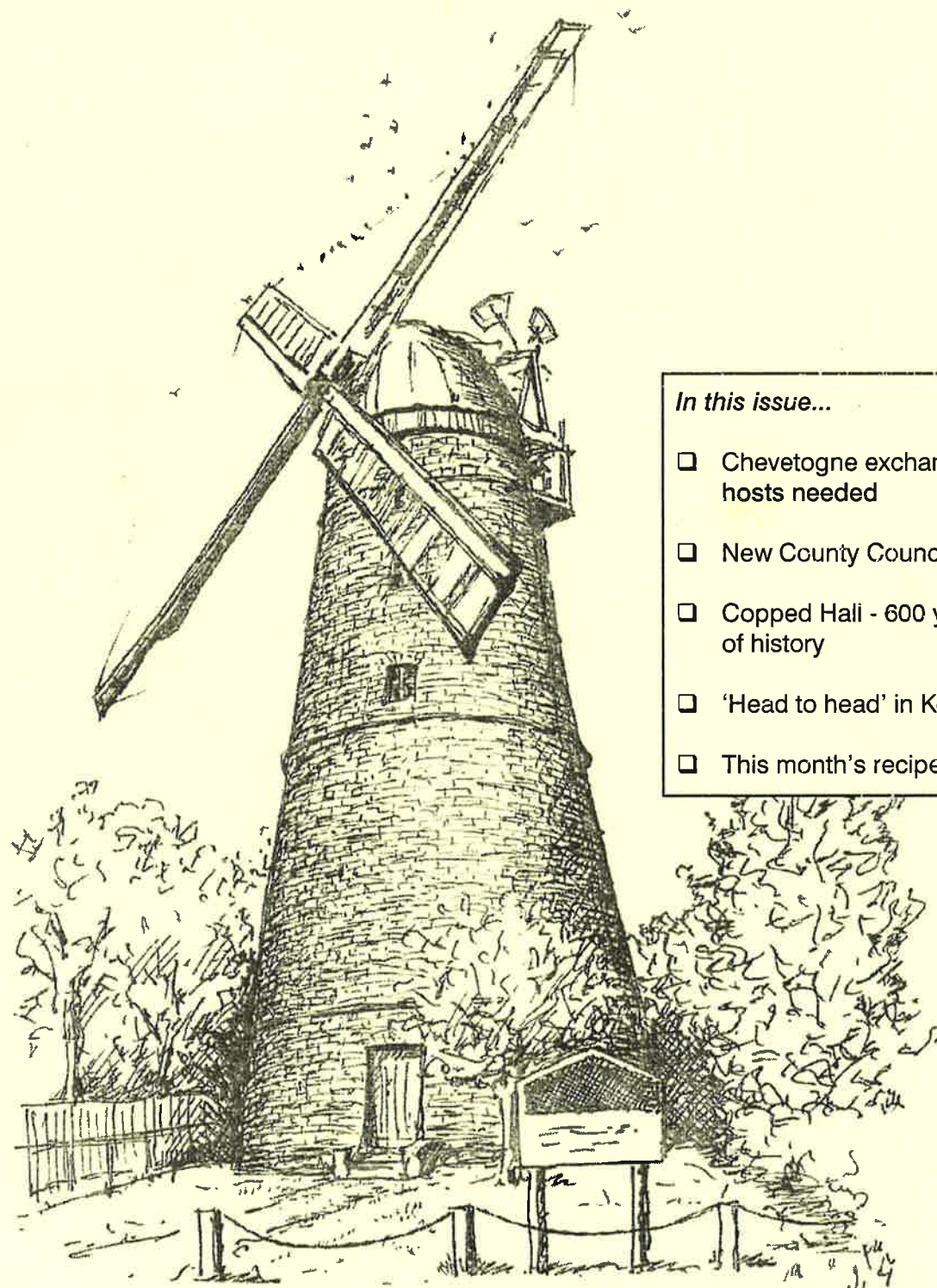


Stansted Mountfitchet

# The Link



### *In this issue...*

- Chevetogne exchange - hosts needed p3
- New County Councillor p13
- Copped Hall - 600 years of history p15
- 'Head to head' in Kenya p17
- This month's recipe p21



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## Index to Advertisers

		<i>Page</i>			<i>Page</i>
<b>Animal Care</b>	Angels4Animals (pet sitting)	29	<b>Household Services</b>	Do-It-4U	25
	Mercer & Hughes (vets)	22		Executive Carpet Care	24
<b>Community &amp; Care</b>	Alzheimer's Society	28	Express Picture Framing	14	
	Hearing Help	10	Flowers for all Occasions	20	
	Helpline	18	Foster Plumbing & Heating	FC	
	MIND	20	G.P. Clark (roofer)	12	
	Stansted Day Centre	12	Iron Maiden	27	
<b>Computing</b>	Uttlesford Carers	18, 22	JDW Gas Heating Specialist	FC	
	Alan Horsley	18	Knights Windows	24	
	Computer Help	10	Mark Robinson (handyman)	12	
	MCM Computer Services	12	R.D. Ellis (furniture restorer)	14	
	ShadowFax	28	Ray Morton (painter/decorator)	14	
<b>Education</b>	The Cartridge Centre	10	Stansted's Painting Ladies	14	
	Birchanger Nursery Unit	28	Tim's Tiles	14	
	Montessori Nursery	12	2DiVE4	30	
	N&W Essex Adult Comm Coll	19	Celebrations	8	
	Rainbow Pre-school	10	Elsenham Golf Centre	8	
<b>Electrical</b>	Sideways Pre-School	24	Graham School of Dance	8	
	Uttlesford Learning Centre	23	Newport Croquet Club	12	
	Corbett Electrical	29	Romeera Leisure Centre	29	
	Zelta Batteries	10	Autopoint Car Sales	20	
	<b>Financial &amp; Legal</b>	Davidson Oakley & Co	29	D Bonney & Sons	8
Greenways Financial Planning		FC	Nunn's Garage	28	
Pothecary & Barratt		22	Onward Driver Training	29	
Vickers		28	Rowland Ridgwell	22	
<b>Food &amp; Lodging</b>		Bistro 49	29	<b>Personal Services</b>	CK Men's Room
	Chimneys Guest House	FC	Fancy Fingers	12	
	Courtyard Gites	30	Glynis Cheers (hypnotherapist)	14	
	Eddie Ho Fish & Chips	28	Grave Concern	14	
	Royal Tandoori	30	Lower Street Clinic	18, 24	
<b>Funeral Services</b>	Star of India	16	NLP Solutions	18	
	D.C. Poulton & Sons	30	Slimming World	24	
	Daniel Robinson & Sons	30	Sue Leech (chiropodist)	22	
	J Day & Son	10	The Eye Practice	22	
	<b>Furniture &amp; Furnishings</b>	Bubbles Bathrooms	FC	The Park Clinic (weight loss)	22
Fabrications		29	Copyzone	27	
G E Sworder & Sons		30	Millway Stationery	18	
Kate Harrison		20	Playsongs Publications	18	
New Look		12	Aldwych Construction	FC	
Stansted Carpets		28	<b>Property Services</b>	City & Country Residential	8
Valley Carpets		FC	David Lee	18	
You're Furnished		20	Inter County	20	
D Honour & Son		20	Mullucks Wells	30	
<b>Garden Supplies &amp; Services</b>		Garden Design	10	PHD Associates (architects)	14
	JR Johnstone	28	Family News	28	
	Perry's Garden Centre	13	King's Family Butchers	10	
	Selina Rankin	24	R & K Newsagents	18	
	Steve Hall's Gardening Services	20	R P Ellen Ltd (fashion shoes)	29	
<b>Household Services</b>	The Mower Shop	8	<b>Other</b>	Stansted All-Steel (gates,railings)	20
	A Better Aerial	24	Ugley Village Hall (for hire)	20	
	ADA Decorating	10			
	Clive's Maintenance Services	22			



St John's  
STANSTED

**contact us**

all enquiries

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church.music@stansted.net

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# Rector's diary

May 3rd

What even Andrew Marr has missed about Blair and Iraq is, in the shadow of the crime of going to war in the first place, the Prime Minister has demonstrated to the British people what they don't want to see: that since the seventies, we have effectively become a satellite of the American empire. As Tony Benn says, the Vulcan bomber was our last independent military artefact, we can no longer fire a strategic missile without Washington's say-so. That's a hard one to swallow for those of us invested in the idea of Britain as a major military power. I wonder how many voters have been conscious of it.

Talking to a member of my congregation about New Labour, he pointed out that the most alarming things about them is their anti-libertarian trend; any informal voluntary enterprise gets bogged down in government requirements. You only have to look at the palaver we had getting Criminal Records Bureau checks for helpers for the children's Good Friday Project to know what he means. It will get much worse if they ever get ID cards into law.

I resolved to vote Liberal Democrat this year. I consulted a close friend who, when he worked in Stansted, was the other socialist in the village. He owned up to voting LibDem last time, and would do so again. "Voting LibDem is like committing murder", he said, "it's hard to do the first time, then it gets easier."

May 5th Ascensiontide

In Farnham the schoolchildren of bygone days



remember this feast as a visit to church, and then the rest of the day off. Rather less joyfully, Anna and I went off not to church but to vote, me with a heavy heart. I consoled myself with the thought that at least the LibDems have the right policies, even though they are unlikely ever to be in a position to enact them.

Later on, out in the parish, I was spotted by a member of the conservative old guard. He rehearsed the old line about our needing to return to traditional values and the morality of the Bible, especially the Ten Commandments. I was kinder to him than I would have been in the past. Time was, I would have asked him to name the Ten Commandments. These days people like him are more like collectors items. I gave him a brief tutorial on the morality of the Bible: its prophetic anger at economic oppression, rampant hunger, the indebtedness of the poor and fraudulent interest taking. He glazed over, I might as well have been talking to the wall. When cultures change, the representatives of the old order don't say anything new, they just repeat the same things more loudly. I don't think I've ever seen him in church.

At least his younger colleagues these days make no pretence at representing Christian civilisation, so they're more honest in that respect.

I love the Ascensiontide eucharist in Stansted. Thursday is always Huw Johnson Club night, so the first few rows at Ascension are full of club members, shepherded by Marion Johnson and Derek Honour, . . . maybe it's the other way round. James Stratton, a club member from Radwinter, comes each year and

## In and around St John's during June



Sandra Wood,  
Children's Work  
co-ordinator  
(01279) 647054  
sandra@stansted.net



**Sunday School, 9:30am**

Sunday School meets in the church hall at 9:30am on Sunday mornings except on the third Sunday when there is an Open Door all-age Service at 11:00am.

Children meet for activities which are drawn from *Spirit Seasons*, a range of children's materials based around the readings for each particular Sunday. They return to church two-thirds the way through the service.

**Home Study Groups**

- There is a Book Group which is studying *The Meaning of Jesus* by Marcus Borg and Tom Wright, two scholars from a conservative and a radical tradition of bible study. This group meets in Bentfield Gardens on Wednesday evenings. Phone Andy on 813003.
- *Living the Questions* is a course in Christian faith over twelve weeks. Using video clips from a number of eminent Christian thinkers and social activists, *Living the Questions* covers many of the ways in which Christian faith touches the everyday concerns of ordinary life. There are currently two courses running on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. A new course will be starting in September, call Andrew on 812203, if you would like to know more.

**Joe Watson**

The relatives of Charles William Watson (affectionately known as Joe) of Church Hill Corner, would like to thank those who gave so generously to the collection for the Stansted District Nurses on the sad event of his death, in December 2004.

The total amount raised came to £430. This was used to purchase some Turn-Easy swivel cushions for the nurses' cars, and a large map of the Stansted area; framed and dedicated to both Joe and his beloved wife Fanny.

Clare Edwardson (Joe's granddaughter)

serves at the altar. James was properly trained in these things by Fr David Maudlin, one of my favourite colleagues, who had been James' last rector. I'm not sure that Fr David would have introduced James to the Australian Prayer Book. When James poured water on my hands before I handled bread and wine, I bowed and thanked him and he responded: "No worries". James' most quotable moment came in the vestry before the service, contemplating those in his village for whom the new female rector was a grim prospect, "Tough titty," he said, to Caroline's obvious delight, "you can't make a judgement about people 'til you've got to know them". I wonder that the women's ordination movement hasn't adopted that as a slogan before now.

May 7th

My mate Rob Navara in Farnham has found, in my wife, an ally in his longstanding crusade to get me fit, and live longer. To this end he has given me a mountain bike. The deal is, if he looks after my body in this life, I look after his soul in the next. I did wonder if he had been too optimistic about the extent of my influence. If he ever does find out that I have no pull on The Other Side, I assured him I'll give him his bike back.

AS



**CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
in STANSTED**

The next meeting of Churches Together will be on Tuesday, 5th July 2005, at 8.00pm in the URC Vestibule.

On 1st July, we will welcome, once again, our friends from Chevetogne in Belgium. The alternate visits between Stansted Churches and Chevetogne have been taking place for the past 20 years. The key factor in the success of these exchanges is the tremendous generosity that is shown by all. By opening up our homes and arranging visits of interest, the presence of Christ in the worship becomes manifestly real and epitomises the communion of the visits. There is a spirit of fun, sociability and spirituality that is infectious. Their hospitality to us on return visits is incredible and over the past years many close friendships have been formed.

As usual we will prepare a full and varied itinerary for the Saturday and Sunday. We have held two quizzes and raised sufficient funds to give them a good time! The age group is wide - from 12 to 85 and many of them speak English. Whether or not they do has never stopped anyone from having a great time.

This is an open fellowship and whilst there are core members who continue to be part of the exchange, it is not an exclusive club. We would particularly welcome anyone who would like to be a host this year. Even if you are unable to host we would be grateful for offers of help on the Sunday night when we have a shared evening meal and entertainment before we say 'au revoir' and see you next year! If you are interested in knowing more about the exchange or you would like to take part and would be willing to take one or more visitors for the weekend please ring Eileen Quinn on 812109.

David Morson  
Chair - CTS

**greenbelt**  
26th - 29th August  
Cheltenham Racecourse

**The 2005 Greenbelt Festival**  
*Benedictine monk Laurence Freeman on meditation; John Bell, from the Iona Community; Allan Boesak, veteran anti-apartheid campaigner; Richard Rohr, theologian; The BBC will be there for the first time, offering media workshops; The Reduced Shakespeare Company and so much more . . . .*

To join the Stansted expedition to Greenbelt this year, call the Church Office on 81 5243.

**From the Registers**

**Thanksgiving for Childbirth**

• May 1st: Tally Miles

**Baptism**

• 3rd April: Eleanor Caitlin Jessup & Keira Louise Jessup



# 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

In the modern age, focus on celebrity status has become a hallmark of our media-dominated society. Interest in individual personalities has become a focus of attention in all walks of life. Pope John Paul II, as a charismatic figure and a world-travelled Pope, fulfilled many of the demands of the modern media. He was a larger-than-life personality, someone with a dramatic and courageous past history living through Nazi and Soviet regimes, suffering an assassination attempt, overcoming difficulties with health in his later life. The vast number of dignitaries attending his funeral was testament to his international status as a world figure.

There is a danger, in the cult of personality, that the individual becomes more of a focus than the message or occupation that he/she is proclaiming. This, remarkably, was not the case with the last Pope. His message and personality were synonymous. Our new Pope, Benedict XVI, whilst very close to John Paul II seems to be a very different personality. Born in 1927 at Markt-am-Inn in Lower Bavaria, like his predecessor, Benedict grew up in a totalitarian society where he was forced to join the Nazi Youth, albeit attending but a few sessions. He was called up in 1943 and served in the auxiliary anti-aircraft service. At the war's conclusion, he was able to continue his studies for the priesthood, was ordained in 1951, qualified as a university teacher in 1957 and taught at Tübingen University from 1966-69. He then transferred to the University of Regensburg until 1977.

His undoubted reputation as a theologian and as a member of the International Theological Commission in 1969 led him to be appointed as Archbishop of Munich. In 1981 as Cardinal, he became President of the Congregation for the Doctrine and the Faith - a position he held for the next 23 years, during John Paul II's papacy. Here, the personality and the role were very different. The position demanded the enforcement of strict discipline to theological orthodoxy, giving the impression of a very dominant and assertive personal role, whereas, in reality, the then Cardinal Ratzinger was by all accounts a gentle person.

During his first speech as Pope on 20th April 2005, he affirmed his closeness to Pope John Paul II, reasserted his role as the successor of St Peter and Defender of the Faith, re-echoed a commitment to enact the Second Vatican Coun-

cil, asserted that theological dialogue is necessary to promote "the fundamental cause of ecumenism" and finally, committed to address "followers of other religions and none, seeking answers to the fundamental questions of life in the spirit of open dialogue".

Therefore, whilst not being naturally the ebullient or outgoing personality of John Paul II, his successor continues the tradition of bringing Christ to the world. The Spirit works in mysterious ways and through the diversity of all members of the church community. Whilst personalities change, the message does not. We wish him every blessing for the future.

David Morson

# 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 June

5th 9.30am Kenneth Mark  
12th 9.30am Rev'd Keith Page - Holy communion  
19th 3.30pm. Rev'd Michael Hayman -  
Church anniversary service followed by tea  
26th 10.30am Joint service at United Reformed Church  
led by Leo Cheng

On Thursday 16th June there will be a church fellowship meeting.



# SHALOM

## Meetings

Monday 6th June - Jonathan Morrell will lead an evening on the theme "Quakers should preach what they practise" at 7 Blythwood Gardens.  
Monday 20th June - "How we speak about God" (part 2) led by Marion Dyer at 7 Blythwood Gardens.  
Monday 4th July - we will have an evening with members of the Lydia Fellowship at the Quaker Meeting House.

All meetings start at 8.00pm, and everyone is welcome.

Catherine Dean  
813579

# 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 June

5th	2.30 pm	Rev'd David Simpson and Dr Pamela Cressey. Communion
12th	10.30 am	Pilots service
19th	10.30 am	No service: join with Methodists for anniversary service at Quaker Meeting House at 3.30pm
26th	10.30 am	Mr Leo Cheng Joint with Methodists

## Dates for your diary

5th June	3.30pm	Afternoon tea. For lifts telephone 814850 or 812593
6th June	6.00pm	Pilots for children 5-13 years. For information telephone 813433
20th June	2.3 pm	Monday Club, open to all. For information telephone 815137
20th June	6.00pm	Pilots

If you have been to our afternoon teas on the first Sunday of each month, you will know how busy it can be. When we started these teas we agreed that the afternoon should be a social event rather than a fund raising event, but if we did make any money we would give it to the Water Aid charity. In just under two years we have raised over £400 and have been able to supply two Elephant pumps, so called because of the trunk that goes into the ground, which is operated by a simple hand pump. These pumps provide clean drinking water to villages in Africa without the long walk to distant water holes. So on behalf of the recipients of these pumps, may I say a big thank you, and come and join us on 5th June and help us on our way collecting for pump number three.

Janet Townsend

# SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting** Sunday, 11.00am

Of the many problems facing the world at the moment, two of the main ones are climate change and the resulting effect on the environment; and secondly the organisation of world trade. I'd like to quote an extract from 'Quaker Faith and Practice' which seems to sum up the position:

"We are building towards the climax of crisis. The spiritual crisis is folding into the ecological crisis and the ecological crisis is folding into the economic crisis. As Christians it seems to me we are now required to critically assess the capital driven market economy and identify it as a false religion, a fabulously productive but ultimately destructive system, bringing closure on God's goodness in creation and bringing a creeping atheism to the soul. To look this system straight in the eye and call it to account is a critical test of Biblical faith.

Challenging market economies with a Biblical sense of goodness of God in creation is to join a spiritual struggle. Faith in God, solidarity with the suffering poor and all other forms of life demands that we take a stand and say "This destruction must stop". We must be clear about the implications of this. It is a renovation which will change everything: the way we travel; the way we do business; the way we eat; the houses we build; the products and services we can expect and the prices we pay for them; the way we feel about trees; and the way we worship God.

That sets out the problem – how, as Christians, can we act? It means going against the general trend and that is never easy. Many of us benefit from the fruits of an affluent society and we do not wish to deprive our children and grandchildren of lives full of advantages. However, we can encourage them (and ourselves) to find out as much as possible about what is happening and how – to prevent disaster – a balance has to be struck. We have to realise, and to proclaim, that it is possible to have a rewarding and fulfilling life without enormous material benefits, and to emphasise that the world has the inventive power (if not the will at the moment) to save the environment.

Katharine Hurford



## **STAND FIRM AND DEMAND EXPANSION TRUTH, SSE TELLS UTTLESFORD**

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has called on Uttlesford District Council (UDC) to fulfil its duty to the community and insist that BAA provides a full and comprehensive picture of the adverse effects which the expansion of Stansted Airport would create and of the measures to mitigate them.

BAA has so far treated UDC's information requests with contempt. On page after page of its 21-page response, there is repeated refusal to provide the depth and breadth of information which will fully reveal the true impacts of expansion. BAA is obviously anxious to keep things as tight and as narrow as possible to avoid being held responsible for the impacts of expansion or for their mitigation – if mitigation were truly possible for the environmental catastrophe which is being proposed.

Even before BAA's response to the Scoping Opinion emerged there were concerns within the community that the EIA (environmental impact assessment), which will be paid for by BAA, would have an extremely narrow focus and go no further than the very basic requirements of planning law. These fears are being justified and it is now clear that if Uttlesford is to make a full and fair assessment of any application to go beyond the currently permitted capacity of 25mppa it must insist on knowing the true picture. This must cover not only the consequences of the airport's expansion but the consequences of all related developments generated by that expansion. The application for expanded use of the existing runway is currently expected in late 2005 although the schedule has slipped repeatedly since the Air Transport White Paper was published in December 2003. The application for the second runway, not covered by the Scoping Opinion response, is expected in late Spring 2006, over a year later than originally planned by BAA.

## **FURTHER DOUBTS OVER AIRPORT EXPANSION PLANS**

BAA has trimmed its investment programme for Stansted amidst further evidence that the airport's rate of growth has gone off the boil. Passenger numbers grew by 9% during the year ended 31st March 2005 compared to 16% in the previous 12 months, and the number of aircraft using Stansted increased by just 2% over the year compared to a 7% increase in the previous year. BAA also published its 10-year passenger forecasts and investment plans for Stansted in April, where the controversial second runway project is conspicuous by its absence.

The Government's 2003 White Paper signalled a second Stansted runway by 2011/2012 but the new 10-year forecasts show that Stansted's existing runway could cope with the expected growth in demand for at least the next 10 years – until 2015. Stansted is not even expected to reach its current

planning limit of 25 million passengers a year until 2008/09 whereas this was previously expected to be reached next year. The slowdown has resulted in the investment programme being trimmed from £662m to £550m.

The slowdown at Stansted is further evidence that it is regional airports which are now seeing the most rapid growth in air travel. This allows much needed breathing space at Stansted and there is now ample time for BAA to produce a detailed airport master plan and a full environmental impact assessment before submitting any further planning applications. We must use this breathing space as an opportunity to reflect upon the whole question of further major expansion at Stansted.

SSE has also called upon BAA to publish details of its latest investment plans for Stansted. It seems clear that the main reason for the reduced investment programme is the slowdown in growth, but there is also a suspicion that BAA is trying to expand Stansted on the cheap, for example, cutting its environmental mitigation and homeowner compensation budgets. The details should be published so that the public can see exactly what's going on and judge for themselves. Recent revelations in the national media of plans by the Heathrow airlines, CBI and trades unions to combine forces to press for a third runway at Heathrow before any new runway at Stansted may add to the pressure on BAA to relegate the Stansted plans to the back burner.

## **2005 RUNWAY RAMBLE & GRAND FETE**

Everyone who loves the countryside of the North West Essex and East Herts borders – or who is concerned about the scale of the massive expansion being proposed for Stansted Airport and its effects – is invited to take part in SSE's Ramble and Grand Summer Fête on Sunday 26th June.

The fourth annual Runway Ramble features five circular walks from two to 20 miles which will take place from 8.00am onwards. All walks – designed for families as well as serious ramblers – will include a free visit to The Gardens of Easton Lodge, covering countryside under threat. Walks start from The Stag public house in Little Easton, near Great Dunmow. The fête and balloon race will take place in the field behind this, and there is plenty of parking on site.

From midday, fête activities will include a farmers' market and craft stalls, BBQ and beer tent, pony rides, tug of war and a children's fun area with quad bikes and inflatable slides. Traditional fête stalls will also be run by some of the parishes and villages from across the region which would be adversely affected by the creation of the world's largest airport at Stansted. The day will also play host to a balloon race to be launched at 3.00pm. Teams wishing to enter the tug of war should contact the campaign office.

Sponsorship sheets for the walks and further details are available from SSE's campaign office on 01279 870558 or via the website:  
[www.stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com) ('Coming Events').

Peter Sanders, Chairman 01799 520411  
Carol Barbone, Campaign Director 0777 552 3091



**St John's, Stansted Hill  
Hill Chilli**

7 - 10 pm Friday 10th June  
'Sonia's Place' 31 Chapel Hill  
(in church hall if wet)  
£7 for supper & a glass of wine  
Tickets 817937 or 815282

In aid of Church Hall improvements

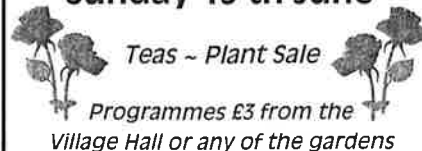
**JAZZ CONCERT**

Saturday 11th June  
7.30 for 7.45 pm  
St Nicholas' Church, Berden

Tickets £12.50  
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**Manuden  
Open Gardens**  
2 - 6 pm  
Sunday 19th June



Teas ~ Plant Sale  
Programmes £3 from the  
Village Hall or any of the gardens

**VILLAGE EVENTS**

**June**

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
2	Thu	Bookstart	Library 2.15 - 2.45 pm
5	Sun	Windmill Open Afternoon Tea (after service)	2 - 6 pm U R Church 3.30 - 5 pm
6	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
9	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
10	Fri	Hill Chilli	31 Chapel Hill 7 - 10 pm
11	Sat	Green waste, metal & wood Lib-Dem Ploughman's Jazz Concert	Lower Street car park 9 am - 3 pm Day Centre noon - 2 pm St Nicholas' Ch, Berden 7.45 pm
12	Sun	Green waste, metal & wood	Lower Street car park 9 am - 3 pm
13	Mon	RBL (women)	2 Clarence Road 2.15 pm
15	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors day outing Ugley WI	Ugley Village Hall 2.30 pm
19	Sun	Gardens Open	Manuden 2 - 6 pm
20	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
25	Sat	Green waste, metal & wood Music on a Summer's Evening	Lower Street car park 9 am - 3 pm Four Winds, Burton End 7 pm
26	Sun	SSE Ramble Green waste, metal & wood	The Stag, Little Easton from 8 am Lower Street car park 9 am - 3 pm

**July**

2	Sat	Summer Fayre 'Duet' in concert	St Mary's School St Peter's Church, Ugley 7.30 pm
3	Sun	Windmill Open Afternoon Tea (after service)	2 - 6 pm U R Church 3.30 - 5 pm
4	Mon	Shalom Group	Quaker Meeting Hse 8 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
7	Thu	WI 45 years celebration	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
9	Sat	Green waste, metal & wood Lib Dem Ploughman's Village Music Club Soirée	Lower Street car park 9 am - 3 pm Day Centre noon - 2 pm St John's Church 6 pm
10	Sun	Green waste, metal & wood HEAL Gardens Open	Lower Street car park 9 am - 3 pm 2 - 6 pm
16	Sat	Music in the Park	Bentfield School



**Music on a  
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**St Peter's Church Ugley  
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*Sara Grimshaw (soprano)*  
*& John Moorman (tenor)*

present a selection of popular music

**7.30 pm Saturday 2nd July**

Tickets from 01799 543480  
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Proceeds to Church restoration fund

**Bentfield School PTA**



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**Sunday 10th July  
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More details will be in  
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## RABBITING ON !

One of the most interesting things about working as a vet is that you never know who or what is going to come through your consulting room door next. In the space of just five days last week, as well as many cats and dogs, I had the pleasure of treating several rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, two budgies, a ferret, a goose, three chickens, a gecko, a parrot that whistled every time I tried to speak, a goldfish that was swimming upside down, a baby badger and a magnificent Peregrine falcon.

What an exciting term the summer term is proving to be. Our older group have been out and about in the local area. On 2nd May they travelled by train to McDonalds in Bishop's Stortford in order to visit a self-service type restaurant. The children were shown round the kitchens and then ordered their own drink and a portion of chips. Back at Rainbow the children played in our own mini McDonalds.

It certainly kept me on my toes! One of the interesting changes over the last 10 years has been the increase in the number of so called exotic species that are kept as pets in the UK. In particular there has been a steady rise in the pet rabbit population. Many pet rabbits are kept indoors as house rabbits, as they do not require as much time and energy to look after as a dog and they can be easily trained to use a litter tray just like a cat. There is an excellent organisation, the Rabbit Welfare Association ([www.house.rabbit.co.uk](http://www.house.rabbit.co.uk)) which has a great website and can give lots of useful advice on how to keep a rabbit as an indoor pet. They produce a quarterly magazine with the wonderful name 'Rabbiting on' and there are even forums and 24 hour rabbit chat lines which are worth a visit just for the names. 'Bun-e-mail' and 'Etherbun' being just two examples.

The following week we boarded the train again. This time Pearson's café was our destination. We were given an extremely warm welcome and the children all ordered a drink and a snack from the very patient waitress. Since the visit the children have been able to incorporate their experience of the café into their play in our Rainbow café – giving and taking orders and distributing drinks to the customers.

The main health problems we see in rabbits are teeth problems due to malalignment of the teeth and subsequent overgrowing, abscesses which can be very resistant to antibiotic treatment, myxomatosis (a fatal viral disease of rabbits spread by the flea, for which there is a vaccine) and perhaps the most distressing condition of all, fly strike. This occurs when blowflies lay their eggs on the fur of a rabbit. The eggs hatch into maggots, which can burrow under the skin of a rabbit causing extensive damage and even death if left untreated. Blowflies will be attracted to rabbits that are relatively inactive and where the bedding or the rabbit's fur is soiled. Rabbits at highest risk are those that suffer from obesity, dental disease, diarrhoea, arthritis or where the environmental conditions and hygiene are poor. It is therefore important not to over feed your rabbit and to clean out the hutch on a weekly basis or more often if the rabbit tends to get a messy bottom. The good news is that there is a new product on the market for the prevention of fly strike. This is a liquid preparation called Rearguard. It contains a chemical called an insect growth regulator which prevents the maggots developing to the stage where they can harm the rabbit. The liquid is applied to the rabbit's hindquarters and gives 10 weeks protection from maggot infestation. This should be enough to give protection over the summer risk period. Rearguard is only available from your vet and it is something that we are strongly advising our rabbit clients to use. Anyone that has experience of fly strike in one of their rabbits will know that prevention of this distressing condition is well worth it.

We have been learning about Road Safety this month too and this has taken us out into the village to look at pedestrian crossings and how to cross safely. Later in the month we walked down to the recycling skips in the Lower Street Car park to learn about what we recycle and why.

In the meantime if anyone has any tips for stopping a parrot from whistling, let me know!

We have had an absolutely fantastic few months fund-raising. Our Sponsored Cake Bake in March raised £534. This was a brilliant effort by everyone involved but particular thanks go to Emma Kennett who managed to raise in excess of £100 by herself. Our Chinese Auction on 19th March was also a great success. Around 70 people attended the evening in St John's Hall and put in bids for a range of goods from scented candles to jars of quails' eggs. It proved to be an hilarious evening; participants only knew what they had bid for after the gong had sounded. It's hard to keep a straight face when you win a pair of underpants!!! We were delighted to raise in excess of £600 and we would particularly like to thank Venture Photography for their kind donation of a photography session which we auctioned in the traditional way for over £100. We are also extremely grateful to Julia North and Peter Thomson for all their hard work in ensuring that the evening went so smoothly.

As a result of our fund-raising we have been able to order a new climbing frame for the children and are looking forward to its delivery.

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

Vicki Brice

Ilse Pedler  
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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

It was our Annual General Meeting on 5th May when the usual business was carried out. As he indicated last year, Paul Embleton did not stand as Chairman again and Peter Brown was appointed. We are grateful to Paul for all his work over the past five years and extend our best wishes to Peter in his new role. Paul will be remaining on the Committee, together with Peter Sanders, Vice Chairman, Toby Lyons, Secretary, Ken McDonald, Treasurer, and David Harrison, Janice McDonald, Ralph Phillips, Pam Seavers and myself on the Committee, joined for the first time by David Palmer.

Most of us have secret ambitions which we would like to achieve whenever we have the time. After the business of the AGM had been settled, Peter Sanders told us of his – to write an authoritative history of Stansted Mountfitchet. Although much work has been done to record our past by individuals and the Historical Society itself, Peter feels there is a need for it all to be drawn together. As a first step he asked three questions – does Stansted have any distinctive themes running through its history; are our sources good enough; do we have sufficient stories to hold the reader's attention?

With regard to themes, the village has always benefited from being on important lines of communication, from Roman Stane Street to today's airport, and this has given it a wider perspective and prosperity, with some of its more

important residents having played their part in the nation's affairs. Although local matters have always been important, the wider view has had a considerable influence. Our sources of information are generally strong, even though early records of the largest of the three ancient manors which made up the village were completely destroyed in the Blitz of 1940. However, Peter enumerated the large number of sources still available to us and many provide a valuable amount of information, particularly those compiled by Joseph Green, who died in 1921, by Irving Sanders, who died in 1984 and by the members of the Historical Society. He also indicated some of the themes or stories which might prove interesting. One source that will not be featured, however, is from a book by an otherwise well respected author. This related to his discovery of a Book of Sermons dating from the time of Queen Elizabeth I, acquired at that time by "the Church of Stansted Mountfitchet in Essex" and apparently stolen under strange circumstances. Much time and effort was spent in trying to establish the detail quoted in the book-collector's story – until it was discovered that it had been added by him merely to drum up some dramatic interest!

We were all greatly impressed by the work Peter had already completed and by the mammoth task he was proposing to undertake. We all look forward to putting his magnum opus on our bookshelves.

This was the last meeting before our summer break, our next being on Thursday, 1st September, when Jack Livesey will be recounting the history of Duxford Aerodrome from its establishment during World War I. Please make a note in your diary but in the meantime have a very good summer.

Ian Seavers

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# Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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



Council Offices  
Crafton Green  
Tel 813214  
Fax 813964

## Annual General Meeting

At our annual Council Meeting on 4th May, Cllr Catherine Dean was re-elected to serve as Chairman for the 2005/06 year. Cllr Geoffrey Sell continues as Vice Chairman, along with Cllrs Peter Jones and Valerie Trundle at the helm of Finance and General Purposes and Open Spaces Committees respectively.

## Windmill Appeal

The leaflets for the village appeal have just arrived in the office and will be circulated through all doors with the next Newsletter. The windmill is owned by all parishioners in Stansted - NOT by the Parish Council! As such, the costs of maintenance and repairs must be met by us all. The leaflet details the funds which must be raised to maintain the Mill in a sound condition - please do what you can to support the appeal.

## Newsletter

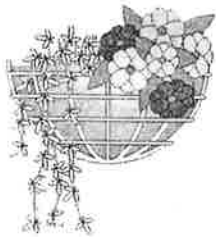
The village newsletter is undergoing a facelift, and we hope that our new-look publication will be delivered through every door shortly after the 'Link' is published. When you have read it, let us know what you think, as the development of the newsletter is on-going and comments would be appreciated!

## Stansted in Bloom

Once again, we are inviting entries for the Best Frontage/Basket/Tubs competition. Entries (see form in Newsletter) must be received at the Parish Council by 28th June, and judging will take place in July. Please note that there is a separate competition for pubs, so encourage your local landlords and ladies to enter. We shall also be running school competitions, and are in discussion with St Mary's and Bentfield over projects for the children. Watch out for some of their work being displayed in Sworder's window as the summer progresses.

## Hanging baskets

We believe that most orders from local businesses for our hanging basket scheme have been received. However, if you run a local shop/pub etc, and would like to hang a basket outside, please contact the Clerk for further details. NB If you do not own your own premises, you must have your landlord's consent to attach the bracket to the property!



Ruth Clifford  
Clerk to the Council

# ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular readers of the 'Link' will be aware of the reports that have been provided by Richard Wallace during the time that he served as County Councillor for the Stansted division of Essex County Council. Unfortunately, he has had to stand down and as his successor I, and I am sure the residents of Stansted, would like to thank him for the eight years of service he has given to the community. I would also like to thank those people who supported me in my campaign to be elected as County Councillor.

The Conservative Party still hold a majority of the seats throughout Essex and of the total of 75 councillors the breakdown by party is:

Conservative	52
Labour	13
Liberal Democrat	8
Independent	2



The new council hopes to build on the achievements made during the last four years. I have been elected to represent all of the residents of Stansted and if there is any way I can be of assistance my contact details are below:

Ray Gooding  
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## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Thirty-three members and visitors attended the May meeting to hear a talk on the Copped Hall Trust given by Mrs Sylvia Keith who is the current chairperson of the Trust.

Copped Hall, 16 miles from Stansted, is a burnt-out shell of a fine Georgian mansion visible from the M25, which passes through a corner of its parklands. Recorded history at Copped Hall starts in the 12th century. In 1337 Copped Hall passed into the hands of Sir John Shardlow who gave it to the Abbots of Waltham in 1350 in exchange for other lands. The Abbots described Copped Hall as "a mansion of pleasure and privacy". In 1537 the Abbot gave Copped Hall to Henry VIII in the hope of saving Waltham Abbey from being dissolved. This failed and the Abbey was dissolved in 1540. Henry VIII visited Copped Hall but never lived there. In 1548 his son Edward VI allowed the future Queen Mary to live at Copped Hall. When Mary became Queen in 1553, Copped Hall was leased to Sir Thomas Cornwallis.

In 1564 Elizabeth I gave Copped Hall to her close friend - Sir Thomas Heneage. Almost immediately he started to rebuild the mansion. The building, with 104 rooms and hallways (52 with hearths), was complete by 1568 when Queen Elizabeth came to stay. In 1594, after his first wife's death, Sir Thomas Heneage married the Countess of Southampton. Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was almost certainly written for their marriage and was first performed at Copped Hall after the wedding ceremony.

Lionel Cranfield, who introduced tulips to Essex, acquired Copped Hall from the daughter of Sir Thomas Heneage in 1623. Members of the Cranfield family lived at Copped Hall until they sold the hall in 1701 to Sir Thomas Webster and took the best of the contents to Knole, near Sevenoaks - where they can be seen to this day. Copped Hall became rather run-down during Sir Thomas Webster's ownership.

In 1739 Edward Conyers purchased Copped Hall. Edward Conyers only enjoyed the house for three years before dying in 1742. Edward Conyers' son, John, inherited the property and considered repairing it, but eventually built a Georgian house, on a different site to the Elizabethan mansion, which was demolished in 1752. It was completed by 1758. This is the house that is being restored. A magnificent four-acre walled garden was created in the 1740s and 1750s to grow fruit, flowers and vegetables. The Conyers family lived at Copped Hall until 1869, when they sold it to George Wythes.



George Wythes was an extremely wealthy man who had made his fortune in the construction of railways in India, America and France. George Wythes never lived at Copped Hall, but bought the estate for his only son George who lived there until his early death, adding a new wing to the north. After George Wythes junior died, his two young sons went to live with their grandfather and Copped Hall was let for a period to a Mr Burns. In 1887, four years after their grand-

father had died, the elder of these two sons, George, also died aged 19 - so when the younger son, Ernest, inherited he came into two fortunes - his own and his older brother's. Copped Hall was not large enough nor grand enough for Ernest and so from 1893 he set about making substantial improvements and extensions. At the same time as the works to the mansion, an extensive Italianate architectural garden was constructed with temples, grand flights of steps, a parterre, gates, fountains and statuary.

By 1900 there were at least 31 gardeners and 27 house servants looking after Copped Hall - together with all the farm workers. The Wythes were only at Copped Hall for part of the year. The rest of the time they were either at their house in London, in Scotland or abroad.



The First World War changed life at Copped Hall. Many servants went off to the war - and did not come back. The land girls helped in the gardens and the family - especially Ernest Wythes' three daughters, looked after wounded soldiers. During the war, in 1917, the main 18th century block of Copped Hall was largely burnt-out in a disastrous fire. Many of the contents were saved but many items were also lost. The family moved to Wood House on the estate, which had been built by Ernest Wythes towards the end of the 19th century. The move was supposed to be temporary but in the end Mr Wythes never rebuilt Copped Hall.

The gardens were all kept up until the Second World War. The wing and the conservatory were untouched by the fire.

The laundry and the stables and motor house were kept in use with their staff. The walled garden continued to produce flowers, fruit and vegetables - some of which were sold in Covent Garden. This produce supplied Wood House and the London house. Mr Wythes died in 1949 and his wife died in 1951. The estate was sold in 1952 and at that time the house and gardens were stripped of any items of value. However, once the M25 was built, Copped Hall became a developer's dream. Large-scale schemes were proposed again and again. After many battles against such proposals, the parkland was saved by the Corporation of London who purchased it in 1992. The specially formed Copped Hall Trust saved the mansion and gardens by purchasing them in 1995.

The mansion has been substantially cleared of debris and vegetation. Parts of the mansion have been stabilised or restored and are open to the public. The gardens have mostly been cleared of undergrowth and debris. A number of the original lawns have been re-created. The ancient yew tree walk (King Henry's Walk), which was cut down in the 1950s, has been reinstated. The walled garden has been made secure from deer, the brambles cleared and the area is now being restored.

The next meeting will be held at the Day Centre at 8.00pm on Wednesday 1st June, when Mr. Brian Creasey will give a talk on 'The Gardens of Easton Lodge'. Please join us. For non-members the admission fee is 75p. Alternatively the annual membership, which runs from May until the following April costs £7 pa for single membership or £11 pa for joint membership.

David Loynds

# Stansted Tennis Club



For any other information, please contact either Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 812073 or Richard Mott (Secretary) on 466348.

Chris Hollis

## Date changes for your diary

Please note that two tournaments dates have had to be changed. The new dates are:

Bristow Junior Doubles Tournament will now be held on Sunday 26th June, 12.45pm start.

The Wilby Adult Doubles Tournament will now be held on Sunday 14th August, starting at 1.30pm.

## Coaching

If you are interested in adult group coaching sessions, please contact Martyn Taplin on 816386. Martyn holds two one hour sessions between 2.30pm and 4.30pm every Saturday afternoon. For all juniors between the ages of 6 and 15, please contact Chris Hollis on 319155 to book a place on one of the junior coaching sessions. Chris is also available for any adults interested in midweek daytime individual or group coaching.

## Results

The Boyd Trophy attracted 16 players who competed in the round-robin stage of the tournament. The final was won by Martin Sebley and Martin Maceonis, who beat Sue Sebley and George Luther. A delicious lunch was provided and a raffle was held to raise money for the floodlight appeal.

Eleven girls aged between nine and 15 competed in the annual Girls' Singles tournament. The trophy was presented last year by Honorary Club Member, Pat Clower. The winners of the three round-robin age groups were Rebecca Monk, Ruby Hollis and Jessica Stewart. In the quarter finals Rebecca Monk beat Jessica Stewart, Dominique Holmes beat Rachel Hogg, Rosie Chatto beat Claire Langridge and Ruby Hollis beat Charlotte Bitten. In the semi-finals Dominique Holmes narrowly beat Rebecca Monk, while Ruby Hollis beat Rosie Chatto. Ruby lifted the trophy, beating Dominique in the final.

## Used tennis balls and leaves for composting

Used tennis balls are available for sale at the very competitive price of £1 for a tube of four from Janet Hollis at 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted.

Please help yourself to the black sacks of leaves for composting, which are in the club gardens.

## Club tournament

If you have not yet signed up for this year's club tournament, please do so by 5th June. Entry sheets are on the notice board in the clubhouse.

## New membership

If you would like to join Stansted Tennis Club, please contact Kate Rutter on 813053.



# Huw Johnson Club

Do come to our Concert on Saturday 25th June. Bring your own deck chair and we will promise you a good evening's entertainment. Our coach money for this year's holiday is nearing its target of £3,600. You can buy a ticket for the concert from Garry at King's Butchers or from me.

We are still short of drivers in spite of using the mini bus three times a month. Why not have a chat with me if you think you could manage one evening a month? You would only have to transport our members one way. You could either bring them from Saffron Walden to Stansted by 7.00pm or return them to Saffron Walden at 9.00pm. Once you've met our lovely members you will enjoy transporting them to or from the Club, which for many is the highlight of their week.

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## St Mary's Primary School



We are now well into the Summer term at St Mary's. The Spring Break seems a distant memory already with the May half term now starting. On my desk in my office I have a small wooden giraffe, which is supposed to remind me about keeping things in proportion – especially paperwork! I bought the giraffe at the end of a visit to Kenya during our school Spring Break in April. It is probably safe to say that this visit is one of the most significant events in my life so far... so I'm going to tell you a little about it. (I know that I usually write about school life, but this is just to prove that sometimes a headteacher has a life beyond school...)

I visited Kenya as part of a team from Links International, specifically the Primary Health Care team. For about 10 years, the pastor of my church in Harlow has led trips to countries in Africa, where local people are trained in basic healthcare in order for them to train people within their own villages. Where the training has been carried out, it has already significantly reduced the number of cases of babies and children dying from the effects of diarrhoea and dehydration. Over the years I have obviously heard about these trips and thought that my own teaching skills would compensate for my lack of specialist knowledge about healthcare! Our team of 12, including other teachers and health workers, spent two weeks in the Mount Kenya area, near Embu, and trained a total of more than 200 people. Each of these people plans to now run their own group in their own village.



So what did I have to do? We worked our way through a detailed manual, which included nutrition, hygiene, worms, pregnancy and childbirth, drugs, to name just a few topics, with each topic being taught to the whole group of students and then talked through and

explained in detail in our own tutorial groups. We took some resources such as puppets, pictures and diagrams with us, but had to become creative with whatever we had available - no ICT/hi-tech resources here. Some students spoke good English, but most required everything to be translated, which added to the challenge, especially with some medical vocabulary. As with any training, the post-lunch slot was hard work - and African lunches are heavy - so we introduced our Kenyan students to Brain Breaks, out of necessity! At the end of the week, they underwent a group exam, to prove they had learnt the material - but also to test their skills in working as a group, an important skill if they are to be successful in future with passing on this information.

Reflecting on the visit now, it seems more than a few thousand miles away, in terms of culture and experiences, but it was all still about learning and teaching, which are the main passions that drive me to do the job I do. Talking of which, the photo is of a Stansted primary school headteacher with an Embu girls' secondary school headteacher. I shared this photo in assembly and somehow the children knew what job she did!

Wendy Wood  
Headteacher



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## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Airport update

At a recent meeting councillors were informed by British Airports Authority that passengers numbers are running at 21.2 million per annum. The airport has planning permission for up to 25 million passengers per annum. With this rate of growth it will not be long before this is reached. We are therefore expecting a planning application for full use of the runway. The growth of the airport has been largely due to the rise of the low-cost airlines, which has allowed freedom to travel on a scale unimaginable just a generation ago. Some consider the proliferation of cheap flights to be one of the perks of 21<sup>st</sup> century living. But these flights come with a hefty environmental cost, a cost that, at the moment, the airlines - and we - are simply not paying. A £20 flight to southern Spain, for instance, would cost £120 if air fuel were taxed on the same scale as petrol. The fact that flying is not subject to the same degree of environmental scrutiny as road travel is worrying especially when we place our current addiction to air travel within the perspective of the global energy crisis. That same flight from London to southern Spain emits 1,300kg of carbon dioxide per passenger.

### Community safety

The Council has adopted a new community safety strategy for 2005-08, which covers the following:

- Hate crimes (which includes domestic violence and racist crimes)
- Anti-social behaviour and criminal damage
- Alcohol and drugs
- Road safety
- Business crime
- Communications/media strategy

The strategy is delivered by a Community Safety Action Team which is a partnership between the Council, Essex County Council, Uttlesford Primary Care Trust, Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service. The overall purpose is "To take the lead in making Uttlesford a safer and more pleasant environment in which to live grow and prosper, by reducing crime and disorder, and addressing the related health, economic and social cost of crime."

For 2003-04 the Stansted area had 530 crimes; this compared with 840 and 462 for Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow respectively. All three areas suffered from thefts of motor vehicles - although the national average has fallen by 51% since 1995. Anti-social behaviour is being tackled through the use of acceptable behaviour contracts which has proved successful.

### Electoral aftermath

The good news is that for readers who dread another election leaflet dropping through their letterbox, 2006 should be an election free year. The next scheduled elections are the Parish and District in May 2007. I took the opportunity of getting out and meeting people who I found almost without exception courteous. It is always a challenge for politicians of all parties to persuade people that politics is relevant to their lives and that they do have a choice.

Councillor Geoffrey Sell  
Tel: 01279 815925  
Email: [cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk)



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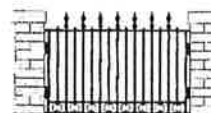
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Women's Section

Our first get-together of 2005 was at Janet Hollis's. We enjoyed a delightful afternoon during which Frances Spalding showed her slides of Kenya. She had spent 12 days there in the house (now a hotel) where Lord Baden-Powell spent his last days.

Her party went on safari in buses and we saw slides of wild boars, elephants, zebras, different types of antelope, giraffes, rhinos, buffaloes, lions, crocodiles and also smaller animals like honey-badgers and lizards. The meeting closed after general chat, tea and biscuits and a raffle.

We meet again on Monday 13th June with Pat Clower at 2 Clarence Road, 2.15pm when Harold and Doris Thistle will show some more of their interesting holiday slides.

Pat Clower

## THE POST OFFICE VACUUM

In our March issue we reported that the Post Office was still in negotiation but that if an outcome could be assured they would consider a temporary counter for an interim period. For goodness sake! We have had over two years without a Post Office with still no prospect of one in sight. There is just no sign of commitment by the Post Office. The suggestion has been made that a mobile post office should be brought in during this protracted waiting period. Why can't they bite the bullet and send one in for at least three mornings a week?

The last report from Helpline told us that they had 54 appeals for transport to a Post Office and that is but one indicator of the present inconvenience. If all we can do is inundate our hard-pressed MP with complaints then let us all do so. Something has to give.

Editor



STANSTED & DISTRICT  
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

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

We will be holding a Midsummer evening event, including supper, on Saturday 11th June at Chantry Hall, Henham. For further information and tickets, telephone 814222 or 813432.

Ruth Rawlinson

## This Month's Recipe



Jeff Smith was Methodist chaplain to the University of Puget Sound in Seattle in the 70's. His student lunches spun off into him opening a restaurant, and to teaching a university course called, 'Food as Sacrament and Celebration.' Eventually he achieved national fame in the US as *The Frugal Gourmet* which remains unbeaten as the most widely followed TV cooking show in

America. Sadly, Jeff died last summer. He inspired me, along with my generation of twenty-something young men to inhabit the kitchen.

Andrew Spurr

### Jeff Smith's Grilled Salmon Steaks

This is a staple in my house as it is easy, uncomplicated and good for you in a way that doesn't make you feel like you're doing penance.

2 salmon steaks  
½ cup of olive oil  
¼ cup Chinese light soy sauce  
(dark soy isn't a good substitute)  
½ teaspoon dried dill  
1 ground clove  
juice of one lemon

Prepare a sauce of the olive oil, soy sauce, dill, lemon juice and clove. Mix well and brush over the salmon steaks. Place on foil and gently grill on both sides until the fish become opaque. It's easy to overcook this, so keep an eye on it as the steaks do not take very long.

Jeff served this with baked potato and green beans. His baked potato is attributed to his TV producer, Marilyn. Her method was to split a baking potato down the middle, and insert a whole bay leaf and a small amount of butter, wrap in foil and bake at 425°F (Gas Mark 7) for 40 minutes.

For the green beans, pan fry them with oregano.

1 clove of garlic sliced thinly  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 10oz package frozen cut green beans  
salt and pepper to taste  
¼ teaspoon oregano  
1 tablespoon of lemon juice

Sauté the garlic in the oil until lightly browned. Add the green beans, salt, pepper and oregano. Cook covered until tender. Add the lemon juice, toss and serve.

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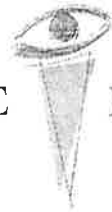
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## DAYS OF THE WEEK

### 3.MONDAY



The Roman dies Lunae - the day of the Moon  
In Saxon Mona but in French Lundi, from the Latin  
German – Montag.

In our area with the 'light pollution' of street lamps and the airport, we do not see much of moonlight and starlight but it was, and still is, of importance to many people to know when, clouds permitting, it might be possible to do things at night. Smugglers would not want the Excisemen to see them! Navigation away from the coast would not have been possible without knowledge of the stars.

The realisation that the moon could affect the world and ourselves came long ago with observations of the tides, for instance. The full moon was when werewolves were supposed to be about and that it could make men (and women!) mad is recognized in 'lunatic' from Luna. Some people believe that the time of the moon at which crops are put into the soil can make a difference to their growth and phases of the moon should be observed. For example, bulbs, root crops, biennials and perennials should be planted in the decreasing light, between full moon and the dark of the moon. Re-potting houseplants, sowing seeds of plants that grow above ground and planting trees should be done between the new moon and full moon. (This was written before it was mentioned on Gardeners' Question Time earlier this year.)

Traditionally Monday was washing day. "They that wash on Monday, have all the week to dry" goes the rhyme continuing through the week to "And they that wash on Saturday, oh, they are sluts indeed". No time to dry, iron and air clean clothes to wear to church on Sunday, but in these

days of washing machines and dryers the old verses are no longer needed to remind us of when to do our household tasks.

**Plough Monday** is the first after Twelfth Day, when ploughmen should return to work after the Christmas festivities.

**Collop Monday**, the day before Shrove Tuesday, is also known as Lundi Gras (Fat Monday). A collop is a slice of meat - so eat up your bacon rashers on that day.

**Handsel Monday**, the first after the New Year, was a day to give small gifts. Old Norse 'handsal' meant an agreement sealed with a handshake and Old English 'Handselen' was giving into the hands of another, hence 'handsel', giving a gift.



The Abbots Bromley Horn Dance takes place on **Wakes Monday** in September. The dancers carry reindeer horns that are kept in the church and never leave the village. The dance celebrates granting of hunting rights to the villagers in Needwood Forest and was known to take place in 1226. The dance is done at other times and at other places, including Thaxted, but of course not with the original horns.

And on **August Bank Holiday Monday**, Stansted Mountfitchet holds its Windmill Fete!



I have seen mention of **Oatmeal** or **Meal Monday** but have no idea what took place then. Can someone enlighten me?

Peggy Honour



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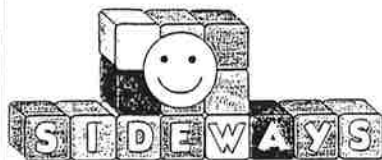
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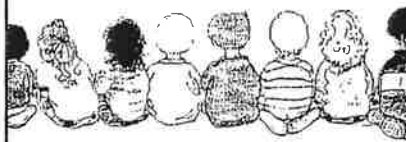
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Essex County Council

During the first part of the new term all parents had the chance to come into school and chat with their child's teacher. Targets were set for the coming term and agreed by all parties.

The second week saw Year 6 doing their SATS exams with the other classes having tests as well. However, with that important week over the school took a deep breath and returned with vigour to their normal learning pattern.

Year 6 began to train for their Cycling Proficiency Test. They also enjoyed a visit to Pizza Express in Bishop's Stortford where they had an interesting talk about micro-organisms, mixing science with practical strategies for avoiding illness. They also designed a pizza, made it, and had a picnic in Sworders Field with the finished product!



Class 3 had a very informative visit to the Science Museum looking at materials and their uses, together with investigating outer space and talking to a real astronaut!

Classes 1 and 2 spent a very enjoyable day at Harlow Garden Centre looking at the different plants and how they grow. The school teams have had a very busy month with football tournaments at Katherine Semar School for both the boys and the girls, a chess tournament at St Mary's School, Dunmow, a rounders tournament at Howe Green and a hockey tournament at Newport astro turf. After school clubs for the summer term include rounders, athletics and cricket.

As we begin preparing for the coming of another school year just a reminder that if you would like a nursery place for your child in September please contact the school as soon as possible so that we can arrange for you to come and see us.

The PTA May Fair saw the school grounds turned into OUTER SPACE for the afternoon. The children thoroughly enjoyed the space theme, especially defying gravity on the Gravity Wall, rocketing through the Space Fun Run and challenging their minds in the Space Workshop. Both the adults and the children learnt many new facts in the Planetarium as they put their brains to the test for the Space Quiz. Many of our favourite games got a space makeover; we had Interplanetary Hoop-La, Galaxy Football Shootout and even Hook-a-Duck-Dodgers! The afternoon was a huge success, so thank you to all who supported us.



This month our children will all be taking part in a Sponsored Sign. Bentfield is an inclusive school with enhanced provision for children with severe special needs. Signing is used as part of everyday learning for all children in the school to aid communication, beginning in the nursery and continuing right up the school. For the Sponsored Sign each class will be given a different set of Makaton signs to learn and the children will be sponsored on how many they sign correctly. All children will be included, especially our nursery children who are already becoming experts at sign-

ing (especially anything related to food and drink, as all nursery parents will know!).

Our next major event is our **Music in the Park on Saturday 16th July**. We hope by now you have all put the date in your diaries, as this is one village event not to be missed.



We have a fantastic line up of bands this year with music to suit all tastes and plenty to get us all up dancing. Tickets are available from the school office, a PTA member or by ringing 647650.

Marnie Tait

## STANSTED DAY CENTRE

On behalf of the Day Centre I should like to thank all those who provided stalls for the charities and all those who supported the Coffee Morning on Wednesday 27th April. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and £407.05 was raised in total.

Brenda Scarr

### Drivers Wanted

Yet again I am looking for one or two (or more) drivers who would be prepared to take people to the Day Centre on a regular basis. The Day Centre is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and the required duty would be once every three weeks on one of these days – Friday is the preferred day at the present time.

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Bridget Gott 814440

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## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

The bright May evening brought many out for our annual meeting when we discuss the Resolutions, which will be put forward at our AGM in the Albert Hall next month. This year is special for the WI Movement as we celebrate 90 years since it was first formed in the UK in LlanfairPG, Wales. I should imagine the celebrations there will be great; even though there can be no founder members left, there may well be descendants. The very first WI was formed in Canada in 1897, mainly to educate women in caring for young babies and children at a time when infant mortality was high. Our Resolutions this year call upon WI members themselves to take action in our communities rather than asking the Government of the day to do things on our behalf. The first concerns taking action to reduce waste and conserve resources in our own homes and communities and to lobby manufacturers and retailers to reduce waste in the production, packaging and transportation of public and consumer goods.

We heard from Liz Buxton, a County Adviser and Federation Vice-Chairman, that councils around Essex varied greatly in the amount of recycling that they do. We in Uttlesford do quite well, though where she lives they also recycle garden waste which is then sold for compost. They also have door-step glass collection, though she felt this to be a hazard if glass containers were left on display in the streets. We had a very lively discussion and voted unanimously for the Resolution. The next one concerned the unfair difference between retail prices of milk and the price paid to the farmer, members being asked to do all in their power to raise public awareness of this. Liz Buxton told us that there are now only 28 dairy farms left in Essex as the cost of producing milk is greater than its sales. Members were surprised to hear that we import milk into this country from Ireland, Belgium and France and we are asked to find out locally where the milk sold comes from. This was carried though several people abstained from voting but none were against.

Reports were made of an enjoyable Group Meeting held in Elsenham, when five local WIs joined together for an evening and were entertained by Derek Thornbery, with his tales of canoeing through Europe as a young man in the 'fifties, with a fold-up canoe and a friend! He was a good speaker with stories reminiscent of 'Three Men in a Boat'.

We were all delighted with the news that our 'Flog It' fund-raising evening had raised £355 as well as supplying us with a very entertaining evening out. The items for auction were laid out for inspection and then under the able guidance of Sue Hitchmough went under the hammer - 'silly prices' abounded but everything went; wine and refreshments were served in the interval and a good time was had by all - perhaps you were there?

Our stall at the local Charity coffee morning raised £62.10 for the WI County Fund to be sent to help with specific

projects in areas affected by the Tsunami Disaster. I think all the stallholders were pleased with their results and it is hoped to have one again next year.

After the coffee-break the President and Secretary presented members with a Musical Quiz, which brought the evening happily to a close.

Next month's speaker is Brian Darcy, RVM and his talk is entitled 'Living with the Ghosts in the Tower of London', so if you always wanted to know if there really are ghosts come along and find out!

Judy Colliver  
812470

## GRAHAM SCHOOL OF DANCE

### Congratulations

Two Graham School of Dance pupils have won places with the English Youth Ballet in the summer: The English Youth Ballet's policy is to present full-length classical ballets in regional theatres around the UK and to give more opportunities to young dancers outside London to perform within a professional setting. Francesca Fox will be performing in a full length classical ballet, 'Coppelia', in Leamington Spa, and Elizabeth Pitt will dance in 'The Nutcracker' at the Theatre Royal, Norwich.

### Royal Ballet School places for twins

Alexander Bennett and Thomas Bennett have won coveted places at the prestigious Royal Ballet School at White Lodge, in Richmond Park, London. Against competition of over a thousand pupils they secured two of the 24 places at the school for Year 7, and so will begin boarding there from September. Both are 10 years old, and in their final year at Summercroft School.

### Festival successes – All England Dance Competition

No less than seven Classical Ballet soloists, a Classical Ballet duet, Modern Dance soloist, Classical Ballet Group and Modern Theatre Dance group have won places at this year's All England Dance Competition Regional Final, to be held in Welwyn during the Spring Half Term. These outstanding achievements have been obtained for gaining 84% or more in certain qualifying festivals around the area.

### Festival Successes – Cambridge Dance Festival

Two dance groups have performed extremely well at this year's Cambridge Festival: the Modern Theatre Dance Group won the cup for 'Outstanding Junior Group' for their dance 'Mack & Mabel', and the Intermediate Scholar Dance group not only won their class at the Cambridge Festival, but won the special 'Adjudicator's Shield' for Outstanding Performance'.

Classes are held at the Quaker Meeting House on Mondays. Please note our new telephone number - 01279 654423.

Janie Bennett, Administrator



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our meeting on 29th April, we had an interesting talk about the Air Ambulance which serves Essex and Hertfordshire. They fly in daylight only and are dependant on public donations for the service they give. They are able to carry two patients with a paramedic and, of course, the pilot. Apart from carrying seriously ill people to hospital they are sometimes used to transport donated organs.

The children's bags, which members had made, were voted on for entry in the competition at the Group Meeting on 28th April.

On Wednesday, June 15th we will have a talk entitled 'Bats in the Belfry' (sounds interesting!) by Mrs Margaret Rogers. This will, as usual, be in Ugley Village Hall at 2.30pm.

Frances Spalding

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## FURTHER DOUBTS OVER SECOND STANSTED RUNWAY

News on 18th May from BAA of delay in the project planning for a proposed second runway at Stansted has been welcomed by Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) as a sign of yet further doubt that it will ever be built.

But, say SSE, the pressure must be maintained until such time as BAA formally withdraws its plans for a second Stansted runway. The announcement by BAA makes clear that the original 2011-12 target for construction of a new runway could not be met before 2013 at the earliest and even this would not be achievable without a reversal of the regulatory position on cross subsidy. However, such a policy reversal would have EU and UK Competition Law implications – an additional obstacle in the path of the airport developer.

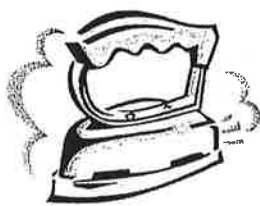
Responding to the announcement, British Airways has already said that it would be unreasonable to expect airlines at Heathrow and Gatwick to fund their competitors' runway at Stansted. However, Ryanair and Easyjet – Stansted Airport's biggest customers – have always made clear that they cannot be expected to pay BAA's price for a new runway.

All the signs point to an impasse in the development of a second Stansted runway with the airport's over-dependence upon the budget airlines and overall lack of financial viability presenting particular difficulties for BAA in respect of the funding of any second runway. Stansted is the least profitable (per passenger) of BAA's seven UK airports.

BAA has recently admitted that a slowdown in growth rates means that even if planning permission were to be granted for an increase in capacity on the existing runway to 35 million passengers per annum (mppa), this figure would not be achieved until 2015. There would still be the possibility of further applications for increased capacity beyond this - potentially of 10mppa or more. This 'spare' capacity would call into question still further the need for a second runway.

"BAA's repeated claims that Stansted expansion plans are on track can no longer be believed. However, this community is no more prepared to accept expansion in 2013 or beyond than in 2011-12 and we will continue to fight until BAA recognises that its plans are a lost cause," said SSE Chairman Peter Sanders.

Carol Barbone,  
Campaign Director,  
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