

October 2004

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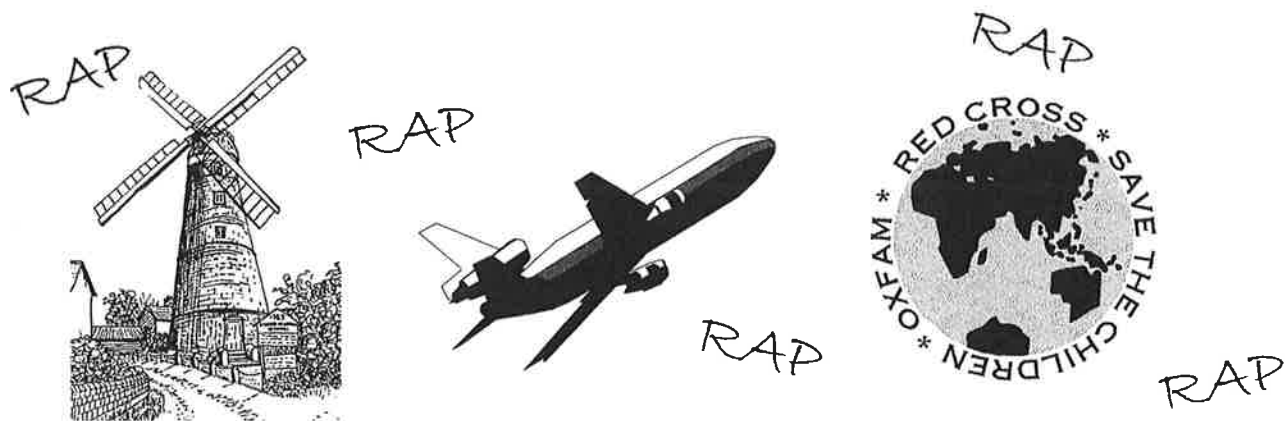
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**See Page 6 for more RAP information and subscription form**

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

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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**

## Open Door Service

*All-age Ecumenical Worship meets in October at St John's at 11:00am*

- 3rd October All-age communion
- 17th October All-age worship

## A Question of Identity

On 4th July, the day of my ordination as a deacon, I acquired a new title (The Rev'd), some new clothes (including a rather fetching collar) and some gifts. The gifts - like the communion set from the three parishes, and a number of books - are mainly designed to help me to do my new job, as Assistant Curate in this Benefice, and I am enjoying them very much. The title and the collar have been giving me more of a problem. As my ministry is part-time, and since I have another 'day job', I have to work out when to use them.

This may sound simple, but it is in fact quite complicated. For example, I had already decided not to wear the collar to work on a regular basis, but is it appropriate for events such as the Vice Chancellor's leaving service, which I attended in a work capacity? Is its use dictated by the day of the week (my usual days on duty as an NSM being Sunday and Tuesday evening) or the place (only within the boundaries of the Benefice)? I certainly felt very strange when I went to the Chinese takeaway in Saffron Walden still wearing my collar one Sunday evening. The title is just as bad. Shall I change my bank account details? I remember that when I became 'Dr', the bank immediately wrote offering us an increased overdraft facility on the joint current account (despite no change at all in earnings). I wonder what might happen this time - perhaps they'll reduce it?

Clothes and titles are not really important, and no doubt by this time next year I shall have worked out a routine and these questions will cease to bother me, but the questions they raise are interesting because these things are markers of a more significant change. Ordination is not the only occasion - and certainly not the most common one - when we have to work out when to wear a symbol or use a title that accompanies a significant life change. I can still remember practising my new surname and title ('Mrs') before I was married, and that for some time it felt very strange - not really 'me'. I have had long discussions with friends about when to stop wearing a wedding ring after a divorce. When a partner has died, people may still feel one of a pair, and have to adjust to being 'single' - in practical terms if not in their own minds. Booking a single room on holiday can be very significant, for example. Many of these situations are times when we are forced to re-evaluate identity. Titles and symbols such as rings are important not in themselves, but because of what they say about how we understand ourselves, and also how others see us.

This last point - about how others see us - is significant. It explains why it feels inappropriate to be known as 'The Revd' at work - where I am, for my students and colleagues, a Course Tutor, not a pastor - yet appropriate when I am walking about in the Benefice - whatever day of the week. But what about how I see myself?

## Diary

### Sundays

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

### Wednesdays

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

## Groups

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

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

### Housegroups

There are two housegroups meeting this autumn: *Mere Christianity* is a book group discussing C. S. Lewis' classic of the same name. For more details call Andy Thornton on 813003. *The Bluffers Guide to the Bible* is an American Tour (if it's Tuesday this must be Brussels) of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Call Andrew Spurr at the Rectory 812203.

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

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**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**  
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**Mrs Joy Lamb**

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

**Sunday School**  
**Mrs Sandra Wood**

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

**Open Door Service**  
**Mrs Frances Richards**  
phone  
(01279) 817740



(continued)

This last point - about how others see us - is significant. It explains why it feels inappropriate to be known as 'The Rev'd' at work - where I am, for my students and colleagues, a Course Tutor, not a pastor - yet appropriate when I am walking about in the Benefice - whatever the day of the week. But what about how I see myself? Increasingly, I have been aware - more acutely since my ordination - that social relationships and status (as symbolised by titles and clothes) do not alter who I am. I remain 'Caroline Mary' - a name given to me at my Baptism when I was six months old. It was Baptism, not Ordination, which marked the start of my faith journey and a new relationship with God. Ordination has been of immense significance to me, marking a new chapter in that relationship, and a new ministry, but this is only possible in the context of my basic identity as a child of God. And this status is one that I share with every member of the Church. We are all both members and ministers of His Kingdom, and it is this that gives an identity that survives all life's changes.

In some ways, being part-time and non-stipendiary is an advantage, despite what I have said about the questions it poses concerning what to wear when. For it means that I work for the Church on the same basis as everyone else. Like others who minister for the Kingdom of God both within the Church and in secular life, whether at work or at home, I have to work out what it all means when I am not in Church. These questions are posed for me in a more acute and visible way, because there are particular markers or symbols that attach to my ministry. But the basic questions are ones that face all Christians. How does what we do on Sundays relate to what we do on Mondays? What implications does my naming by God have for the rest of my life? It seems to me that these are important questions that should not go away, for any of us.

Caroline Curren

**Registers for July**

**Baptism**

18th Kieran Jay Felstead

**Wedding**

10th Andrew Sweet to Hayley Parker

**Funerals**

19th Babies James and Michael Hubbard

26th Kathleen Austin age 72

30th Evelyn Irene Morton age 88

St John's Church Organ Appeal

**DRINKS PARTY**

On Sunday 3rd October at 12 noon  
Old Lane House, Church Road, Stansted

Tickets £5

Drinks Refreshments Raffle  
All Proceeds to St John's Organ Appeal

Tickets from:

Chris & Bill Stiles Tel 813172  
or Church Office Tel 815243

**St John's Theatre Club**

Booking sheets are available at the back of St John's Church for the following three events.

Wednesday 6th October Saffron Walden Olde Tyme Music Hall

Friday 29th October *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Bishop's Stortford

Wednesday 17th November *The Sound of Music* at Harlow

The cost for travel, ticket and programme should be in the region of £15 for each occasion. Further details from Rosemary Thomson 834053.

**METHODIST**

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Secretary** Mrs Catherine Dean  
49 Recreation Ground  
Stansted  
Tel: 01279 813579

**Email** [methodists@stansted.net](mailto:methodists@stansted.net)

All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated

**Services and preachers for October**

3rd 9.30 am Doug Coulton  
10th 9.30 am Rev'd Keith Page  
17th 9.30 am Rev'd Keith Page (Communion)  
24th 10.30 am at URC Mrs F Paulding  
31st 9.30 am Rev'd Hilary Cheng

**Church Annual General Meeting**

8.00pm Friday 8th October at 7 Blythwood Gardens

**Stansted Regular Aid for the Poor (RAP)  
Tenth Anniversary**

Many people see famines and disasters on the television and read about them in the newspapers, and wonder what can be done. Many individuals make generous responses on their own, but since 1993 an organised and consistent response has been made by the residents of Stansted and district through RAP.

RAP, a sub-committee of Churches Together in Stansted, is a scheme enabling members of the public to support three charities which respond to disasters whilst also giving ongoing support through a monthly donation scheme. The three charities are: Save the Children Fund, British Red Cross and Oxfam. The patrons of the scheme are Mrs Phyllis Harrison, Dr Judith Richardson, Mr John Robinson and the Rev'd David Simpson.

Since RAP's foundation ten years ago, over £20,000 has been donated. In times of crises, the monies have been there when most needed. Among the countries to have been helped are: Eritrea, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Malawi and Iran.

There are two simple ways of supporting RAP, by standing order or by monthly envelopes which are deposited at King's Butchers, Lower Street, Stansted.

**Help us to continue this important work by joining Stansted RAP. Please use the tear-off slip and send to:**  
*David Morson, Chair of RAP,  
Chantry Hall, Henham,  
Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22 6AG  
(Telephone 01279 850209)*

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Signed .....  
Date .....



**CTS AGM**

All church members and friends are invited to the Annual General Meeting of Churches Together in Stansted, on Tuesday 12th October in the United Reformed Church Lecture Hall. Tea and coffee will be served from 7.00pm to 7.30pm, then, before normal CTS business, we will be addressed by Rev'd Geoffrey Neale, who was the inspiration behind the Stansted Regular Aid to the Poor (RAP) scheme, which has now been running for over 10 years (see separate article). He launched the original project in his former parish in Horncastle over 12 years ago, and was pleased to be invited back to help us celebrate the continuing success of RAP in Stansted. The CTS AGM is a unique opportunity to hear about the progress of the many activities carried out under the CTS umbrella. In addition to RAP, these include Helpline, collecting for Christian Aid and publishing this magazine.

Margaret Whitelaw  
CTS Secretary



A very big thank you to all who helped raise the fantastic sum of £535 for the Sudan appeal. This was the proceeds of the Quiz held in August by Churches Together in Stansted. We are all aware how desperate the situation is in Sudan. As I reported in the last edition of 'Link', Christian Aid is responding to immediate needs, but also working for peace and reconciliation. Financial aid is vital, but so are our prayers for an end to conflict and suffering.

Catherine Dean  
813579



**SHALOM**

**Monday 11th October** at the Friends' Meeting House - a debate on a subject to be decided.

**Monday 25th October** at 7 Blythwood Gardens - Marion Johnson will talk about 30 years of the Huw Johnson Club.

Meetings start at 8.00pm and all are welcome

Catherine Dean

## Hearing Help Uttlesford

### Coffee Morning

Wednesday 6th October  
10 am - noon  
Day Centre

Cake Stall & Raffle  
Admission 50p

Pay & Display Car Park



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St John's Church  
Friday 8th October  
7.30 for 8 pm

supper • bar • raffle

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## Bentfield School PTA

### MUSIC QUIZ

Sat 9th October  
 7.30 for 8 pm

Light Supper ~ BYO ~ Lots of Fun!  
Tickets 647650 or PTA

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### October

2 Sat/3 Sun	Green Waste, Wood, Metal	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
3 Sun	Drinks Party (St John's organ) Windmill Open Afternoon Tea (after service)	Old Lane Hse, Church Rd Noon 2 - 6 pm UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm
4 Mon	RBL (Women) Harvest Sale	2 Clarence Road 2.15 pm
6 Wed	Hearing Help Coffee Morning Mountfitchet Seniors Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day centre 10 am Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
7 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8 Fri	HEAL 'Wot Poetry'	St John's Church 7.30 for 8 pm
9 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's Music Quiz	Day Centre noon - 2 pm Bentfield School 7.30 for 8 pm
11 Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
12 Tue	Churches Together AGM	URC Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
14 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
16 Sat	Mft Seniors Autumn Sale	Day Centre 10.30 am
16 Sat/17 Sun	Green Waste, Wood, Metal	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
20 Wed	WI Coffee Morning Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 10 am Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
22 Fri	Best Band Around concert	St John's Church 8 pm
23 Sat	Village Music Club	St John's Church 7.30 pm
25 Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
30 Sat	Lib Dem Quiz	Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm
30 Sat/31 Sun	Green Waste, Wood, Metal	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

### November

2 Tue	HEAL Coffee Morning	49 St John's Road 10 am
3 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm 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
6 Sat	Village Fireworks (tbc)	
7 Sun	Afternoon Tea (after service)	UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm
8 Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting House 8 pm
11 Thu	Xmas Shopping Evening WI	St Mary's School 7.30 - 9.30 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm
13 Sat	Lib Dem AGM & Ploughman's	Day Centre noon 11.30 am - 2 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

## Mountfitchet Seniors

### AUTUMN SALE

10.30 am Sat 16th October  
Day Centre

Cake, plant & book stalls  
Bric-à-brac ~ Tombola  
Jewellery ~ Raffle

Admission 50p incl tea



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

### COFFEE MORNING

Day Centre 10 am Wed 20th Oct  
Bric-à-brac ~ Cake Stall  
Bookstall & Puzzles ~ Raffle

Admission £1 incl scone & drink.  
Proceeds to Essex Air-Ambulance &  
WI for disabled access at County HQ

## The return of ... The Best Band Around

8 pm Friday 22nd October  
St John's Church

Tickets £10 (conc £7) from  
Church Office, Kings Butchers,  
or the Rose & Crown

Proceeds to Stansted Historic Charities

## St Marg'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!

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## 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



## CITY of LONDON SINFONIA

7.30 pm Sat 23rd October  
St John's Church

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## QUO VADIS 'LINK'?

This issue marks the end of an era. The next 'Link' year begins in November when a new front cover and various changes to our format will appear. These will not be changes for changes' sake but a response to our readers' views and to lessons learnt from other community magazines.

Village magazines in Essex, Cambridgeshire and surrounding counties are more dynamic than their provenance may suggest and your production team aims to keep up with the best. With lively contributors and a good readership we can.

The Editor



The Club's Ninth Season begins this month with the much heralded visit to Stansted by the City of London Sinfonia with Director Nicholas Ward. It takes place on Saturday 23rd October in St John's Church, Stansted at 7.30pm.

This renowned chamber orchestra performs throughout the country and is famous for its innovative and exciting programmes. In Stansted the orchestra will be performing:

Mendelssohn's String Symphony No 10 in B minor  
Barber's Adagio  
Dvorak's Serenade for strings  
Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons'

Tickets are £10, concessions £7, children £3, and children of members £1.

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or, if tickets are still available, at the door.

In this instance particularly, we do advise advance purchase of tickets for what we know will be a very popular concert and it is still not too late to join the Club for the whole season of four concerts.

Future dates and times are Sunday 5th December and Sunday 23rd January at 3.00pm and Saturday 5th March at 7.30pm. Full-season membership costs £26 for individuals, £50 for couples and £20 for concessions – equivalent to a cost per concert of between £5.00 and £6.50

Membership applications and enquiries should be directed to:  
The Membership Secretary,  
29 St John's Road, Stansted, CM24 8JP

Alan Corbishley



## STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Well, how the months fly by! As I write this we are two weeks away from the end of the outdoor season. We have had a very good bowling season this year with new members joining in and taking part in the competitions.

As well as our friendly games against other Clubs we have played a number of Cup games along with the Men's North West Essex League and the Ladies Monday and Tuesday evening leagues. The Ladies held their own invitation afternoon, which was very enjoyable and raised some funds.

Thanks again to Daniel Robinson for their continued sponsorship and to anyone else who has donated raffle prizes for our various special events.

Ro Turner was successful in passing the requirements in the Essex County Women's Bowling Association 'possibles'. This means that she will be given the chance to play in two Essex games next year and will receive an Essex badge. This is a great achievement for Ro as she will be the first lady in the Club to do so.

We held the Club Competitions Finals Day on Saturday 4th September; this was a great day with wonderful weather and was enjoyed by all who took part and those who sat in the sun and watched. There were one or two new faces winning some of the trophies this year although in the Men's competitions Rex Turner (me) won all 3 singles competitions and to make matters worse beat his wife Ro in the mixed singles competition. Ro has started to talk to me again now but I will probably be banned from entering the competitions next year.

The winners are as follows:

Men's Championship - Rex Turner  
Ladies Championship - Janet Petchey  
Brett Cup (Men) - Rex Turner  
Ladies Challenge - Ro Turner  
Alcock (Men 2 wood) - Rex Turner  
Newman Rose Bowl (mixed) - Rex Turner  
Buck Cup (Men's pairs) - Jim Freeman and John Hollis  
Dolly Thompson (Ladies pairs) - Margaret Hill and Suzanne Page  
Novices - Mike McGreal

As I mentioned in an earlier report we will be celebrating our centenary year in 2006 and in time for this we are hoping to refurbish the club building and surrounding area. The wooden building is showing signs of age now and the car park is rather muddy when it rains. If there are any companies or individuals out there who can offer any building materials, windows, doors or carpet etc. etc then please get in touch. We would be more than happy to advertise your company within the club.

Anyone who came to our instruction session this year and did not return for any reason - give it some thought for 2005 when we will be holding further sessions: these will be advertised in good time.

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

Rex Turner – Secretary/Chairman



Beautiful sunny weather greeted our return to school. All the children are rested and excited about starting a new school year. We welcome our new Reception and Nursery classes and sincerely hope that they have a very enjoyable time at Bentfield!

The school was busy in the holidays. We again played host to RESCU the local organisation for children with disabilities, who used it for their summer play scheme. We also had the children's cloakrooms in the original building completely refurbished for the start of term. They are now all bright and clean and sparkly!

The new year started in a very stimulating way for our year 6s who attended the excellent Crucial Crew at Thaxted. They learnt about various areas of danger (for example fire, drugs, railways), how to be aware of the threat, and how to cope with it. It was a very thought provoking morning and extremely worthwhile.

At the end of September our years 5 and 6 headed for the Isle of Wight for a week-long visit. They had been looking forward to the week with great anticipation and enthusiasm. A full report on the trip will be in next month's issue!!

Messy Play started again on 20th September. This is great fun and runs in the Nursery on Mondays from 1.30pm to 3pm. It is open to children 18 months and older. If you are interested contact the school or just turn up!

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.

After a well earned rest over the summer holidays, the PTA started the new year with renewed vigour. Our first event is our AGM and Cheese and Wine Evening on Wednesday 29th September. This is a great opportunity for new parents to meet each other and for everyone to catch up after the holidays. The business part of the evening is kept very short leaving the rest free for some food and a few drinks!

Our fundraising starts afresh this month with a Music Quiz on 9th October. Last year's event was so popular that we have decided to hold another one. So if you fancy a fun-filled evening of eating, drinking, dancing, oh and answering the odd question or two, then do come and join us. We are limited on numbers, so get your tickets early. They are available from the school, or by ringing Marnie on 01279 647650.

One of the biggest sources of complaint in the Uttlesford area at this time is the problems caused by traffic speeds and traffic congestion.

To take the last point first, traffic congestion is a sign of the success of Uttlesford as a residential area and, dare one think it, the success of the airport as a transportation centre. How many people have come to live in Uttlesford, in spite of the aircraft noise and pollution, because they are close to various means of transportation which are readily accessible by car? The result is increased traffic and over use of inadequate road systems. Are we in a position to resist this trend or not?

Having made this point it is right to return to the first proposition which is the problem created by excessive traffic speeds which, as all will know, can be a serious matter – though, and to be fair, one more in the eye of the beholder rather than in fact. How many of us really know how fast and how much above the speed limit a vehicle is going? Do we have a speedometer ready to judge speed, or do we just *think* a vehicle is going too fast? Do we truly practice what we preach? The answers to these questions are difficult and not something that can be answered in this article. Suffice to say that the levels of complaint justify the County taking steps to deal with the matter.

As a result a study has been carried out and a set of criteria has been agreed which provide a set of rules for the installation of speed limits in built-up areas in future. These are outlined below:

1. Suggests the use of a scoring system as an interim means of determining 30 mph and 40 mph speed limits on local roads.
2. Authorises the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, in consultation with the head of Highways and Transportation, to make changes to the scoring system in light of experience; and to make any other technical adjustments to the policy.
3. Authorises the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation to approve exceptions to the 2003/2005 Speed Management Strategy.

An updated strategy will be submitted to the Essex County Council Cabinet for approval in Autumn 2005. Whilst these changes will not solve the speeding problem completely, if they are enforced this should help. It is now a matter for Members and Parish Councils if they really believe they have a problem to approach the Area Highways Office to request a proper monitoring survey be made. Do we ourselves observe the speed limits?

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

Richard Wallace  
County Councillor  
Stansted Division

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## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

It hardly seems possible but summer is virtually over. There is some compensation, however, in that now the village organisations are beginning to swing back into action and among the first has been our Society. The meeting on 2nd September gave us a good start when, once again, we welcomed Robert Barltrop to tell us more of his memories of times past, especially in East London. On this, his fourth visit, he was reminding us of the games we played in childhood.

Unable to define *play* as anything other than 'not work', therefore enjoyable, play has always been a separate world from the adult one. Robert reminded us of very many games we all used to play and pointed out that there was often a strict season for them, with dire consequences if you played one at the wrong time. Dividing them into active, sedentary, solitary as opposed to team ones, street and school playground, the main and inviolate rule was that Boys and Girls did not mix! Touch or He, Release, Chasing, Five Stones, Marbles, Hoops, Skipping, Hopscotch, Tom Tiddler's Ground, Jimmy Knacker's Game and many others were discussed and brought back many happy memories to us all.

Rules of games were well established and had to be adhered to – the one we all remembered was 'fainites' to bring a temporary stop to the game but there was also 'bags I' for making a choice and, most powerful of all, to cover a hasty retreat 'My mother's calling me'! Oaths were sworn (Cubs' Honour) and rituals for making up after a quarrel were well known. There were rules for making up teams, penalties and punishments such as giving 'bumps' and all these helped to establish children's places in the community and the ability in later life to work and live together. Even the great favourite pastime of tormenting adults allowed children to see what the limits of acceptable behaviour were. In fact, there is evidence that many of the games we played were handed down over many generations, the origins of some resting in Greek or Roman times, if not before. One great advantage that children then had was to play out until around 8 o'clock, in the dark according to the time of year, and could wander freely without fear – although parental stricture could sometimes contain the words "Don't take sweets from strange men!" Games taught social skills, rules and ethics and there is nothing today to take their place.

It was of great regret to Robert – and us all – that this sort of play is no longer available to our children. Toys, TVs and computers are no substitute for what has gone but he was aware that some educationalists have proposed that instructors be employed to teach children these lost arts – the danger of this, of course, is that this might lead to authoritarianism and lack of flexibility in the use of the children's own imaginations. However, Robert believes that, if the opportunity arose, games would reappear, whether by a sort of grapevine or folk memory he was unable to say. We were delighted with his talk, which contained far more details of individual games than I have been able to record here and we look for-

ward to welcoming him on another occasion to hear what other interesting topics he can produce.

When we next meet on 7th October, we will be hearing about a different type of history, as Eric Allen will be telling us of 'Hatfield Forest – a seat of Power'. This will be at the Day Centre, starting at 8.00pm and we hope that you will be able to join us.

Ian Seavers

### DAY CENTRE



The Day Centre has been with us for 21 years and many of you will know it from belonging to societies which use it. During the day on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday it is open for anyone over 55 years. There are tea and coffee and freshly baked scones in the morning, and lunch-time meals that are really good value. We are pleased to announce that we have two excellent cooks, Bridget and Veronica, who do home cooked meals on Thursday and Friday; two courses for £3.50. Where would you get better value than that!? We are open in the afternoons for cups of tea and, if you wish, there are activities to join including beetle, bingo and whist. Do call in and have a chat with Vanessa our organiser, or any of the members or voluntary helpers. We are always glad to welcome new volunteers who have a couple of hours to spare a fortnight. You need to book by 11.00am on a Tuesday for meals on that day and for the rest of the week.

Please ring 01279 815091

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**STANSTED  
MOUNTFITCHET  
WINDMILL**

**STANSTED WINDMILL FETE**

The sun came out and so did the crowds, and just over £1,000 was raised towards the upkeep of the Mill. The Mill grounds and the Mill field opposite made a good setting for the 'village' atmosphere that we all enjoyed. The coconut shy and bric-à-brac attracted the usual discerning following, while tombola, cakes and bread did a brisk trade. The book and plant stalls were also well supported and for the children there were games, tombola and a bouncy castle. Thanks to the Charity ensemble we enjoyed live music and, of course, the teas were popular throughout the afternoon. Among the numerous sideshows, bowling for a breakfast was a new idea which went down well. The Mill itself attracted a steady stream of visitors, local and distant. All in all it was a great afternoon.

Almost 50 people were involved in one way or another with setting up, running the stalls and sideshows, manning the Mill, providing music and clearing away. Thanks to all of them and those who came to support the event.

Look out for notices regarding our Christmas stall which will probably be on the first Saturday in December as usual.

Peggy Honour  
Trustee & Treasurer  
Stansted Millers



The long summer holidays have flown past in a flash, and Sideways is open for business as usual!

We have said goodbye and good luck to some of our children as they have moved on to 'big school' and have welcomed several new ones to join us.

The Autumn term will of course be spent looking at the changing season, making leaf prints and collages with autumn berries and fruits. We will be going out for a nature ramble and probably a splash in the puddles each week to see what we can find. Whilst we are able to take advantage of the lovely autumn weather we will also be spending some time playing outside the Church Hall. Back indoors, we will be baking autumn treats and having fun with our varied range of toys and learning equipment.

Quiet time is now much more cosy in the recently decorated and extended small room. We've now got room to 'chill out' after some energetic PE or racing round on the bikes at the end of the morning.

If you would like to join us for a session to see what we have to offer, please come along any weekday morning between 9.00am and 12 noon you will be very welcome to stay and play.

We still have a few places available, so if your child is nearly two and a half, and if you would like more information about our fabulous facilities, please call on 816600 during nursery hours. Our rates are competitive and we are very flexible with regard to days attended.

Auntie Helen and the team look forward to meeting you!

**Stansted Tennis Club**



**Floodlights**

Uttlesford District Council has awarded the tennis club permission for floodlighting. This will create great opportunities for extra playing time, club matches and tournaments, as well as coaching. We are delighted with the decision and will be holding a variety of fundraising events in the near future. We have a large and supportive membership, who will hopefully all benefit from this decision.

**Wilby Tournament**

This annual adult doubles tournament was held at the club at the end of July and was won by Ed Wombwell and Frances Rafferty, who beat Martin Mackeonis and Lenya Brown in the final. It was a poignant win for Ed, as the trophy is played in memory of his grandfather Eddie Wilby. Ed's grandmother, Angela, presented the shield and presents to the winners.

**Clavering Junior Tournament**

Any boys or girls who would like to play in this tournament should add their name to the list in the clubhouse. The tournament will be held on Saturday 16th October at Clavering Tennis Club. There will be four categories; Under 18 Boys Singles, Under 18 Girls Singles, Under 12 Boys Singles and Under 12 Girls Singles.

**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 2.30pm-4.30pm on Saturday afternoons. Please call Martyn on 816386 if you would like to find out more or would like to join in.

Chris Hollis' junior group sessions recommenced at the beginning of September, after the school holidays. All mid-week sessions will stop in mid-October, when it becomes too dark to carry on. 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.

**Tennis Balls**

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

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



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## Stansted Art & Craft Market

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This year's Market was blessed with good weather and our new Committee worked hard to ensure that it all came together. The new boards (necessitated by last year's vandalism) were highly praised. Among the new craft stalls were calligraphy and hand-made cushions and runners – the latter now back in fashion. Also, making an initial appearance were pottery and wooden picture frames. Picture sales showed an improvement on last year's sales.

We were indebted to those who put in the effort to collect, erect and dismantle, including the Scouts and Tortoise Scout leaders, and to Toby Lyons for accommodating our equipment.

We look forward to seeing you all next year.

Brenda Ryan

### Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices  
Crafton Green  
Tel 813214  
Fax 813964

Members have reconvened following their summer break which was relatively quiet. We were delighted to be able to run the Playscheme again, albeit only for two weeks. We would be pleased to receive feedback from parents and children, as this will help members to decide whether to run the scheme again next year.

The main issues now facing the Council are summarised below.

#### Post Office

We are inviting a representative of Post Office Counters to a future Council Meeting to explain the current position and to find out why, it appears, there is little actively being done to bring this vital service back to the village. We shall endeavour to keep you updated through the Newsletter, local press and this magazine.

#### Health Centre/Doctors' Surgery

Most people are aware of proposals being discussed to move both of these vital services to land at Elms Farm. However, this is not as straightforward as it seems, and there is a lot of work going on in the background, between all the parties involved, to see if this is a viable option - not least because it would require consent from Uttlesford Planning Department as an exception to policy (Green Belt land). The Parish Council is committed to a full and detailed public consultation on the proposals, and this will happen once further plans are received - hopefully in the autumn.

#### Rochford Nursery Site

The detailed drawings for one part of this site are now beginning to filter through from the developer, Taylor Woodrow. Uttlesford District Council has recently refused consent for the housing proposals as it did not agree with the layout. It has, however, granted consent for the landscaping plans. Technical drawings relating to the Pesterford Bridge improvements (junction of Forest Hall Road and B1383) have been received, but we have requested more details on this.

Clerk  
ruth\_clifford@dial.pipex.com



### Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

#### Poppy Appeal 2004

The house to house collection for this year will be between 30th October and 13th November.

Again may I appeal for your generous support? Last year we had another record collection in the district – totalling £10,323.87. Many thanks for your tremendous contributions.

I have had several offers for help this year but still require help in the Manor Road, /Maitland Road area so if you can spare an hour or two in early November please contact me; particularly the person in West Road whose name escapes me.

Many thanks again.

John L Segar  
Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser  
Stansted & District  
Tel. 01279 813289



### Royal British Legion Women's Section

On 9th August we gathered in Gill Reeve's garden. The morning had threatened a storm but the afternoon turned out to be sunny – and not too scorchingly hot.

Gill gave us a short talk on the 'Robinson Family – Elsenham' and included short histories of their lives. She spoke of her father's – Frank Robinson's – six years service with the Essex Regiment in World War II. Frank had been with the Eighth Army in the battle for Monte Cassino but he never spoke of his war experiences as they had affected him deeply. We saw photos of the Essex Regiment and managed to recognise a few 'Stansted boys' – including Ben Turner and George Mumford.

Several interesting quizzes were then handed round and two teams competed – Harold's team being the winners.

A most enjoyable time concluded with tea, biscuits and a very generous raffle. Cath thanked our hostess for a delightful afternoon.

Our next 'get together' will be at Pat Clower's at 2.15 pm on Monday, 4th October, when we shall hold our usual Harvest Sale out of doors if fine, indoors if wet.

Pat Clower



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

30 members and visitors attended the August meeting to be entertained to an interesting talk and slide show by Stansted rose grower Colin Horner assisted by his wife, Heather.

Mr Horner announced that due to ill health this would be his swansong talk, which would be a look back over his 37 years of growing roses in Stansted.

Colin became interested in roses because his grandmother grew them, especially 'Dainty Bess'. He started breeding a few roses in 1967 and eventually produced 2-3,000 plants per year. Of these about 750 are budded up on to a rootstock and the rest discarded. Budding up allows the rose to develop in one year instead of about three years. (By way of comparison David Austin produces about 300,000 per annum.)

Colin showed slides of several of the roses he, Heather and their son Calvin had developed including 'Flash Harry' (later renamed 'Champagne Cocktail'), 'Braveheart', 'Heather Honey' (not named after his wife but after a racehorse!), 'Forever Free', 'Isobel Derby', 'Golden Future', 'Golden Wedding', 'Friendship', 'Bright Ideas', 'Nice and Easy' and 'Helping Hand'. 'Helping Hand' was launched at Hampton Court Flower Show this year and from each sale £2 is passed to Macmillan Nurses.

At the end of the talk Colin answered questions on rose cultivation after which Cyril Stoneham (Chairman) thanked Colin for the talk and wished him and Heather good luck for the future.

For the September meeting Mr Peter Morris gave a talk entitled 'Deep Bed Vegetables'. He explained that his beds are 20 feet long by 4 feet wide, which means that there is no need to ever stand on the beds once they have been prepared. It is important to ensure that the subsoil and topsoil are not mixed. Manure should be added to the beds each winter (Peter uses 20 tons each winter!) and the beds covered in January in order to warm the soil. Peter then showed slides of the beds when in full production.

Later Peter showed stages in the reclamation of an overgrown allotment and asked members how long they thought it took. All estimates wildly exceeded the time taken by Peter - 6¾ hours over a three week period.

At the end of the talk Cyril Stoneham thanked Mr Morris for his talk.

The next meeting, on Wednesday 6th October at the Day Centre at 8.00pm, will include a talk 'Spices - everything you need. A culinary trip round the globe' by M. Cleeve. Please join us. For non-members the admission fee is 75p.

David Loynds



'HEAL' and St John's Church are joining together on Friday 8th October to present an evening of poetry and prose - humorous, reflective and very entertaining!

The proceeds will be divided between 'HEAL' and the Church. Supper is included in the price of a ticket, which is £6.50. There will be a bar and a raffle. During the interval we will be entertained by 'Summer Wine'.

The performers will be supported by Sonia Levy on the piano.

Come along at 7.30 for 8.00pm and support a really unique evening.

Any queries please phone:  
Rosemary Thomson, 834053  
Sue Hitchmough, 814265



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Why not enrol on one of our courses? - the new prospectus is now available by calling 01279 813319 or from local Essex libraries.

A full programme of language learning for adults is also taking place at Newport Free Grammar School in partnership with N&WEACC.

Telephone: Nola Marshall on 01279 813319

Centres in Stansted/Thaxted/Dunmow/Saffron Walden/  
Harlow & Epping

# UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Post Office

I am not optimistic that we shall have a new post office in Stansted by Christmas, despite what PO officials said in early summer. The positive news I had hoped for when last I wrote this column has not yet come about. However, the District Council has now appointed a project manager to work with the Post Office and others to try to get things moving. She has been talking to at least one potential operator, but no premises have been found yet. Several ideas are being investigated, but it's too soon to go into detail. I'll continue to keep everyone informed each month, as I am able.

## Policing

There have been a lot of mutterings in the press about police manning levels in Stansted, changes to the opening hours at the local police station and about who answers the police enquiry phone. There is one bit of good news, that Stansted is to get its own community support officer. These lay officers have been on the beat in Saffron Walden and Dunmow for a year or so and I have had good reports. However, there is a concern in my mind that these officers may be deployed as a substitute for professional police officers. I have written to the chairman of the Essex Police Authority asking for an explanation.

## Housing Development

The regional planning debate moved on in September. The latest thinking is that most urban development will take place around Harlow with housing growth in Uttlesford more in line with local needs rather than John Prescott's major agenda. There will be more news becoming public in October, so watch the local press and this space.

Councillor Alan Dean

Email: [cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk)

Tel: 01279 813579

## Summer Reflections

August is not a typical month in my annual calendar. It is a time when formal meetings are few and far between. It does, however, present an opportunity to get out of the Council Chamber and talk to people and find out their concerns. It also enables me to enjoy some of the countryside around Stansted. I have always counted myself fortunate to live in Uttlesford; we do have some wonderful countryside. It is, however, fragile and cannot be taken for granted. It coexists uneasily with the forces of 'modernisation' whether it be the airport, the new A120 or the M11. One resident told me that he was concerned about creeping urbanisation. It is a concern that I share.

In my walks around Stansted I have been impressed with the turnaround in fortunes of some of our unadopted roads. This was a real cause for concern with people nominating the worst road in Stansted. However residents, often with the help of the Parish Council, have brought about real progress. Clarence Road, Millside, West Road and Woodfields spring to mind. I was impressed by the garden

that has been created at the top of West Road. Well done. Something else that has helped to improve the quality of life has been the introduction of flower filled troughs in Cambridge Road, Lower Street and Silver Street. This was something I noticed in Quendon, which I thought we could emulate.

## Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement

A cause of concern for residents particularly of Cambridge Road and Lower Street is the illegal parking of motorists on double yellow lines. I hope that on 1st October 2004 when Uttlesford, acting as an agent for Essex County Council, takes over the enforcement of parking restrictions in the District from Essex Police, we will see more visible enforcement. Enforcement will be undertaken by parking attendants working for Uttlesford. They will enforce all yellow lines and other waiting restrictions in the District. Drivers who fail to comply with the parking restrictions will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice. The penalty for parking contraventions in the District will be £60. If the penalty is paid within 14 days of issue, then it is discounted to £30. Essex Police will continue to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to motorists parking at pedestrian crossings and for other motoring offences.

I recently visited Maldon District Council to see how they have coped with decriminalisation since they took responsibility for it last year. Their experience, which I hope will be replicated in Uttlesford, is that residents have understood that in order to keep traffic moving and to ensure road safety there has to be firm but fair enforcement. It is important for readers to note that there has been no change in the law; all that will change is that the District Council will take on the responsibility of enforcement.

If readers would like further information a leaflet entitled 'Think before you park' has been published. This can be obtained by telephoning 01799 510561 or by email [parking@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:parking@uttlesford.gov.uk).

Councillor Geoffrey Sell

Email: [cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk)

Tel: 01279 815925

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**Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst  
Member of Parliament's Interviews**

**Friday 22nd October 2004**

Foakes House, Town Council Office,  
47 Stortford Road, **Dunmow** 7.00p 7.45pm

**Friday 5th November 2004**

Parish Council Office, Crafton Green, **Stansted**  
5.45pm- 6.30pm

**Friday 26th November 2004**

Foakes House, Town Council Office,  
47 Stortford Road, **Dunmow** 5.45pm-6.30pm

(No appointment necessary)



**Stansted  
Evening  
Women's Institute**

Contrary to expectations, it being the traditional holiday month, our August meeting was well attended - all eager to hear the exploits of the 'Cycling Granny'! The granny, Mrs Jean Smith, told of her experiences cycling over 17,000 miles on her own across the length and breadth of Britain. She began in September 1991 by cycling from Clacton - Aberystwyth and back - a total of 623 miles, which she did in aid of the Olympic Association and raised £800. By the following May she was keen to be off again and went from Clacton to the Isle of Wight and back, over 600 miles and raising £300 for the school roof at St.Osyth. From then on she was hooked and every year in May and Sept. she was off on her travels, so that eventually she had cycled right around the coast of Great Britain, her longest trip being over 1000 miles. She illustrated her talk with maps of all the journeys she made and a wonderful collection of photographs, which she displayed on two large tables. Over the years she has raised more than £21,700 for various charities and now concentrates on the Macmillan Nurses Fund. Now over 70 years old she continues with shorter trips once a year and raises money with talks and exhibitions of her photos - what an inspiration to us all.

Grant-aided flower arranging classes have now been confirmed and begin at the end of November. We have 18 members keen to take part so that the Christmas floral arrangements in and around Stansted this year should abound.

One of our members has agreed to make a new cloth for our W.I Competition table, using the original sampler made by a founder member, Olive Bunting, who died earlier this year and who had helped to make our beautiful tablecloth that is used every month, over 30 years ago.

Our September meeting was again full, with old and new members gathering to hear our speaker, Melvyn Prentice. His talk 'The Learning Curve, A Horticultural Experience,' began as an experience in finding his way off the A120 and into Stansted. However, with the aid of mobile phones we were able to talk him into the village and even run up the road and escort him into the Hall. Once seated he launched into a fascinating account of his life in the plant world, which began at the age of 15 years. Since then he has gained immense experience working in large private estates, doing conservation work, helping to restore historic gardens and giving help and personal advice at garden centres. He is also a Parish Councillor and has managed to gain academic qualifications in Conservation and Management Planning in the ensuing 26 years.- not bad for someone who left school knowing only that he wanted to work in the open air. Members took advantage during the coffee-break to ask him for advice on their gardening queries.

Seven colourful blankets are winging their way to the Winged Fellowship Trust in Chigwell; we support this appeal every year and, in fact, knit squares all the year round for them.

Several members expressed an interest in going to see the 'Sound of Music' in November, at the Harlow Playhouse, staged by BSAOS. We supported the coffee morning for Aids victims in Malawi with a cake stall - all homemade not from M&S! We have our own coffee morning on 20th October in aid of Essex Air Ambulance Services. They were the subject of a Resolution at our AGM this year and made us all aware of the work they do and their reliance on donations. Half the money will go to our County Headquarters who now have to provide disabled access to the premises. Please come along and support us, it is always good to have an excuse to meet friends at the Day Centre and it may be your turn to win that raffle prize!

Meetings as always are the second Thursday in the month at St John's Hall - we have had several new members this year, so come and join them.

Judy Colliver

**Jessica Pearce**

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**Huw Johnson  
Club**

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

The Patient and Public Involvement Forum for The Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust has taken over some of the functions of the old Community Health Councils. It is totally independent of the Trust and has wide-ranging statutory powers, including inspecting hospital premises. More details: [www.cppih.org](http://www.cppih.org)

### Hospital Infections

This will be one of the key issues coming up at the next Public Meeting of the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forum for The Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) Trust, Harlow.

We're putting forward our own plans to help beat infections such as MRSA.

The PAH's Infections Control Nurse will be there, as will the PAH Trust chairman, Robert Powell.

The event starts at 1900 Thursday 30 September 2004 in The Griffin Suite, Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way, Harlow and you're very welcome to come along and cover...

Contact: Luke Albarin  
PPI/PAH Media Link  
[albarin@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:albarin@dsl.pipex.com)

PPI Forum Office 01279 418666.



Our next ploughman's lunch will be on Saturday 9th October at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2.00pm. All are welcome.

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

We are holding a Quiz at the Stansted Day Centre on Saturday 30th October, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The Quizmaster will be David Morson, and the cost of £5 includes light refreshments. There will also be a bar and raffle. Tables of up to six maximum. Please ring 814222 or 813432 for tickets and further information.

Ruth Rawlinson

### Holiday 2004

Thanks to our many benefactors the holiday went with a swing and everyone had a great time. Ray, our usual driver, brought along Neil Tulloch to drive the coach this year and what an asset he proved to be, whisking our wheelchair members on and off the bus with great ease. Neil has offered to come along one evening and cook us a Caribbean supper so we are looking forward to that event. The weather was mainly very good and the hotel, although larger than our usual venues, was friendly with an excellent menu. As usual our trip to the ice cream parlour was greeted with enthusiasm as banana splits and knickerbocker glories disappeared as if by magic.

Now we must all work hard to prepare our Christmas concert. Put the date in your diary now – Friday 17th December at St Mary's School.

M G Johnson



After the long summer break we finally started the new term on 7th September. Having been asked "Is it Rainbow today?" countless times during the holidays, parents could at last say "YES", much to the delight of their children. We have enjoyed seeing familiar faces and meeting our new children. We look forward to welcoming those who will join us as they turn two and a half during the year.

During the summer more work has been done on our premises. A working party of parents met on the first day of the holidays and gave the classroom and playground a thorough spring clean including a fresh coat of paint for the walls. Many thanks to all those who turned up to help. It really was much appreciated.

The theme for the term is creepy crawlies and the children have enjoyed learning about different types of insects and spiders. They have played with giant plastic insects and creative activities have reflected the theme of the term. The older group spent a morning pond-dipping at Hatfield Forest on 20th September and enjoyed talking about the wild life they discovered during their visit.

We will be holding fund raising events this year to raise money for a new climbing frame and crash mats for the children.

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

## SNIPPETS

David Martin, a well known resident of Millside, threw a party on 11th September, in the course of which he revealed that he had been diagnosed with cancer. This of course is a situation faced by other members of our community. Many of those living in the Valley of the Shadow, and countless others, may find a chord with David when he says that for him life should be lived to the full and that he does not wish to hear solicitous enquiries or expressions of sympathy - he just wants to enjoy what he can, particularly the company of his many friends. A chat or even a word in passing with David is one of the day's more cheering experiences. Good on you, David; the 'Link' wishes you and Wilma all the best in the days ahead.

The Editor

### THE HERTS & ESSEX ELECTRONIC ORGAN SOCIETY

This society celebrates 25 years of entertainment in 2004 and will mark this by having our most requested artiste, John Mann, to play for us on Wednesday 20th October. John Mann is an accomplished player of church, theatre and electronic organs and also a brilliant pianist. He is located near Brighton and plays for some of the services at the crematorium.

The club was started in 1979 and was based at the Herts and Essex Hospital Social Club hall. Until funds increased some meetings were arranged with members entertaining. There was a '40's Night', a 'Country and Western Night' and a visit from the 'Pearly King and Queen' from Harlow, accompanied by a cockle supper.

When changes came in the NHS, the hospital had to ask the club to seek other accommodation as the Social Club hall could no longer be used. After much searching it was decided to move to Birchwood High School. The move was not welcomed by the membership and numbers dropped.

Once more a new venue was sought. At this time a new hall became available from Bishop's Stortford Council on the St Michael's Mead estate, with ample parking. After alterations to the ceiling the acoustics were ideal for our purpose and the hall was booked. Our first meeting was scheduled for February 2000. We had a packed hall to listen to Len Rawle, international organist. Len built a house in Chorley Wood, bought the Wurlitzer from the Empire in Leicester Square and built a room around the 2,000 pipes. This is the largest four manual Wurlitzer in Europe and was seen in a TV programme called 'Sublime Surburbia' on 29th July 2004.

Since moving to St Michael's Mead hall our membership has increased and we are now in a position to book top line artistes.

Unfortunately the original President, Peter Kent, and myself are the only surviving founder members of the club but we now have a dedicated committee who run the club very efficiently. We have had the occasional coach trip out to Turners of Northampton and Thursford Museum, where

there are collections of large, old street organs. If you have never heard what the latest electronic organs sound like, such as church, theatre or symphonic, it is something worth experiencing.

We meet every third Wednesday in the month. Doors open at 7.30 for 8.00 pm at St Michael's Mead Community Centre, Thorley. Entrance fee £5.00. Any enquiries please to Ernie on 01279 832540.

Joan Allin  
Membership Secretary




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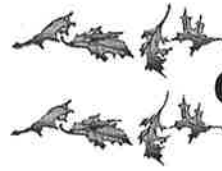
They would be much appreciated by the guests at Whitechapel Mission, who are often living and sleeping rough on the streets of London.

If you would like to donate clothes, linen, towels, toiletries etc, please call Peter or Rosemary Thomson on the number below. They will arrange to collect them from you and transport them to the Mission.

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# Tools for Self Reliance



## OCTOBER

The Stansted branch of Tools for Self Reliance manages to mend, clean and sharpen numerous tools that are kindly donated by people from the village and further afield. Although we have three regular volunteers working in the workshop it would be a delight to increase this, so that more tools could be processed. No experience is necessary, as Roy, Fred and Rod would be very happy to provide 'on the job' training! If you feel that you could help for a couple of hours a week, and do not mind getting your hands dirty, please get in contact with me.

Meanwhile, we are always glad to receive donations of your surplus tools provided they are repairable and of reasonable quality. We are in most need of carpentry tools such as planes, vices, chisels etc. TFSR also accepts Singer hand sewing machines provided they have round bobbins for the lower thread rather than the earlier type of shuttle. Unfortunately gardening tools are generally unsuitable for sending out to Africa so please find alternative ways of Recycling them!

Mike Dyer  
814059



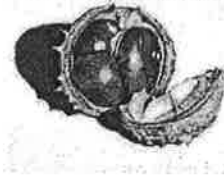
Originally the eighth month of the Roman year, October was renamed "Domitianus" by the Emperor Domitian as it was the month in which he was born. His Acts were overturned when he was assassinated (see last month's Link) and the name discontinued.

The last day of October was the eve of Samhain, the Celtic and Anglo-Saxon New Year. There was said to be a gap between our world and the next on that night when spirits of the dead returned to their former homes. Now 31st October is Halloween, or All Hallows Eve, the day before All Saints Day.



The Russian October Revolution took place in 1917 when the provisional government was overthrown and the first Soviet government chaired by Lenin was formed.

On 10th October the World Conker Championships run by the Ashton Conker Club will be held at Ashton near Oundle for the 40th year. In that time over £245,000 has been raised for the visually handicapped.



Peggy Horour

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## ANOTHER GLIMPSE OF THE PAST



In contrast to our present railings to the Fountain which are in sad disrepair, this view, taken a century ago, shows a quiet and tidy junction. Many residents will remember the red horsechestnut trees, some of which were present until the seventies. The two principle articles of Victorian vintage, the houses and the Fountain itself, are thankfully largely unchanged and the leaning wall on the extreme left is still standing (and leaning) today!



Possibly as old as the picture above, the caption to this photograph, taken from the mainline railway bridge, says nearly all. What present generations may not realise is that the railway crossed the road as indicated by the notice. Can anyone remember whether the engine house man warned the public, or did he operate any gates?

*photos courtesy of Paul Embleton*



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