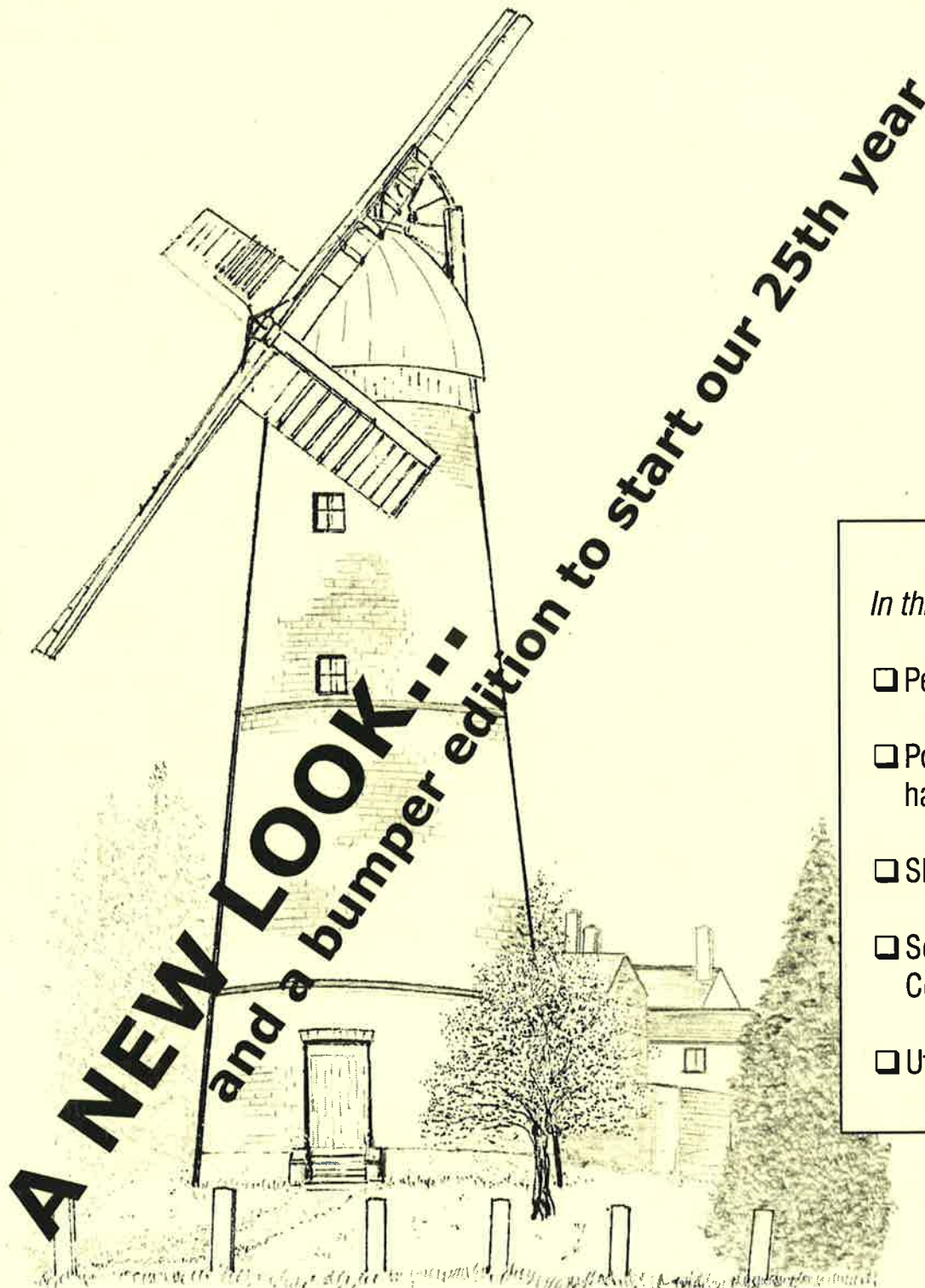


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



A NEW LOOK...
and a bumper edition to start our 25th year

In this issue...

- Pesterford Bridge latest
- Post Office - is it happening?
- Shoe box time again
- Scuba Diving Competition
- Uttlesford demographics

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by 11th November for publication on 27th November
by 9th December for publication on 1st January**



A message from the Editor...

Welcome to the new *Link*. The old cover did 24 years of sterling service, but was regarded by many as outmoded. An advertisers' index is now included and the layout is more varied. We don't see this as just a quarter-century change - rather as the latest move in keeping *The Link* in step with the times. Our hunger for interesting or humorous copy remains unassuaged, so if you have the inclination do please give us a contribution.

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ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

Masses Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am

Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm

Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

Some friends and I recently attended a musical tour of Westminster Abbey. We were not sure quite what to expect, but as most of us had not been to the Abbey for many years, any chance to visit this ancient and historic place was much welcomed. In fact, it proved a most moving and memorable occasion.

We entered through a side door just before seven o'clock, as it was getting dark and after the Abbey was closed to the general public. As we came in, the Abbey was in darkness apart from a few lights over the high altar. As we sat in silence in the nave for a few minutes, surrounded by memorials commemorating so many familiar names, the beauty and sense of history was awe-inspiring. A small choir of some dozen men then entered, singing a 16th century anthem. They were all ex-choristers of the Abbey, two or three of whom had sung at the last coronation, and one had also sung at George VI's coronation. One of the choir, James Wilkinson, acted as guide (some people may remember him as the Science Correspondent at the BBC, until his recent retirement). We then proceeded to walk round the Abbey, sitting at various points, while he talked to us of the history of the building and some of the numerous memorials there. This was interspersed with various pieces of choral music performed by the choir. The Abbey was darkened again for the final piece, a Russian chant for the Departed, which was sung with the choir standing round the grave of the Unknown Warrior.

In the stillness and darkness, and surrounded by so many reminders of those from all walks of life, who had used their talents in the service of others in so many ways, the sense of 'the communion of saints' was very powerfully evoked. During this month when we commemorate the dead, I shall be thinking often of those moments in the Abbey, and reflecting on 'the communion of saints' that goes far beyond the bounds of human institutions, and encompasses men and women from all ages and nationalities.

Ruth Rawlinson

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 November

7th	2.30pm	Rev'd David Simpson - Pilots Service
14th	10.45am	Remembrance Service at St John's
21st	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson - Communion
28th	10.30am	Mrs C Heyhoe - joint with Methodists

Register

Funeral Clifford Adamson, aged 86 years

Dates for your Diary

November

1st	6.00pm	Pilots
7th	2.30pm	Pilots' Service followed by Afternoon Tea at 3.30pm
9th	7.30pm	Pack-a-box (see below)
10th	8.00-9.30pm	Discussion Group (Water Lane)
11th	1.30-3.00pm	Discussion Group (Stansted)
15th	9.30am	Monday Club, Outing to Huntingdon Garden Centre - seats available
15th	6.00pm	Pilots
24th	8.00-9.30pm	Discussion group (Water Lane)
25th	1.30-3.00pm	Discussion group (Stansted)
29th	6.00pm	Pilots

Operation Christmas Child

The place to be on 9th November at 7.30pm is the URC Lecture Hall, to 'Pack-a-Box' for Operation Christmas Child, have a cup of coffee and some fun and laughter - everyone is welcome.

The boxes this year must **not** contain chocolate in any form due to Customs regulations in the receiving countries. Also anything in glass containers or liquids of any type, and books with words; but there are still plenty of items that can be sent - cuddly toys, small jigsaw puzzles, toy cars, pens, pencils, crayons, felt tip pens, note books and pads, and colouring books, toiletries and, for girls, jewellery including clip earrings, and hair bands and clips. It is also nice to add a greetings card or a photo of yourself. Donations towards transportation costs are also very welcome.

Items to be included in the shoe boxes can be left at 58 Chapel Hill, as well as completed boxes. Empty shoe boxes are also needed!

This year there is not a large company where you can leave your full boxes like last year, when it was the Co-op.

Anything can be brought to the Lecture Hall on the night of the 9th November, but all boxes must be ready by 15th November, when they will be picked up by their volunteer drivers.

I have just received a newsletter from Samaritans Purse with information on where last years' boxes were sent to, and included in this list is the school in Beslan Russia, which was at the centre of the terrible terrorist attack last month, in which 330 people, mostly children, died; also Azerbaijan, Belarus and Serbia, where the boxes were given to orphans, refugee camps, and Kosovan refugees.

Please help the Eastern Region of Operation Christmas Child beat last year's total of 80,332 shoe boxes, and bring a smile to a child's face this Christmas.


Janet Townsend

**Shoe Boxes for
Operation Christmas Child**

7.30 pm onwards
Tuesday 9th November
URC Lecture Hall

Come for coffee and bring
along your fully or partly
completed shoe boxes

For more information please
tel 812593 or see URC article

 All welcome

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 November**

7th Fran Page
14th **Service of Remembrance at St John's Church
led by Rev'd Keith Page**
- 10.45am at the Memorial Garden, Chapel Hill
21st Michael Dyer
28th Joint service at the United Reformed Church,
led by Christine Heyhoe

Our Church Fellowship on 11th November at 8.00pm will be held at 7 Blythwood Gardens, and led by our URC friends.

We are looking forward to our next lunchtime sharing meeting with our URC friends on Saturday 20th November at noon in the URC.

Catherine Dean
813579

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

So many words. . .

I have been sitting in front of an empty screen for so long now. . .

I have the opportunity to say to you that there is a place in my heart where the emotion comes from and yet no words to describe it. I'm thinking that whatever I say has probably been said before, so I shall borrow these words from Soren Kierkegaard:

"When reflection is completely exhausted then Faith begins. Everything which reflection can hit upon, Faith has already seen through and merged on the other side."

Take a moment to reflect. Might it be possible one day for us to learn to use the true teachings of love that have been passed down to us through the ages and try to develop a common way? Let us share the words of another great contemplative, Thomas Merton:

Our greatest dignity,
Our most essential peculiar power,
The most intimate secret of our humanity
Is our capacity to love.

Our perception of the world around us can often be distorted by the very powerful media influence that is continually thrust at us. I feel that sometimes our opinions of other people and nations can be very misleading, especially if adopted from public sources rather than through our personal experiences.

Graham Thwaites



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

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

(01279) 815243
church.office@stansted.net

Administrator
Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

Remembrance Day

A Service to Commemorate those who gave their lives in the defence of the nation will be held on Sunday 14th November beginning at the village memorial at 10:50am

The service will be conducted by the Revd Keith Page of Stansted Methodist Church

There will an observance of two minutes silence on Thursday 11th November at 11am at the village memorial

Easy Rider

A few years ago I had a funeral which involved a burial in an unfamiliar churchyard. The morning October mist was still over the graves and I went quite a way ahead of the procession to find the grave, and to stand as a marker in the cloud to ensure it would be occupied by the one for whom it was intended. As I stood sentinel the quiet was pierced by a scream, and I caught the red eyes of a stoat, his teeth deep into the neck of a struggling rabbit. I took off after the stoat which persisted, eyeing me from behind successive gravestones before vanishing into the mist.

As one raised as an urban kid, my images of rabbits came from the stuffed variety, and the crimson glare of the stoat lent itself readily to looking demonic, which convinced me of what I thought was the right thing to do. I failed the rabbit in the end by not finishing it off, which I would have done if my instincts had been properly country.

Six years later, I am accustomed to being told the name of the chicken I am eating, and am well adjusted to rural life being about the sharp end of life and death.

So when Old Labour is baying for blood in calling for the abolition of the hunt, its instincts are as skewed as any townie who serves food on the table, the provenance of which is lost in a trail that ends on the supermarket shelf.

The ban against hunting with hounds has to be the most misguided and wasteful cause our representatives can pursue. Old Labour is urban, its roots are industrial, just like my own.

While the anti-hunting lobby claims to be caught up in the fate of a fox, what is driving it is a deep disdain for the culture of the people who ride with the hounds.

I think, if Old Labour is still wanting to build a new and fairer world, it can be more effectively occupied.

The hunt is only partly about the fox, it is mainly *rural ritual*. Like any ritual there is a beginning, middle and end, there are conventions to follow, costumes to wear and patterns of deference to observe as you enjoy, for a brief season, the freedom to ride across the land unfettered and free. In the past, the hunt leader was at the head, and those who followed were in their appointed order according to their position in the rural community. The hunt was a ritual rehearsing the social makeup up the community.

The very fact that it is possible to even consider the demise of the hunt is not because we want to be kind to foxes, but because the social hierarchy which it depicts is fading quickly from country life. More often these days, whether you ride at the head or the tail of the hunt, you are likely to be found in your grey pinstripe on the platform waiting for the 0610 to Liverpool Street.

This is the 100th year of the Harley Davidson, the steed of choice for the classic biker pack. Fifty years ago, bikers had the same fantasy of riding free, the road coming to meet you, and an open horizon. The biggest and meanest dudes rode at the front, while the weakest followed behind. These days, the only people who can afford Harleys are middle-aged accountants in mid-life crisis. I'm certain that, after the bike is in the garage, today's bikers check to see their grey pinstripe is where they can find it when they stagger for the 0610 on Monday morning.

Old Labour should leave the hunt alone, it is already a changing institution, and can safely be left in the hands of history. In the Meantime, Old Labour would be more true to its vocation if it turned to championing the cause of the availability of public services for the rural elderly and poor. **AS**

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 Church Office for details of meetings.

Housegroups There is a reading group studying C S Lewis' *Mere Christianity* at 5 Bentfield Gardens each Wednesday, contact Andy at 813003; and *The Bluffers Guide to the Bible* at the Rectory on alternate Tuesdays, Contact Andrew 812203 or the Church Office for details.

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

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

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

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

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

Housegroups
The Rector
(01279) 812203

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

Sunday School
Mrs Sandra Wood
(01279) 647054
sandra@stansted.net

Registers for September:

Weddings

4th Samantha Cope and Matthew Longbottom
4th Alexandra Turner and Mark Robinson

Funerals

15th Alan Freegard age 61
20th Florence Patmore age 91

Christmas Market

The St John's Church Christmas Market will be held this year on 20th November, and, like last year, will be from 1.00pm to 4.00pm in St John's Church Hall. There will be stalls weighed down with cakes, toys, gifts, bulbs, crafts and decorations, toiletries, candles, etc., not to mention tombolas and raffles to suit all ages.

Please make a note of the date and time and drop in to pick up some early Christmas bargains and, perhaps, have a cup of tea and a cake from our well stocked refreshment bar, or a glass of warm punch whilst you wait to see if you are a big winner in our raffles.

Francine Cope



SHALOM

On Monday, 8th November, Richard Lavender will give a talk, illustrated by slides, on the Brontës of Haworth. This will be at the Quaker Meeting House.

On Monday, 22nd November there will be a video on the Ten Commandments at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Both meetings start at 8.00pm and all are welcome.

The 2005 Retreat will be 4th to 6th March at Hengrave Hall, near Bury St Edmunds. The leader will be Rev'd Andrew Spurr.

For details please contact Harry Goreing on 01279 504765.

Catherine Dean
813579

HELPLINE - STANSTED'S COMMUNITY CARE SCHEME

This month sees both a milestone in Helpline's operation and a considerable challenge to its future.

November 2004 is the 20th anniversary of Helpline's inauguration and, in the last full year, ie 2003, we dealt with another record number of calls for assistance – 225, of which 163 related to requests for transport. This is a great testimony to the dedicated work of our volunteers and also proves that the scheme is still of valuable assistance to our community.

The challenge to Helpline's future operation, along with so many other organisations, has arisen as a result of the 'no-win, no-fee' compensation culture that has relentlessly – and very sadly – become part of our modern society. The insurance company, which provides our public liability and employer's liability cover, has advised us that, for our cover to remain valid, we are required to undertake a great deal of paperwork and produce, amongst other things, a health and safety policy and risk assessments for all our areas of operation. In addition, all our volunteers will be required to sign a registration form and undertake to comply with the various policies and procedures, which it is necessary for us to formulate.

Since it would be both irresponsible and, indeed, illegal, for us to carry on our operation without safeguarding our volunteers with the necessary insurance, we are faced with two choices – either we comply with all the necessary requirements now being demanded of us, or we cease to exist. Whilst, as an organisation, we have always shunned any undue bureaucracy, the Helpline Committee has decided, without hesitation, that we will make every endeavour to fulfil our obligations in order to ensure the continuation of Stansted's community care scheme. We will also do our best to keep the volunteers' paperwork and commitments to the minimum and trust that they will understand that these requirements, whilst not of our choosing, are designed with their safety in mind.

Francine Cope
Chairman



A Celebration of Christmas

**Saturday, 18th December, 2004 at 4pm
St Mary's Church, Stansted**



The usual concert of carols, Christmas music, readings and poetry will take place at 4.00pm on Saturday, 18th December, 2004 at St Mary's Church, Stansted. Singers from all local churches are invited to join the choir for the musical items. Rehearsals will be from 8.00pm-9.00pm on the following evenings at St John's Church, Stansted:

Wednesday, 1st December

Wednesday, 8th December

Thursday, 16th December

If you enjoy singing and would like to join the choir for this event, please let me have your name and voice part as soon as possible and by 21st November at the very latest. It takes time to organise all the music copies and so we do need to know numbers well before the first rehearsal.

Glynis D Morris
(01223 263640 or
church.music@stansted.net)



Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has slammed BAA's Home Owner Support Scheme (HOSS) as a disgraceful abrogation of its responsibilities to the local community and a further demonstration that its key priority is to try to expand Stansted on the cheap.

BAA's highly defensive brochure deals only with specific noise blight which will affect homes within a 66 decibel noise contour.

Fewer than 500 homeowners are likely to qualify, mostly in the area of Brewer's End, parts of Bamber's Green and Duton Hill. The wider issue of generalised blight is totally ignored, however, resulting in thousands of local residents whose homes have been blighted by the threat of airport expansion being left out in the cold. Land Registry figures demonstrate conclusively that generalised blight is affecting some 12,000 homes in southern Uttlesford and on the East Herts border.

"As BAA knows only too well, it is not just the issue of aircraft noise which is devaluing property values" said SSE Chairman, Peter Sanders. "Property blight is a far more complex subject than that."

High Court latest

At the time of going to press we are being advised that 13th December is to be the start date for the Judicial Review hearing which will challenge the proposals for a second runway at Stansted. Meantime we are working intensely with our legal advisers and counsel to ensure that we are able to present the strongest possible case to the Court.

The High Court action being mounted by Stop Stansted Expansion and others will be heard alongside a similar legal challenge which is being pursued by Uttlesford, East Hertfordshire and North Hertfordshire District Councils and by Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils.

Win or lose, these legal challenges are an important first step in the battle to thwart BAA's massive expansion plans for Stansted. They are just a taste of what is to come over the next two or three years.

Jobs galore!

Lots of new jobs? Yes, of course! There would be tens of thousands of new jobs if Stansted were to become one of the world's largest airports. But Uttlesford and East Hertfordshire already have just about the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

Not surprisingly, BAA already has difficulty in finding local people to fill jobs at Stansted. Most airport jobs are not highly paid and involve some pretty unsocial shift working in

areas such as general maintenance and cleaning, security, freight and baggage handling, manning check-in desks, warehousing and driving.

Because of the shortage of local workers, BAA has for some time been making a major effort to recruit airport workers from London, for example in Hackney, Haringey, Newham and Tower Hamlets.

Free bus travel is offered as an incentive and about 700 new Stansted airport employees have been recruited from north and east London in the past five years.

Meanwhile, 270 skilled jobs – mostly local – have been lost at Stansted with the downsizing of FLS aircraft maintenance operations – a victim of the intense cost pressures from the budget airlines.

Traffic galore!

If Stansted were to expand as BAA would wish, then, in just over 10 years from now, the airport would be generating a volume of road traffic on a similar scale to that generated by Heathrow today (7,200 peak hour car journeys by 2015 compared to 8,200 car journeys at Heathrow today) – and that is even without a second runway! Traffic levels would roughly double again if a second runway were to be developed.

Just getting in and out of Bishop's Stortford, Dunmow, Saffron Walden or Stansted Mountfitchet would become a very different experience. Whether taking the kids to school or going to the local shops – we would all suffer from the frustrations of increased traffic.

Community Calendar 2005

The beautiful village of Finchingfield was the setting for the launch of the Stop Stansted Expansion Community Calendar 2005.

Said Ken McDonald, leader of the calendar team: "We chose Finchingfield for the launch as it is so representative of the many lovely parishes featured inside the calendar whose peace would be shattered if the proposed expansion of Stansted Airport ever went ahead. We were delighted with the reception we received and people we met were extremely supportive of our initiative – not least when they discovered that the proceeds from the calendar sales would go directly to supporting the fight against expansion."

This is the third year that the glossy A3 Community Calendar has been produced by volunteers in aid of SSE. Its bargain price of £5 has been made possible by everyone involved in the project, including all the shops, volunteers and eight contributing photographers, giving their time and services free.

Local calendar stockists currently include the following local outlets:

Family News, YZ Minimarket, R&K News.

www.stopstanstedexpansion.com



COFFEE MORNING

10 am Tues 2nd November
49 St John's Road

Home made marmalade & jams
Cakes ~ Raffle ~ Tombola
White Elephant

Entry 50p incl coffee ~Tel 814471



COFFEE MORNING

10 am

Wednesday 3rd November

26 Spencer Close
Raffle ~ Sale of Goods

All Proceeds to the Huw Johnson Club

St Mary's Primary School

For the 3rd year running ...

XMAS SHOPPING EVENING

7.30 - 9.30 pm Thu 11th Nov
in the School Hall

Shop in the unhurried & convivial atmosphere
and take the heat off Christmas shopping!

A wide range of gorgeous and
original gifts for all the family.



Entry free

VILLAGE EVENTS

November

1	Mon	First Aid at Work Course	Gorsefield FSC 9 am - 5 pm
2	Tue	HEAL Coffee Morning	49 St John's Road 10 am
3	Wed	Huw Johnson Coffee Morning	26 Spencer Close 10 am
		Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Fri	MP's Interviews	Parish Council Off 5.45 - 6.30 pm
		Sparkler Party	Bentfield School 6 - 7.30 pm
6	Sat	Village Fireworks	Elms Farm (see page 17)
7	Sun	Afternoon Tea (after service)	UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm
8	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
9	Tue	Shoe Box Packing	URC Hall 7.30 pm
11	Thu	Xmas Shopping Evening	St Mary's School 7.30 - 9.30 pm
		WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
13	Sat	Craft Fayre for St Clare's	Foakes Hall Dunmow 10 am - 4 pm
		Lib Dem AGM & Ploughman's	Day Centre noon 11.30 am - 2 pm
		Conservatives Pies 'n Puds	Day Centre 7.30 pm
13 Sat/14	Sun	Green Waste, Wood, Metal	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
14	Sun	Laying of Wreaths	War Memorial 10.45 am
17	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
18	Thu	Conservative Branch Meeting	Parish Council Offices 8 pm
20	Sat	Christmas Market	St John's Hall 1 - 4 pm
		Vivaldi Concert	St John's Church 7.30 pm
21	Sun	Craft Fayre	Mountfitchet School 10 am - 4 pm
22	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

December

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
2	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Sat	Christmas Fair	Bentfield School 2 pm
5	Sun	Afternoon Tea (after service)	UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm
		Village Music Club	St John's Church 3 pm
6	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
9	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
11	Sat	Christmas Fair	St Mary's School 12 noon - 3 pm
		Lib Dem Ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
18	Sat	Celebration of Christmas	St Mary's Church 4 pm

St John's Church Christmas Market

1pm - 4pm Sat 20 Nov

St John's Hall

Gifts ~ Tombolas ~ Toiletries

Toys ~ Candles ~ Cakes ~ Crafts

Decorations ~ Bulbs

Raffle

Refreshments

Vivaldi in Stansted

7.30 pm

Saturday 20th November

St John's Church

La Serenissima plays

Music for the Pietà

Tickets from Stansted Carpets,
Nockolds, Sonia Levy 815282

or at the door

£10 adults, £7 conc, £3 children

Mountfitchet High School



CRAFT FAIRE

10 am - 4 pm Sun 21st Nov

Articles from
local craft workers

Adults £1 Children 50p

Hot Lunches ~ Free Car Parking

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



CHRISTMAS FAIR

12 noon - 3 pm
Saturday 11th December

Raffle ~ Silent Auction
Santa Claus ~ Gifts
Crafts ~ Refreshments



THE VILLAGE MUSIC CLUB

BOBBY CHEN Piano

plays

Beethoven, Mozart, Britten & Chopin

3 pm Sun 5th December

St John's Church

Tickets from usual outlets,

Sonia Levy 815282 or at the door
£9 adults, £7 conc, £3 or £1 children



Bentfield School PTA

Christmas Fair

Saturday 4th December
from 2 pm

Santa's Grotto ~ Raffle

Tombolas ~ Crafts

Plants ~ Cakes

Entertainment



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Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk Ruth Clifford
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10 am - 1 pm
Monday - Friday



Council Offices
Crafton Green
Tel 813214
Fax 813964

The annual Fireworks and Bonfire will take place on Saturday 6th November at Elms Farm for which details appear on the Village Events page. Please note that entry to the ground is by way of the old Stansted Hall archway entrance in Church Road. As usual, parking is at the Lower Street Car Park. Bring your wellies!

On Remembrance Sunday, 14th November, the Village Wreath-Laying ceremony will be held at the War Memorial at 10.45am. This has been well attended in recent years with good representation from Stansted's numerous organisations. We hope that many of you will again join the parade in the Memorial Garden. The organisation parties will assemble in the Crafton Green Car Park at 10.30am before walking down Chapel Hill. The ceremony will end with the two minutes silence which is then followed by a service in St John's Church led by the Methodist Minister, Rev'd Keith Page.

Mention of the Memorial Garden leads us to an update on the refurbishment programme. The Parish Council, working with the PCC, has recently accepted a tender for a considerable amount of tree work to be undertaken in the Garden. The specification is to remove trees which are past their sell-by date – most of them were self-seeded – all of the scrub on the western shrub area, and the hedge between the Garden and the Church grounds. The established trees on the western boundary will remain. (We have received consent from Uttlesford for this work to be undertaken.) One reason is to open up the view of the Church from Chapel Hill. An added benefit is that it will also improve security around the Church and Church Hall.

A tender has also been accepted for the refurbishment of the front boundary railings and gates. This will include the rebuilding of the two brick piers so that they match! We are awaiting the final top surface for the path, but there have been problems with the supplier to our contractor – hopefully this will be completed soon.

Once all of the above work has been completed, the conical yews which are to be located at the four corners of the memorial will be planted, and the War Memorial itself will receive its professional clean. This project has been on-going for a number of years but it is my sincere hope that the year end will bring a marked difference to the appearance of the Garden. We can then look forward to dealing with the eastern shrub area, and planting in both!

There is quite rightly much concern being expressed about the Rochford Nursery development and Pesterford Bridge. The present situation is that detailed consent is currently being sought on the housing, archaeology and landscaping with the first occupations being planned for 2006. Before that Pesterford Bridge has to be almost completely rebuilt together with a road junction suitable for the greatly

increased traffic. This is expected to begin early in the New Year and will take at least a year to complete. Inevitably there will be disruption for most of this time and we await with interest the diversionary proposals of the Highway Authority (Essex CC). Be warned! The Parish Council will be closely following the position and will ensure that residents are kept informed. All the highway proposals for the Rochford site are under review and these include potential off-site improvements in Stansted and Birchanger for which money has been allocated. This is where residents can and should make their views known. Please let the Parish Council know of any parking, road use, or other associated matters which you feel could be included. Remember, considerably greater traffic from the Airport, 'natural' increase, and the new development, is certain and this is the opportunity (and possibly the only one) to ensure best use of the funds before they are committed.

We are delighted to report that the promised Police Support Officer for Stansted will be in post before Christmas. The Police are anxious to assure us that beat officers are available more frequently through telephone links and that emergencies are as always dealt with through the 999 system. We will be interested to see how these – and the parking controls now with Uttlesford District Council – work out over the next few months. It looks like an eventful period!

Ruth Clifford
Clerk



**STANSTED &
DISTRICT LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS.**

The Branch AGM will be held at 11.30am on Saturday 13th November at the Stansted Day Centre, followed by the usual ploughman's lunch, 12 noon to 2.00pm.

The December ploughman's will be on Saturday, 11th December, 12 noon to 2.00pm at the Stansted Day Centre. All are welcome.

The Annual Constituency Dinner will be held on Friday 12th November, 7.30pm for 8.00pm, at Great Chesterford Village Hall. Please ring 814222 or 813432 for tickets and/or further information.

Ruth Rawlinson



'WOT POETRY' raised £900 for 'HEAL' Cancer Charity and St John's Church. Thank you to all who made this possible.

Sue Hitchmough

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Post Office

A lot is happening behind the scenes to open a new Post Office. I hate being secretive, but all I can say at the moment is that there are some really good ideas being considered. The District Council is doing its best working with other people and organisations to help turn the ideas into what we all want – a fully operational Post Office in Stansted.

Policing

I said last month I had written to the Chairman of the Essex Police Authority asking about the state of the local police service. The reply says: police numbers are at an all time high and are more visible; his aim is to increase the number of regular police officers and community support officers in Uttlesford; improved response to non-emergency calls is a priority; call numbers have doubled since 1999 because of mobile phone availability.

EEDA & EERA

The Government's Development Agency for the East of England (EEDA), which includes this area, has been pushing for another runway at Stansted for a long time. They seem to have swallowed BAA propaganda that economic success depends on making airports as big as possible. Anyway, in mid-October the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), on which I sit wearing my Uttlesford hat, considered the new regional economic strategy prepared by EEDA (sorry about all the initials). This contained support for government policy of a second runway. I put down an amendment at the Assembly meeting to reject this economic policy. Much to my surprise, it was approved without any opposition. The Development Agency Board will be reconsidering its enthusiasm for airport runways at its board meeting on 21st October. I'll tell you what happened in December.

By the way, if anyone wants to know more about what the Regional Assembly is and does, please get in touch.

Councillor Alan Dean
Tel: 01279 813579

Email: cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Government Housing Plans

The nature of the threat facing this area has become clearer. John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, plans to cram nearly 500,000 homes into the east of England. He wants 478,000 homes to be built at the rate of 23,900 a year until 2021. Where does Uttlesford fit into the Government's plans? If they get their way, we will be required to find room for an additional 8,000 homes, giving an annual average of 400. Some neighbouring districts have come off worse. South Cambridgeshire's allocation is 23,500 and East Hertfordshire's is 20,800. The East of England Regional Assembly Planning Panel has approved the overall scheme, but rejected a demand for an additional 18,000 houses across the region, which would have taken the total to 500,000. The scheme will now be considered by a full meeting of the Regional Assembly on 5th November, after which it will probably go to a public enquiry.

There are serious concerns that development on the scale proposed will be unsustainable. Will the infrastructure be able to cope with such massive expansion? What will be the effect on our roads, hospitals and schools? Independent consultants who have looked at the plans have stated that the whole of eastern England is already under stress. A sensible approach they believe would have been to compare benefits of developing in the area with other parts of the country, particularly in the north.

These vital decisions are being taken by remote, unaccountable, unelected bodies with limited opportunities for public participation. A period of public consultation with local meetings, etc. will take place in January and February 2005. Much is at stake for our countryside, towns and villages.

How well do you know Uttlesford ?


The current edition of Local Government Chronicle gives an interesting profile of the district. We are described as a rural area nestling between Cambridge and London in north-west Essex. Although the second largest district in the county by area we paradoxically have one of the lowest populations. This is around 69,000 with just under half living outside the four main population centres of Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Stansted and Thaxted. The under 15 age group accounts for 20% of our population, 16-74 group 72% and 75 and over the remaining 7%. 94% of Uttlesford's population were born in the UK. Average house prices in the first quarter of 2004 were:

Detached	£343,679
Semi detached	£212,637
Terraced	£195,258
Flat/maisonette	£122,141

The threats facing Uttlesford are real and serious. If realised, our profile will be very different in 2021.


Councillor Geoffrey Sell
Tel: 01279 825925

Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk




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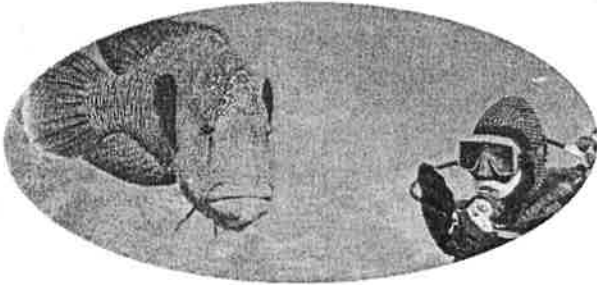
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The training for the PADI Open Water Course (the first PADI full certification diving course) is conducted over four days and includes five theory sessions in a classroom, five pool dives and four open water dives in a lake or coastal resort. This course certifies you to dive to a depth of 18 metres with another certified diver.



Once you have become a qualified diver, your PADI certification is recognised all over the world so you can dive on the amazing Barrier Reef in Australia, the warm waters of the Red Sea where you can swim with dolphins, or the deep blue waters of the Caribbean.

There is also some great diving to be done around our UK shoreline with thousands of shipwrecks to be explored as well as some great seal diving sites. You can even spot dolphins, whales and certain species of sharks off our shores!

**COMPETITION for readers of The Link
WIN A PAIR OF TRY DIVE VOUCHERS**

We are offering 5 lucky winners a pair of Try Dive vouchers worth £40. All you need to do is answer the following scuba diving related question and send it back to 2DiVE4 with your contact details.

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Address:

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Tel:

Email:

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www.2dive4.co.uk

If you like the idea of learning to scuba dive but are not sure whether you could do it, then you could book onto a try it out session called a 'Try Dive'. In one of these sessions you will be given a safety briefing by a PADI professional and then get kitted up in full scuba equipment to have an hour's dive in the safe confines of a swimming pool with a PADI Instructor or Divemaster always by your side to assist you. If you enjoy your diving experience then the next natural step is to book onto the PADI Open Water Course.

There are many other courses you can take including underwater photography, night diving and wreck diving. You can even train to become a PADI diving instructor and travel the world!

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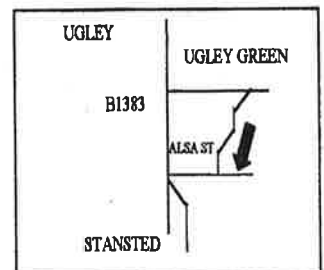
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WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER
to

THURSDAY 23 DECEMBER

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Thinking of learning something new, changing career, or just updating your skills? There is a large choice on offer (some are free) as summarised below:

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Nola Marshall 01279 81331.

Uttlesford Community Learning Partnership
Provides detailed information on all learning opportunities in the area, including learndirect. (See separate advertisement)
Judy Lilley 01279 722487

Harlow College
Main centre in Harlow, but also small computer centre at Start Hill. A huge range of daytime, evening and Saturday courses, full and part time.
Enquiries 01279 868100

Harlow ITeC
Based in Harlow. Specialises in computer courses (technical and end user), daytime and evening. Also full time courses for 16-19 year olds.
Amanda Johnston 01279 401545

Voluntary Sector Training
Specifically for voluntary organisations. Help and advice on contracts of employment, Health and Safety, producing newsletters etc.
Maggie Hawke 01371 876747

Interact
Based in Chelmsford. Aimed at helping people experiencing or recovering from mental ill health to regain their confidence.
Adrian Faier 01245 608253

Energise Return to Work Programmes
Courses during school hours for women wishing to return to work or working less than 16 hrs per week. Child care costs covered.
David Gibb 01376 557020



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

Poppy Appeal

This year's collection will take place between the 30th October and 13th November, Remembrance Sunday being on the 14th.

Besides the "Older Generation" of Servicemen and Women and their dependents, our troops are being deployed in many parts of the world. Injuries do occur and unfortunately lives are lost from time to time. The forces' welfare organisations do a marvellous job but the Legion is often involved with the families concerned and covers many aspects not available from other sources.

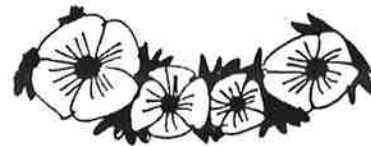
Our main workload is still with retired soldiers, airmen and seamen but as we said a few years ago:

"Remember the dead but don't forget the living."

It is the living who need our help and support.

Please give generously and WEAR YOUR POPPY WITH PRIDE.

John L Segar
Hon Poppy Appeal organiser
Stansted & District



The Ministry of Defence has produced a 'Veterans Badge' for the veterans of the two World Wars and these can be obtained free of charge direct from the County Field Officer, County Office, Royal British Legion at 2 St John's Court, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 OJO.

The badge is intended for all World War 1 and World War 2 veterans only and they do not have to be Legion members to qualify.

If anyone is interested the appropriate application form can be obtained from the undersigned.

Harold Thistle
Secretary, Stansted Royal British Legion
01279 813250

A man's gold signet ring has been lost recently in the Stansted area – should anyone find it will they please contact the police or phone 01279 813250.



Royal British Legion

Women's Section

On Monday afternoon, 4th October, we gathered at Pat Clower's for our periodical meeting.

This is the time of year when we hold our annual Harvest Sale and, despite the fact that we are all getting older, a good number of our members managed to come along – several collected by car. Very generous gifts of produce, jam, cake, etc. – ably auctioned by Janet, and a raffle – resulted in a sizeable addition to our funds which will go to the Ghurkhas and the Royal British Legion.

We shall not meet again until April 2005 when we hope that even more of our erstwhile members will feel able to join us.

Venue and dates for 2005 will be printed in the 'Link'.

Pat Clower

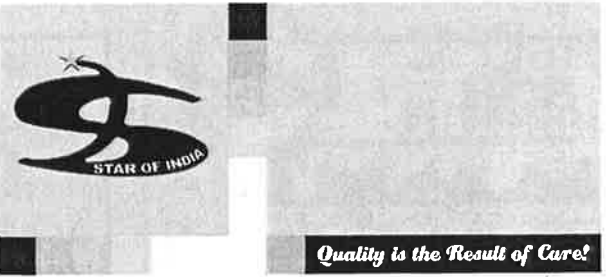
THE STANDARD OF THE STANSTED ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 50 YEARS ON

In the early 'fifties Mr Bert Kadwill, now President of Birchanger Branch Royal British Legion, paraded the Branch Standard at the Festival of Remembrance. Bert brought prestige to Stansted Branch winning many awards at Group and County events.

Around the same time Mrs Gladys Miller also paraded the Stansted Women's Section RBL Standard at the Albert Hall. It is remembered by Mrs Miller clearly as it was the year that King George VI died, 1952, and they had to drape the Standard in black as a mark of respect.

Now, around 50 years on, the honour again falls to the Stansted Branch Standard to be paraded and incidentally, the only one Stansted Branch has had during its lifetime of service. It is to be paraded by Mr Tom Chadwick who is proudly looking forward to this most important event in the RBL calendar. It is a very tiring and demanding day for Tom with a very early start, a rehearsal and followed by an afternoon and evening parade that is seen by the Nation on television - so different for many 50 years ago, when it was only heard on radio.

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LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Though many of us are familiar with Hatfield Forest and have enjoyed exploring its many acres, we were surprised to learn at our October meeting of the seat of power it represented in our national history. Eric Allen who had been, until recently, a Member of the Forest's Management Committee, has carried out considerable research into the background of its ownership and held us fascinated with the results.

The earliest record concerning the Forest is a grant of ownership in the early 11th Century by Edward the Confessor, to Harold Godwinson, later Harold II who died at the Battle of Hastings. William the Conqueror was quick to take possession of it after the battle but it was one of his sons – either William II or Henry I – who formally declared it to be a Royal Forest. Henry III gave it to his sister Isabel in 1238, who was the widow of one Robert Bruce, whose grandson became King of Scotland and resisted Edward I in his ambition to rule that country. Needless to say Edward then confiscated the Forest, and it was his son, Edward II, who gave it to his sister Elizabeth, who married Humphrey de Bowens. This was a very well connected family with many estates, some of which were granted by William the Conqueror. These included the Manor of Hallingbury, and the Forest became part of that Manor. Humphrey was killed and the Forest passed to his sister, who married a Lord Stafford (whose descendent was beheaded by Charles I in 1521).

Henry VIII seized the Forest in his turn but his son, Edward VI, gave it to a powerful courtier, Richard Rich, Chancellor and Speaker in Parliament. He it was who founded Felsted School and who did many good works in Hallingbury and its surrounding district. Having been passed down through the family, the Forest was sold in 1529 to Lord Morley and Monteagle of Hallingbury Place. The Morleys were another old and powerful family, who held the Manor for many years before the line died out in the 18th Century. While they held it, however, they were involved with several important people and events – inherited at one stage by Anne Boleyn's brother. She herself made a visit there and later members of the family were involved in the Gunpowder Plot. During the Civil War, the 12th Baron Morley supported the Royalists, which proved such an expensive mistake that he had to sell the property of the Manor, including the Forest.

The Estate was then bought by the Houblons, originally from Flanders, who were Republicans during the Civil War, but were able to retain their funds at the Restoration. So much so, indeed, that they were involved in setting up the Bank of England and the National Debt to aid William III to finance his European Wars. Jacob Houblon was the first Governor of the Bank, while four of his sons were on the Board of Governors. Handed down until the family died out around 1910, the Estate suffered mixed fortunes for several years until the Forest was sold, the trees to be felled for timber. Fortunately for us all, there was a rich but elderly gentleman, Edward North Buxton, who although seriously ill, arranged for his family to buy up the Forest to give to the National Trust. This they did with great difficulty, even managing to acquire an additional 250 acres to add to the Estate's 750. Now, the Forest is the only one in Europe to be managed as it would have been in mediaeval times, a treasure of which we should be greatly proud.

Eric's talk was accompanied by some lovely slides and we were all impressed by the considerable scholarship which had gone into his preparation, especially of the detailed histories of the families involved.

The next meeting on 4th November will have our own Ralph Phillips telling us of 'Local Justice in Elizabethan and Cromwellian times' and I am sure that we can look forward to an equally interesting evening. Hope you can join us.

Ian Seavers



St Clare
Hospice

St Clare Hospice is once again holding a Christmas Craft Fayre and we will be in **The Foakes Hall on Saturday 13th November 2004 between 10.00am and 4.00pm.**

Please come along and join us, pick up lots of Christmas presents and meet old friends for a coffee and snack.

There will be a large selection of stalls packed with original ideas plus the Hospice Stall selling calendars and Christmas cards. Also, there will be bric-a-brac and cake stalls.

You can also try the raffle and you may win the meat voucher, Christmas hamper or one of the other many prizes.

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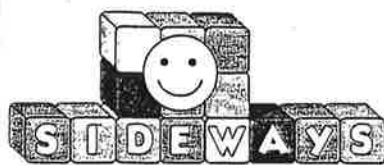
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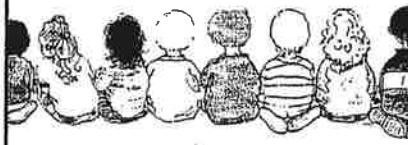
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The golden days of autumn may have been upon us but all our thoughts have been Silver for the 25th Anniversary of the school officially opening.

Our Silver Jubilee week saw all the children leaving a lasting impression by having their footprints immortalised in concrete stepping-stones across an area of woodland in the play-ground. Children have also decorated a tile with their self-portrait. These will be used to create an impressive mosaic for the entrance hall. Both of these events were made possible by a generous donation from former pupils following an open day and reunion dance last term.

The week ended with a special assembly followed by party time, 1979 style, and a wonderful cake especially made by our cook in charge, Paula.

Our years 5 and 6 had a fantastic time away in the Isle of Wight. Here are some of their comments on the week.

“I enjoyed Flamingo Park where you get to feed the ducks, geese, parrots and penguins. They swim in the water and you throw the fish in the water, and then they go underwater and eat the fish.”

“Osborne House was the best because it was so historical. There were so many stairs. If I lived there I would have got lost so quickly.”

“I shared a room with the exact people I wanted...I was the giggler, all I did was giggle all night long.”

“It was fantastic and anybody would've enjoyed it!”

They came back full of enthusiasm and ready to embark on the year ahead. (We're not sure the same can be said of the staff and parents who went!)

Some of our other classes have been out and about locally. Class 1 went to Stansted windmill and had a very enjoyable morning learning about the mill and its workings. The same day saw Class 2 going to the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve, having also been to the windmill earlier in the week, and finally Class 4 dressed in togas and went over to Elsenham Primary School for a very enjoyable and informative day on the Romans.



If you are interested in either a Nursery or Reception place in September 2005, and would like to visit the school, please give us a ring and we would be very pleased to arrange one for you.

The PTA had a hugely successful, not to mention very lively, Music Quiz at the beginning of October, which raised over £700, a fantastic achievement. Rebecca Carter once again did an amazing job at putting our musical knowledge to the test and getting us up dancing on those tables. Pen's chilli went down extremely well and I think it's safe to say a good night was had by all !!!

Just before half term it was the children's turn to have some fun at the Halloween Disco, where the dancing was strictly limited to the floor!! The children came up with some fabulous, if a little gruesome, costumes to really get into the Halloween spirit.

This month there is even more fun to be had at our annual Sparkler Party on Friday 5th November. This event is a firm favourite with the children who thoroughly enjoy the supervised sparklers as well as all the many games on offer. This year we have apple bobbing, donut munching, dare boxes and face painting to name a few. There will be hot food on sale and of course mulled wine to keep the adults warm.

Finally, our Christmas Fair this year will be held on Saturday 4th December at 2.00pm. This is always a great way to start the festive season, so put it in your diaries now and do come and join us.

Marnie Tait

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VIVALDI IN STANSTED



An additional Concert is appearing in Stansted's musical calendar, presented by a very distinguished ensemble. It features Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) in Music for the Pieta and will be at St John's Church, Stansted, on Saturday 20th November, 7.30pm.

The Orchestra is La Serenissima
 Soprano Mhairi Lawson
 Violin/director Adrian Chandler
 Organ Robert Howarth
 Cello Sarah McMahon

Featured in this concert are some of Vivaldi's finest works written for the Chapel of the Ospedale della Pieta during the 1710s. This was a Venetian girls' orphanage renowned for its music-making, employing Vivaldi alongside many other fine musicians to teach and compose for the talented girls.

Virtuosic thrills and spills are abundant in the concerti, especially in the *Concerto per la Solennita della S. Lingua di S. Antonio in Padova* which includes a stratospheric cadenza, the execution of such a feat being something for which Vivaldi was particularly famed. Other concerti feature parts for violoncello and solo organ, the Ospedale Chapel containing two suitable instruments.

These vibrant works are offset by sublime and ethereal settings of the *Laudate pueri* and the *Salve Regina*, both for soprano and orchestra. The soprano soloist is Mhairi Lawson who has graced stages worldwide with her effortless coloratura and compelling artistry. In a recent review the Independent said 'the highlight of the concert for me had to be Mhairi Lawson ... the kind of clear and brilliant notes that pin you to your seat, knock your hat off and then blow you a kiss afterwards'.

La Serenissima and soloists are also no strangers to international accolade. The International Record Review said of their latest CD release that it was 'some of the most confident and stylish Vivaldi playing I have heard' whilst Gramophone Magazine described it as 'never lacking punchy energy or drive'.

La Serenissima come to Stansted fresh from a tour of Mexico and enter the recording studio the following week to record the programme for AVIE records.

Don't miss this unique Vivaldi experience. Tickets are available at £10, £7 (concessions) and £3 (children) from:

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We have very much enjoyed the month of October. It is a beautiful time of year and we have focused our play and learning on the theme of autumn. Our children have enjoyed going out on nature walks to observe the beautiful autumnal colours and a vast array of leaves, conkers and feathers have been collected and put on display. We have been using them to practise sorting with the children.

We have been reading the story of Percy the Park Keeper and hearing about the many woodland animals that inhabit his surroundings. When our indoor forest display is complete we will be creating burrows, nests, setts and holes for all the many creatures that live in the forest.

We held our annual harvest service on Friday, 1st October at St John's Church. Children from the older group had made harvest baskets in which they could place their gifts. These were brought up to the altar by the children who all joined in a rousing chorus of 'oats and beans and barley grow'. The children walked round to Norman Court



to donate their offerings to the residents. The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting the residents and it was a real delight to see the joy on all faces as the gifts were given and received.

We held our annual AGM on Tuesday, 5th October. Tudor Owen, our chairman reported on a successful year and our nursery manager, Terri Stockwell gave an extremely interesting and informative presentation on the ethos of Rainbow pre-school. We were pleased to welcome several new parents on to the committee.

In addition to our qualified nursery staff, Rainbow is extremely lucky to have the dedicated support of five volunteer helpers. It is thanks to them that children who attend Rainbow benefit from such an excellent staff-child ratio and are offered so many opportunities to go on walks and visits. We are currently seeking one more helper for Thursday mornings 9.15am-12.00 noon. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 or speak to Ann and Terri at Rainbow.

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

Vicki Brice

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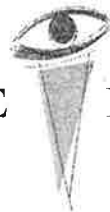
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The second concert of our Ninth Season is on Sunday 5th December, and features pianist Bobby Chen.

Malaysian born, Bobby entered the Yehudi Menuhin School as a pupil of Ruth Nye in 1991, where he participated in master classes with many eminent teachers including Fanny Waterman, John Lill, Nikolai Demidenko and Krystian Zimmerman. In 1996 he was selected as a soloist in a CD issued on the Classic FM label entitled 'Yehudi Menuhin's Young Virtuosi' and toured Britain with Lord Menuhin and the Warsaw Sinfonia, performing Beethoven's Triple Concerto.

More recently, at the Royal Academy of Music, he continued to study with Ruth Nye winning no fewer than six coveted awards including the Musicians' Benevolent Fund Music Education Award and a 'Star Award' from The Countess of Munster Musical Trust.

Press acclamations have included - "...his playing is truly beautiful.", "...an amazing talent...", "...he stands apart from his contemporaries..."

Bobby's programme will include Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, Mozart's Sonata in B flat, Britten's Notturmo and Chopin's Sonata in B minor.

This concert will be sponsored by The Countess of Munster - Recital Scheme

The concert, in St John's Church, Stansted, will start at 3.00pm and tickets are £9, concessions £7, children £3, and children/grandchildren of members £1, available from:

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Future concerts in our current season are:

- Sunday 23rd January 2005 at 3.00pm
Catrin Finch - The First Royal Harpist
- Saturday 5th March 2005 at 7.30pm
The Carducci Quartet
- PLUS 'The Summer Soiree' on Saturday 9th July 2005

We are delighted to be able to say that our number of members is now at its highest level for some years.

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After thinking about how we care for each other within the school community during our friendship week in September, our thoughts this month have been focused on caring for others and helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Once again we are taking part in the Operation Christmas Child scheme. Children in all classes have learnt about the plight of children in war-torn countries and have been encouraged to make up their own shoe boxes of gifts to send out to them. Last year we sent 200 Christmas boxes to children in war-torn countries. We are hoping to do even better this year.

The highlight of October was undoubtedly our annual Harvest Festival. St John's Church was packed and parents enjoyed seeing children from every class taking part in songs, readings and prayers on the theme of 'Far from Home'. The focus of the service was what life is like being a child refugee. In lessons children have been encouraged to think about what life is like for people who have had to leave their home not through choice, but because they have been forced to. During the service these ideas were shared with parents. The contrast the children made between our comfortable home lives and the desperate circumstances of refugee children was most thought-provoking. At the end of the service the children created a wall of hope on which they pinned their hopes and prayers for the future. Instead of donations of foodstuffs parents were asked to give to the charity Christian Aid. Our money will be used to alleviate the plight of refugees made homeless because of conflict and persecution.



Pupils from Maple share their ideas on what 'home' means

On 11th October Foyle's Educational held a book fayre at the school. Children from each class were encouraged to visit and browse the wonderful selection of books on display during the school day and given the opportunity to choose themselves the books they wanted to buy. Parents were able to come and shop with their children after school. The school received a percentage of the profits and with the £106 that was raised books were purchased to enhance Literacy at Key Stages 1 and 2.

As reported last month the children of Years 5 and 6 very much enjoyed their visit to the Isle of Wight. During the week the planned visits included The Mary Rose in Portsmouth as part of the KS2 Tudors topic and many geographical features on the Isle of Wight linked to the KS2

Geography curriculum. Here are excerpts from first hand accounts by Gemma Armogie (Year 6) and Lucy Oliva (Year 5).

"On Monday 20th September St Mary's Primary School went to the Isle of Wight. We left on the coach at 8.30am for the two hour journey to Portsmouth and when we got there we went to the Mary Rose museum which was really interesting."

"We were to stay at the Albion House Hotel in Sandown. The hotel was very nice and the people who ran it were very friendly indeed. The food was very good, and on the Thursday evening we had a disco to celebrate Michael South's birthday, which we all really enjoyed."

"On our first day we went to the glass factory and Alum Bay. They were really good."

"Later in the week we went on a fossil hunt on Blackgang Chine. We found lots of rocks with crystals inside them. On Thursday we went to the smuggling museum and Shanklin Chine where we had lunch."

"We also had some very nice walks on the beach in the evenings."

"The staff were really fun and I had a really enjoyable time."

"We all really enjoyed our trip to the Isle of Wight, and can hardly wait for next year's trip to France. We would like to thank all the teachers who came with us, and especially Mr Brown for organising the trip."

Our next big fund-raising event is our Christmas Shopping Evening on 11th November at 7.30-9.00pm. Get ahead of the game and shop in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere for presents for all your friends and family. There will be a wide range of products on sale, including beauty products, toys, books, candles, home ware, Christmas cards, wrapping paper and decorations. We look forward to seeing you there!

Vicki Brice
PTFA Member



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Stansted Tennis Club



Club Tournament

Finals Day this year saw the start of a fund-raising campaign to raise money for new floodlights at the club. The day was very well supported and players and spectators enjoyed a barbecue at the end of an exciting day of tennis. This year's results were:

Ladies' Singles:

Nicolene Penderis beat Daphne Carter 6-2 6-4

Mens' Singles:

Martyn Taplin beat Chris Hollis 6-2 7-6

Ladies' Doubles:

Daphne Carter and Nicolene Penderis
beat Jenny Kirby and Fiona Pye 6-3 6-4

Mens' Doubles:

John Bitten and Martyn Taplin
beat Howard Buckley and Richard Mott 6-4 6-3

Mixed Doubles:

Martyn Taplin and Laura Andes
beat John Bitten and Daphne Carter 7-6 4-6 6-1

Pearce/Frodo Tournament

This annual tournament was tinged with sadness as this year saw the sad death of former club member Diana Pearce. Diana and her husband Jack, who died several years ago, donated a trophy to be played for at the club, after they moved away to Dorset. The event was well attended and the winners were Martin Mackeonis and Sandra Ayres, who beat George Luther and Janet Hollis in the final

Junior Tournaments

The two final junior tournaments of the year have taken place in the last month. There were 17 competitors for the Clower Doubles Shield, which is a tournament for boys and girls aged between 12 and 15. This year's winners were Sanjay Cheema and Ben Taplin, who beat Peter Atkinson and Fred Kirby in a nail biting 4-3 final. The tournament for the 11 and under age group attracted 18 players and ended up with Tim Berry and Max Baldock beating Joseph Hollis and Jessica Stewart. The final score was 4-0.

Club Open sessions

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

Sunday mornings from 9.30am

Wednesday mornings from 10.00am

Wednesday evenings from 4.30pm

Friday mornings from 9.30am

Coaching

Martyn Taplin is currently holding adult coaching sessions for club members who wish to improve their game. Two classes take place between 2.30-4.30pm on Saturday after-

noons. Please call Martyn on 816386 if you would like to find out more or would like to join in.

Chris Hollis' junior groups are now restricted to Saturday mornings. These will continue until March when it will be light enough to play again during weekday afternoons. Chris will be available for individual lessons at various times during the day, so whether or not you are a current member of the Club, and are interested in having a lesson, please call Chris on 319155.

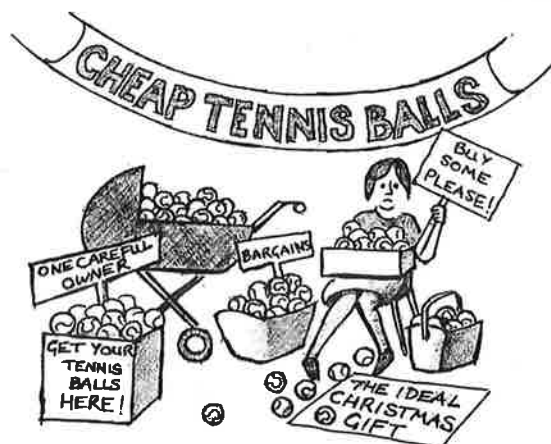
Janet Hollis still has a lot of tennis balls (of varying standards) for sale. Please contact her on 812073 or call in at 105 Cambridge Road, if you would like to buy any.

Christmas Dinner

The Tennis Club Christmas Dinner will be held at Stansted Bowls Club, Recreation Ground, on Saturday 4th December. For further details please contact Janet Hollis or look at the Club notice board.

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.

Chris Hollis



Saturday 13th November, 7.30pm
Pies n' Puds social evening, Stansted Day Centre

Thursday 18th November, 8.00pm
Branch Meeting, Parish Council Offices, all welcome

Sunday 5th December, 12 noon - 2.00pm
Christmas Drinks, venue to be announced.

Contacts:

Chairman - Cllr Richard Wallace (01279 812588)

Secretary - Miss Sian Lloyd (01279 817876)

Sian Lloyd



**Stansted
Evening
Women's Institute**

Over 40 members turned out to the October meeting to hear a presentation by David Townsend assisted by Diana Powell, of the product 'Ecoflow', the concept of magnotherapy which, as the title of his talk says can be a 'Life- changing Experience'. He explained how he had been unable to work for nearly two years having suffered increasing back-pain due to arthritis, which meant he had to give up his work of a tax inspector, and could not sit down for any length of time. All else having failed he came across magnotherapy and was amazed to find that it helped him with the pain almost immediately and so decided to become a distributor of the product. He did emphasise that bioflow is not a cure, he still has the arthritis, but the pain can be greatly minimised. He gave a brief history of the use of magnotherapy which dates back thousands of years - Cleopatra was known to have used it on her temples to enhance her beauty - there was agreement in the hall that maybe it was a bit too late for most of us ! Magnotherapy is used quite a lot by vets on animals both large and small with great effect, which does go some way to destroying the myth that it is all in the mind. Magnetic technology can also be used in the home for your domestic heating reducing the problems of hard water, and in the car to magnetically condition fuel - though I'm not sure what that means! Members were able to look at the products - a selection of arm-bands and bangles - and to buy them, which many of us did; we are hoping for great results.

Members were invited to stand for next year's committee and nomination papers were distributed for voting next month.

21 people asked to go to Harlow Playhouse to see 'The Sound of Music' on 16th November, and a coach will be booked to take us.

A shopping trip to Norwich on 27th of November is also proving very popular and the coach for that is now nearly full. The cost is only £7, which seems very reasonable for a day out - not counting all the money you may spend when you get there!

Our Annual Christmas Dinner is booked at the Cock for 13th of December so it seems that Christmas is already catching up with us, even if we did resist buying our Christmas cards on our summer holidays.

Linda Gurr gave us an account of her walking course at Denman College; the last one of us to go as part of the 'Awards for All Scheme'. She walked for three days in August and visited 6 churches each day, which she said were wonderful but did begin to merge one into another by the end. Brenda Ryan took some lovely photographs of the trip which will eventually go into our scrapbook.

Our raffle raised £25.50 which will be sent to the British Legion for our wreath at the Remembrance Day Parade this year.

November is our AGM when we look back over our last year's achievements and look forward to the next - come along and become part of it.

Judy Colliver
812470



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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

I wish to start this month by making a plea to 'Link' readers, both young and not so young, to support the Club which desperately needs fresh blood, if it is to survive. Whether one owns an established garden or is creating a new garden it is often beneficial to be able to talk to other enthusiasts and to receive the benefit of their experiences. Membership of our Club will give you the opportunity to meet other gardeners with similar interests and to ask questions of our visiting speakers.

Every spring and autumn we hold Club shows. These give members an opportunity to show off their horticultural skills. Prize money and cups are awarded to the winners. In the spring show there are sections for vegetables, flowers, floral art and photography, while in the autumn show there are also fruit and domestic sections. In 2005 we are considering including some classes that will be open to all residents of Stansted.

The Club uses its purchasing power to bulk buy garden items such as seeds and bulbs at up to 25% discount. Back issues of 'The Garden' and 'Gardening Which?' are available for reference or to borrow. Why not attend one of our meetings?

Membership fees are:

Single £7.00 pa Joint £11.00 pa
Visitors 75p per meeting.

Meetings are held at 8.00pm on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, Stansted and visitors are always welcome. As you can see we have an interesting programme lined up for the remainder of the 2004/5 season.

3rd Nov 2004	Mr. Harpur – Garden Photography
1st Dec 2004	Christmas Party
Jan 2005	NO MEETING
2nd Feb 2005	Mrs Middleton – Some European Gardens
2nd Mar 2005	Mr. Powell – Autumn Colour
6th Apr 2005	Mr. Westwood – Building and Maintaining a Water Garden

34 members and visitors attended an aromatic October meeting to be entertained to an interesting talk entitled 'Spices – everything you need. A culinary trip round the globe' by Mr. Cleeve. He said that archaeological research has shown that 3-4,000 years ago the Syrians used to lay meat on bay leaves. In mediaeval times monks used herbs widely in order to cure common ailments as well as in cookery.

Mr. Cleeve then went on to describe specific herbs and spices and the uses to which they can be put. At the end of the talk Cyril Stoneham thanked Mr. Cleeve, and many members bought packets of spices from Mr. Cleeve.

The next meeting, on Wednesday 3rd November at the Day Centre at 8.00pm will include a talk on 'Garden Photography' by Mr Harpur. Please join us. For non-members the admission fee is 75p.

David Loynds

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

The County Council, having returned from summer break, has settled down to business and is developing policy along a number of lines. As many will know, the County Council Elections are due to take place in May or June 2005, which date will depend upon when and whether Parliamentary Elections will be called. On this basis themes will be developed with some urgency over the next months, so electors will have some foundation on which to decide who will form the next administration.

- The first theme will be the preparation of a budget for the coming year 2005/06; the aim of the budget being to provide the best service at the most economical cost. In other words, either a standstill or a reduced council tax in 2005/06.
- The second theme will be a better provision of highway services, preferably with more expenditure on county roads and facilities over the coming years. Work is in hand already in this case, and results will be more easily seen in the coming years rather than in 2005.
- The third theme is better provision of education and social services at lesser costs. Again work is ongoing in this area.
- The fourth theme is active resistance to Central and Regional Governments' plans for the development of housing in Essex County beyond those numbers which the County Council believes it can sustain. The Government's and Region's views are 131,000 + 18,000 [a total of 149,000] – but the County's view is a figure of 110,000. In this case strong local support is required.
- The fifth and last theme is active resistance to the provision of a second runway at Stansted Airport and the related over-development of the Uttlesford and Braintree areas to support it.

Over the coming months these themes will be outlined and developed so readers can comment and give their views. Should any reader wish to know more about this subject, they should contact the Parish Clerk or the undersigned on 01279 812588.

Richard Wallace
County Councillor,
Stansted Division

**THE PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORUM
FOR
THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL TRUST**

**It's Back to Basics in the battle against hospital
superbugs !**

That's the message coming from the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, and its independent watchdog, the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forum at the Public Meeting held at the Latton Bush Centre, Harlow on Thursday, 30th September. Both sides want strict rules on hygiene and cleanliness enforced to cut down the risk of patients catching infections such as MRSA.

The PPI Forum has a series of tough measures it wants to see introduced or improved. Among them, spot checks to ensure staff carry out regular hand washing. A ban on wearing watches, rings and bracelets. No false nails or varnish. Long hair tied back. And a ban on wearing uniforms outside hospital premises, or theatre ones in the canteen.

The PPI Forum also wants much more information given to patients, relatives and visitors about how to avoid or prevent infections. The Forum member leading the fight against infections, Jennifer Steadman, told its public meeting in Harlow last Thursday there should be signs above each bed, asking if doctors and nurses had washed their hands. She said an information and advice booklet was being prepared. And it was vital that people who caught MRSA were not made to "feel like lepers."

The PPI Forum is already using its legal powers to carry out cleanliness checks. Forum member Terry Payne said he'd been told two years ago that bed tables would be replaced. Yet they were still there, he said, with "food gunged around the edges."

One member of public who visited his sister in hospital said: "Some of the things I saw were quite horrendous. Someone has to do something. We must have discipline." Another commented: "Why do people not know that it's important to wash hands? What has caused this problem to be created? Why aren't simple things being picked up? What's happening?"

No Excuses !

The hospital's chief executive, John Gilham said they were spending an extra £100,000 on domestic services. "We've got to address the basics," he said. "We must do better. And we're committed to doing better."

The hospital's director of nursing, Yvonne Blucher said that in the past, the NHS had focused on technology and forgotten about basics. "There are no excuses; it's not acceptable," she said. "We're getting there, but we have a long way to go."

Her senior infections control nurse, Christine Tetlow said everyone - patients, visitors, and staff - had to realise they were all part of the fight to beat the superbugs.

She said more side-rooms were being provided to isolate infected patients. Shorter stays in hospital would reduce the risks. Patients would be medically screened before they were admitted. Special washing gels were already on every door, and by next April or earlier, they would be at every bed.

The PPI Forum's chair, Mrs Lilian Chandler said it was now getting involved in every aspect of hospital life, as "critical friends who trust each other." She also called for more - and younger - people to come forward and join the PPI Forum.

The chairman of the hospital's Trust, Robert Powell, disclosed it was setting up its own, internal consultation group, called the Patients' Council and drawn from all volunteer groups currently at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. It was not aimed at replacing the PPI Forum, he said, but it might be given confidential information which the Forum would not get.

Luke Albarin (Forum Media Link)
albarin@dsl.pipex.com
Harlow 01279 418666

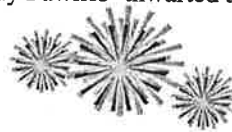


NOVEMBER



Originally the 9th month of the Roman Year.

At this time we celebrate (if that is the right word) Guy Fawkes' thwarted attempt to blow up Parliament.



He was born to Protestant parents in 1570 but became a Catholic at an early age.

He was arrested on 5th November 1605 and was hanged in 1606.

21st November 1783. The first manned flight by a hot air balloon. It was designed by the Montgolfier brothers although flown by others on that occasion. The outbreak of the French Revolution frustrated their continuing experiments.



The 30th is St. Andrew's Day. One of the 12 apostles and brother of Simon Peter. Patron Saint of Scotland and Russia. The belief that his cross was X-shaped dates only from the 14th century.

Although others have written similar verses about November, that of Thomas Hood (1799-1845) was an early one and possibly still one of the best:

'No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member.
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,
November.'

Peggy Honour



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

STANSTED AND DISTRICT

Our autumn Nearly New Sale was held in Stansted during October and was as successful as ever, being very well attended by local mums and dads. We'll let you know as soon as we have fixed the date for the next sale, which will be held in the spring.

Events in the NCT diary for **November** include a trip to the Little Legs Playhouse, a Messy Play morning in Elsenham, swimming at the Lord Butler leisure centre, a walk with duck feeding and the Annual General Meeting at which we review the year that has passed and then have a bit of a party.

Christmas specials this year include an Advent Event for some pre-Christmas bargains, cards, gifts and mince pies; the Children's Christmas Party, complete with the man in the red suit (ho, ho, ho); the Audley End Santa Special and then the Girls' (i.e. Mums') Night Out in Bishop's Stortford.

Our **coffee groups** are held on the following weekly basis: 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. There is also a monthly Bumps and Babes get-together: do contact us if you would like to receive an invitation. 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.

We have lots planned for the months of November and December so keep an eye out for the diary sheets that are pinned on the village notice boards or, if you would like to receive a free listing of all branch events being held during the next few months, please email:

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or phone the branch enquiry line on 0870 4211508

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Vanessa Gibbons

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Can you place this scene? The photograph came into John Salmon's possession and although he and the Editor have an idea, it would be helpful if a reader could confirm the location. Of course it could be another Stansted!



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