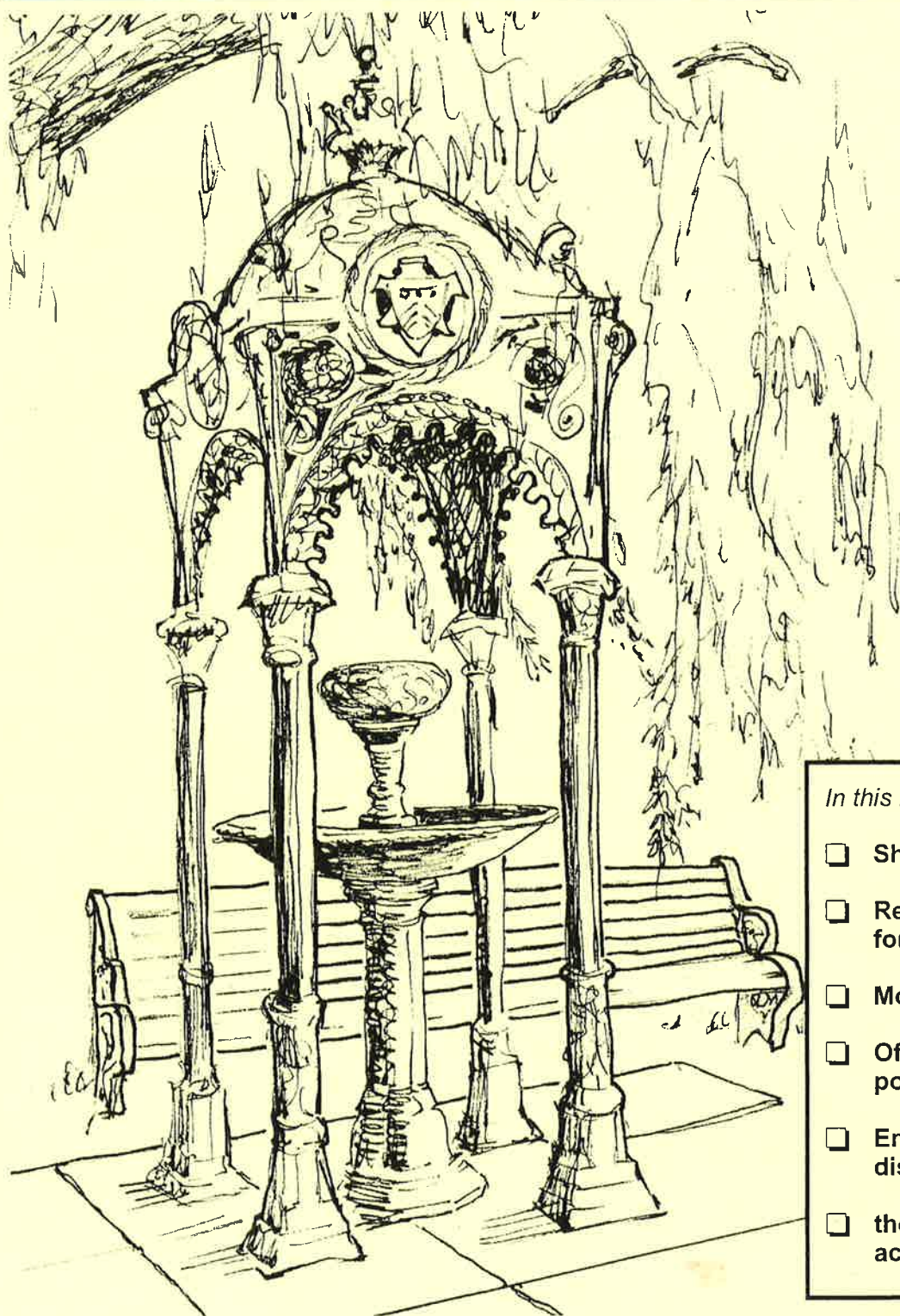
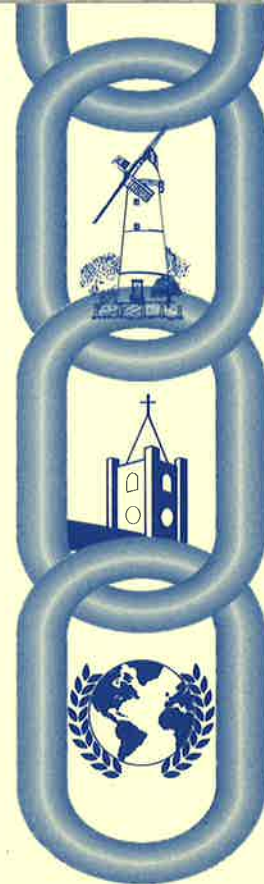


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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By 10th November for publication on 26th November

By 8th December for publication on 31st December

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ROMAN CATHOLIC

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High Lane

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The Presbytery
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High Lane
Stansted
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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

October always holds a celebration for us, as 1st October is St Theresa's feast day. This year we had even more to celebrate; firstly, at the feast day mass, three people were received into the church – Stephen Freeth, Peter Crosnan and Mark Hall. This was a very joyful occasion, as was the party afterwards. Secondly, Fiona Collins, who has been at the Carmelite Convent in Ware for the last four years, took her first vows on 1st October. Father Joe and some parishioners were able to attend the very moving ceremony. We wish our three new members and Sister Fiona every happiness and blessing in their new lives.

In an eventful month for the parish, a number of pilgrims set out early one Monday morning to fly to Rome for a five-day pilgrimage. This had been arranged in conjunction with Father Rocco, a Salesian based in Rome, who has been coming over for many years now as a supply priest in the summer when Father Joe is on holiday. We landed in the pouring rain but luckily this had stopped by the time we had reached our hotel and we were able to spend the afternoon walking amid the fabulous architecture and the tucked away piazzas surrounded by elegant buildings in soft ochre tones.

We had an early start the next day for a visit to Assisi, appropriately on what was St Francis' feast day. Fortunately the sun came out so that we saw the Umbrian countryside at its best with its lovely stone medieval towns perched on top of the high green hills. After a stop to visit the church of St Mary of the Angels, just outside Assisi, which was built to protect the simple chapel, greatly loved by St Francis and near where he died in 1226, we continued to Assisi itself. This hill town with its yellow and ochre buildings and flower filled balconies has been almost completely restored following the 1997 earthquake. We walked from one end to the other surrounded by wonderful views, everywhere with connections to St Francis and his friend, St Clare, founder of the Poor Clares. The world famous Basilica of St Francis was the highlight and overwhelming in its beauty and wealth of masterpieces. We all found the frescos by Giotto, particularly the twenty-eight episodes from the life of St Francis, breathtaking. Although we could have spent much longer in Assisi, we were glad to have had the chance to see some at least of its treasures.

Back in Rome, another highlight of our visit was the general audience with Pope Benedict XVI, held out in the open in the summer months. He was enthroned on the steps of St Peter's and welcomed us in six or seven different languages, each time emphasising the need to follow the things of the spirit, as opposed to the false gods of materialism, and the importance of the divine message of love and peace. The Sistine chapel, recently restored, was an awe-inspiring end to our visit to the treasures of the Vatican Museum.

In a short visit, of course, we could only visit some of the major sights briefly. A tour of the catacomb of St Calixtus, in the charge of Fr Rocco's order, was an interesting if somewhat unnerving experience – there are 12 miles of these narrow passages in several levels underground, where early Christians were buried, with a number of frescos still preserved. I found one of the most fascinating tours, which Fr Rocco arranged for us, was of the necropolis under St Peter's. This was originally a mainly pagan burial site and also the site of the martyrdom and burial of St Peter. It is very well preserved as the Emperor Constantine had had the site covered in earth around 324 AD in order to level it before building the first church. The pagan tombs were built as marble lined rooms for whole families, intended to hold all that the departed might need in the afterlife. The small area where Christians were buried is under what is now the sanctuary of St Peter's. The high altar is built in line with the original tomb of St Peter, although much higher above it. There are letters going back to the second century referring to St Peter's tomb, and we were able to see one of the marble pillars at the side of the tomb and, in clear boxes, some of the bones which are 'understood' to be those of St Peter.

All in all, we had an enriching and happy experience, and I think many of us would like to go back to explore more of the 'Eternal City'.

Ruth Rawlinson

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

At the Quaker Meeting House I take responsibility for lettings. People who ring up about lettings often ask to rent 'The Quaker Hall', but, in fact, we do not have a separate place for secular activities; the building we let is the Meeting House where we worship

This is because, as Harvey Gilman put it, "For a Quaker, religion is not an external activity concerning a special 'holy' part of the self". 'Quaker Faith and Practice' tells us "Bring the whole of your life under the ordering of the spirit of Christ. Let your worship and your daily life enrich each other".

Virginia Marshall

METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

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

Email methodists@stansted.net

All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated

Services and preachers for November

- | | | |
|------|---------|--|
| 6th | 9.30am | Friends Meeting House - Jean Hay |
| 13th | 10.50am | Memorial Gardens |
| | 11.00am | St John's Church Rev'd Janet Tollington
Remembrance Day |
| 20th | 10.30am | URC - Rev'd David Simpson
Holy Communion |
| 27th | 10.30am | URC - Rev'd Keith Page |

The nights are drawing in, mists shroud the fields and there are leaves just about everywhere – stores have already got Christmas items on show – and summer holidays are more a distant memory – Autumn is here.

In November we remember again those who have had lives taken away – or drastically changed – by war. The last century was a century of wars. No city, town or village was left untouched – indeed the list of names read each Remembrance Sunday service at Stansted takes some time. Each name a life stopped short in youth. It is right to have Remembrance – we forget the lessons of the past at our peril. During 1945, a relative of mine was advancing with his unit across Germany when his company entered a place called Bergen-Belsen. He saw many unpleasant sights up until that day – but that day he entered hell-on-earth. Decades of nightmares followed. We should never forget.

Yet, sometimes we should have forgetfulness. This seems a bit like a contradiction in terms, but it's not. We need to have engraved in our hearts and in our heads the lessons of war, but we also need to be able to forgive and move forward. In many countries blood feuds can exist for centuries when one family cannot forget a dispute that should have long been forgotten. This is especially prevalent in Albania at this time. Sometimes we need to forget. How many family feuds continue long after its origin has long been forgotten? I was recently amazed when I heard of a large extended family that live in the same town and surrounding area who have not 'spoken' for over a 100 years (this is far, far away from here so I am not breaking any confidences). They have forgotten the cause but remembered the quarrel!

Jesus tells us that if we want God to forgive us, we have to forgive those who have hurt us. Every time we say the Lord's Prayer reminds us. And when God forgives us, He forgets!

Rev Keith Page

UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

Minister Rev'd David Simpson
11 Church Manor
Bishop's Stortford
CM23 5AF
Tel: 01279 504900

Contact Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel: 01279 812593

Preachers for November:

- | | | |
|------|---------|--|
| 6th | 2.30pm | Rev'd David Simpson |
| 13th | 10.50am | Rev'd Janet Tollington,
Remembrance Day Service at
St John's |
| 20th | 10.30am | Rev'd David Simpson, Communion
with Methodists |
| 27th | 10.30am | Rev'd Keith Page, with Methodists |

Dates for your diary:

- | | | |
|------|-------------|---|
| 5th | 3.30pm | Afternoon Tea.
For lifts telephone 814850 or 812593 |
| 8th | 7.00pm | Shoe Box packing/ Coffee Evening
in the Lecture Hall |
| 14th | 6.00pm | Pilots for children 5-13 years.
For information telephone 813433 |
| 21st | Monday Club | Christmas outing to Lakeside |
| 28th | 6.00pm | Pilots for children 5-13 years.
For information telephone 813433 |

Operation Christmas Child

Only a few days away now is the Christmas Shoe Box packing/coffee evening on 8th November in the Lecture Hall from 7.00pm. Come and join in the fun, and have a cup of coffee, and help pack a box or two, to put a smile on the faces of children who are given the shoe boxes around the world. Any items you may have collected for the boxes can be brought to the hall that evening, or left at 58 Chapel Hill before hand. Every little helps!

On 3rd December, 7.00pm for 7.30 pm, there will be a music quiz with live music by *Charity*, to raise money for the transportation of the shoe boxes. Tickets are £5 including a ploughman's supper, available from 813977 or 814059. Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Janet Townsend



St John's
STANSTED

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all enquiries

The Church Office

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St John's Road
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Revd Andrew Spurr

(01279) 812203
rector@stansted.net

Assistant Curate

Revd Dr Caroline Curren

(01279) 815243
curate@stansted.net

Director of Music

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website

www.stansted.net/stjohns

The cost of service

My post seldom contains letters saying anything mediocre.

Either someone is delighted with something we've done, or they're very displeased. I suppose people don't bother to write if they feel indifferent. I've had a couple of indignant letters since the summer, about the same thing from the same people.

The subject is the placing of a bench in the church gardens in memory of Dr Sally Ilett. As many will remember, Sally was a doctor here in Stansted for over 12 years. It is a matter of public record that she died tragically after taking heroin; she had not been practising as a doctor for some time. Nevertheless, in her years as an active GP, she was an outstandingly good one, even finding time to develop medical specialities. Sally was both a popular and effective doctor.

I attended her cremation, over three years ago, in her native Stevenage, and I conducted a memorial service to her in Stansted shortly afterwards. Both occasions attracted large numbers of people. The memorial included a number of colleagues, including eminent former teachers and friends from London teaching hospitals. Sally was clearly well regarded both in her profession and by former patients, and all of us deeply felt the tragedy of her passing. We were approached to take a collection for a

memorial to Sally. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) put this in train and, after following the procedures set out for these things, a memorial bench appeared in the church gardens during the summer.

The objections boil down to one thing: a small group of people feels it is incomprehensible that there should be a memorial to someone whose life ended in the way that Sally's did. They feel outrage at the location of her memorial in a garden which also contains a monument to our war dead. While I will leave the PCC to reply to the latest letter at their next meeting, I think there is an important element about memory which is being missed and, in particular, a misapprehension about Christian memory.

Christian memory does not shrink from remembering that life has very dark sides indeed. The central Christian story is an account of some of the most despicable things that human beings are capable of. Part of what brings some people to Christian faith is the sense that God has met them in their lostness; they have found God even in places where they have not been able to be the fine, moral, upstanding people they would like their neighbours to think they are.

Up and down the country there are individuals named on war memorials who, if they could speak, would leave us in no doubt that their experience of war led

St John's Christmas Market

The Christmas Market will be held this year on Saturday 26 November 2005 from 1pm to 4pm in St John's Church Hall. There will be stalls weighed down with cakes, toys, gifts, bulbs, crafts, toiletries, candles, etc, not to mention tombolas and raffles to suit all ages.

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

Francine Cope

Remembrance Sunday

A Service to Commemorate those who gave their lives in the defence of the nation and for future peace will be held on

Sunday 13th November

beginning at the village memorial in the church gardens at 10:50am

The service will be conducted by the

Revd Dr Janet Tollington,

of Westminster College, Cambridge

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



them to do dark things which they would never have dreamed themselves capable. I have heard stories from war veterans about their never having come to terms with what the experience of combat cost their humanity, and their sense of being decent people. Survivors have given their lives too.

There is a bright and a dark side to memory and to the act of remembrance. On Remembrance Day we gather in the church gardens to acknowledge the cost that individuals paid for our freedom, and this is both right and good. But we must also acknowledge that the war memorial exists as a reminder that war is a sign of the human spirit at its most lost, a message which we overlook at our peril.

How many times have I officiated at a funeral of a war veteran to be told that, when it came to war, he (and it is nearly always 'he') could never bring himself to speak about it?

Sally's memorial is to someone whose life was dedicated to the wellbeing of those who were in need of healing. The circumstances of end of her life take nothing away from that. Like any other memorial, hers also has a dark side. It is a reminder of what can happen when people are left to carry loads which they cannot bear. It also carries the message that, as a community, we should look after our health practitioners better than we do. While Sally died in a tragic manner, in different ways, we have lost three other doctors in the last few years through overwork. To be a doctor in this community often means having to negotiate near-impossible circumstances in order to function properly.

I don't think there is any one among us who would not want to be remembered for the best things we did. Those memorials exist in the church garden as testimony to lives given in the service of others, and to acknowledge the darkneses they went through, and for us to learn from them.

The church gardens are about Christian memory, which is about keeping alive the hope that we can find the love of God, even when we feel most lost.

AS

From the Registers

Baptism:

4 September: Lydia Ruby Byrne,
Amelie Louise Elizabeth Harris

Wedding:

24th September: Ms. Anne Irene Grimwood
to Mr. Mark Jason Dawson

Funeral:

12 September: Barbara Gertrude Jones, 91
(Parndon Wood)

Shalom got off to a great start in September with our Day Retreat at Clare Priory, celebration meal, and our 20th Anniversary Service. Then followed an excellent evening presented by Dr Jane Freeman, giving us an insight into her experiences leading a congregation in the multicultural context of East Ham. Swift on her heels, in October, Dr Leo Cheng was able to describe first-hand his involvement with the Christian charity Mercy Ships. Leo conducted operations for facial surgery on board a hospital ship anchored off the West African coast and is getting ready for a second session in January.

The highlights for me were:

- The powerful faith of Leo himself and his vision of God's mission for him.
- The fact that a six year old captain's daughter was able to minister to a patient who had already set his mind on suicide and to save him from despair, just by reading to him and being with him.
- The words of the African gynaecological surgeon "If you have a problem where does your problem fit into eternity?"

Just a few pearls in an evening of constant insight, delight and encouragement. Please remember you are always welcome to join us. Our evenings are open to all.

Alan Wheeler

Please note that the venue for our November meetings has been changed to 7 Blythwood Gardens. Meetings start at 8.00pm and all are most welcome.

On Monday 7th November Sue Bree will talk about the Samaritan's Purse Charity, which not only distributes the Christmas Shoe Boxes, but does valuable work with children in many parts of the world all the year round

On Monday 21st November Marion Dyer will lead a bible study and discussion.

Catherine Dean

HELPLINE

STANSTED'S COMMUNITY CARE SCHEME

Transport Volunteers Required

Would you be prepared to offer your services to provide transport for the elderly/less abled members of our community on a totally flexible basis? If so, we would love to hear from you.

There is no ongoing commitment involved – if you sign up as a volunteer, we may contact you as and when a request for transport is received and, if you are unable, or do not wish to take the task on, you simply say so and we approach another volunteer. The transport requests generally relate to journeys within the village, e.g. doctors' surgery, chiropodists, etc. or for shopping or trips to hospital, etc. Reimbursements for petrol are provided.

Obviously, the more volunteers we have, the easier it is to fulfill the requests for help and to spread the tasks amongst more people.

If you would like to become a Helpline volunteer or require any further information, please contact me on 814562 or Yvonne Ayres on 814706.

Francine Cope, Chairman



An AGM with a Difference

On Tuesday evening, 11th October, we assembled in the URC Hall and for 1½ hours were immersed in 12 of the main world religions. It sounds daunting but the time flew by. We were playing the DIVERSITY GAME – an interfaith game invented by Cynthia Capey, a Suffolk Interfaith Officer. She worked it all out while in hospital following a broken leg climbing up to Jericho! She uses the game with nurses, police groups and social workers to create more understanding of the different religious cultures.

Each player represents a religion and, helped with a card and pictures of the practices and tenets of that faith, answers questions (or asks them) when the dice is thrown in turn and a counter lands on your square. We learned that Zoroastrianism is the oldest religion and Bahai the youngest. We found out about the Buddhist symbol of the eightfold way; the Taoist symbol representing the balance of opposites – light/dark, male/female, etc. and all the other different symbols. Paganism is from the word ‘peasant’ and it is not any kind of satanic cult. We now know that Jews cannot hold a service unless there are ten people – the stricter synagogues say it has to be ten **men**. Sikhs, Hindus, Moslems and Christians all took their turn.



Cynthia Capey, aided by her husband, led us with warmth and humour. Although our practices are all so different there is a searching for the spiritual that is common to all. That broken leg in Jericho was inspirational.

Katharine Hurford

The AGM was held after the game, during which the following were elected: Chair: David Morson (RC), Vice-Chair: Betty Francis (URC), Treasurer: Alan Wheeler (URC), Secretary: Virginia Marshall (Friends). The chair presented his report, summarising the various activities throughout the year: production of the Christmas and Easter leaflets, which were delivered to every house in the village; carol-singing around the village and the Celebration of Christmas, which raised money for the Alzheimer’s Society; a series of discussion groups for Lent, focusing on trade and justice; a visit from our Chevetogne friends, with whom we had a very

enjoyable time at Melford Hall; and a very successful Christian Aid Week, which raised over £2,000. Reports were then presented from the various committees which are part of Churches Together: Helpline, Link, and Regular Aid for the Poor (RAP). Sincere thanks were expressed to the many people who are involved in any way with the activities of Churches Together.

David Morson, Chair

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

It was a great pleasure to hear Marj Carter at the Harvest Service at St John’s and afterwards to hear about her recent visit to Peru visiting Christian Aid partners. Marj showed us photos of mining operations, which are desecrating the countryside, polluting watercourses and poisoning animals. Christian Aid partners are encouraging those living in such areas to find alternative means of making a living, so that they are not dependent on work at the mines, which one day will be worked out and closed.

The fund-raising evening at St John’s Church with Benny and the Jetts was greatly enjoyed by all who attended, and raised over £500 for Christian Aid. Thanks to Andrew Spurr for organising this.

A **can of worms** and a stethoscope are probably not top of most people’s Christmas wish list. They can however make a huge difference to the lives of those less fortunate than us. So instead of sending cards to those you see regularly, why not buy something from **Present Aid** on their behalf? Or for the person who has everything and you don’t know what to get them this year? These gifts start at £7 up to hundreds of pounds. I have details for anyone interested.

Catherine Dean 813579



Huw Johnson Club

Our bowling evening went with a swing and we say thank you to all the staff at the Bishop’s Stortford Bowling Alley for making us so welcome. Martin was thrilled to hear them play ‘Happy Birthday’ to him and Andrew was very happy when he scored four strikes.

Now we have to get down to some hard work as our Christmas Concert looms ever nearer. Please put the date in your diary – **Friday 9th December at St Mary’s School**. Doors open at 7.00pm with mince pies and a glass of wine available at the interval. You will certainly have an entertaining evening.

We still desperately need another driver and two more drivers would be perfect. We ask you to drive either to bring members in to Stansted by 7.00pm or return members to Saffron Walden at 9.00pm and usually this happens once a month. If you are a bit apprehensive about joining us why not come along and chat with me, as we may be able to reassure you that none of our members bite!

Marion Johnson



Village Fireworks & Bonfire

Elms Farm - entry by Archway Cottage
(park in Lower Street car park)

Sat 5th November

- 6.30 pm Gates open
- 7.00 pm Bonfire lit
- 7.30 pm Fireworks

Wear wellies if wet!

Adults £3, Children £1 - pay on gate

Refreshments Available



Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

7 pm onwards Tue 8th Nov
URC Lecture Hall

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

For more information please tel 812593 or see URC article



All welcome

St Mary's School PTF A

For the 4th year running ...

XMAS SHOPPING EVENING

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VILLAGE EVENTS

November

1	Tue	Disco	St Mary's School 5 - 7 pm
2	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Thu	Bookstart	Library 2.15 - 3 pm
		Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Sat	Village Fireworks	Elms Farm from 6.30 pm
6	Sun	Afternoon Tea (after service)	United Reformed Ch 3.30 - 5 pm
7	Mon	Shalom Group (change of venue)	7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
8	Tue	Shoobox Evening	U R Church Hall from 7 pm
		Conservative Meeting	Parish Council Offices 8 pm
10	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
		Shopping Evening	St Mary's School 7.30 - 9.30 pm
		Cons Constituency Dinner	Radisson Hotel 7 pm
11	Fri	Lib Dem Constituency Dinner	Dunmow Day Centre 7.30 pm
12	Sat	Lib Dem AGM & Ploughmans	Day Centre 11.30 am - 2 pm
		Scouts' Barn Dance	Takeley Village Hall 7.30 pm
12 Sat / 13	Sun	Green waste, metal & wood	Lower Street car park 9 am - 3 pm
13	Sun	Act of Remembrance	Memorial Garden 10.45 am
16	Wed	Ugley WI	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
		Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
19	Sat	Quiz Night	St Theresa's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
20	Sun	Craft & Christmas Fayre	Mountfitchet School 10 am - 4 pm
21	Mon	Shalom Group (change of venue)	7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
25	Fri	M P's Interview	Parish Coun Offices 5.45 - 6.30 pm
26	Sat	Christmas Market	St John's Hall 1 - 4 pm
		Advent Concert	St Mary's Ch, Manuden 7.30 pm
26 Sat / 27	Sun	Green waste, metal & wood	Lower Street car park 9 am - 3 pm

December

1	Thu	Bookstart	Library 2.15 - 3 pm
		Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Sat	Christmas Fair	Bentfield School 2 pm
		Music Quiz with 'Charity'	U R C Hall 7.00 for 7.30 pm
4	Sun	Village Music Club	St John's Church 3 pm
		Afternoon Tea (after service)	United Reformed Ch 3.30 - 5 pm
7	Wed	Garden Club Quiz & Party	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Fri	Huw Johnson Carol Concert	St Mary's School 7.30 pm
		Conservative Supper	Day Centre 7.30 pm
10	Sat	Lib Dem Ploughmans	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
16	Fri	Christmas Fair	St Mary's School 3.15 - 6 pm



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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7 pm Friday 9th December

St Mary's School

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MORGAN SZYMANSKI

Guitar

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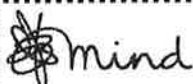
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Tenth Anniversary season! www.villagemusicclub.co.uk

The club's second concert in this, its tenth season, will take place in St John's Church at 3.00pm on Sunday 4th December and will feature the young international guitarist, Morgan Szymanski. Born in Mexico City in 1979, Morgan studied at the Royal College of Music and the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, graduating in 2004 with first class honours. Over the last year he has given recitals and appeared as a concerto soloist at the Wigmore Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall and Bridgewater Hall – also recitals at the Bath, Lake District and Cheltenham International Festivals. Future engagements include return visits to the Wigmore and Bridgewater Halls and concerts in Milan and Mexico.



Commenting after one of Morgan's Wigmore Hall recitals the Evening Standard said, "To judge from the whoops and whistles that greeted him Morgan Szymanski already has a fan club. He made light of Alberto Ginastera's 1976 Sonata, an enjoyable period piece, demanding a virtual anthology of extended techniques... In Carlo Domeniconi's Koyunbaba, the density of sound was as near to symphonic as the unamplified guitar gets..." This is high praise indeed and we are looking forward to this very talented young man's visit.

The concert programme will include works by Tarrega, Albeniz, Manuel M Ponce and a new work by Alec Roth. Tickets for the concert are £10, children £3, and children of members £1, available from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Options, Elsenham; Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill (815282) or at the door.

As indicated in last month's Link, January 2006 will be the 10th Anniversary of the Club's inauguration and we shall be making the occasion of Bernard Roberts' visit on the afternoon of Sunday 29th January somewhat special! Some may recall that Bernard has been to the Club before and his playing and interpretation is an absolute delight to the ear. At 4.00pm on the previous day, Saturday 28th January, Bernard will be holding a Piano Masterclass for invited young piano

students. To watch the master at work putting pupils through their paces is quite an education, and exciting to see.

The fourth and final concert of the season will be at 7.30pm on Saturday 25th March 2006 and will feature The Coull String Quartet.

Alan Corbishley

St. Mary's CE Foundation Primary School



Wendy Wood wrote last month about the school following the Ofsted inspection and their findings that the "school has made a good degree of improvement". In addition to that inspection we have also been inspected by the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education as to the provision of religious education and worship within the school. We received the following commendations:

The school community lives up to its mission statement. Pupils live and work in a supportive, caring environment underpinned by Christian values. Pupils feel genuinely valued and respected. Children are very positive about the school and show confidence in the staff. There is a real consciousness among pupils, staff and governors that St Mary's is a Church School and as such has a distinctive character, which benefits the whole community. The leadership provided by the Headteacher makes a significant contribution to the church school distinctiveness of St. Mary's. The displays around the school are challenging and thought provoking. The school takes Religious Education seriously and this contributes to its Christian distinctiveness.

The Rector regularly visits the school and is involved in the assemblies. Recently he has also been teaching. Two of the School Governors are members of the Parochial Church Council, namely Lyn Hillier and myself. Other governors are: Roy Pinner, Roland Pelly, Rosemary Minshull, John Pashley, David South, Vicki Bryce, Sandra Wood, Andrew Arnold, Lorraine Curtis, Amanda Atkinson, Jane Witton and Wendy Wood (Headteacher). About once a year the school is visited by a member of the Diocesan Board of Education. The school is encouraged to use the Church whenever an occasion arises. The regular occasions are at Easter, the Good Friday project, in July when the Leavers have their last service, at Harvest-time and at Christmas. On Education Sunday the school takes part in the regular Sunday service and the pupils in Year 3 are each presented with a Bible, which they take with them when they leave the school. Afterwards the congregation are invited into the school for coffee and a look round. The Harvest service was different this year. Instead of bringing vegetables and other foods to the service for distribution to needy people afterwards it was decided to contribute money towards buying a goat to help feed and clothe the poor families in Africa. As a result of the service and subsequent gifts the school will be able to buy a little herd of 10 goats. However, the subscription list is still open so the herd may increase!

Nigel Holland
School Governor

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VETERINARY HOMEOPATHY

This month I'd like to share with you the story of Dennis. Dennis is a skewbald horse belonging to a local lady and he had a cough. He had a cough for five years and had extensive treatment from his vet including antibiotics, steroids and the horse version of an asthma inhaler. His cough was so bad that his owner couldn't ride him. Whatever treatment he had worked temporarily; however the cough never went completely and always returned at the end of the course of treatment. I saw Dennis over five years ago and gave him three small white tablets to be taken once daily for three days. The cough disappeared! The cough returned slightly three weeks later and we repeated the course of treatment. The cough went completely and has not reappeared to this day. Dennis now enjoys a full and active life. "What were those pills" I can hear you all say, and "can I have some!" The answer is Lycopodium, a homeopathic remedy. This isn't a story designed to show how clever I am (I'm not, believe me!); nor is it a story aimed at criticising conventional veterinary treatment (I use it every day, and countless animals are alive and well thanks to it) - it is just a story to show how well complementary therapies can work if used correctly. Not all animals respond as spectacularly as Dennis, but most animals respond to a certain extent. Some animals respond well enough to come off conventional medication; some respond enough that their conventional drugs can be reduced. Some animals have to stay on their routine medication, but their owners report that they seem happier, or have more energy or a better appetite. The effects of homeopathy are wide ranging.

There has been a lot of controversy about homeopathy over the years, and I must admit when I first became interested in it, I was more than a little sceptical. However I have now been using it for 15 years and the results speak for themselves. As one of my colleagues said, "If you know that something works, why wait for someone to prove it".

Homeopathy is essentially a system of natural healing. Remedies are medicines derived from plants, animals or mineral substances and they help stimulate the body's natural forces of recovery. Homeopathy also treats the individual person or animal not the disease. So an initial homeopathic consultation takes about an hour, as you need to find out as much information as possible about the patient. I usually forewarn people that I may ask them some pretty weird questions! You do however get to find out some very interesting things that you don't normally have time for in a conventional consultation - like Millie the Jack Russell who used to love gardening. Every time her owner planted some new plants, Millie would dig them up and put them in a neat pile by the back door! There was also Fred the crossbreed who liked to sing along with the Corrie theme tune, and Meg the collie who used to bury her owner's knickers in the garden!

Homeopathy can be used to treat most things. There are, of course, exceptions. If you had a broken leg, the fracture must first be stabilised by conventional orthopaedic surgery; however, homeopathic remedies could also be used to reduce bruising, pain and swelling and to speed up fracture healing. I have found homeopathy to be of particular use in cases where conventional medicine has little to offer, such as fears and phobias and behavioural problems. For example, urine

spraying by cats, travel sickness, separation anxiety, fear of thunderstorms and, appropriately for this month, fear of fireworks.

I am one of only about 50 vets in the UK who hold the Diploma in Veterinary Homeopathy and I offer a referral service for new and existing clients. If you are interested, please ring the surgery for more details.

This month we also have a new information leaflet about fireworks and tips for how to manage pets that have a firework phobia. Sally and the nurses will be able to give you advice about herbal and homeopathic products that are available and also a dog pheromone spray or diffuser that reduces canine anxiety. Sounds like that might be a good idea for everyone!

Ilse Pedler, Partner
Mercer & Hughes, Veterinary Surgeons



ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Now that the summer is over, it's business as usual at the County Council and work is under way on a number of initiatives to improve the lives of people in Essex.

One of the most exciting new developments is the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF), which is being administered by the new portfolio of Localism. This might all sound a bit silly but it is intended that the needs and wishes of local communities are recognised and assisted with something which really generates action - money.

In the first year of this initiative, a sum of £150,000 has been made available for each of the districts in Essex and the intention is that parishes, districts and other bodies bid for a share of this to kick start those projects which otherwise would remain on the shelf. These projects could be something as simple as new curtains for a village hall to ambitious schemes that really make a difference to local areas. The only thing that will determine the success of a bid is its benefit to the community, and most importantly it will be judged and approved by local people.

Other News

Children's use of the libraries within Essex has been boosted with several schemes this summer. They include 'Voyage Across Essex' and 'Book Crawl' and both of these initiatives have been successful in getting young people to join the libraries and read and enjoy books.

Improvements in transport have also been recognised with Essex & Suffolk Community Rail Partnership being awarded a prestigious prize, whilst Essex has also been short listed for the 'Bus Oscars'.

This will be a good year for Essex!

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STAR Award

It is not often that colleges get the opportunity to give credit to their hard working staff, so North & West (as we are known) was delighted when one of its staff, Nola Marshall, was nominated for a prestigious STAR award. These awards recognise and reward the work of the unsung heroes who have made an outstanding contribution to the quality of learning that millions of people in England receive every day. From thousands of entries, an independent judging panel of sector experts whittled the nominations down to a short list of just over 150 nominees across 16 prize categories.

Nola was nominated in the 'E-Learning Tutor of the Year' category, because of her outstanding use of e-learning in her teaching of French, developing PowerPoint presentations and a specially created web page, and has encouraged and supported other tutors to adopt the same methods for teaching Spanish. In addition, she has promoted e-learning throughout all areas of teaching and recently hosted a training session for 40 staff across the nine Adult & Community Colleges in Essex. Nola was runner up in her category, and was awarded Highly Commended at the glittering awards ceremony in London. Well done Nola!

Marion Dyer, Education Advisor

On 26th September we met at 105 Cambridge Road together with members of the Royal British Legion for our last meeting in 2005. Our speaker was Major Geoffrey Lloyd, Chairman of the Ghurkha Welfare Trust, who now lives in Stoke-by-Clare. Major Lloyd told us that he spent 16 years with the Ghurkhas. His last posting was in Nepal which he left 40 years ago. However, he still returns at regular intervals and will shortly be making a trip to India and Pakistan.

The Ghurkhas originate from Nepal and take their name from a ruling prince who conquered the whole of Nepal years ago. They have served with distinction in all kinds of campaigns and in the 1939-45 War they fought as part of the Indian Army in Iraq, Egypt and Sicily, but mainly in Burma. Since there was absolutely no form of 'Welfare State' in Nepal, most Ghurkhas were destitute; but the Canadians donated funds to set up a Welfare Trust, managed by ex-soldiers, which has provided water supplies, built bridges and schools and set up computerised medical centres, etc.

We then enjoyed a delicious tea provided by Janet; drew tickets from a generous raffle; and finally, amid much hilarity, Gill Reeve acted as auctioneer for our Harvest Sale.

Pat Clower

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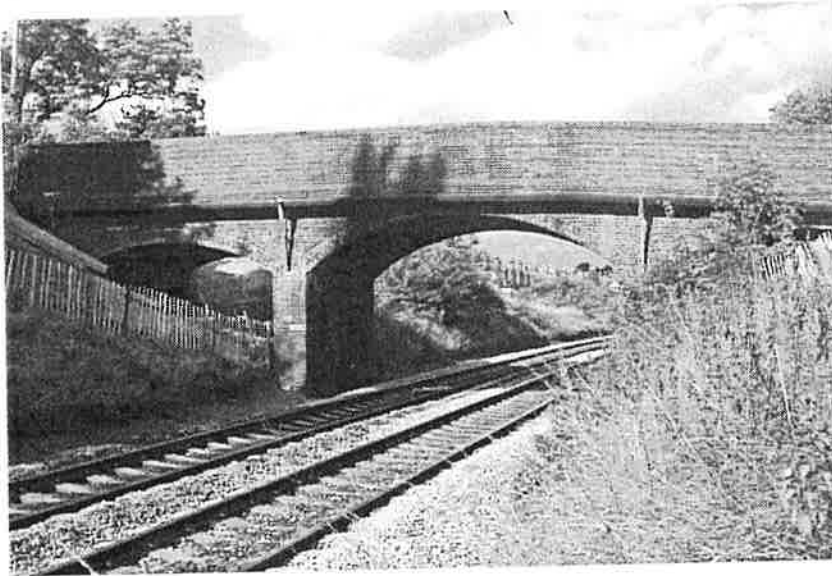
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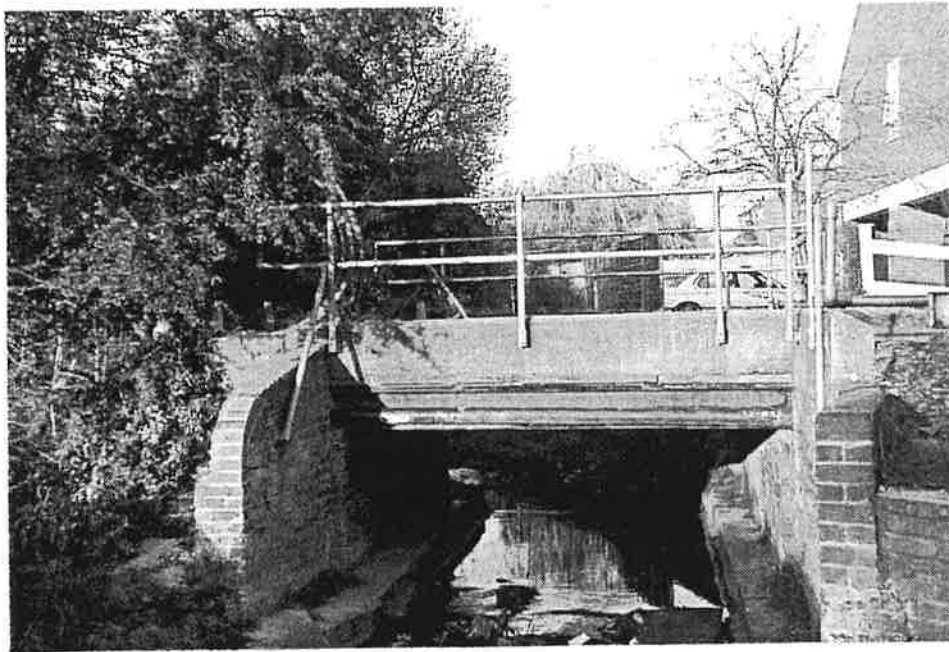
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GRIPPERS CONTINUED

Last month's item has stimulated responses from our readers. Vera Wyatt from Sunnyside remembers Grippers as 'the Bunny Walk' because of the numerous rabbits which thrived there. It was and remains a popular place for blackberries. She also remembers the coal trucks which ascended on the trackway to feed Rochfords glasshouses. Mrs Ward who formerly lived in the shop later known as 'Ruth's Stores' recounts how the Misses Spencer from The Mount kept a small herd of Jersey cows there which were tended by a Mr Pigram. This of course answers the question as to whether it was grazed in the past. Much of Grippers is now covered in scrub, mainly nettle, bramble and blackthorn, which is continuing to encroach on the remaining open grass. Perhaps we need some goats to turn the tide! However, there are several horses which eke out a frugal existence between the brook and the railway so keeping this part clear. In a season conspicuous for less bird life in many local areas it was encouraging during a recent walk to put up several finches, tits and at least one wren.



The adjacent railway bridge as it was before electrification in the mid-80s



The bridge over Stansted Brook - very much a budget structure with its functional but inelegant guard rails. The stream is now considerably more silted than when the photograph was taken.

We are grateful for these records of the past and present so please keep them coming in.

The Editor



Nature Notes

See! From the brake the whirring pheasant springs,
And mounts exultant on triumphant wings;
Short is his joy; he feels the fiery wound,
Flutters in blood, and panting beats the ground.

(Alexander Pope)

We were out early the other Sunday and, driving round the bends near Audley End, came upon about a dozen pheasants in the road, not pecking at anything, just milling about. This seemed unusual behaviour, even for such dim-witted birds. Then the penny dropped: it was 2nd October - the shooting season had started the day before and these pheasants had survived the shoot only to be reduced further in numbers by passing cars. The reason that they were in the road was probably because they were waiting to be fed. Different shoots may operate in different ways, but often the birds are purchased fully fledged from a hatchery and then kept in pens in a spinney convenient for the shoot where food is delivered by an off-road vehicle of some sort. Hence they would associate the sound of motor vehicles with breakfast.

I am not anti country sports but I feel that the behaviour of modern shoots does not always endear people to their cause. For example, last year there was a pheasant shoot in the field which used to be the racecourse by the footpath which follows the River Stort from Gipsy Lane to Michael's Road towards Bishop's Stortford. The birds were presumably released and shooed out of a little spinney towards the line of guns down by the path. This area is bounded on all sides by roads, railway line, and the massive concrete bridge carrying the A120 over the river. Hardly a truly rural atmosphere and potentially disturbing for pedestrians and nearby residents. Also, there have been reports of dead birds being dumped en masse because supply outstrips local demand; but recently friends living in Suffolk told me that on their local estate, birds which have been shot are not even retrieved and just left where they fall. The Parish Council had to deal with complaints that this practice was attracting vermin.

These sort of goings on are a far cry from the way things were run in Pope's time, and, indeed, over a century later in John Wilkins' time. This latter gentleman moved to Stansted during the Victorian era to take up the post of head gamekeeper to Mr Fuller-Maitland at Stansted Hall. He lived here for many years and it must have been during his retirement that he wrote his autobiography. This is a fascinating and detailed account of the gamekeeper's work rearing and protecting birds and his constant battle with poachers. The most effective way to deal with the latter was to kill their dogs, which put them out of commission until they could acquire and train a fresh animal. He was a forthright man and does not hesitate to name those locals with whom he had run-ins, some of whose descendants are living in Stansted to this day. His hut was in Durrells Wood, possibly where one used to be able to see vestiges of a track and cottage garden flowers

growing among the trees. The airport rail link now runs through that bit of the wood. The 'Autobiography of an English Gamekeeper' by John Wilkins can be obtained through the library and is well worth reading.

Felix



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Mike Thurlow made a welcome return visit to talk about the Kitchen Garden at Audley End and its restoration through the eyes of William Cresswell, whose diary of his days at Audley End has come into the ownership of English Heritage. He came to Audley End in 1874 as an improver gardener when he was 22 years old, single and lived with other single gardeners in a bothy. He would have been employed taking thousands of cuttings which were then used rather than seeds, and most of his nine to ten hour day would have been spent under glass. Another job would have been bird scaring which went on all day.

At that time, as today, the garden was divided into kitchen garden and pleasure garden. Fruit and vegetables were grown under glass to maintain a long season, but as soon as outdoor vegetables were ripe the indoor vegetables were pulled up. We were shown slides of the glasshouse and garden as they were, and they are being gradually restored, with old types of crops being reintroduced. This year the first grapes were cut.

William came to Audley End in March 1874 but unfortunately did not fit in the gardens and in September the same year he was dismissed. Even though his stay was short the legacy of his diary has outlived most others in the garden at that time. It is believed that he went to a garden in Surrey where, having married, he became a foreman gardener and also clerk to the local parish council.

After this very interesting talk, the Chairman presented the trophies and prizes won at the Autumn Show. The Mumford Cup, Hoffman Vase, The Hart Rose Bowl and The Pimblett Tankards were all won by Cyril Stoneham. Mrs Monaghan won the Mitchell Cup for the highest points in the Domestic Section, and Mrs Barrett won the Fruit Cup and the Best Entry in the Photographic Section. The Ernie Morton Cup was won by Mrs Bowles and Brian Townsend won the RHS Banksian Medal. The competition - three cooking apples - was won by Miss Tame.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd November in the Day Centre at 8.00pm. Visitors are welcome. Mr B W Yettes will speak on 'Well Dressing in Derbyshire'. The competition will be 'A Garden Photograph'.

Sally Stockman

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Stansted Tennis Club



Club Finals Day

It was a very special Club finals day, this year, as we marked 50 years since the first Men's and Ladies' Singles trophies were played for. The committee had tracked down a lot of previous winners and invited them to attend finals day. Quite a few came along on the day to watch the tennis and pose for photographs in the line up of past champions. Among them were Pat Clower, who won in 1957 and Alan Chapman (1961).

2005 Results:

Ladies' Singles: Sandra Ayres beat Nikki Penderis 6-4 6-4
Men's Singles: Richard Johnson beat Martyn Taplin 7-5 6-3
Ladies' Doubles: Daphne Carter & Nikki Penderis beat Sandra Ayres & Sue Sebley 6-7 (0-7) 6-2 6-2
Men's Doubles: John Bitten & Martyn Taplin beat Howard Buckley & Richard Mott 6-1 6-3
Mixed Doubles: Chris Hollis & Nikki Taplin beat Howard Buckley & Nikki Penderis 6-4 6-4

The trophies were presented by club chairman, Richard Shervington and a successful barbecue was held afterwards.

Junior American Doubles Results

The Pat Clower American Junior Doubles trophy for Years 8-11 took place on 18th September. There were 13 entrants, who were split into two round robin groups, playing four rounds with different partners. According to their position within each group, players were then seeded for the knockout round. All matches were now the best of nine games.

Semi-finals: Fred Kirby (15) & Joshua Wesley (14) beat Charlotte Bitten (14) and Philip Bitten (12) 5-3.
Charlie Kirby (13) & Ben Taplin (13) beat Brad Armorgie & Katherine Langridge 5-3
Final: Fred Kirby & Joshua Wesley beat Charlie Kirby & Ben Taplin 5-2

The same format was used for the Year 7 and under Junior American Tournament, which was held on 9th October.
Semi-finals: Joe Hollis (11) & Alex Lupton (11) beat Richard Berry (10) & Lawrence Hogg (10) 5-0
Henry Kirby (10) & Thomas Taplin (10) beat Gemma Armorgie (11) & Jack Willson (10) 5-0.
Final: Joe Hollis & Alex Lupton beat Henry Kirby & Thomas Taplin 5-2

Congratulations to Alex Lupton, who won the Clavering Under 12 Boys' Singles and also to Ruby Hollis, who won the Under 18 Girls' Singles. Stansted was well represented in all events. Congratulations also to Martyn Taplin for reaching the Hospital Cup Men's Singles Final, where he had to concede towards the end of the match, having had a bad fall. Daphne Carter & Nikki Penderis reached the final of the Ladies' Doubles and put up a brave fight, losing in three sets. All titles this year were won by The Grove (Saffron Walden).

Floodlights

The club is now in a position to install the floodlights, which will greatly increase opportunities for extended playing and coaching. This will happen over the next few weeks, when the courts will be out of action. If the weather remains dry, it is hoped that the courts will be repainted straight after, although this may have to wait until next spring.

Coaching

Please contact either Chris Hollis on 01279 319155 or Martyn Taplin on 01279 816386 if you are interested in joining any of the many group sessions which take place at the club. Once the floodlights are up and running, a new timetable of playing and coaching times will be drawn up.

Farewell!

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Fran Cayless at the end of August. Fran had served for many years on the committee, organising tournaments, arranging matches for the Ladies' 2nd team and playing regularly at all club sessions. She will be greatly missed and we wish her and her husband Mick all the best for their future life up in Nottinghamshire.

Tennis balls for sale

These can be purchased at the knockdown price of £1 for a tube of four balls. Please call at 105 Cambridge Road to see Janet Hollis.

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

Chris Hollis

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Diary Events

8th November at 8.00pm
Branch Meeting in Parish Council Offices.

10th November at 7.00pm for 8.00pm
Constituency Dinner with special guest William Hague at the Radisson Hotel, Stansted Airport.

18th November at 8.00pm
Drinks at The Rose and Crown, Bentfield Green.

25th November from 5.45-6.30pm
MP's interview at Stansted Parish Council Office.

9th December at 7.30pm
Christmas Supper Evening at the Day Centre, Stansted.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of the above events. For tickets or more information, please contact Bridget Gott (814440) or Joan Summers (814 854).

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UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

At the end of September, the Council organised what I hope will prove to have been a useful open consultation exercise around the green at the Mountfitchet Estate. A lot of people of all ages came along to chat to councillors and council officers about their ideas for improving the area as a good place to live. Too often we expect people to come to the council with their ideas. This was an example of taking the council out to the people who live in Stansted and often know best what needs to be improved.

Lots of ideas were put forward about improving road safety, making the children's play area safer and more attractive, about dealing with scruffy grass verges and about creating a shelter for young people to escape the rain. What was also encouraging was that our young people said they wanted to help raise money to pay for some of the proposals rather than simply expect the taxpayer to pay. The council is still digesting the suggestions and when it has done this there will be feedback to residents on what can be done and, if necessary, what can't be done – and why.

There is no fresh news this month about the post office. I expect there will be news on this by December or January, by which time there should be something to report about the other long-awaited project – a new doctors' surgery and health centre.

Did you know that Uttlesford residents have not been doing too well at reducing their consumption of household energy? We have managed a 7% reduction in the nine years since 1996. The chances of achieving the 30% target by 2010 are very slim indeed. The council is embarking on a programme to inform us and help us all to do much better. The effects of energy use on global warming are increasingly understood. Conservative and Liberal Democrat MPs in Parliament agreed in October to work together to tackle climate change. The big, uncertain question is what is each of us going to do about it? There is little doubt that energy costs are going to soar in future, so there will be financial as well as environmental benefits in using less.

Councillor Alan Dean

Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk Tel: 01279 813 579

Airport Consultation

I attended recently the launch of BAA's consultation on making full use of the existing runway. Full use would mean approximately 35 million passengers per annum as opposed to the present 21 million. On average, currently there are 32 flights an hour; full use would take this up to 45 an hour. The busiest times are at 11.00am and 6.00pm. Employment at the airport is projected to grow from 10,000 now to 16,000 by 2015. Currently 2519 residents of Uttlesford are employed at the airport. Full use of the runway would mean air noise would affect more people than today. It is not clear what the health impacts of more flights would be. That is why a Health Impact Assessment has been commissioned by Essex Strategic Health Authority.

There are severe implications for the infrastructure of the district. The first would be a direct link from the southbound slip-road of the M11, Junction 8 to the A120. There would also be:

- A direct link from the eastbound slip-road of the A120/M11 to the Priory Wood roundabout.
- Additional on-site car parking
- More rail traffic

Certain permissions to extend have already been given when Uttlesford's Development Control Committee gave consent to raise the passenger limits from 15 million per annum to the present 25 million per annum. These include extension of the present terminal building, additional apron space and additional car parking spaces. The Council is expecting a planning application from BAA for full use of the runway early next year.

Waste Postscript

The Council has decided to provide directly the refuse collection service when the existing contract with a private contractor ends next year. This will not only allow us to have more control over the service but should also be more cost effective.

Councillor Geoffrey Sell

Tel: 01279 815925

Email: cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk



MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF

For the third successive year a coffee morning was held in the house and garden at 3 St John's Lane, the home of Gill Robinson. Coffee, tea and cakes were served and there was an extensive raffle, an auction of larger items, tombola, sale of Macmillan Christmas cards, home baking and plant stalls, and a huge amount of bric-à-brac. Despite very difficult weather more than 80 people were present and the morning raised a magnificent £956 for Macmillan Cancer Relief. This has now been topped up to £1,000 by a very kind supporter.

Many sincere thanks to those who helped, gave items, and sent donations and to all who attended.

Bareham Overy Partnership

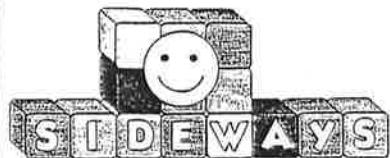
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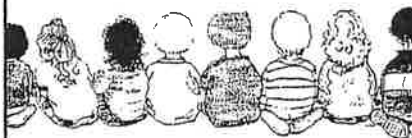
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BENTFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our year 5s and 6s had a wonderful time on their week's adventure trip to Torquay arriving home tired but happy on the Friday. Here is what they had to say:

"We went on the zip wire. We were the best group because we got three goes!"
"We had archery. It was brilliant – one of the best so far."
"Today was sad and good. It was sad because we had to leave but happy because we got to go rock pooling!"
"That night we did campfire and sung lots of weird songs"
"When I saw my room I was happy until I HAD TO MAKE THE BED!"
"Abseiling was scary at first but after three goes it wasn't scary at all."
"I really enjoyed staying at the centre and all the activities and would love to do it again!"
I'm sure that was a sentiment shared by all the children. We must give a big "thank you" to the parents who came with us.

Back at school, we welcomed Rev'd Andrew Spurr to our Harvest Festival, where a large collection of food items was made for the Whitechapel Mission. Class 6 spent an interesting day in Bishop's Stortford investigating the River Stort as part of their work on rivers.

Our school offers both a Breakfast Club (from 7.45am), and an After School Kids Club (until 6.00pm). We also have our wonderful Messy Play. This is great fun, and runs in the Nursery on Mondays from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. 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 2006, and would like to visit the school, please give us a ring and we would be very pleased to arrange one for you.

Meanwhile, the PTA has also been very busy organising fundraising events for the children and their parents and friends. On Tuesday 4th October we held a very enjoyable Cheese and Wine evening/AGM in school. Several Reception parents came along and we are very pleased to welcome them onto the new committee. By the time you are reading this, Rebecca Carter will have entertained and challenged us all with another of her legendary Music Quiz nights, and the children will have shown off their best moves on the dance floor at the School Disco!

This Half Term sees two of our most popular events for all the family, the Sparkler Party and the traditional Christmas Fair. The first event is our annual Sparkler Party this coming Friday 4th November, from 6.30-8.00pm. As well as sparklers for the children, there will be many of the old favourites including Apple Bobbing, Donut Munching, Bat the Rat, Glowsticks and truly revolting Dare Boxes for the very brave! Not to mention hot dogs and delicious homemade soup to keep us all warm!

Preparations are well underway for this year's Christmas Fair on the afternoon of Saturday 3rd December – and, looking way ahead to next summer, Music in the Park has already been booked for Saturday 15th July 2006!

Ali Thompson, PTA



BLISS Premature Baby Charity Tea Party

Our tea party was a great success, raising £700. We – that is Lynne and David Cropper, the Baker family, and Audrey Rodgers – are so grateful for such generosity from so many people. Several local companies and friends responded with gifts, prizes for the raffle, and donations. All the cakes were baked and donated by our friends, but we could not have achieved such a happy afternoon without the efforts of the 'scone butterers', plus the sandwich and tea makers. Embroidered table cloths came out of storage and together with the delightful fresh flowers on every table, the Day Centre certainly had a party feel to greet the sixty-odd guests who attended. James Baker – the premature baby who inspired the event – was a very special guest – a great credit to the neo-natal units who so badly need our donations. He was certainly on his best behaviour for his photograph taken with Dr Judith Richardson - he even stopped crying!

Audrey Rodgers



STANSTED & DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

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

The December ploughman's will be on Saturday 10th December, 12 noon to 2.00pm, at the Stansted Day Centre. All are welcome.

The annual Constituency Dinner will be held on Friday 11th November, 7.30pm for 8.00pm, at the Dunmow Day Centre. The speaker will be Lorely Burt, MP for Solihull.

Please ring 814222 or 813432 for tickets and/or further information.



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

The Institute has been in a party mood during the last two months. Our September meeting was organised by members not on the Committee, who take over for an evening to give them a break and provide a special meeting. This they certainly did with an evening of nostalgia based on victory celebrations of the last war. The hall was decked out with union jacks, large tables spread with white cloths and more flags, and the walls decorated with wartime posters, old newspapers, wartime recipes, literature of all sorts and balloons. The speaker for the evening was Mr Keith Braybrook, Curator of Debden Airfield, who told us of its history from before the first World War, its use as a fighter plane station during the second War and up to the present day as Carver Barracks. He accompanied his talk with some very fascinating slides showing some of the famous people who had visited the station over the years.

Refreshments followed the theme with scones and jam (no spam sandwiches) and real cream, for which they must have used all their points! A fascinating wartime quiz was organised in which members had to find the answers by studying all the material supplied on the wall. This was eventually won by a visiting WI member from Great Hallingbury. We were then invited to join in a sing-song of old wartime songs for which Fran Panrucker provided the piano accompaniment; what we lacked in musical ability we made up in enthusiasm! Members had been encouraged to wear a 'victory' hat and some wonderful creations turned up - the winner being Chris Hope. I think we all went home feeling that we had been to a real 'street party', some of us being old enough to remember them from 1945.

October brought another celebration, it being the month we were formed 45 years ago in 1960. A special cake was made marking this occasion and the 90th Anniversary of the WI movement as a whole. This was cut by our President Marion Pretty, herself a founder member, helped by two former Presidents - Brenda Ryan and Peggy Honour. A glass of white wine helped us all to toast our thriving WI and to wish it and the National Federation continued success.

Our speaker for the evening was Chris Flack who works as a volunteer for the Essex Ambulance Service and travels around giving talks and keeping their essential work in the foreground. Essex Ambulance Service has a new twin-engined helicopter whose maximum flying time from anywhere in Essex is eight minutes. It is used on an average three-five times a day and each mission takes approx 45 minutes. It carries two paramedics and a patient can be on the way to a hospital only four minutes after its arrival. It is quite staggering to realise that it costs in excess of £100,000 a month to operate and yet is funded entirely by public donations. It is based at Boreham and Mr Flack said the M25, the A12 and then the M11 are their busiest call-outs. Eighty two volunteers help to run the charity and their own lottery is their biggest fundraiser. Members were able to buy souvenir pilot teddies and other souvenirs; lots of grandchildren will have helicopter teddies in their stockings this year.

Members will have the opportunity to visit backstage at the Queen's Theatre next year and to see a performance of 'Les Miserables' when our Federation is organising a special back stage tour once again. Many members have signed up for the annual trip to the Brentwood Centre for the Christmas Concert organised by the Federation and featuring the Brentwood School Band. The Christmas Dinner at the 'Cock' is again being organised for Monday 12th December, so be warned the WI will be out in force!

Next month will be our AGM when we elect or re-elect new committee members and look back over the past year. We have had quite a few new members this year and we can always promise you a good evening among friends, so come along if you haven't already.

Judy Colliver 812470



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On Wednesday, 21st September, we had a talk by Mr Paul Stevens on the 'History and Life of Romany Gypsies'. Mr Stevens is himself a Romany Gypsy and he gave us a very interesting insight of the life of his people past and present.

Just before this, on 15th September, we celebrated our 85th birthday with a hotel lunch: this was a good meal in excellent company attended by 29 of our membership of 36.

The AGM is on November 16th, followed by 'Hints and Tips on cutting down on the use of Household Chemicals'. This is as usual at Ugley Village Hall, but at the winter time of 2.00pm.

Frances Spalding

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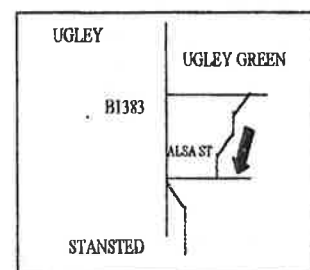
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page 1



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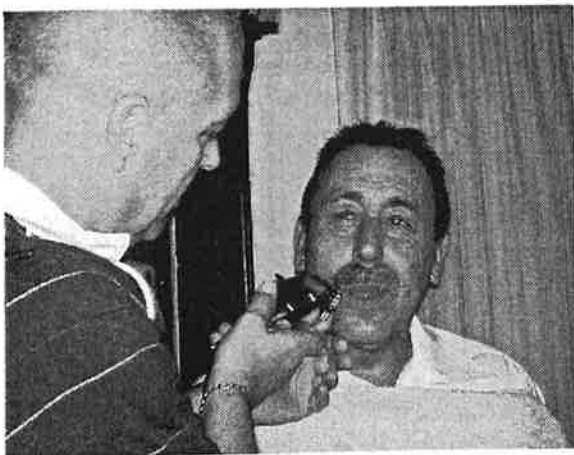
STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Here at the Kings Arms Hotel we are a family run business, who all come from the village. Therefore it was decided we would raise money for two local charities – **The Huw Johnson Club** and **Network 81**.

Back in August this year we held a sponsored bike ride from Stansted to Thaxted and back. We had ten keen competitors who were willing to take on this challenge. They set off around 9.00am with the last returning for open doors at mid-day!

This was a great experience for all who took part and by the looks on their faces they enjoyed it too!! The amount collected in sponsor money was approximately £1400. Later that evening we held a disco, buffet and raffle, with all proceeds going to our charities for this year.

Since August, our charity organiser, Sally Banks has worked extremely hard seeking donations from organisations for our main charity night event on 11th October. Sally had collected many fantastic prizes from handbags, cuddly toys, bottles of drinks, football match tickets, team signed photographs, theme park tickets together with many other excellent prizes. The evening started with an Indian 'eat as much as you like' buffet, supplied by the Bombay Butler, with the proceeds from the ticket sales going to the two charities. The main attraction of the evening seemed to be the shaving of landlord Gary's awful moustache, which many customers had taunted him about over the weeks. Many of Sally's collected prizes were picked by the raffle winners but the major prizes were auctioned. All in all this was a very successful evening with lots of money raised for our charities. We would like to thank the Bombay Butler for their great service; also a big thank you to Sally for all her hard work over the last few months and, most of all, to our customers who supported this event and helped raise all this money.



Last moments of The Moustache

The total amount raised to date from both events is **£2777**. Fundraising will continue up to Christmas with any extra money going to the Day Centre in Crafton Green for the older generation of Stansted to enjoy a great Christmas Party. All photos will be added to our website, if you fancy taking a look on www.kingsarmshotelstansted.co.uk

Stefanie Moore
Tel: 01279 812948

As I write this newsletter the outdoor bowling season has now just finished for this year. We have had a very good bowling season this year with new members joining in and taking part in competitions.

Alongside 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 evening league. The ladies held their own invitation afternoon which was very enjoyable and raised funds for the Club. A big thank you to everyone who has donated raffle prizes for our various special events; this is much appreciated.

The Club is very proud of the fact that, in July, Rosemary (Ro) Turner received her County Badge from the Essex County Women's Bowling Association. Not only is it a personal achievement for her but she is the first woman member in the history of Stansted Bowling Club to earn a badge. Well done from everyone!

We held the Club Competitions Finals Day on Saturday 3rd September. This was a lovely day with good weather and was enjoyed by all who took part and those that spectated.

The winners are as follows:

Men's Championship – Derrick Giffin
Ladies Championship – Doreen Scraggs
Brett Cup (Men) – Derrick Giffin
Ladies Challenge (2 wood) – Ann Conroy
Alcock (Men 2 wood) – Derrick Petchey
Newman Rose Bowl (mixed) – Rex Turner
Buck Cup (Men's pairs) – Roy Barnes and Doug Stephenson
Dolly Thompson (Ladies pairs) – Ro Turner and Suzanne Page
Novices – Daniel Barnes

We are hoping to carry on with our refurbishment of the Club building in time for our 'Centenary Year' 2006. Any offers of building materials etc would be greatly appreciated. We would be more than happy to advertise your company within the Club.

Anyone who came to our instruction sessions this year and did not return for any reason – please give it some thought for 2006 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.

Doreen Scraggs, Hon. Secretary
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The 2006 Community Calendar Is Here

Robert Barltrop is remarkably well suited to speak on the Cockney language – a journalist, broadcaster, author of several books and a resident of the East End all his life, he has acted as adviser to and has appeared on television in such programmes as 'The Story of English'. We were delighted, therefore, to welcome him again for his annual visit to tell us about 'The Muvver Tongue'.

Although for over a hundred years disparaging reports have been produced regarding Cockney, it has its roots in the old East Mercian dialect and was the tongue for all classes of Londoner for hundreds of years. Even now, bits of Old English are still in use and it was shown that the Cockney word 'geezer' originated in the Norman French 'guiser' (the same root as in the word 'disguise'). As people learned to write, and as there were no rules controlling spelling, they wrote as they spoke so that we can today know that many of the main characteristics of Cockney were in use then – dropped 'H's and distorted vowels, together with many uses of words. As with most dialects they appeared incomprehensible to outsiders. The old belief that a true Cockney was born within the sound of Bow Bells is a misunderstanding. Until the Industrial Revolution all the population of London lived within the City walls and the existing suburb of Bow was well outside. The saying originated with reference to the Great Bell of St Mary-le-Bow, as mentioned in the nursery rhyme 'Oranges and Lemons'!

The great change in attitude to the dialect began with the growth of London during the Industrial Revolution and the appearance of the Middle Class which adopted speech to show its position in society. In doing so, Cockney was looked down upon. At the same time, the City became less residential and Londoners moved east along the river where the work was, taking their Cockney with them. Along the way it gathered contributions from many sources as new waves of immigrants were absorbed. Mr Barltrop noted influences from Romany, Yiddish, country dialects, travelling actors and soldiers returning from abroad - and gave us many interesting and amusing examples. Rhyming slang, back slang, boxing and other sporting expressions all add to its liveliness, together with the use of unique structures of sentences such as the use of 'go' and 'get' and 'up West' instead of 'to the West End'. In fact Cockneys do not drop their 'H's so much as treat them as silent as in French or Spanish, nor say 'muvver' instead of 'mother' without reason – loss of teeth in the centuries before the NHS are thought to be the cause!

To this day, Cockney continues to grow and change like the living language it is, and as London grows into the surrounding counties its influences are still expanding. We were most grateful to Mr Barltrop for his fascinating talk and hope to see him again next year for another entertaining evening. Meanwhile, our next meeting will be on 3rd November when Wally Wright will be telling us about the 'Stort Navigation'. See you then!

Ian Seavers

The annual invasion of Ken McDonald's Stansted home began this week as 8000 copies of the 2006 Community Calendar produced in aid of Stop Stansted Expansion arrived for distribution to a team of 85 volunteer sellers throughout Herts and Essex. Now an annual fixture, the calendars serve not only as a valuable means of raising money for the Stop Stansted Expansion campaign to which all profits are donated (around £20,000 last year), but also as a powerful daily reminder of the communities, countryside and heritage threatened by expansion plans for the airport. With BAA shortly due to announce its preferred siting for a second runway, awareness of the threat will be heightened this year and greater interest than ever is expected.

The Community Calendar has become an established part of life for many people in the parts of Essex and Hertfordshire that surround Stansted Airport. It features photos of this attractive area, selected from work submitted by over 20 photographers. There is always keen interest in which towns and villages have been chosen to appear. This time they range from Ware in the west to Felsted in the east, and from Saffron Walden in the north to Harlow in the south. Other places featured are Thaxted, Bishop's Stortford, Great Hallingbury, Great Dunmow, Sawbridgeworth, Widdington, Pleshey, Stansted Mountfitchet and Great Sampford.

The calendars are on sale at just £5, the same price as the first one which appeared in 2002 when just 3000 copies were produced. The price is kept low because everyone involved with the production and sale gives their services free of charge. Since then the print run has steadily grown as demand for the 'must have' calendar has rocketed and the volunteer sales team has reached 50 people and 35 shops, garden centres, pubs and information centres. Copies of the calendar can also be ordered for UK and overseas mailing at a small extra charge. For further information and details of sales points visit www.stopstanstedexpansion.com or call the Campaign Office on 01279 870558 for details. In Stansted the calendar can be purchased from Family News, YZ Minimarket, R&K News and the Parish Council Office.

Ken McDonald, Leader of the Calendar Team,
Tel: 01279 813226
Email: Teskey@BTinternet.com

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The St. Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir with support from a revived Summer Wine sang to a full and appreciative house at the United Reformed Church on 22nd October. How many groups formed 30 years ago can come back and sound just as good!

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