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

by 15th July for publication on 31st July (Note: next issue covers August & September)
by 9th September for publication on 25th September

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

The question of our further involvement in the EU is to the fore again in all the media, and although the EU is still an experiment in intergovernmental co-operation, it is not a new idea. In an essay written in 1693, William Penn put forward the idea of a United States of Europe. His vision was inspired by the 18 months he had spent at the court of Louis XIV, where he had gained a personal understanding of the rigours of despotic rule in France. He had also been profoundly shocked to hear of the suffering of a member of his family at the hands of the Inquisition in Spain. He thought that the existence of a European government might have prevented such governmental and ecclesiastical excesses and provided the checks and balances needed to protect citizens against misuse of power. However, although his vision of Quaker principles being practised in government was worked out as a 'holy experiment' in Pennsylvania, Europe remained divided and war torn.

The moral perspective in Europe came strongly to the fore after the Second World War when many European leaders were anxious to create institutions or even some kind of Europe-wide family of nations that would create and maintain peace. Quakers had played their part in ambulance units and relief work in the 1870, 1914 and 1939 wars but despite the fact that the EU had its genesis in anti-war idealism, Quakers did not immediately take it to their hearts as a 20th century manifestation of Penn's vision. However, in 1979 an enthusiastic group of Quakers working in European institutions in and around Brussels, came to understand the immense economic, social and political significance of the EU (then EEC). They passionately wanted to bring some spiritual weight to bear on what was then being called a rich man's club and their persistence and hard work eventually resulted in the establishment of the Ouaker Council for European Affairs, which is supported by Quakers from all over Europe. The Quakers were the first religious group to have representatives and an individual office in Brussels but others have followed suit and QCEA now works alongside ecumenical organisations and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to bear witness to Quaker beliefs and testimonies in the fields of peace and security, human rights and economic justice. Quakers are particularly respected in Brussels because their lobbying is recognised as being motivated by something other than self-interest, and over the last 25 years they have combined protest at injustice with the formation of a modern Quaker vision of the kind of Europe Penn dreamed of: "a peaceful, compassionate, open and just society, using its moral influence to encourage other countries and peoples towards the same goals".

The word 'spiritual' is not much used in political parlance and there has always been a tension between a higher vision and the process of its practical realisation. Certainly there is still much to criticise about the EU but it is interesting to note that since its inception, its member countries have tended to indulge in what Churchill called 'jaw-jaw' rather than 'war-war' and trade wars rather than bloody armed conflict.

Anthea Lee

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 Tel: 01279 812593

Preachers for July

4th	2.30pm	Miss J Kennett	**
11th	10.30am	Mr G Doyle	
18th	10.30am	Rev'd D Simpson	Communion
25th	10.30am	Mr D McGregor	
		- Joint with Methodists	

Monday Evening Pilots

Our Monday evening Pilot Group is growing by the minute! We now have twenty-six children on our books and a regular fortnightly attendance of 16 to 18 Pilots. With the help of friends, members of other churches in the village and our own Junior Church leaders, we are able to give the children a varied programme each time that we meet. Henry Playle, the United Reformed Church Youth Organiser, continues to put a much appreciated input into the group and the children love to work with him.

During the remaining summer months some of our Pilots will be preparing a short play about Gladys Aylwood and her work with the people and more especially the children of China. A 'Talent Show' is on our agenda in the autumn and a special Pilot Service as we near the 1st anniversary of our new Pilot group in Stansted. Preparations are also going ahead for some 'Radio Broadcasting' of material selected by our older group, namely the Voyagers.

Due to the enthusiasm and commitment of our leaders and helpers in this new venture we are able to offer local children an opportunity when they come together and help to prepare their own programmes and events, which reflect what they see as a happy and fruitful time in a friendly atmosphere, which they themselves have helped to create.

Valerie Trundle

Legoland Trip

We picked one of the best days to visit. The sun shone and not a cloud in sight. After the long coach trip we were greeted by huge statues of people and animals all made from Lego. We entered the theme park and were bewildered by all of the fantastic rides and things to do.

I went on all of the fast moving water rides and met many more Pilots from different parts of Essex at the same time.

All I can say was that I don't think anyone wanted the day to end. I know I didn't.

Christine McGregor

The Pilots had a very nice day at Legoland and the day was bright and sunny. We met some Pilots, and two people from our group were sick and went to the First Aid Room with Henry. Megan's mum and nan helped to look after us and we went on some rides with Caroline, whose mum and dad had been taken ill.

We went back on the coach and I liked it very much. I hope to go back go Legoland again.

Amy McGregor

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 July

4th Rev'd Keith Page - Holy Communion

11th No morning service 6.30pm Rev'd Keith Page

18th Christine Heyhoe

25th 10.30am Joint service at URC led by Don McGregor

Thursday 15th July - Church Fellowship at 8.00pm

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Tuesday-Saturday

9.30am

Confessions

Saturday

10.00am

and by appointment

Baptisms

By appointment

Pentecost has come and gone - how did you celebrate this great Feast day? Was it extra special or just another Sunday?

In Charismatic Renewal (and I expect for most of the Christian Churches), the Feast of the Holy Spirit is a day of rejoicing and expectation. Many churches hold vigils and special services; groups and individuals make novenas to the Holy Spirit and scores of people attend Life in the Spirit Seminars in preparation for this special feast day. The traditional colour in Church is red, ie .priests' vestments, altar cloths, banners, posters, flowers, etc. Red is a vibrant colour - bold and authoritative, symbolising fire, warmth, celebration and new life in the Spirit. Often priests are ordained around this time, children make their first Holy Communion and young adults are confirmed. People and communities await excitedly, welcoming the Holy Spirit into their lives and celebrating the birthday of the Church!

Pentecost was not just Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, but a gift to each and every one of us. He came to set us free, to take control and renew the face of the earth and each one of us personally, so we could have eternal life with Jesus!

Charisms, or gifts of the Spirit, were given to us in Baptism and Confirmation. However, we have the responsibility to learn, use and enjoy new life in the Spirit. "I am the Vine, you are the branches," said Jesus (John 15:5). We are united in the Risen Lord and have to learn how to draw powerful life from Him.

Jesus promised to send His Holy Spirit, who would remind us of all that Jesus had said, and would lead us into truth. We do not make our faith journey by our own efforts, although they are important and necessary. The Holy Spirit guides, strengthens, enlightens and consoles us along the way - we only have to tap into His resources to experience the gentle stirring and overwhelming reality of life in the Spirit!

The quiet of our 'Heart Room' is a good place to start (not easy!) but by listening and leaving open, letting Him be in control, our prayer and praise will become alive in the Spirit.

Wendy Moss



The Parishes of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Famham

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

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

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

St John's Church Hall Newsletter (abridged)

Issue 1 June 2004

introduction

The Church Hall Committee hopes to improve communications with its users and potential users; a Newsletter to begin; a website to follow.

It is our hope that it will be a useful communication, one that will appear approximately quarterly with additional issues when circumstances demand. Committee

As most will be aware, Jeremy and Elizabeth Wagener retired from the Committee, Jeremy as Chairman, on their They had worked retirement to Suffolk. tirelessly to upgrade the Hall and to plan the Hall extension, the building of which only commenced after they had left the Village. The extension will be an enduring reminder of their efforts on behalf of the Hall and its users. They have our lasting gratitude.

Alastair Richardson took on the role of Chairman with a brief to build upon the sound foundations laid by the Wageners.

Other recent changes include the fusing of two 'half' members into one: Marnie Tait, who alternated with Alan, her Husband. left the Committee to devote her time to other Village activities; Alan has assumed her role. We are delighted that Judith Heald has kindly agreed to be Secretary.

Caretaker

Another important change has been the appointment of Nigs Hall as Caretaker to keep an eye on the Hall's operation, maintenance and security.

If there is a problem, speak to Nigs first.

Deposits for Occasional Users

Unfortunately, a recent party degenerated so badly that the Rector had to call the Police and terminate the party. Not only were local residents seriously disturbed and intimidated, but damage included a broken window in the ladies toilet; blood, chewing gum and the like on the floor; off in the premises, a broken car windscreen.

It took Nigs four hours to collect and dispose of the cans, bottles, broken glass and other litter found in the Church grounds. The mess blighted the Hall all weekend and was a disgraceful start to the following week for Sideways Nursery School.

A small deposit had been paid, which did not cover the cost of damage in time or money. Substantial deposits will in future be required so that there are available funds to bring in contract cleaners if needs be. It is a pity that the behaviour of a few will penalise the many.

Live and Let Live

It is a pleasure to report that the Hall is much in demand and well used. But, there is the downside that there is often no time for our cleaners to clean the Hall between users. Users are generally co-operative and ensure that the Hall is clean and tidy when they have finished with it. However, .. there are occasional lapses, particularly in cleaning the toilet, that cause subsequent users no little aggravation.

Sideways, which uses the Hall more than anyone else, probably also suffers more from these lapses. The Ballet School can be another victim. There can be no question of allowing small children to use a dirty hall, so the already pressed helpers must clean up before they can start. Clearly this is 'not on'.

It will be to no one's benefit if availability is curtailed to give access for additional cleaning; if hire charges rise to meet additional cleaning costs; if charges rise to compensate for lost revenue.

In the meantime, Nigs has taken to exercising his dog around the Church grounds in the evenings. Just this activity seems to have had a beneficial effect. Perhaps others in the locality might participate in a little passive crime prevention by doing the same. If you run into Nigs he is a personable fellow with whom to enjoy an evening chat; we cannot however speak for his canine companion! Regulation

Increasingly our activities are becoming circumscribed by regulations under a number of different Acts of Parliament. If users are aware of any regulations that they think may apply to their use of the Hall, please let us know.

For example, one user is required by its insurers to carry out a risk assessment of all premises that it uses. If other users are similarly required to carry out risk assessments, then please let us know. Rather than allow a number of different users to carry out separate assessments. it would be better for us to carry out one assessment that meets the requirements



(continued)

Registers for May

Weddings

1st 29th Francis Crommie and Claire Stone Michael Henry and Joanne Wells

Funeral

12th

Kathleen Abbott age 89



Visit to Chevetogne, Belgium - 11th to 14th June 2004

The bi-annual visit to Chevetogne has been going for 19 years. It is one of the great highlights of the calendar for those who take part, and the sun never ceases to shine on the exchange, both spiritually and physically. For the 25 members of the different churches from Stansted who went, we experienced the usual generosity, love and hospitality which we have become used to, but never take for granted. In an age when division and disunity have become the hall-marks of animosity and violence, this is witness of breaking down barriers, and the opening of hearts to new and old is much appreciated.

The 25 members of our group travelled to the beautiful tranquil countryside of Southern Belgium whose forests, unspoilt meadows and turreted chateaux give the impression of a former idyllic rural age. We were warmly met by our hosts and transported to their homes for a sumptuous feast of lovingly and generously prepared food.

The next day, accompanied by our hosts in our coach, driven by the very erudite and accomplished John, we visited a snail farm, a bicycle museum and a chateau. The undoubted highlight was George Lee's ingenious translation of the evolving sex life of snails, so enthusiastically expounded to us by the owner of the farm. That evening we shared prayers in the Chapel of the Chateau of Jehay, led by a resident Anglican priest. We returned home, weary, but smiling at our 'snail experience'.



Escargot anyone?

On Sunday, we attended Mass in the refurbished church at Chevetogne. Our priest, Fr Angelo, was from Venezuela and spoke animatedly about the Gospel of the loaves and fishes. It was so apt that the story of generosity and sharing was our shared Gospel. In the afternoon we were invited to tea at the Chateau of Baron and Baroness de Goffinet. Early evening we attended Vespers at the Orthodox Monastery, followed by our usual last night feast. Besides the excellent food, the highlights were a piper who had come specially from Namur, the wonderful and powerful singing of Fr Angelo and Ruth Rawlinson's eloquent address in French at the presentation of our gift of a picture of the Resurrection from St Theresa's Church, Stansted.

Next day, after fond and sad farewells, we got underway for our return journey home. We stopped at the beautiful square at Ypres for lunch before heading to the town of Dixmude in Flanders to learn about some of the experiences of Belgian troops in World War I.



The old Peace Tower at Dixmude

We returned to Stansted tired, but spiritually refreshed in the goodness of the Lord, experienced through the kindness of our friends in Chevetogne.

David Morson

ChristianHAid

We believe in life before death

With most of the money counted, the total collected at the Market and from the house-to-house envelope collection is around £2,000. I am also pleased to report that more of the tax declarations were completed this year, which means that this sum will be increased courtesy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer!

Many thanks to all who contributed to raising this magnificent sum.

The faith we have in the future shows that we are people who believe in life after death.

The love we put into practice shows that we are people who believe in life before death."

Catherine Dean 813579



Monday 5th July

St. Paul's mission to Turkey -a slide show by Margaret Silvester at the Quaker Meeting House.

Monday 19th July

We end our Summer term with an evening of poetry and music in the garden followed by a bring and share supper at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Both meetings are at 8.00pm

On Sunday 1st August we will be holding our annual Auction and Cream Tea at 3.00pm at the Quaker Meeting House. This is an opportunity to find a treasure at a bargain price, and to get rid of those items you never use but don't want to throw away!

We hope to see you at one or all of these events. All are made very welcome.

Catherine Dean

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

As many will know, to build a house it is first necessary to have access to some form of water, sewerage and electricity supply. Under current legislation these facilities are provided by separate bodies ruled by their own legislation and so are autonomous. Yet their decisions determine to a great degree where housing, especially in large numbers, is to be built. Clearly, therefore, there are problems. So far as the local area is concerned, there is the threat of large local housing developments being allowed over the coming years. Readers should take note and remember that before housing, come facilities, which must be in place. The best action, therefore, must be to resist this aspect.

So much for a practical problem in relation to housing. There are also the other more subtle problems of provision of schools, medical facilities, shops and recreational facilities, all of which should be in place or be being provided as the housing is developed. It is, as we all know, no longer sensible or wise to build these after the housing but at the same time.

Readers must be aware of these matters as the housing development proposals develop and so support the actions of the County Council, which is keenly aware of these matters and is already considering what actions should be taken.

Should any reader wish to discuss these subjects further, they should contact the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace County Councillor Stansted Division

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Vanessa Pedder and I met with Post Office management. As I mentioned last month, I hoped to find out whether or not the PO was committed to reopening in Stansted or if they were content for us to continue to traipse to Bishop's Stortford and Elsenham.

What I found out was partly reassuring. A post office in Stansted would be a profitable and viable business for the operator. The PO representatives at the meeting are committed to opening a new post office this year. The Elsenham counter is struggling at times with the extra work from Stansted.

The PO had hoped that a new post office at an agreed new location would have been open by now. There have been delays in getting started. However, we were given the clear impression that Post Office Counters will soon start to look for alternative accommodation for the service counter and sorting office. The district council has offered to help in any new search for premises, though it has no premises of its own in Stansted.

Councillor Alan Dean Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk



1350 years after St Cedd's landing in Essex

Saturday 3rd July

11am Opening Worship Bradwell Village Afternoon speaker at St Peter's Chapel Rt Revo John Gladwin

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St Johns, Stansted I Family Barbecue in the Rectory Garden

12.30 for 1 pm Sun 11th July

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Proceeds to 'Stansted Charities'

see front page and above

UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm

Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

St John's Hall 7.45 pm

Bentfield Green 11 am

Day Centre noon - 2 pm

Mountfitchet School 8 am - noon

Rectory Garden 12.30 for 1 pm

Info' from Day Centre 2 - 6 pm

Day Centre 8 pm

Quaker Meeting House 8 pm

2 - 6 pm

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VILLAGE EVENTS

July

Bradwell Pilgrimage 3 Sat

Sun Windmill Open

Afternoon Tea (after service)

Mon Shalom Group

7 Wed Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club

Thu W

10 Sat Lib Dem Ploughman's

10 Sat/11 Sun Green Waste, Wood, Metal Lower St Car Pk 9 am - 3 pm

Sun Boot Sale

Fun Run & Walk

Barbecue

HEAL Open Gardens

17 Sat

Music in the Park

19 Mon Shalom Group

Bentfield School 2 - 8 pm 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

24 Sat/25 Sun Green Waste, Wood, Metal Lower St Car Pk 9 am - 3 pm

August

Sun Windmill Open

2 - 6 pm

Afternoon Tea (after service) Shalom Auction & Cream Tea

UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm Quaker Meeting House 3 pm

Wed Mountfitchet Seniors

Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Lower St Car Pk 9 am - 3 pm

7 Sat/8 Sun Green Waste, Wood, Metal 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

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

Bentfield School PTA



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BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL Tel: 01279 813626

What a busy few weeks it has been! Apart from the nasty bit (tests), our pupils have been out and about all over the place!

Our Reception Class visited Wimpole Hall Farm. They had great fun seeing, learning about, and most fun of all – stroking, the animals. Class 5 have been learning about the Greeks this term and they went along to the British Museum to enrich their study. They spent the morning watching a presentation on Greek Myths and during the afternoon were free to visit the very impressive museum exhibits. Class 3 also went to London and spent a very exciting day at the Science Museum.

Class 6 are now in their last term with us and are not resting in their bid to make it the best ever! They have spent six weeks practising and taking their Cycling Proficiency Certificate. They have also had a visit to Pizza Express in Bishop's Stortford to make pizzas and a full day out to Walton. They are also busy painting a new mural in the playground, continuing the tradition started by last year's leavers. What a busy time!

The after school clubs have also been very active. We sent two teams to the Essex Schools Chess Tournament at Dame Johanne Bradbury School in Saffron Walden. It was wonderful to see a hall full of children all sitting and concentrating so hard on their matches. Well done to all those who competed. Our cricketers and the rounders teams are busy having inter-school matches, and our athletes are practising hard for upcoming events. The rounders team also competed in a tournament at Howe Green School, coming a very creditable second. Well done!

With many more activities coming up over the next few weeks, there is still plenty for our children to look forward to this term.

Don't forget – there are still a few vacancies in our Nursery for this coming September! Contact the school if you would like to visit and see Mrs Smith and her team in action!

With July now here and the summer holidays almost upon us, it is time, once again, to dust off those dancing shoes for Music in the Park on 19th July (2.00pm-8.00pm). For those of you who haven't yet experienced this annual event, it is a spectacular way to spend a summer afternoon. We've got live music from 2.00pm with five bands taking the stage throughout the afternoon with music to suit all tastes. There are bouncy castles, games and other activities to keep the children amused, plus a beer tent and BBQ to top up the picnics. A great family day is guaranteed. Gates open at 1.30pm with live music starting from 2.00pm. Tickets are available from the school, a PTA member or by ringing 07789 953 517 at a cost of £6.50 per adult in advance or £7.50 on the gate, with accompanied children under 16 going free. Come and join us for a great start to the summer!

As we reach the end of an incredibly busy school year, the PTA would like to thank everyone who has helped over the past year to raise so much money for the school. Huge thanks go to all the PTA committee, staff, and parents for

their continued support at our many events. Also thanks to all the businesses that have helped financially through generous sponsorship.

With the money raised this year, we have already been able to fund a new path to the play equipment, stage lighting for the hall, tracksuits for the netball team, and media equipment for the classrooms. We are in the process of purchasing a new interactive white board and projector for use in the classrooms and are looking to fund some new climbing equipment for the reception playground. Quite an achievement really!



Nature Notes

Two native reptiles that are locally present are the grass snake and the slow worm. The latter has been sadly misnamed as it is neither slow nor a worm. It is in fact a legless lizard and can often be seen emerging from under a pile of disturbed logs, or lying under a stone. Its full adult length can be 50 cm but is usually nearer 35 cm. The upper surface is greyish or copper coloured, the females frequently having darker sides than the males. The slow worm is completely harmless and is a very useful creature to have in one's garden as its diet consists of slugs and insect larvae. It is very long lived and is known to have survived as many as 54 years in captivity. Females give birth to live young in early summer, after coming out of hibernation.

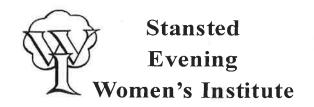
By contrast, the grass snake lays clusters of oval, soft-shelled eggs in decomposed plant material. This generates heat which speeds up the development of the eggs. The newborn snakes are 15-20 cm long and eventually reach 130-150cm as adults. The grass snake, which is not poisonous and rarely bites, is found in most of Europe and in Asia as far eastwards as Siberia. It inhabits overgrown banks along stagnant water and also the edges of ponds and streams. It is an excellent swimmer and often hunts its prey, consisting of tadpoles and small frogs, in the water. When swimming, it lifts its head above the water surface. The bright yellow or cream collar behind its head is clearly visible. Behind it are two black patches. Like the slow worm, the grass snake hibernates in winter and emerges in March and April.

Rosina Kirkwood

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Our June Meeting was very well attended by members plus three visitors, who were able to hear the report of those members who had attended Denman College the previous weekend as a result of the 'Awards For All Grant' we had obtained last year. 17 members went to do four different courses, and it was agreed by all to be a huge success. Several members who had never been before are now looking forward to going again. Denman College, with its 17 acres of grounds, was looking its best, being the month of June, and the weather was perfect.

Pearl Wellings spoke of her course on 'Cook Vitality', which was partly practical and partly demonstrations; there were only eight people on the course so plenty of individual attention. She came back with lots of vegetarian ideas for using unusual vegetables.

Rosemary Minshull spoke on the 'Social History of the Garden', a course that nine members attended, and which traced the history of the garden from the 18th century onwards, with special reference to women gardeners. They also visited Water Perry Garden near Wheatley.

Margaret Chastney spoke of the Literary Course entitled 'Wind in the Willows', which four of us attended and which traced the life of Kenneth Graham and his son 'Mouse', for whom the book was written, and included a visit to the locations that inspired it.

Brenda Ryan brought along some of the photographs of the College and its grounds, which she took on her Photography course and was immediately appointed WI official photographer for the future!

Kath Johnson told us of the Art course she had attended in April, and brought samples of the beautiful watercolours she and another member had produced. The President and the secretary were presented with a bouquet of flowers for their efforts in procuring the Award.

The Speaker for the evening, Sheila Shehadeh, gave a talk entitled 'Granny's Bit Box' and produced from a deep wicker basket a wonderful collection of what she called 'antiques for the poor'. There were examples of embroidery, a handmade baby bonnet using fine cut-out work, various holiday souvenirs of the Victorian era, a silver hambone handle, a grape-fruit corer, a travelling iron for pressing your collars and cuffs, and a weighing machine for sovereigns and half-sovereigns - in fact all those things that a well-respected person just can't do without!

It was decided to try and arrange some flower arranging classes with a Christmas theme in October/November in the evenings as a Grant-Aided Class, which we as a WI can apply for each year. A trip to Chartwell is taking place on Wednesday 16th June and a trip to Buckingham Palace is being arranged for September. Our fund-raising evening on

11th June took the form of a concert by 'The Entertainers', a group of 11 singers from Bishop's Stortford Amateur Operatic Society, who give concerts and raise money for their Society at the same time. The United Reformed Church was filled to capacity with members and friends, some coming from Saffron Walden and Matching Green, to hear a wonderful selection of songs from the shows both old and new. Glasses of wine and fruit juice were served in the interval in the lecture hall, and afterwards the WI must - a raffle was drawn before the second half of the show. The singers ended with a medley from 'The Sound of Music' which they will be performing at Harlow in November, and almost raised the roof - it was a wonderful end to a most successful and enjoyable evening.

Judy Colliver



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

The school holidays are nearly upon us and many of you will be wondering what to do with your children during the weeks ahead. Many activities for children close down during the summer (just when you need them!) but the NCT is one of the few where everything carries on as normal and, if anything, fires up to make the most of the great outdoors (weather permitting sometimes!).

We have lots planned for July and August including a picnic lunch, a nature reserve walk, an outdoor obstacle course, a paddling pool party, a farm visit, a teddy bears' picnic at Audley End, a trip to the open air pool at Old Harlow and a seaside trip to Frinton. Do come and join in the fun.

Our three coffee groups continue to meet regularly: tiddlers and tums for pregnant mums and those with babies or children who are not yet walking; toddlers for mums with children who are walking confidently, and pre-school for the older children. We ask for donations of 50p per family for these coffee events and many of the other activities are only £1 per child. You do not have to be a member to come along to any of our events, so do feel free to come along and join in.

If you would like to receive a free listing of events being held during the summer or if you want any further information about the NCT or our branch, please email StanstedNCT@skygod.demon.co.uk or phone the branch enquiry line on 07020 936552. If you would like to book for our popular antenatal classes, call Rachel (early in your pregnancy) on 01279 841117.



PATIENT & PUBLIC INITIATIVE FORUM

Patients have been given their first chance to tackle the new independent watchdogs for Harlow's Princess Alexandra Hospital - and ask those who run the hospital just what they're doing.

The first public meeting of what's the successor to the old Community Health Council - the Patient and Public Involvement Forum (PPI) for the Princess Alexandra - was held at Harlow's Latton Bush Centre.

The Forum's chair, Mrs Lilian Chandler, said people now knew where to go if they had issues to raise. They also need to understand that the PPI has tough statutory powers. "Our challenge is to reach out into the community and show them this isn't just a bit of fluff." But she warned of the dangers of being too negative: "Our task is the education of the patient. Let's home in on what's good."

The hospital trust's chairman, Robert Powell said: "I hope the PPI will prove a critical friend. It's vital. But where we are doing things right, we want the PPI to say so."

The PPI now has its own representative on the hospital's board, Charles Jackson - one of the first in the country to do so. It also has its own offices in Moot House, The Stow, Harlow CM20 3AG Tel 01279 418666.

One of the major issues raised at the meeting was hospital hygiene and cleanliness. Mr Powell said cleaning was now being brought back in-house instead of being contracted out. "Hygiene is high on our priorities - particularly infection control."

He said a wide-ranging review of transport and travel was underway: "I suspect it will be very critical - but helpful." Car parking at the hospital, he said, would not get better for another year, but hundreds of new spaces were planned. One disabled member of the PPI, Jennifer Steadman, said that even then, far too few spaces for the disabled would be provided.

Mr Powell was asked why the hospital had only one star under the NHS performance system. He said a great deal of work had already been done to remedy this. "We have hopes of getting at least one, possibly two more stars this year." And he pointed out that the hospital's A&E department was the best in Essex last year.

The forthcoming Patient Choice - where people can choose where they want to be treated, in effect being handed their own budget - brought concern that this would mean much more use of the private sector. Capacity in the NHS was a key factor. As one member of the public put it: "If there's no capacity, then there's no Patient Choice! It's easy to use these phrases glibly, by government and health services. I want to know what will be the REAL Patient Choice."

Mr Powell admitted there was still a shortage of capacity at the Princess Alexandra, but said new projects underway would see a big boost in beds and the ability to treat more patients. As for choice, he said: "Power will be transferred to the Patient". That was the reality and the challenge the hospital had to face.

There was also concern at the Government's new plans to axe or merge some health organisations, announced by the Health Secretary John Reid this week, and whether this

would hit the support and resources provided for the PPI - whose members are all unpaid volunteers. The Commission that oversees all PPI Forums - and there are some 600 across the country, covering hospitals, general health services, mental health and ambulances - said the likely impact would be on reducing bureaucracy and improving efficiency, but not at the PPI volunteers' expense.

Luke Albarin PPI Media Link 01279 816980 luke@albarin.fsworld.co.uk



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

The new season has started well; luckily with the weather on our side. Our open morning drew an excellent response with 14 people attending to see what bowls is all about and to have a go. Unfortunately we only had two instructors available so could spend only a limited time with those attending. We arranged for a further session on the following Saturday but the weather changed to rain and put many off. Since then a number have come along to our Friday evening sessions and six have joined to whom we extend a very warm welcome. It is early in the season, so if any of those who attended the first session would like to have another go please turn up on a Friday evening.

Stansted Bowling Club is a private club, and as such has Trustees to oversee important decisions etc, and up until a few months ago they were Peter Bush, George Dennison, John Blake and John Hollis. Peter Bush has now moved to France so we have a new nominated Trustee to take his place – Peter Brown, who many of you in the village will know. Peter has had connections with the club for a number of years as a bowler, and indeed his father bowled here for many years so we are pleased to welcome him into his role.

Various competitions are taking place or about to take place, which always raise the competitiveness of the members; crowding around the competition board to see whom they have to take on and maybe defend a trophy they won last year. Good luck to everyone.

I mentioned the last time I wrote, about the club holding its centenary year in 2006. We are currently considering what functions we will be holding during that year and this will include special games against other clubs and associations as well as in club commemorative functions. It is quite a milestone for a small club like ours and let's face it the present members are highly unlikely to see a second hundred years' celebrations, so we have to make it a year to remember! I will let you know of our arrangements in due course.

Please remember that the club is very much a part of the village community and we would like to see more of the community becoming a part of the club.

Rex Turner Secretary/Chairman

Local Occupations No. 7

Litter Collector

Gerard Frogley

There will not be many people in Stansted who do not know Gerard and appreciate all he does. He has, in fact, several jobs and the title 'Litter Collector' for his main one hardly describes the amount of work and the care he puts into it.

He is employed by the Parish Council five days a week and two hours on Saturday, and on each day he covers a different section of the village. He is responsible for emptying all the public bins as well as keeping the pavements clean. As he is a keen conservationist he makes sure that the glass, tins and paper are separated into different sections of his trolley. He is particularly concerned that all broken glass is carefully removed to avoid danger to children. Quite often the bottles in the bins (mainly vodka) are full, or only half empty – but Gerard is a teetotaller! He is also prepared for emergencies, carrying a tow rope, water and detergent – all of which have been in use.

As a Council employee he feels he represents them on the street, so he makes a point of being well turned out and greeting everyone he passes, often acting as a general information giver.

On one occasion following a car accident in Chapel Hill he (wearing his fluorescent jacket) re-directed the traffic for an hour before the police arrived. The police later thanked him very much but said they would have to charge him for impersonating a police officer! After merriment they said they would take no further action.

Gerard has two other jobs, one of which is Gardener and Assistant Caretaker at Bentfield School. This takes four hours a week – gardening and clearing up, and he enjoys the contact with the children very much. One of them asked him if he was a janitor; obviously a keen watcher of American films.

His third job is as a senior salesman two evenings a week in the gardening section of Focus in the Stansted Road Industrial Estate in Bishop's Stortford. This gives him the experience of a different kind of job and he thoroughly enjoys advising and serving customers as a member of a happy team of employees.

Gerard is also a Trustee of the Kings Arms Youth Centre in Bishop's Stortford. This is run voluntarily by a group of Christians from various denominations that provide a centre for youngsters to meet once a week. They serve tea, coffee and soft drinks, discourage smoking and are quite strict on politeness, but there is often a queue to come in. Gerard is a Baptist, although he also worships with the Methodists in Stansted. He is a member of the local branch of Gideon's International which supplies copies of the New Testament to secondary schools, hospitals and hotels in the Stort Valley area.

He is married to Sharon, pictured here on their wedding day.



He has two sons, Thaddeus, who is a computer games programmer working in Vienna, and Nathaniel, who works in public relations; and one two year old grandson.

When Gerard has time for his hobby he goes sailing – he has a RYA Yachtmasters Certificate.

His attitude to life and to work is very positive – upbeat is the word that springs to mind. Anyone meeting him in the village feels more cheerful for the encounter. He clearly lives a full life and a satisfying one.

Katharine Hurford

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



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We are now in the last half term of the school year, and for our Year 6 pupils this means looking toward the future and their new secondary schools, and the challenges and opportunities this brings. At the other end of the school we are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception class and their parents to St Mary's, when they attend a taster day on 9th July for a look at school life.

With the end of the year looming, you would think that there might be an opportunity to slow down, but not at St Mary's! School life is as busy as ever. At the end of May the School Council organised a money tree, where all the children brought in coins which where arranged in the hall in the shape of a tree of learning. The result looked amazing and you can see the pictures in the reception area. £112 was raised which the Council have decided will go towards a friendship bench in the playground. Well done to everyone who took part. We had a fantastic day on Sports Day on 18th June with everyone having fun participating in the races. Parents were then invited to stay for a delicious picnic with their children, prepared by the school kitchen. It was lovely to sit and enjoy the wonderful family atmosphere at our school.

To support their topic work, Year 6 visited Duxford, and Year 5 went to the nature reserve in Landguard, Suffolk. The week beginning 21st June was Healthy Eating Week, where activities and assemblies focused on healthy eating, and encouraging children to make healthy choices. We all know how important this is, and we hope that our children will keep this knowledge with them for the future. Fruit was prepared for the children each day at break time, and we would like to thank Tesco for providing this.

26th June was the PTFA's biggest event of the year, and so many people worked hard to make it a success – a big thank you to you all. There was fun and games for everyone with traditional stalls like the tombola and smash-a-plate, a beer tent and barbeque to keep everyone going, a children's football tournament and skipping demonstration and so much more. Thanks to everyone who attended and made it such an enjoyable day.

The diary is full for July too, beginning with Years 4,5 and 6's production of 'School Daze'. All their hard work culminates in two evening performances on 7th and 8th. Maths week starts on 12th July, with a theme of 'maths in the environmen t. There will be lots of local outings and local businesses coming into school, or sponsoring activities to show the children how maths is used in daily life. On Friday 16th parents are invited to an open afternoon where they will be able to look at their children's work and activities. We are supporting 'Shades for a Day' in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind on 14th, and on 21st is the Leavers Service in St John's Church at 9.15am. It is always rewarding to see the children benefiting from such varied and worthwhile activities, so why not get involved wherever you can, you will be very welcome!

Nicki Kelly



11 am Sunday 11th July Bentfield Green

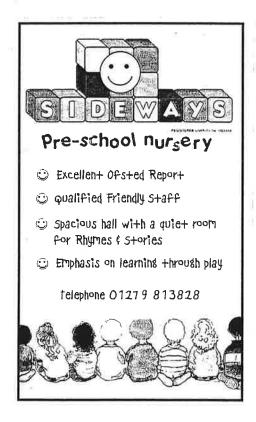
Why not come along and cheer the runners and enjoy the refreshments (drinks from the Rose & Crown, ice creams, BBQ)? Entries for individual runners and walkers are welcome on the day from 10.00am to 10.45am. There will be pre-race massages and warm-up exercises for those who want to 'hit the ground running'!

Marion Dyer 01279 814059

STANSTED RED CROSS WEEK MAY 2004

May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone in the village who gave so generously to the British Red Cross collection, when we raised a grand total of £1051.71. I would also like to thank all those people who so kindly gave their time once again to collect for this very worthwhile cause.

Diana Pelly



THE PLAYTEX MOONWALK 2004 - breast foot forward...!

On 15th May 2004 at midnight, 15,700 walkers (mostly women, but about 1,000 brave men) made their way on a 26.2 mile route around London's major landmarks. This was the sixth annual Moonwalk – the world's only moonlit marathon. The participants (including the men!) wear decorated bras. The Moonwalk is a charity event in aid of breast cancer research and cancer care. As well as raising money, the organisers aim to raise awareness of the importance of healthy lifestyle as a vital part of cancer prevention. You may have read about The Moonwalk or seen the tabloid pictures of the many celebrity walkers, but among the walkers were several groups of women from Stansted, including myself.

We applied to enter the event early in January 2004 and began training at about that time. We walked two to three times a week in all weathers - bitter cold, pouring rain and even occasional sunshine! The walks gradually increased in length until we reached 20 miles, two weeks before the event. Training was full of ups and downs. It took up a great deal of our time and there were times when we did not feel like venturing out in the dark and cold to walk. However, we were all very excited when our event packs arrived, complete with t-shirt, gloves, hat, bra and walker number. The whole thing became very real at this point and spurred us all on. Similarly, the death of former television presenter Caron Keating at about this time was a reminder of the fact that breast cancer is cruel and indiscriminate. One in nine women in the UK are affected by it and the UK has the highest breast cancer mortality rate in the world. We were trying to do something to make a difference.

Finally, the big night arrived! We reached Hyde Park, where Playtex City – an enormous tent – had been erected. This was to be our base for the next few hours. It was a fabulous spectacle. The tent was absolutely enormous – the largest floored tent to be erected in Great Britain - and there were pink balloons everywhere. The park was a sea of pink – the colour of the Breakthrough Breast Cancer Charity. There were some fantastic costumes. One team had dressed as opera divas – black evening gloves, diamond chokers, chignons decorated with feathers, pink voile skirts over running shorts and shoes and of course the ubiquitous bras. In this case, black and lacy!

At 8 o' clock we were admitted into the tent. Here, there was free massage for all, temporary tattooing, a pasta meal and distribution of plasters! There was also entertainment – Bjorn Again played all the famous Abba anthems. We had a great time, but once again were reminded of the real reason we were there in a video message recorded by Prince Charles. In fact, there were reminders all around us. Many of the participants walk because a much loved sister, mother, wife, daughter, friend is ill or has died. Many have moving stories to tell and many wear notices pinned to the back of their costume to explain why they are walking. There were banners all around the tent bearing messages of good will to those who were absent and competing in their own personal marathons. Some participants were cancer survivors. One of the event's official starters was Koo Stark

(Prince Andrew's former girlfriend) who is herself recovering from breast cancer.

By midnight, we had been warmed up en masse and were off! It was very difficult to move at a reasonable pace as there were so many of us. Many of the streets are very narrow, such as those in Kensington and Chelsea. The roads are not closed and remain very busy. The event marshals do their best to keep everybody on the pavements, so there are a lot of bottlenecks! Despite the fact that it is almost impossible to walk at a decent pace, there was a lot of good feeling and camaraderie among the walkers – even at the toilet stops where the queues were unbelievable.

It was a very memorable night. The organisers were fabulous and very supportive, as were the people on the streets of London. It was wonderful to see the sun rise and the day begin. We were very glad that we had trained properly and finished in good spirits and in good condition. The worst thing was the lack of sleep and the last couple of miles were quite tough, but we felt very pleased that we had done it.

If you would like to find out more about the event you could visit the website www.walkthewalk.org. It would be tremendous if a large team from Stansted could take part next year! If you are interested in walking regularly in a group to improve your fitness, or would like to make a donation to the charity, please contact me, Karen Singleton (813838).





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D-DAY 60th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE

This was held in glorious sunshine in the Memorial Garden at 3.00pm on 6th June. This very moving event was well attended by all ages and particular thanks must be given to our Rector, Andrew Spurr, who organised the Service and to the Royal British Legion Chairman, David Challis, who had been closely connected with the arrangements.

Many thanks are also due to Sonia Levy, the organist; the Braintree and District Scout and Guide Band who played before, during, and after the service; Dorrington Bakeries and McEwan Tea and Coffee for their contributions, and also to all the ladies who, as usual, so willingly helped with the welcome refreshments afterwards in the Day Centre.

Harold Thistle Secretary, Stansted Branch Royal British Legion



HuwJohnson Club

The unsung heroes of our club are our drivers. They never refuse when asked to step in if there is an emergency. When at 1.00pm on 10th June we heard that the minibus was out of action I had to quickly find drivers to cover the evening. It was Garry's disco evening and Sandra and Paul's barbecue, and I knew none of our members would want to miss this important event. By 3 o'clock I had seven drivers all ready to speed to Saffron Walden at 6 o'clock to bring in our members. So thanks to our gallant drivers we were all happily dancing away at 7 o'clock with the smell of the barbecue, promising good things to come.

Have you a spare evening? If so, why not visit us one evening and meet our members, or become one of our gallant crew of drivers.

Tom and I would like to thank all those who came to the Huw Johnson thanksgiving service. It was a wonderful occasion and a great opportunity to meet up with past friends and members of the Club.

It is with great sadness we have learnt of the death of James' father, Richard Stratton who, after suffering frightful burns, spent several weeks in the Broomfield Burns Unit. James and his mother know that they have the support and prayers of the whole Club.

Marion Johnson



We have had a wonderful June at Rainbow. The theme for the term has been travel and the children have certainly had plenty of travel experiences. On 11th June children from the older group took the bus to Bishop's Stortford to spend the morning in the 'Helter Skelter' park.

A fortnight later we held our annual outing. Children from all groups, accompanied by parents and siblings, travelled by coach to Paradise Wildlife Park at Broxbourne. The children (and grown-ups) very much enjoyed looking at the wild animals and playing in the adventure playground. I think everyone was very sad when it was time to go home, and I am sure that many of the children will be nagging their parents to take them back again another day.

After a bus journey and a coach trip, the older group experienced a train ride to Harlow to visit Harlow Town Park. Here the children visited the adventure playground and very much enjoyed playing on the different equipment. They showed great stamina on the walk to and from the station but were very glad to have a picnic stop.

We are now preparing for the end of term, which we will celebrate in traditional style with our annual teddy bears' picnic. We shall be sad to say good bye to the children who are starting school in September and wish them well in the future.

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



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Open Gardens

Our 5th Open Gardens will be on Sunday 11th July, 2-6 pm. We have 17 this year, old and new. Refreshments will be at several gardens – indicated in the programme.

Come and see how big the fish have grown and if Monet's bridge is still blue!

Tickets on sale at Crafton Green, top of Chapel Hill and at participating gardens at £4.

Quote:

Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul. (Luther Burbank).

Enquiries: Sue Hitchmough, 814265

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices Crafton Green Tel 813214 Fax 813964

Parish Council Playscheme

We are delighted to announce that the Playscheme will make a welcome return this summer. Thanks to the kindness of Head teacher, Wendy Wood, the playscheme will run at St Mary's Primary School in St John's Road for two weeks, commencing Monday 2nd August. Full details of times and prices will be published in our newsletter to be distributed in early July, and also direct to local primary schools, and to Year 7's at the High School.

We have a new leader this year, a lady who teaches at a primary school outside the village, but lived here for many years, and her parents still do. With support from other helpers, old and new, we aim to offer an exciting programme of arts and crafts, sport and drama/music workshops. Morning sessions will be open to 5-11 year olds, whilst the afternoons are restricted to 8-11 year olds - this is to comply with Under-8's legislation as our scheme is not registered with Social Services.

Ruth Clifford Clerk

JULY

Originally Quintillis – the 5th Roman month – this was renamed in honour of Julius Caesar who was born about 100 BC and assassinated in 44 BC. A military genius who extended the Roman Empire, but lost his grip on matters at home and also 'got a bit above himself'. Among many memorable phases in Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar' this sums it up:

"As he was valiant, I honour him but as he was ambitious, I slew him".

15th July is St. Swithin's Day. He was Bishop of Winchester and had requested that when he died he should be buried in a simple grave outside the north wall of the church so that the 'sweet rain of heaven' could fall on him. However, after his death in 862 the monks decided that this was not good enough and moved his body to an ornate shrine. Thereupon it rained for 40 days and nights, showing St. Swithin's displeasure. So watch out for the weather forecast for 15th July and if it shows rain coming, don't forget your umbrella for the next 40 days.

The American Declaration of Independence of the original 13 United States was in July 1776. A National Holiday is now held each year on 4th July. Another National Holiday, in France, is Bastille Day on 14th July. This was when the mediaeval fortress and prison in Paris was stormed by a mob in 1789. Nearer our time, the first landing of men on the moon was 20th July 1969.

July sometimes brings sultry weather and thunderstorms, but Lord Byron was too unkind to our climate when he wrote: "The English winter – ending in July, to recommence in August".

Peggy Honour





HIGH COURT GIVES GO AHEAD FOR AIRPORTS CHALLENGE

Opponents of the Government's airport expansion proposals, which include building a new runway at Stansted Airport, have been given permission for a full Judicial Review hearing to challenge the Government plans.

The action, mounted by the Stop Stansted Expansion campaign in conjunction with community groups from Luton (LADACAN) and Heathrow (HACAN) and two London boroughs (Hillingdon and Wandsworth), is due to be heard alongside a separate but related claim by a consortium of five Hertfordshire and Essex local authorities.

The High Court will hear evidence that the Air Transport White Paper published in December was fundamentally flawed and the conclusions it reached were irrational and inconsistent with the Government's own policies and with the consultation ground rules.

No date has yet been set for the Judicial Review. In November 2002 the group won a High Court ruling forcing the Government to recommence its consultation on the White Paper resulting in an eight month delay in the publication of the White Paper. If the Judicial Review succeeds, the Government would be forced to re-examine its aviation policy, and begin the whole consultation process all over again.

The Stop Stansted Expansion claim, led by solicitor Richard Buxton, concentrates on four key areas. With respect to Stansted, the argument centres on the fact that the White Paper ignores the absence of a commercial justification for a second Stansted runway, contrary to the Government's own ground rules for the consultation.

The consultation documents made it clear that commercial viability was a "hurdle which must be passed for new and existing airport sites." BAA advised the Government that a second Stansted runway would only be commercially viable if it could be cross-subsidised by Heathrow and Gatwick revenues but the regulator (the Civil Aviation Authority) ruled against the option of cross-subsidisation by BAA during the consultation process. Despite this clear impasse, the Government has stated in the White Paper that a second Stansted runway should be built by 2011 or 2012.

Further grounds are that:

- 1. The consultation document did not make clear that the ending of runway alternation at Heathrow could be a short-term alternative to a third runway
- 2. The consultation document failed to give people the opportunity to comment on the proposal, favoured in the White Paper, for an extended runway at Luton

3. The Government failed to provide the public with information about alternative Thames Estuary airport proposals and failed to give proper consideration to those options

www.stopstanstedexpansion.com



Our next ploughman's lunches will be on Saturday 10th July and Saturday 14th August at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2.00pm. All are welcome.

We will be holding a buffet lunch at Churchmead, Widdington on Sunday 18th July, and a Salmon and Sparkling Wine lunch at 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted on Sunday 15th August. Please ring 814222 or 813432 for details of these events.

Ruth Rawlinson

SNIPPETS

In this issue we feature Gerard Frogley's role as Litter Collector. We are fortunate that this unglamorous job is so cheerfully carried out; what is more it is gratifying to know that so many appreciative residents give Gerard their encouragement as he goes about his task. There is no doubt that Stansted's appearance has improved.

Another good sign is the reduction in parked cars on footways in Silver Street. This, one of our major arteries, has been a no-go area for mothers with buggies and indeed for all but intrepid pedestrians. The police deserve our thanks - but the problem has not completely gone away and it may take some time to establish a climate of safety and confidence. Please, motorists, do not compel pedestrians to walk on any road, especially the busier ones.

The Editor

Jessica Pearce

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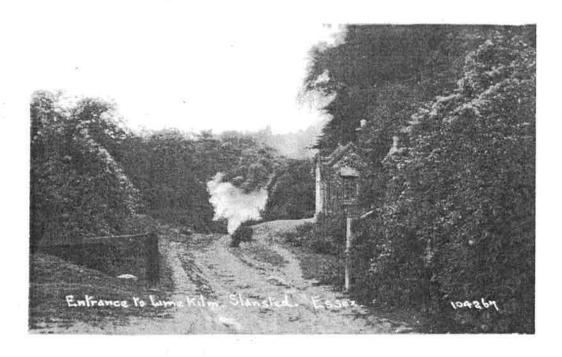
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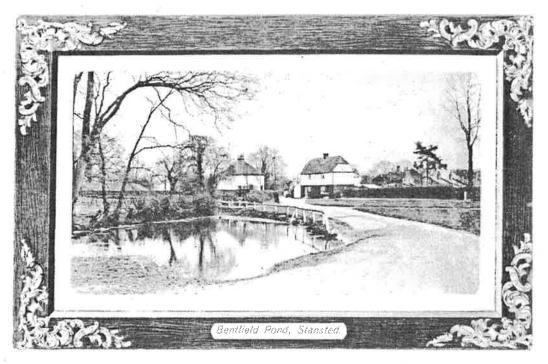
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ANOTHER LOOK AT YESTERDAY



THE LIME KILN

This photograph is thought to date from the 1920's when Lime Kiln Lane was the source of most of the lime spread on fields over a wide radius. The prolific growth of old man's beard is a good indicator of the chalk and it is still in evidence today. When the kiln went out of use the pit was filled and it is now pasture and for equestrian usage.



BENTFIELD POND

This First World War photograph was sent by a soldier who had route-marched to Stansted from Luton via Ware - 46 long miles. The access for cattle is apparent and it is interesting to note the soil bunds for the reservoir and a small water tank - later to be superseded by a water-tower - now also a memory. The hurdles for hanging hay are evidence of the field's use before the playground arrived.

Photographs courtesy of Paul Embleton

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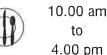
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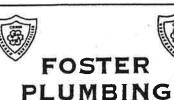
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