

## MOUNTFITCHET SENIORS CLUB

All of our members were saddened for the recent death of our good friend Bessie Blyth.

Bessie was our Group Treasurer for many years and was very dedicated to her position. We now realise what Bessie did for our group behind the scenes, as we adjust our meetings without Bessie, we still find things that she did to help us to continue to be a very well organised group.

Bessie was an extra special person who will be missed not only by our group members but many residents of Stansted. Her kindness and her wonderful sense of humour were, and always will be, legendary. Bessie was a true lady and will be irreplaceable.

John Robinson  
Group Secretary  
Mountfitchet Seniors Club

The Link apologises to Mountfitchet Seniors for an error concerning the timing for their recent Sale.

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Huw Johnson  
Club

Our meeting on 4th December took the form of a Christmas celebration, when we were delighted to welcome once more members of the Manuden Historical Society, who kindly provided delicious seasonally festive food. Our thanks also go to Tony Wellings for master-minding the drink, including a hot punch, which was much appreciated. However, before we began socialising we enjoyed a presentation given by Mr John Stock of the East Anglian Film Archive.

The Archive has collected a large amount of film dating back to the end of the 19th century, all relating to East Anglia and much of it originating from amateur film makers. It is generally of good quality but most of it is silent. Until the arrival of the "talkies", there was no standard speed used to show films and projectionists' cinema manager's need to extend or shorten the programme! Mr Stock pointed out that nowadays in films or on TV, producers show excerpts from old films at the wrong speed as they believe the public expects this. As we saw, however, the earliest films can appear quite normal and, in fact, the early technology was good, even extending to colour. Mr Stock showed us a varied programme, ranging from trawlers at Yarmouth in 1896 to a Butlin's publicity film of 1946, by way of the fleet at Southend in 1909, a children's outing to Epping arranged by a London factory in 1916, life on a farm in 1924 and several other subjects. We were grateful to him for a most interesting and enjoyable evening.

Next month, for unavoidable reasons, our meeting will be held on a Friday and not a Thursday. This will be on 9th January when we will be having a Members' Evening - the speakers will come from within our own ranks and will talk on matters of local history drawn from their own experience or researched by them. We hope you will be able to join us and until then we wish you all the compliments of the season.

Ian Seavers

Everyone at the Huw Johnson Club wishes you all a happy New Year. I started to write this when we were all keyed up for our "Concert". I hoped you would enjoy the experience and judging by the cheery faces, you did. On the night we had a record-breaking audience who saw the members give of their best, especially in "Stars in their Eyes", which had touches of originality denied to the TV performances. It was a wonderful evening. I must admit, however, that the "ad libs" were more entertaining than the original script. To make the evening perfect we made almost £250 from the raffle and refreshments. A big thank you to all our benefactors. Without you we could not exist.

We can never thank our drivers enough for their loyalty. Some have carried out this work for us for over 20 years.

We still need more drivers - why not make it your new year resolution to telephone me on 812284 and offer your services?

Marion G Johnson

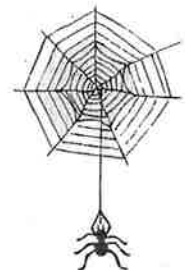
#### Web-site

In the dark days of winter  
In the dead time of doing nothing  
When there is really too much to think about;  
(I have "considered the ant" in summer!)  
I will take my soft-spun, candy-floss ceiling-brush  
And seek out my little companions  
Who bide, as house-sitters,  
In the small recesses of my rooms.

Resting in filmy nets slung across corners,  
Treading their dusty pathways under curtain-rods,  
Venturing down on delicate, hairy threads  
Or nesting, snug in their gossamer granny's shawl  
I will find them all!

Then, tired from the stretching sweep  
I'll step down to the little lime-walled room  
("Utility" as the house agent likes to name it)  
Where, among half-used tins of paint,  
Clothes-pegs and drunk and disabled deck-chairs,  
I'll find a special place  
And sit, sharing the spider's space,  
And think: "This is my web-site".

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## ADULT LEARNING



Essex County Council

### NEW ICT CLASSES STARTING IN JANUARY 2004 at the Peter Kirk Centre, Stansted

*Introduction to the Internet and Using Email (COI211)*  
Tuesday, 10 am, 2 hrs, starting 20 January 2004

*Computing for Those who Know a Little (COI212)*  
Tuesday, 12.30, 2 hrs, starting 20 January 2004

*Learn How to Use Outlook (COI213)*  
Tuesday, 19.30, 2 hrs, starting 20 January 2004

*Introduction to Desktop Publishing (COI505)*  
Friday, 10 am, 2 hrs, starting 23 January 2004

All Fee Code E = £67 (full fee), £37.75 (OAP), £8.50 (benefit)  
Call to enrol now on 01279 813319

### NEW LANGUAGE CLASSES STARTING IN JANUARY 2004

*Italian Taster (LNC213)*, Tuesday, 10 am -12, 10 weeks, starting 13/01/04  
Fairycroft House, Saffron Walden

*German Taster (LNK214)*, Tuesday, 7 - 9 pm, 10 weeks, starting 13/01/04

*Japanese Taster (LNK215)*, Tuesday, 7.30 - 9.30, 10 weeks, starting 13/01/04  
Saffron Walden County High School

All Fee Code F = £47.50 (full fee), £28.00 (OAP), £8.50 (benefit)  
Call to enrol now on 01799 527109 or 01279 427711

### NORTH & WEST ESSEX ADULT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Peter Kirk Centre, St John's Rd, Stansted

For enrolment and further details, please call 01279 813319

#### **SATURDAY SESSIONS 2004** *Note: These are each a single Saturday only*

Code	Title	Start Time	Duration	Start Date	Fee Code
CPI602	Assertiveness At Work And Home	10:00	05:00	24/01/2004	H
CFI602	Beadwork	10:00	05:00	13/03/2004	H
BSI606	Customer Care	10:00	05:00	13/03/2004	H
ARI609	Draw In A Day	10:00	05:00	24/01/2004	H
ARI611	Drawing & Painting Architecture	10:00	05:00	12/06/2004	H
HSI629	Emergency Aid For Football Association	10:00	03:00	24/01/2004	H
HSI625	First Aid Appointed Person For Therapists	09:30	06:00	13/03/2004	H
HSI622	Food Hygiene CIEH Update	10:00	06:00	13/03/2004	*
LNI604	French Using A Computer	10:00	03:00	24/01/2004	F
LNI609	French First Aid For Your Holidays	10:00	03:00	12/06/2004	*
LNI601	French For Your Holiday	10:00	05:00	12/06/2004	H
LNI605	German For Your Holiday	10:00	05:00	12/06/2004	H
FII602	Gymability Introduction	10:00	03:00	24/01/2004	H
FII603	Gymability Introduction	10:00	03:00	13/03/2004	H
HSI606	Health & Safety In The Workplace	09:30	09:00	13/03/2004	**
LNI608	Italian Culture & Current Affairs	10:00	05:00	13/03/2004	H
LNI606	Italian For Your Holiday	10:00	05:00	12/06/2004	H
COI609	Mail Merge	10:00	05:00	24/01/2004	H
ARI610	Portraits In A Day	10:00	10:00	13/03/2004	H
BSI607	Project Management - An Introduction	10:00	05:00	24/01/2004	H
COI610	Templates & Customising MS Office	10:00	05:00	13/03/2004	H
COI611	What's In The Box?	10:00	05:00	12/06/2004	H

Fee Code H = £19.75 Full fee, £15 OAP, £10 Benefit  
 Fee Code F = £47.50 Full fee, £28 OAP, £8.50 Benefit  
 Fee Code \* = £24 Full fee, £15.50 OAP, £8.50 Benefit  
 Fee Code \*\* = £28.50 Full fee, £18.50 Benefit

# **Local Occupations**

## **No. 1**

### **Paediatric Liaison Nurse Specialist**

### **Fran Richards**

Many of you will know Fran - a very talented, busy and highly qualified lady, well respected in her professional capacity in and around Stansted, and also in a personal way. She is devoted to her family, Church activities, School, Music, the Arts and other aspects of the village community. Fran also sponsors an "adopted" child and proudly talks of the little boy who writes letters and sends photos to his "adopted family." I felt very humble and realised this lady has a special warmth and affinity for children.

Fran did her General Nurse's Training for four years – three years to qualify and one year as Staff Nurse at Bart's Hospital in London. She then worked a year at Oxford, which involved Health Visiting, School Nursing, Psychology, Sociology, Public Health, Child Development and Horse Riding. She obtained the necessary Certificates and loved the subjects and time spent at Oxford. She was also a keen member of an Orchestra and played the flute, which she still enjoys, and contributes her talents locally.



Fran worked as a Health Visitor for two years in Hatfield Heath. She then lived in Sheering but moved to Stansted in 1976, aged 23 years. She also worked at Great Ormond Street Hospital for a year, where she did her RSCN: a Specialist Paediatric Nursing qualification. She spoke enthusiastically about her work and time spent there. She then worked at Harlow College for a year,

lecturing on Child Care and enjoyed that too. When she left, the students gave her a clock - her timekeeping was questionable! She still has the wind-up clock and many pleasant memories!

Fran married about this time and worked as a Sister for four years in Cherry Ward (a Children's Ward) at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping. She loved it there. She took time off to have her first child, returning to Cherry Ward until Emma was one year old. She then returned to Health Visiting, working till 2001.

It was interesting to hear how in the 1970s it was not the practice to access Speech Therapy for a child before the age of 4 years - there were no support services to pick up problems such as Autism and Communication disorders, which were prevalent. Now Speech Therapy is accessed from babyhood, using Speech Therapy for Feed and Swallowing problems, as well as Speech and Language disorders. Therefore, Autism and Communications disorders are identified much earlier now and identification is much better. One of the symptoms a Health infant massage, to help mother and baby relationships.

Fran left in October 2001 to take up her current position as Paediatric Liaison Nurse Specialist, working from 9.30.a.m. to 4.00.p.m. Monday to Friday and, for the benefit of the lay person, her numerous and varied day to day 'Liaison' roles are outlined below:

1. The passing on of information to those who need it in order to protect children. This could be information about accidents children have, so that Health Visitors and School Nurses could target accident prevention and offer advice. Common accidents are burns, scalds and falls: falling off bikes, skate boards and furniture, i.e. beds, tables, and high chairs are common! Another problem is accidental poisoning.
2. Analysing the reasons children of all ages attend the A&E department, in order to provide the best care and services. For example, adolescents who have taken drugs, overdosed on drugs and/or alcohol and other forms of self harm; they need help from the Child and Adolescent Health Services which, nationally, are very scarce, so by identifying the need, it is hoped services could improve.
3. Mental Health needs for teenagers are universal. Fran said: "We don't know people's stories or their family stories - some don't know what pain goes on in their children's lives and it's all too easy to judge on pre-conceived ideas." One aspect of Fran's job is to think the unthinkable - that adults may harm children -either physically or sexually. Assessing adult behaviours that put children at risk is vital in her work. Also recognising drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and bitter divorce battles. England is a country where the legal system dictates that an adult hitting an adult is 'assault', yet an adult hitting a child is 'reasonable chastisement.' "Where is the justice?" Fran asks.

Training Medical and Nursing staff about safeguarding children enables her to link with the Police, Social Services, Health and Education departments in order to work together and share information.

3. When working with families where child protection concerns have arisen, Fran strives to work with parents, *particularly in a kind way*, remembering always that the child's needs have to come first. Multidisciplinary working is yet another interesting aspect of her job, i.e., encouraging people to talk to each other, understanding each other's needs, jobs, etc.

Fran touched on the subject of teenage magazines – how they have to use information that teenagers use themselves. Teenage magazines can be a great source of helpful, non-judgemental information. However, she suggests parents have to check out the magazines their children read. Some magazines are not suitable nor respectable as they should be and neglectful of their emotional needs.

Two further areas Fran is involved in are:

- a) a Steering Group member of the Royal College of Nursing and Child Protection Forum
- b) a Co-ordinator for the CONI or Care of the Next Infant scheme. This is set up by the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, to support parents who have lost a baby.

Fran visits A&E every day; also the Walk-In Centre and Special Care Baby unit in Harlow three or four times a week as well as the Children's ward at PAH, Harlow; she also has links with the Child Development Centre at Harlow. She likes her regular visits to the Neonatal unit to see premature babies and Harold Ward to see children there.

I asked what motivates her and Fran replied: her unsentimental love of children! She is intrigued by the novel ways they can injure themselves around the home and how they live their lives in difficult circumstances. (She is concerned about alcohol abuse and really does not recommend any combinations of vodka, cider, lager and Bacardi Breezers, as all combinations make one sick!).

Wendy Moss



Royal British Legion

Women's Section

We have lost so many members during this past year - either through illness, infirmity or death - that sadly, our numbers are greatly reduced. However, on 20th November, twenty of us, including guests, gathered for a social evening which turned out to be a huge success - thanks mainly to delicious cheese and biscuits, lots of wine and Gill Robinson (Mrs Gill Reeve)!!

Gill kept us laughing at her anecdotes about her time in Carinthia with a company called "Schools Abroad" which arranged ski-ing holidays for about 200 British school children at a time. These children had to be collected from Venice airport and taken to a very old hotel - with an even older hotelier!! (On one occasion the flight was delayed by 12 hours which gave Gill a chance to look round Venice). Her duties included getting all the ski equipment for the children; supervising them in the hotel; arranging fire drill and dealing with their injuries and illnesses, from asthma to diphtheria, with the help of a 60 year old doctor and his 30 year old son, whose surgery was in a village at the bottom of a ravine, who spoke no English and who relied entirely on Gill's (excellent) German!

She particularly encouraged those grandparents at the meeting to take advantage of school trips for their grandchildren - "it is the most wonderful educational experience".

Pat Clower

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The square on Cambridge Road, Ugley, is still clearly recognisable after 80 years. Particularly poignant is the well supported sub Post Office - oh that it were there now! On the left of the picture is the White Hart pub, Ugley's only watering hole until its closure in the early 70's. Both properties are now private houses.



Photographs by courtesy of John Salmon

The Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve in Norman House Lane started life as Stansted Wildlife Park in the 1960's. The then owner was Aubrey (later Lord) Buxton, a well known naturalist and one time director of Anglia Television where he produced the famous Survival series. When he left Stansted in 1976 he passed much of the park to the Essex Wildlife Trust, who still manage it and so ensures its future. The photograph shows Aubrey Buxton holding a wounded bittern, one of a pair which he rescued from certain death and successfully introduced into Boathouse Swamp. Most unusually, the bitterns thrived and for some years the male's springtime booming could be heard all over Stansted. Their road to recovery was filmed and became the first authentic record of the bird's movements when making its distinctive call. Although the bitterns are no longer there we can take satisfaction in that these early conservation measures have led to a steady increase in the U.K.'s bittern population - at one time close to extinction. Over the past two years the Trust's working parties have made significant improvements so that the Nature Reserve now has a healthy invertebrate population and records 22 species of butterfly. Visitors and volunteers are always welcomed. If you could be one of the latter, ring Mike Rowley on 01799 550378. It's actually in our parish!



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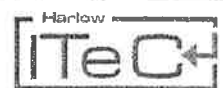
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