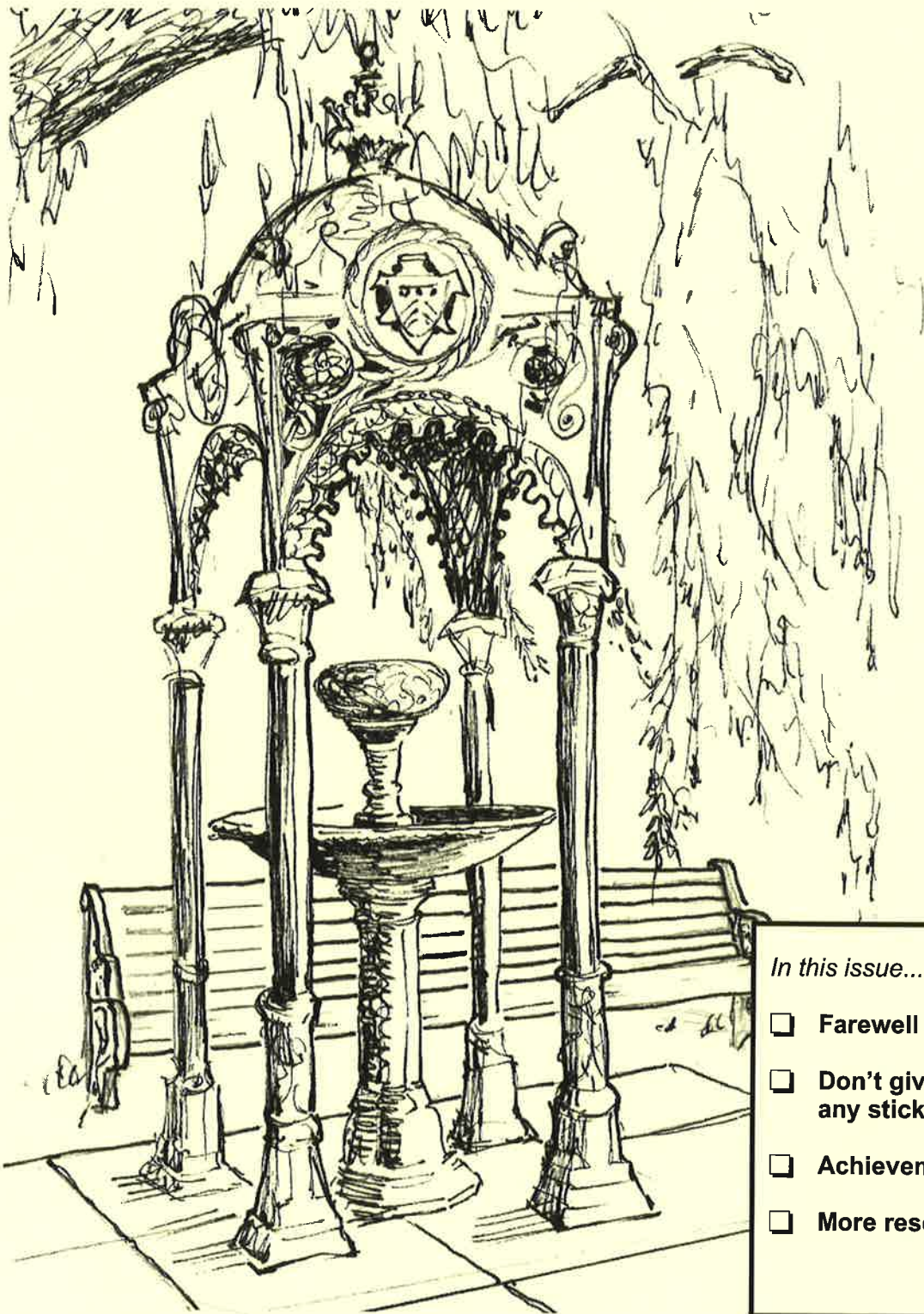


Stansted Mountfitchet

# The Link



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# EASTER SERVICES

## Churches Together in Stansted

Palm Sunday 1st April 6.30pm United Agape at Stansted Free Church Hall

### Stansted Free Church (Methodist & United Reformed)

Palm Sunday 1st April 10.30am All age worship led by the Worship Team  
2.30pm Worship led by Rev'd Keith Page  
Maundy Thursday 5th April 7.30pm Communion at Bishop's Stortford UR Church  
8.00pm Last Supper in the Jewish Tradition  
at Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church  
Good Friday 6th April 10.30am Rev'd Keith Page  
Easter Day 8th April 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch – Holy Communion

### Society of Friends (Quakers)

Palm Sunday 1st April 10.30am Meeting  
Easter Day 8th April 10.30am Meeting

### St John's (Church of England)

Palm Sunday 1st April 9.20am Procession with palms  
followed by Holy Communion  
Monday 2nd April 7.30pm Stations of the Cross and Holy Communion  
Tuesday 3rd April 7.30pm Stations of the Cross and Holy Communion  
Wednesday 4th April 7.30pm Stations of the Cross and Holy Communion  
Maundy Thursday 5th April 8.00pm Choral Holy Communion and Maundy Vigil  
Good Friday 6th April 3.00pm Good Friday Service  
Holy Saturday 7th April 6.30pm Easter Vigil  
Easter Sunday 8th April 9.30am Parish Communion

### St Theresa's (Roman Catholic)

Palm Sunday 1st April 9.00am & 10.30am Mass with palms blessed and distributed  
Tuesday 3rd April 8.00pm Penitential Service  
Maundy Thursday 5th April 8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Last Supper and watching  
before the blessed sacrament until 11.00pm  
Good Friday 6th April 10.00am Children's Service  
3.00pm Passion of our Lord  
4.15pm Walk of Witness from St Theresa's  
Holy Saturday 7th April 8.00pm Easter Vigil Mass  
Easter Sunday 8th April 9.00am & 10.30am Mass



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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

## Dreams and Visions

Three trees stood on a lofty mountain. Each had a dream and vision for its life. The first wanted to be used for a treasure chest - holding priceless jewels. The second wanted to be a fine sailing vessel - carrying travellers to exotic ports. The third dreamed of staying on top of the mountain where it was planted: just growing tall towards the heavens in praise of God. As life would have it, some woodsmen came along, cut the trees down and hauled them off to a lumberyard. One day a young carpenter came along, chose the first tree and took it to his shop. He cut it into fine boards and began to make a box. The tree thought its dream was being fulfilled until instead of a lid for the chest, rungs were nailed to its bottom. "I'm a cradle for a crying baby. What will my friends think?"

The second tree didn't fare much better. It was taken and used as part of a boat. Not a grand passenger vessel but a small fishing boat. "All those smelly fish, and the men don't smell much better. At least I'm in the water and can tell my friends I'm a boat. Maybe they won't find out what kind." The third tree lay in the yard, abandoned for many years. "My life is a total failure," it thought. "I'll never be of use for anything." Time passed and finally some soldiers came along, took the tree and stuck it in the ground. Later they brought a criminal and hung him on the tree. "What a terrible life I've had. All I ever wanted to do was stand tall on my mountain top and praise God. Now I'm just an instrument of death. I'm a total failure."

Three days later, everything changed. "He is risen" was the cry that went up and the third tree realised that its life did have a purpose, that its dream really was fulfilled. It gave the greatest praise to God it could ever hope to, for it was God's instrument in enabling the Resurrection. Then the second tree, hearing of this, realised that it too had its dream fulfilled as it remembered a man it carried one evening during a storm was the same man that had risen from the dead. How he simply commanded and the storm ceased; and how all the fishermen were in awe of Him. It carried the most important person in the world. The first tree then knew how its dream was fulfilled beyond its wildest imagination. The baby it had

cradled was named Jesus: the most priceless treasure the world has known. It had held the very Son of God, the Father's wondrous gift to us.

Sometimes in life we forget the dreams we dreamed as a child. Sometimes we feel our dreams were never fulfilled; but in each event of our lives God is working, even if it does not meet our expectations. So Hang On, Praying Expectantly and know that He will fulfil every dream. The moral of this story is HOPE.

This story, which I thought appropriate for Easter, was told by an American priest. May you enjoy every blessing for a Happy Easter.

Wendy Moss

# SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am

Last October, a group of Swiss, German and French Quakers met at an ancient place of pilgrimage in the Black Forest Mountains called Maria Lindenberg. The topic for the encounter was the oldest prayer of Christianity, 'Our Father'. They wanted to look at the prayer's origin and find out what Jesus really had in mind when he taught this prayer to His disciples.

It is generally accepted that Jesus spoke Aramaic, which, during his lifetime, was widely spoken and understood in what we now call the Near and Middle East. An American scholar of the Aramaic language, Neil Douglas-Klotz, had looked at all the shades of meaning that the words of 'Our Father' may have in Aramaic and come up with a broad English translation, which they studied, after hearing the prayer read in modern Aramaic by some refugees who were living in the area. The Quakers were interested to find that some passages were richer and made more sense to them than the common translation, which is based on Greek and Latin.

"O Birther of the Cosmos, focus Your light within us - make it useful.

Create your reign of unity now.  
Your own desire then acts with ours,  
As in all light,  
So in all forms.

Grant us what we need today in bread and insight:  
Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,  
As we release the strands we hold of others' guilt.  
Don't let surface things delude us,  
But free us from what holds us back.  
From you is born all ruling will,  
The power and the life to do,  
The song that beautifies all,  
From age to age it renews.  
I affirm this with my whole being."

Anthea Lee.



# Resurrection

In early March, I went to stay for a weekend in Yorkshire – on a farm near Keighley. The farm and the bed and breakfast business are run by two sisters, now both in their 80s, and they have an incredible story to tell. In the 1960s, the farm was declared derelict. At that time, their grandfather died, leaving debts and two sons. Their father was the younger, and his only chance of clearing the debts and being independent was to see if they could make the farm land pay. He and his 61 year old wife sold their semi-detached house and moved with a handicapped son and two daughters to a building without basic amenities – starting the hard work of building. A government grant saved the day at a crucial time, when Bronte country was declared a priority area, and loans were made available to anyone willing to offer holiday accommodation, so they renovated parts of the building for holiday lets in addition to the farm. One of the sisters used to be Head of the village school, but retired from teaching to help her mother and sister. She has now published four books telling the story of their struggle and its amazing outcome, and the farm is covenanted to the National Trust. As I was thinking about what I had seen and heard, this seemed to me to be a story of a kind of resurrection – of a situation that seemed as bad as it could get, but which was then turned around, in this case by vision, determination and hard work.

Looking for images or resurrection in the present seems to me a very useful thing to do as we celebrate Easter. For I am convinced that this festival is not just about an event that happened to someone else a long time ago, or just about something that some people believe will happen when we die – it also says something about life in the present. As one author has put it, the Easter message is that 'all that separates and injures and destroys has been overcome by what unites and heals and creates'. If we can really apply that to our own lives and

believe that it is true, this is indeed cause for celebration. But first we have to see some examples around us of this happening.

The story of the regeneration of that farm certainly contains elements of resurrection, but we need to beware of thinking that resurrection is something that we can achieve by our own efforts. Neither is it all about success. For every farm that was turned around, there were surely others that failed despite much dedicated work. If resurrection is to be good news, it must speak to our failures as well as our successes. Some of the most powerful examples come from situations where the people have had to accept failure and loss. I recently met an ex-colleague whose sister was murdered. When I last saw her, her life was in shreds. Yet now she is in demand as a speaker to groups of police and others working with the families of murder victims. She feels that her sister would be pleased to know that that awful experience has formed the basis of something that helps other people.

Perhaps for some of us the challenge is precisely to give up any idea that we can 'go it alone' or turn our lives around by our own efforts. The Christian view of resurrection is to see it as a gift – the overflowing power of love and creativity that cannot be quashed, whatever happens to us. Our part may be to let go and accept that creativity at work in us, and to enjoy it. Sometimes this will lead us to greater efforts for a cause, but not always. Sometimes we just have to relax and believe. We all know people who have incredible stories to tell. It would be good this Easter time to share some of those experiences of regeneration and of resurrection – to expand our appreciation of what it means for us here and now in our everyday lives.

CC

## contact us

all enquiries

### The Church Office

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church.office@stansted.net

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Monday, Wednesday, Friday

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Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

### Church Hall Bookings

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joy@stansted.net

### Rector

Currently vacant

(01279) 812203

rector@stansted.net

### Assistant Curate

Revd Dr Caroline Curren

(01279) 815243

curate@stansted.net

### Director of Music

Lorraine Everett  
church.music@stansted.net

website

www.stansted.net/stjohns

## St John's Diary

### Sunday

9:30am Choral  
Eucharist  
11:00am Open Door  
Service

(all age worship) 3rd

Sunday

9:45pm Night Prayer

### Wednesday

10:00am said Holy  
Communion  
7:30pm Ecumenical  
Prayer group

There are services of Holy Communion on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the month in Norman Court, Hargrave House and Broome End Nursing Homes. Junior Church meets each Sunday at 9:30am. (Children return to church halfway through the service.) The Lazer youth group meets on Sunday evenings at 7:30pm

## From the Registers

### February

#### Baptism

17th Harriet Barbara Priscilla Steggall

#### Funerals

2nd Patrick Stuart Cowan, age 55 at St Mary's  
16th Elsie Woolard, age 97 at St Mary's  
22nd John George Wood, age 86 at St John's and Parndon Wood  
26th William Joseph Goodson, age 64 at St Mary's followed by cemetery interment  
28th Philip George Reed, age 91 at St Mary's

**An apology** In the Registers for January we mistakenly gave the age of Marjorie Sault as 84; it should have been 74.

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Image is important. A newborn child has little idea of him or herself and the world around. Gradually images grow within that give form and shape of the world and of oneself. Parents, family, community and teachers are crucial in this development. A wrong image leads to a wrong sense of reality. A growing problem is that the television is becoming a surrogate mother/father/friend/teacher. Children look at screens for input but there is no dialogue. We are raising children who are impoverished in communication skills, with poor images of themselves and others, and having difficulty in relationships. The car has banished outdoor play. A teacher tells me that children no longer know any board games. Image is important, but we are no longer recognising ourselves. Even more worryingly, we are losing substance.

Every nation and generation attempts to make their 'gods' out of their own image. No wonder their 'gods' fail them – image without substance. If God is real, then we are made in His image and find reality in His substance. Wrong image of God, we lose the skill of how to relate to Him. The Bible brings the reality of God home. The Bible never portrays God as distant, but always intimately creating and sustaining the universe. People today ask, "Where is God?" The Bible answers: imagine God as a bridge spanning a vast chasm. The world makes its way along it, but people become sceptical about the existence of the bridge. "Where is the bridge?" they shout. They are standing on it! God is not only Creator – His every breath sustains us. Wrong image of God = wrong response = wrong sense of reality. But just as so many children are getting a wrong image of themselves and the world, so is our nation with God. Many people say they believe in God, but their image is defective. Usually God is seen as 'hands off' – distant.

At Easter time, Christians remember the price that had to be paid by God to restore a correct image of Himself in the world. God sent His Son – yet the world rejected Him. God could have 'washed His hands of us' as we did to His Son, yet He raised Jesus from the dead. In Him we find life. In Him we experience the love of our true Father. In His Cross and resurrection, image becomes ultimate reality. We find this, we find ourselves. The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.  
*Colossians 1:15-16*

Rev'd Keith Page

**Pilots**

On Monday 5th March the Pilot Group at Stansted Free Church held a 'Collectors' Evening. At 6 o'clock sharp the children arrived, very excited about showing their various collections. The Lecture Hall was soon full of colourful football programmes, magazines and cards; also beautiful Turkish scarves displaying gold and silver metal discs, a range of colourful beads and necklaces; and a large collection of various Bibles, banknotes, toy cars and bears. In order to gain their collectors badge, the Pilots displayed and talked about their collections to one another. Everyone enjoyed the evening, and as I write this, they are looking forward to the final session of the Easter Term which will be an evening of entertainment and special refreshments when the Pilots will share their talents with one another.

We begin our Summer Term on Monday 16th April from 6.00pm to 7.30pm and if the weather is kind to us we hope to be out and about, looking at our village, also taking part in various activities and fitting in a B-b-Q and games.

Valerie Trundle

**Fond Farewell**

On 18th March the church was packed for David Simpson's last service with us, and over 40 people stayed to lunch after the service. We shall all miss David very much; for the way in which he has always encouraged us, particularly during the forming of Stansted Free Church; and also for his great sense of humour. We wish him and Sylvia a long and happy retirement in Princes Risborough, where they will be near their family.

Preachers for April			Other Activities		
1st	10.30am	All Age Worship	Sun 1st	3.30pm	Outreach tea in the Foyer
	2.30pm	Rev'd Keith Page	Sun 1st	6.30pm	CTS Agape in the Hall
6th	10.30am	Good Friday - Rev'd Keith Page			
8th	10.30am	Easter Day Holy Communion Rev'd Stuart Veitch			
15th	10.30am	John Banks	Mon 16th	2.30pm	Monday Club
22nd	10.30am	Gillian Taylor	Mon 16th	6.00pm	Pilots in the Hall
29th	10.30am	Karen Brady	Sun 29th	3.00pm	Music4Missions (see What's On)



## Shalom Retreat 23rd-26th February

After many years 'retreating' at Hengrave Hall (which has now been sold), this weekend found us at St Francis' House in the village of Hemingford Grey, in the pretty but cold Cambridgeshire countryside. We were led by Father Michael McGreevy, one-time resident at the Redemptorist Monastery and parish priest at St Joseph's, Bishop's Stortford.

In a series of four talks over the weekend, he spoke of the lives of Theresa of Avila, Catherine of Siena, Therèse of Lisieux and Edith Stein, and their determination to succeed in their work for God, with the wish to benefit those around them and the wider community. If example would do this, then they undoubtedly succeeded. Remarkably, in the telling of Saints Catherine and Theresa, the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries did not seem too far away!



*In addition to the more 'serious' sessions, there was time for a Saturday afternoon walk into St Ives ...*



*... and an opportunity for food, drink and chat each evening!*

Our Monday evenings are times of sharing, fun and fellowship, but we seek something more from our retreat weekends, with their togetherness for two days – and certainly we found this at St Francis' House.

## An evening with Amy

The evening of 12th February saw us at the Free Church Hall with a non-stop talking whirlwind called Amy Walker, who took us through a series of activities she is involved in with her work as the Youth Worker at Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church. It was always "the kids this ... the kids that ...", their eagerness in what they did, and how they responded to her and her message; in particular the group of 11-18 year olds on a ten week Alpha course, with their total involvement.

We heard of 'Kidz Klub', a meeting for 5-11 year olds on Friday evenings; seemingly an 'anything goes' time for more than 70 regulars. This had involved contact with over 100 families. She told us "It was fantastic to see the children having fun, learning about Jesus and how He can impact on their lives, and learning of God's word." Then there are the school assemblies and being given the opportunity to mentor young people with problems which disrupt their behaviour and studies. Evidently this was a success, as the first small group was quickly followed by another.

A very amusing anecdote concerned a small volunteer group painting a corridor in the YMCA. Amy grinned as she said that it had provided a great opportunity to get into some serious discussion about God and Jesus. How do you get out of an interior corridor with a wet paint brush in your hand?

This report does not cover all we heard, but gives an idea of Amy's busy and involved life. What is a youth worker? Obviously someone who works with young people. This one doesn't just do that – she works her socks off for them – and Jesus!

Harry Goreing

## Future Meetings

During April we shall be meeting on 30th April at 7 Blythwood Gardens, starting at 8.00pm. Everyone is most welcome – please join us.

Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579





## JAZZ AT ST JOHN'S

### A VALENTINE'S CONCERT



On Friday 16th February 2007, Pete Baker (known to many of us as Peter Baker) and his Crusty Jazzers, not Loafers some might suppose, entertained around 150 enthusiastic punters. Emerging reports suggest that it was a vintage performance, by which I refer not to the impressive accumulation of the band's years, but to the mature, rounded, and full-bodied qualities of well-matured fine wine. For the first time, Pete brought with him a vocalist, Sharon Scott, who, rumour would have it, entranced and captivated her audience with the sheer magic of her singing. We hope to see more of Sharon in future.

During all the excitement and musical activity, a Super Sonia Supper of superior quality coronation chicken and baked potatoes, arrived to crown the evening and absorb much of the alcohol in the beverages required to refresh athletic dancers, who Alan Tait and his Tipplers served in a constant flow – a reminder of the foolhardiness of holding the 2006 evening during Lent!

The evening was a stunning success and is a tribute to the enthusiasm of Joy Lambe and all those who decorated and helped set up (and subsequently clear up) the Church; Helen Baker and her cohorts who welcomed the punters; the performers; Susie Ball and others who assisted Sonia Levy cook and serve the supper; Nigs Hall and others who helped staff the bar; Rosemary Thomson who ran a hugely successful raffle; the punters for their good humour, encouragement and participation.

And we must not forget the support and raffle prizes given by village businesses including The Co-op, Qudos, Barnet Fayre, Kings Family Butchers, Dog and Duck, Queen's Head, Family News, Farnhouse Deli, Steve Golding, Stansted Carpets and many others. The evening's legacy: over £1,450 in the Church Hall's coffers; the warm glow that follows an evening of good fellowship and fun which brought many strands of village society together; another instance where local business has supported a community activity. Stansted's heart and soul beats strongly!

I must end with a correction of one minor erratum. Young Peter reported on the night that I was the proud recipient of an ASBO awarded by Harlow Magistrates and that I could not attend the evening as I was serving my time in Barcelona – it was not the ASBO but sheer incompetent diary management! However, the impressive results suggest that there is a silver lining to every cloud; my absence fortuitous.

Alastair Richardson,  
Chairman,  
St John's Church Hall Committee



Christian Aid Week is seven amazing days in May of fundraising, prayer and action against global poverty. If you can add some of your time to deliver and collect envelopes in Stansted streets this can have an impact around the world. Please let me know if you can spare a few hours to make a difference to the lives of the poorest people in the world. The roads where we need collectors are:

Bentfield Causeway  
Bentfield Green, Bower and Bury  
Croasdaile Road  
Lower Street  
Maitland Road  
Meadowcroft  
Millfields  
Millside  
Mountfitchet Road  
Recreation Ground  
The Spinney  
Stoneyfield Drive

#### Cut the Carbon

**Climate change** is killing poor people. But these are the people least responsible for climate change. The average Briton emits 31 times more CO<sub>2</sub> per year than someone living in Bangladesh. We won't make poverty history unless the rich world cuts its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. So Christian Aid is starting a campaign to encourage UK companies to publish a full account of their global carbon footprint, estimated to be 12-15 percent of the world total, and to commit to a reduction of at least 5 percent per year. More about this and the broader campaign next month.

#### Be a bright spark

One way we can do our bit to reduce our carbon footprint is to get our electricity from a company that invests in renewable energy. If you switch to Ecotricity, Christian Aid will receive £15 for its climate change work with poor communities. Call free on 0800 0326 100 or log on to [www.ecotricity.co.uk/christianaid](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/christianaid).

I look forward to hearing from you!

Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579

## HARGRAVE HOUSE

Ann Owen, a nurse at the Home, is seeking offers from anyone who may be able to give a short afternoon talk to the residents. The subjects can be to the speaker's choosing. Ring, or leave a message for Ann on 817272.

# St Mary's C E Foundation Primary School



*Caring, sharing, preparing for life*

## School Activities

The school has enjoyed a variety of visitors of late. We have had Matthew Rolands, from Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College, for a morning of music-making with his samba band instruments. Matthew has worked with Year 5 and 6 children in several schools in the area lately, but at St Mary's, Matthew was rather disconcerted at first to find he had groups of children from Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1! However, he soon had them creating pieces of music involving four or five different rhythms on as many different instruments. It goes to show that you should never underestimate what the youngest of pupils can achieve!

We also enjoyed a very exciting demonstration of science from a member of the Mad Science Company. The children were very excited to see flashes and bangs and magical paper that burned to nothing ... of course, this was all carried out safely and the children were warned not to try the experiments themselves. We have had Jill Tiny to give the children a talk on global warming and the art of re-cycling and Key Stage 2 have been history detectives with Cathy Hammond from Epping Museum, finding out a wealth of information about the Ancient Greeks from historical evidence and artefacts. The Year 6 children enjoyed a visit to London, together with students from MMCC, to the National Portrait Gallery and to a concert by the Philharmonic Orchestra at the Barbican. This was part of the transition programme designed to prepare the children for transfer to secondary school.

A very rewarding two afternoons were spent with children from the Ben Jonson School from Tower Hamlets. This is the second year when our school has hosted groups from the London school while they are on a residential visit in the area. Their pupils had an afternoon with Year 6 and another afternoon with Year 5. They joined in with our assembly, Team Talks and art projects. The children also designed interviews to find out how life and schooling in Tower Hamlets compared with Stansted. Although the two areas are very different on the surface, many of the things that concern young people turned out to be very similar! We are hoping to make a return visit to see their school for ourselves during the summer term.

Amongst all this excitement the curriculum does continue! The school has made standards in writing the focus for development this school year. Writing has also been the focus of a number of projects the school has shared since September, with the Federation of Schools to which we belong. More able pupils from years 2-6 have worked with author Anthony Lishak to write stories. Years 1 and 2 have built models of story settings, written the stories and used multi-media and artwork to illustrate them. Years 3 and 4 have written and performed plays based on traditional tales, while Year 5 have been creating email stories chapter by chapter with three other primary schools. There have been some excellent results and the enthusiasm for writing that the children have shown has been a delight to see!

Finally, at the end of this term we will be saying 'Farewell' to Liz Hill, our Breakfast Club supervisor and a valued Learning Support Assistant, as she goes on maternity leave. Liz has contributed a great deal to life at St Mary's, carrying out excellent work with the children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 as well as setting up and running the Breakfast Club. She has also made a huge difference to assemblies and music in general with her piano and flute playing! THANK YOU, Liz! We look forward to seeing you in school again soon.

## PTFA Events

The children have enjoyed an Easter art competition, an Easter Bunny hunt with Easter egg prizes and a variety of Easter activities during the last week of the term, all organised by the PTFA.

The next evening event for adults is a Chinese Auction. Auctioneer for the night is Julia North.

- Place: St. Mary's School
- Date: Friday 20th April.
- Time: 7:30pm for 8.00pm.

All are welcome. Join us for a fun evening bidding for mystery gifts! If you have any gift items, wine or chocolate you could donate we would appreciate them. No other foodstuffs though, please.

During the summer term we will be holding a Barn Dance, Summer Fair, and a Family BBQ. Look out for details in 'Link' magazine and the school's newsletters.

Christine Tonkins,  
Headteacher



## Huw Johnson Club

Everyone at the Huw Johnson Club was sorry to learn that Rosemary Minshull had died. For many years she has been a driver for the Club and many of our members knew her well. Rosemary was always so good to them and we have all lost a true friend of the Club.

This week we celebrated Andrew's birthday with a disco. Our members are always pleased to welcome Garry King and I'm sure if they had their way we would disco every week. However, next week will be 'curling' and this has nothing to do with hair styles.

The number of escorts for our minibus is slowly creeping up. They have all survived their trip, and in fact enjoyed themselves getting to know our members. Two more volunteers would be wonderful. If you would like to try this I'm sure our other escorts would be pleased to allay any fears you may have.

Marion Johnson



## Afternoon Tea

Sun 1st April in the Free Church (formerly URC) foyer  
3.30 - 5 pm

Come along for tea, cakes & a chat  
You will find a very warm welcome

All proceeds go towards water pumps for the Third World



## St Mary's Church Open

2- 5 pm

Saturday 7th April  
(Easter Weekend)

Everyone Welcome



## Stansted Windmill Open Days 2 - 6 pm

Sun 8th & Mon 9th April  
Sun 6th & Mon 7th May  
Sun 13th May (Mills Day)  
Sun 27th & Mon 28th May

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### April

1 Sun	Afternoon Tea (after service) Lent Groups' Agape	Free Church 3.30 pm Free Church Hall 6.30 pm
4 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Outing Mountfitchet Garden Club	10.30 am Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
5 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
7 Sat	St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
8 Sun / 9 Mon	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
12 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
14 Sat / 15 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
18 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
20 Fri	Chinese Auction	St Mary's School 7.30 for 8 pm
26 Thu	Buffy Bus restarts	Stoneyfield Common 2 - 3 pm
28 Sat / 29 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
29 Sun	Music4Mission	Free Church 3 - 5 pm
30 Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

### May

2 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
3 Thu	Buffy Bus restarts Local History Society	Rainsford Road 2 - 3 pm Day Centre 8 pm
4 Fri	Conservatives Social Evening	Rose & Crown 8 pm
6 Sun	Afternoon Tea (after service)	Free Church 3.30 pm
6 Sun / 7 Mon	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
10 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
12 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's May Fair	Day Centre noon - 2 pm Bentfield School 2 - 5 pm
12 Sat / 13 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
13 Sun	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
16 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

## St Mary's School PTFA CHINESE AUCTION

7.30 for 8 pm Fri 20th April

Join us for a fun evening  
bidding for mystery gifts!

Auction donations of gift items,  
wine & chocolate welcome



## Green Waste, Metal & Wood Skip Dates

9 am - 3 pm  
Lower Street Car Park

Sat 14th April  
Sun 15th April  
Sat 28th April  
Sun 29th April  
Sat 12th May  
Sun 13th May  
Sat 26th May  
Sun 27th May

Do you have a  
village event to  
advertise?

We may be able to give you a  
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Copy for the May issue of  
The Link must be submitted by  
Thursday 12th April

See Page 1 for details

## Bentfield School PTA Beside the Seaside



## MAY FAIR

Sat 12th May

2 - 5 pm

### Magic Shows!!!

BBQ - bar - raffle - cakes  
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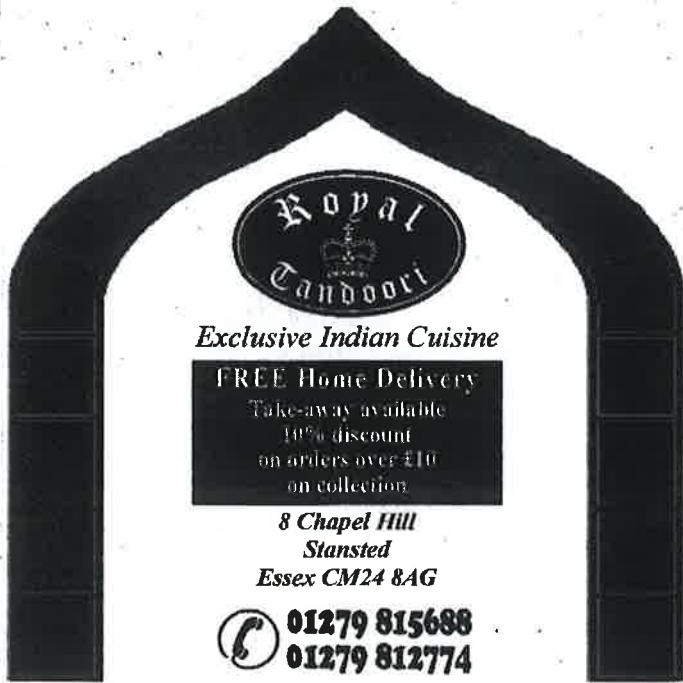
## Music 4 Mission

3 - 5 pm Sunday 29th April  
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# IN MEMORIAM

## Rosemary Ann Minshull

When Rosemary died so many people knew that they had lost a true friend. You knew when Rosemary promised to do something she would do it and do it to her utmost ability. She was a true Christian and her faith was strong.

Rosemary was always aware of the need to bring children into the Church and over the years she was involved with many of the children's activities which took place in St John's. Rosemary was there at the Good Friday project, and as a Sunday school teacher, when the Family Services were taking shape. She visited families before their babies were baptised, and made up posies for Mothering Sunday. As parish representative for the Children's Society, Rosemary wrote and led many of the Christingle Services and was responsible for the collecting boxes from other supporters. In between these activities she was part of the flower arranging team, on the rota for coffee making, and her cake stall at the Christmas Market was always a sell-out. Everyone will remember her clear voice when she read the lessons in Church.

Most of all she will be missed by those who make up the prayer group where prayers are offered for the sick. Her faith certainly shone through and we were all inspired by her. She showed great insight and understanding when she spoke at these meetings and we all came away from this group feeling healed ourselves. Rosemary was so certain that God cared deeply for those for whom we prayed and was strong in her belief that whether they recovered or died they were safe in His hands.

Rosemary too is now safe in God's hands.

Her involvement with St Mary's School began many years ago, both before her children were born and after, when they grew up. This was to be a long lasting relationship that developed over the years. Rosemary always put the children first, enjoying their company and ensuring they had the best possible start in life. Not wishing to bow out of school life completely when retirement beckoned, Rosemary chose to continue her work at St Mary's as a Governor. Her many years of teaching stood her in good stead and she moved seamlessly from a teaching role to one of adviser, friend and supporter. Her inside knowledge of the school and the pupils meant she could offer sound advice as she was thoroughly in tune with their ethos. Rosemary was a good friend to all at St Mary's and dealt with difficult situations requiring grace and diplomacy in her quiet and tactful way. She was also happy to be a part of celebrations at the school at which time she blended into the background to let the children's achievements take centre stage. The children always welcomed Rosemary into the school, and were eager to show her their latest projects.

Her enthusiasm for the youngsters shone out and was rewarded by the children's eager attitude when she visited.

As Chair of Governors, Rosemary supported St. Mary's school when the leadership team needed help and her strong Christian faith helped to ensure that the school retained its identity as a Church of England school. She was a good friend to Jean Cashman as she came to the end of her headship and helped Wendy Wood to settle into the school with words of advice and encouragement. St. Mary's has lost a staunch supporter and the team of Governors has lost a good friend with much experience. Rosemary will be irreplaceable in the life of St Mary's but has touched the lives of so many children and adults through her work that her name and memory will live on.



Rosemary was a long standing and active member of the Stansted Mountfitchet Evening Women's Institute. She held various posts over the years and was always ready and willing to join in and help, whether organising Members Day meetings, making cakes or serving at coffee mornings. She was a leading light in the Institute's Drama Group in its early days. Rosemary was a delegate and visitor at both County Meetings and at the AGM in the Albert Hall. Her reports of these events were always interesting and humorous. As in everything she did, she was unfailingly friendly and helpful to both the Committee and Branch Members.

Rosemary was active for five years with 'Homestart', in itself a demanding occupation. Other roles which she fulfilled were as a driver for the Day Centre and the Huw Johnson Club, a distributor for our 'Link' magazine and as one-time member of the 'Helpline' team.

As an active member of the Millers for many years, she took on the task of organising the stewards' rota. After retiring from teaching, she arranged and conducted the school visits, generating a large amount of the Millers' revenue, and was joined by Anthony on his retirement. Rosemary's Millers' Committee contribution and willing helpfulness at the Mill Fête and other activities will be sorely missed.

Few could have given more in a lifetime.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Marion Johnson, Sandra Wood,  
Christine Stiles, Marion Pretty  
Peggy Honour

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## TO THROW OR NOT TO THROW AND OTHER QUESTIONABLE THINGS

Sometimes you don't see a particular disease or injury for months and then you see several cases in a row. This month I have seen three 'stick injuries'. This is when owners throw a stick for a dog and either their throwing arm wasn't as strong as it used to be or the dog is getting quicker and the dog ends up running onto the stick usually with an open mouth. The resulting injury is usually a tear somewhere inside the mouth or more seriously further back in the throat or even in the top part of the oesophagus. When they are further back in the throat the injuries can be life threatening as saliva or food leaks through the tear into the surrounding tissues and causes a serious infection. Treatment of these serious cases is complex and often requires referral to a specialist centre.

Throwing a stick for a dog seems a fairly natural thing to do, but it really is to be avoided. There are lots of lovely toys for dogs now including frisbees and kongs, which are practically indestructible rubber cones that bounce in unexpected directions. It really is much safer to go for something like that or even a good old fashioned ball - at least you should be able to avoid unnecessary injuries. Pop into the surgery and have a look at our stand in the waiting room, we have a good range of safe and appropriate toys for dogs and cats.

The stick injuries got me thinking about other common things that pet owners do or say that are best avoided. I've compiled my favourite top five!

1. Don't clean your dog's ears out with cotton buds. Yes, they can be removed if you accidentally go too far but, yes, it will almost certainly require sedation or a general anaesthetic.
2. Don't say, "He doesn't eat very much". This is usually uttered by the owner of a wheezing labrador as it waddles through the consulting room door and flops on the floor with its tongue turning an interesting shade of blue. Come on now, we all know who puts the food in the food bowl and it's not the dog!
3. Don't bring your cat into the surgery in your arms; put it in a cat carrier. Your lovely friendly moggy may be a pussy cat at home but when confronted with a waiting room full of salivating dogs may turn into a tiger. I know plenty of dogs that look upon a cat as first course on their dinner menu!
4. When the vet puts the stethoscope in their ears, this should not be interpreted as a signal to start talking.
5. Barbeques are great fun but remember to clear up the scraps before your dog does. The commonest foreign body that we have to remove from dogs intestines is a corn cob.

Lastly this month I'd like to say welcome to Jackie our new nurse at Stansted. Jackie will be based at the Stansted surgery permanently, and she'd love to see you if you want to pop in and get any advice about flea or worm treatments or have

your dog weighed or your rabbit's claws clipped, or advice about any other aspects of pet health care, behaviour or training. She runs nurse clinics in the afternoon or you can give her a ring and she'd be happy to have a chat.



Ilse Pedler, Partner  
Mercer & Hughes,  
Veterinary Surgeons

## BUFFY BUS

We have changed the timetable until 26th April so that we can support a local parenting group organised by Health Visitors in Stansted, by providing a crèche. This is proving to be very popular and we are delighted to be able to make this provision thanks to our OFSTED registration. However it does mean that we are unable to make our normal visit to Stoneyfield Drive and Rainsford Road.

After the Easter holidays our regular weekly service will be:  
2.00pm to 3.00pm in school term time only -  
Stoneyfield Common from 26th April  
Rainsford Road from 3rd May

Buffy Bus is a play bus designed to bring to the under fives an opportunity to paint, play and socialise in a playgroup environment. Our Toy Library is available at all stops. We look forward to seeing all our friends again soon and we are very sorry for all the inconvenience. Whilst every effort will be made to keep to the timetable, Uttlesford Buffy Bus Association reserves the right to delay a visit due to operational reasons. UBBA is a local charity, community-based, non-profit making organisation established in 1994 - Registered Charity Number 1051491. Buffy Bus relies on Grant Aid, charitable donations and fund-raising efforts. Buffy Bus is a free service but relies on your donations.

Please contact Rosie on 01799 522130; ask on board Buffy Bus; email: [info@buffybus.co.uk](mailto:info@buffybus.co.uk); or visit our website: [www.buffybus.co.uk](http://www.buffybus.co.uk).

Rosie Juhl



Rainbow Guides Ages 5 - 7 years

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## Letter to the Editor

### Putting the Record Straight

David Harrison  
Turners Spring  
Burton End  
Stansted  
CM24 8UF  
Tel: 01279 812338

04.03 07

Dear Derek

Both of the articles commemorating the Abolition of Slavery, in the March edition of 'Link', gave credit to William Wilberforce and it is right that he should receive some credit as it was his position as an MP and his connection with William Pitt that enabled him to push through the required Legislation.

Having said that, it was the lifelong work of Thomas Clarkson that was the driving force behind the Anti-Slavery Movement and as such he should receive the most credit.

David Harrison  
PS As both of the articles in the 'Link' are from Christian churches, a suitable analogy would be to give credit for Christianity to St Paul rather than Jesus.

## Mountfitchet Garden Club



### Quiz Night

On Saturday, 10th March the Mountfitchet Garden Club held its first Quiz Evening. Eight teams took part and at 7.30pm prompt 'The Battle Began' with our Quiz Master, Martin West of Mooncraft Productions, in the chair keeping all the teams on the straight and narrow. After nine rounds the results were announced ... a tie for first place between the Wallflowers and The Exotic Orchids. Unperturbed the Quiz Master announced that as there was a dead heat the winner was to be decided on the interval round. Unbelievably this was a tie too! So the final decision rested on which team scored more on their Joker Round, and the Wallflowers clinched it by scoring 24 against the Exotic Orchids' 16. The final result was as follows:

Position	Table Name	Total Points
1	WallFlowers	159
2	Exotic Orchids	158
3	Florabundas	154
4	The Trainees	148
5	The Vine Weevils	136
6	Fork In Manure	130
7	Winning Streak	122
8	Badgers	109

Another Quiz Evening is to be arranged – so watch this space for date/time etc.

### March Meeting

'Gardening Then and Now' was the theme of our March speaker, Mr R Tibbs. By using a series of slides, he entertained members by showing how gardening has changed over the centuries. Gleaning information from old paintings, tapestries, books and photographs we saw how labour intensive gardening was until the invention of a tool to 'make things easier'. It was surprising how modern tools have changed very little since the introduction of these time-saving inventions. A visit to the Museum of Garden History (just opposite the Houses of Parliament on the Lambeth side of the Thames) was recommended, as the tools shown (and many more interesting exhibits) can be seen there.

With the introduction of photography the past has been captured and we were shown photos of both upper class families and their gardeners as well as labourers working in their cottage gardens. Members were surprised how people dressed when working in the garden – you will not see many gentlemen nowadays wearing their best top hats, coats and ties whilst digging; and for the lady of the house, full length dresses with bustles and layers of petticoats cutting the grass with a lawnmower with a six inch cutting blade!!! With global warming though, the large hats the ladies wore will definitely make a 'come back'!

Children were also dressed up for gardening and Mr Tibbs' last slide was, at first glance, a pretty young girl with long blonde hair wearing a white dress with blue sash holding a trowel. However, this 'young girl' was Henry Hoare who later owned and designed the garden at Stourhead! It was also noted that at Great Dixter there is a photograph of the late Christopher Lloyd wearing a dress and what a wonderful gardener he was too!

### Spring Show

Our next event is our Spring Show – Saturday 31st March in the Lecture Hall of Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill. The doors open to the public at 2.30pm and there will be a sale of flowers and produce at the end of the afternoon, so why not call in and view the lovely spring flowers etc?

### April Meeting

This will be on Wednesday 4th April when we will be welcoming Jean Crane for an evening of flower arranging – her theme is Easter. Our meetings are held in the Day Centre; doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. Everyone is welcome – visitors £1.50 each. Our new programme starts in May so it's an ideal time to become a member – we have a very varied programme for the coming year.

Maralyn Harris

\*\*\*\*\*

## GOOD FRIDAY IS DIFFERENT

Be among those joining the Walk of Witness

at 4.15 pm

from St. Therese's Church to St. John's Church

\*\*\*\*\*





STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Ever since the title of our talk this month has been known, people have been asking where Clavering Castle was! Jacqueline Cooper came to tell us and it is a very interesting story, going back a thousand years. The castle stood on a site next to the village church, where there is evidence of a moat and other waterways, which are believed to be where a mill once stood. A river flows nearby, thought to have been re-routed at this point, possibly by the Saxons. An 18<sup>th</sup> century document states that the castle walls were 'not long since in being' but no evidence is visible today.

However, other evidence exists, some of it circumstantial. Edward the Confessor spent much time in France and when he became King of England, he brought with him as a courtier a Frenchman, Robert Fitzwymar. Becoming very useful to the King, he was granted a number of manors across the country, one of them in Clavering, and it is possible that he was also given a licence to build a castle there. A part of the Bayeux Tapestry shows Edward on his deathbed, with Robert in attendance, indicating that Robert was very close to him, while the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle makes a reference in 1052 to 'Robert's castle' - possibly the one in Clavering. When Harold had become king, it was known that William of Normandy was aiming to invade and Robert went to warn him of the size of the King's army. William's invasion was, of course, successful and later, Robert was rewarded for his

assistance with a grant of more manors - he finished up with 49! Clavering Castle remained in the family for several hundred years. In fact, The Bury was built nearby to replace it as the family home in 1304 and it is known that as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century, a settlement existed where the churchyard now is.

Nowadays, a group of people in Clavering is very interested in researching the castle and having obtained a grant of £25,000, both geophysical and physical surveys are being carried out, due to finish in the Spring of this year. Once the results have been studied, it is hoped that English Heritage can be persuaded to carry out an archaeological dig. The site has been listed by English Heritage as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and although similar pre-Norman castles have been found, particularly on the Welsh Borders, this is fairly unusual as a protection against Viking incursions. Jacqueline gave a lot of additional detail, including the tale of a miracle attributed to Edward the Confessor, and showed slides to illustrate her talk. We were most grateful to her and wished her every success in her dealings with English Heritage.

Next month, on 5th April, we will once again be welcoming Peter Lawrence to tell us of what is to be found 'Beneath the City Streets; London's Unseen History' - hope you will be able to join us.

Ian Seavers



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## COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

In February three deserving Stansted personalities received Community Service Awards from the Chairman of Uttlesford District Council.

**Andrew Arnold's** record of service started with his membership of the 1st Stansted Scout Troop and the Venture Scout Unit. He went on to become Venture Scout Leader in Stansted and then Dunmow. He was made Assistant District Commissioner for Venture Scouts and served for several years. Andrew became an active member of the Hatfield Forest Scout Fellowship, to which he still belongs. He was appointed a governor of St Mary's School, an office which he continues to hold. Andrew is also known for his prowess at running quizzes and his PA system is widely used in the area. Latterly he has taken on driving the minibus for the Huw Johnson Club. Andrew's career has been in computing and he is now regularly seen on the commuter trains to London. He and Clare have four children who are themselves well known in the village.

**Richard (Dick) Pollard**, like Andrew, has spent almost his whole life in Stansted. He first came to the fore when the Cub Pack suddenly found itself leaderless, and as a former Cub and Scout he was catapulted into being Cub Leader. He is well remembered by his former boys today. His greatest fame came in the 60s and 70s during Stansted's splendid carnival years, when, with Jack Stone, he compered many events in his famous jester's costume and is still seen in this entertaining role. He was a member and chairman of Bentfield School PTA, and also became a member of the Mountfitchet School PTA, then a governor. Dick's working life was in a wholesale food business where he became a director, and since retirement has been employed part-time with a local motor dealer.

**Phyllis Saban**, now 87, has been the mainstay of St. Mary's Church for 30 years. Since 1990 when it was transferred to the Redundant Churches Fund (now the Churches Conservation Trust), Phyllis has been the principal keyholder and kept the building under almost daily inspection. She has maintained its interior in a condition amounting to instant readiness for any call, usually a funeral, which may be made on it. No-one could have done more to safeguard the structure and outstanding monuments which it contains. Phyllis has now retired but continues to maintain interest in this village treasure. In earlier years she was area secretary to the National Union of Agricultural Workers and stood for election to the Parish Council.

Derek Honour





## STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

### Into The Second Century

Well we are now in our 101st year having celebrated our centenary year in 2006.

It was a truly memorable year playing superb games against many clubs and associations including the Essex County Bowling Association Executive Team, North West Essex Bowling Association, London Parks, the Essex Vice-Presidents, Essex County Ladies, a mixed game with the North West Essex bowlers and their partners, the Stock Exchange and to top it all, a game played against the Chelsea Pensioners at their Hospital Green. (Some of our members did suffer hangovers following the trip to the Pensioners - alcohol at bargain prices seemed to have something to do with it as well as the great hospitality.)

Making things even better was the fact that we won most of these events. It was so enjoyable that some clubs want to play us again this year and we have the Chelsea Pensioners visiting us. I will publish the date of that game in due course, as some villagers may want to come along and watch. All these events were in addition to our weekend and league games and competitions and also included a Centenary Gala Day kindly sponsored by Daniel Robinson & Sons; this was well supported by many clubs in the area.

The fact that it was our centenary year meant that the history of the club had to be mentioned to our visitors and this was done admirably by our President John Hollis over and over again! I am sure John probably recited it in his sleep at times and his wife Jan couldn't wait for the year to end.

For those interested in the history here is a brief résumé:

In 1904, a Mr Philip Buck moved to the Brambles in St John's Road and, being fond of bowls, he laid out a green in his garden and invited local dignitaries and businessmen along to play. It proved to be popular and from letters we learn that in 1906 two greens were laid out and from this can only assume that this was the beginning of the Stansted Bowling Club.

Membership increased and it became necessary to find larger facilities. In April 1910, the Herts and Essex Observer formally mentioned the club and the fact that it was opening a new club in a pretty corner of Greens Meadow (Greenfields) with approximately 25 members. The club President of the time was William Fuller-Maitland and he was recorded as saying that the opening evening of the club was one of the most enjoyable evenings he had ever spent.

In the following years Mr Buck and another bowler Mr Tissiman searched for a better site and eventually found the present day ground, which was owned by Sir Walter Gilbey, who agreed to lease it to them for a nominal fee and kindly supplied the turf. Local farmers helped to clear the site gratuitously and Mr Fuller-Maitland offered anything else that was needed. To complete the work the club had to find the sum of £150, which in those days was a lot of money but having secured it the money was paid off within three years. This new club was opened on 6th June 1912 by the President Mr Fuller-Maitland in the presence of Sir Walter Gilbey and

as a memento Mr Fuller-Maitland was presented with a miniature bowl.

Over the years many distinguished persons have been members or associated with the club. Amongst these are Lord Blyth, Sir Charles Gold, Lord Fitzgerald, J Arthur Findlay and Major Cawkell.

Bringing us back to today – we sadly have no founder members but we do have a number of, let's say 'mature' members who still like their game of bowls, health permitting, and welcome younger men and women into the club. Overall our membership is quite young and we would like it to become younger with the hope that we can attract school age members.

We will be holding a beginners day at the club in June and we will be advertising this in and around the village a bit nearer the time. We have a number of instructors in the club who will be pleased to assist anyone wishing to have a try. The season starts at the end of April but we open as usual every Friday evening if anyone wants to come along and find out a bit more over a drink or two!

We are very lucky to have such a nice club, which has been improved so much over the last few years I wonder what Mr Buck and the others would have to say about it now; however, what we the members can say to them is "thank you for starting it all".

Rex Turner,  
Hon Secretary

### BARBARA HOFFMAN

Barbara was 90 in March, an occasion which was celebrated in the Bowls Club by some 50 relations and friends. Barbara was married to Fred in 1939 and has been active in Stansted ever since. She regularly shopped for the elderly and helped with Meals on Wheels. Barbara followed the fortunes of Stansted's football and cricket teams and has not allowed the passing years to prevent her from attending village events. Congratulations from the 'Link'!



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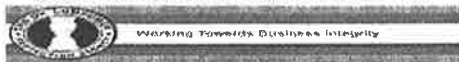
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## BENTFIELD SCHOOL

The school year continues apace with the run up to the Easter holidays being a very busy time. Egyptians have been well featured this term with two of our classes going to see a stage version of the Horrible Histories – Awful Egyptians. Class 4 went to Wimbledon Theatre, and Class 3 travelled to Chelmsford to see the stage show and then do a workshop at Chelmsford Museum. Always an interesting subject, these productions were greatly enjoyed.

Classes 3 and 4 have also been working very hard on their Easter Production, an extremely interesting version by Roald Dahl of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves (or should we say Jockeys?!). The classes worked very hard and this musical delight was greeted enthusiastically by parents and school mates alike.

Red Nose Day is always a fun way to raise money. The children came up with lots of good plans, including a talent(!) competition, joke telling (with a joke book to buy) and dressing in red for the day. Lots of money was made for a really good cause, and lots of laughter ensued.

We again entered a team in the Annual Public Speaking Competition at Mountfitchet College. This year our team was victorious. A very big 'well done' to Daisy Musgrove, Thomas Taylor, Callum Thompson and Trent Williamson.

Within the village, Class 3 has been to the Fire Station, and Classes 1 and 2 have visited both St John's Church and Mountfitchet Castle to support their class work on buildings.

At Bentfield we welcome visits from parents and children who might be thinking of coming to the school. If you are interested in either a Reception or Nursery place, and would like to visit the school, please give us a ring and we would be very pleased to arrange one for you.

For younger children we run our very successful Messy Play. This is great fun, and runs in the Nursery on Mondays from 1.45pm to 3.00pm. It is open to children 18 months upwards. If you would like to come, contact the school or just turn up! Sessions cost £1.00 and children should be accompanied!

### PTA News

I am pleased to report that our Race Night was a roaring success. Starting gently with The Nursery Toddle and The Reception Scramble, then thundering through The Class 1 Hurdle, The Class 2 Chase, The Class 3 Classic, The Class 4 Gallop, The Class 5 Derby and finally The Class 6 Cup, the races had us all on the edge of our seats! The list of runners had been distributed to parents a couple of weeks before the event so that they could 'buy' any horses which struck a chord with them – with names like Messy Floor by Toys Out Of Box, Bankrupt Out Of Money, Burnt Offering by Too Late Out Of Oven, Stiff Brush Out of Turps, Panting by Jogger Out of Breath, Bruised Toes by Partner Out of Step and Leaky Bottom Out of Split Plank, how could they resist!



The jacket potato supper went down a treat (thank you again, Olly) and the bar did a brisk trade supplying the owners and

punters with the means of celebrating their successes on the track! We would like to thank everyone who supported this event in any way.

On the last day of term we held our Easter Egg Trail and Egg Decorating Competition, which were very popular with the children. The beautifully decorated hard boiled eggs were displayed in the outdoor classroom for everyone to admire. The standard was high as always and the judges had a difficult task, but prizes were awarded to one child from each Key Stage. All children who completed the trail of clues also received an Easter egg. Then there were hot cross buns and hot and cold drinks and some of the children's favourite games that came out for the occasion.

### Forthcoming Events

*Beside the Seaside* is the theme of this year's **May Fair on Saturday 12th May from 2.00pm-5.00pm**. There will be many old favourites such as the raffle, tombolas, plants, cakes, BBQ, bar, entertainment and games galore! In keeping with the theme, this time we will also have hoopla, rock, and even *Magic Shows* on our very own pier (aka. the outdoor classroom). Let's hope that the weather is good as we are planning to include some wet sponge throwing! Do come along and join in the fun.

Looking further ahead to the summer, we are holding Bentfield's sixth **Music in the Park on Saturday 14th July**. We already have a great line-up of bands, so there will be something to suit all musical tastes. Put the date in your diaries now and start practising your dance moves!

Alison Thompson,  
Co-Chairman,  
Bentfield PTA

## DAY CENTRE

Although we have advertised widely, we have had no relevant responses to our attempts to find a cook or manager. (Details of these positions are repeated below.) We are grateful to Iris and Bridget who are prepared to hold the fort in the meantime. We are very pleased to be giving our helpers a lunch on 9th May in recognition of their hard work.

We need a cook for two mornings a week possibly increasing to three mornings if we can open on Wednesdays. We are also looking for a manager for three mornings possibly increasing to four. The manager would need to be computer literate and be capable of taking over the book-keeping. These are paid posts. If anyone is interested, or knows someone who might be, please ring me on 01279 813080. There is more information on our website - [www.Stansteddaycentre.org.uk](http://www.Stansteddaycentre.org.uk).

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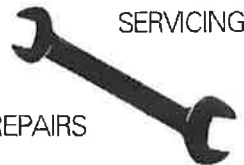
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## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Recycling

There will soon be an extension of the types of plastic that can be recycled in the green bins. This will include margarine tubs, yoghurt pots and ice-cream containers. Kitchen foil and ready meal foil containers will also join the recyclable category. There will be official publicity in the next few weeks. It does mean that less material will then go into the black bins to be buried in the ground but will instead be recycled. The Council will supply larger bins to larger families that need them.

### Airport

So we now know where BAA wants to build a second airport runway; a few metres closer to Stansted Mountfitchet than previously indicated. In a separate report from BAA, we learned some ideas that they have for future enhancements to road and rail access to the airport. Needless to say, some of it is already too little too late. BAA says that improvements to the railway line will only come with a second runway despite the facts that the line is already overloaded and creaking. So I think that is an 'offer' that can be resisted. Extra line and train capacity is needed now on our line, as was demonstrated on BBC TV News in mid-March.

The public inquiry on the refused application for increased use of the present runway will get underway on 30th May at a place called Endeavour House. This is on the road between the Hilton Hotel and the airport terminal close to the traffic lights. It can be accessed by public transport from either the airport bus or rail station by using (free of charge) the buses that run around or through the airport, including the Pink Elephant car park buses.

### Health Facilities in Stansted

I am becoming increasingly nervous that the new West Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT) is backtracking on its commitment to deliver new health facilities in Stansted. It was said to be urgent and overdue three years ago. Now I hear that nothing will happen before 2008. I shall be pressing for the new PCT to be held to account by Uttlesford to ensure we don't lose out to places like Harlow now that Uttlesford district does not have a dedicated PCT.

Councillor Alan Dean  
Tel: 01279 813 579

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

### Street Lighting

The decision by the County Council to switch off the majority of their street lights in Stansted between midnight and 5.00am has been called in. This means the decision will be looked at by a scrutiny committee and the portfolio holder for highways and transportation will have to justify his decision. Alan Dean and myself attended the Scrutiny Committee at Chelmsford on 20th March to give evidence.

### Budget 2007/08

The Council has approved the lowest increase in council tax for many years. For 2007/08 it will be 2.05%. This amounts to £133.29 per annum at Band D. The District Council is responsible for collecting council tax on behalf of other public bodies. The total council tax bill at Band D amounts to £1344.83. This is made up as follows:

Essex County Council	£ 1003.95
Uttlesford District Council	£ 133.29
Essex Police Authority	£ 116.46
Essex Fire Authority	£ 59.94
Stansted Parish Council	£ 55.01

### Local Elections May 2007

On Thursday 3rd May there will be District and Parish Council elections. For these purposes Stansted is divided into two wards, North and South. Each elects two District Councillors and seven and eight Parish Councillors respectively. The period of office for the new councillors will be four years. The polling stations for Stansted North and South are respectively Stansted Adult Education Centre at the Peter Kirk Centre, St John's Road and the Youth Centre, Lower Street. If you wish a postal vote this can be downloaded from the Council website or you can apply to Peter Snow, Electoral Services Officer at UDC. His phone number is 01799 510510.

Councillor Geoffrey Sell

Tel: 01279 815925

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

## Conservatives

Our next social event is a Pub Evening on Friday 4th May at 8.00pm at the Rose and Crown, Bentfield Green. A drink, a chat and a relaxing evening - come and join us!

Anthony Barrett-Jolley

## WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Plans are afoot to run two Saturday courses, one day at the end of September and a half day in November. We will also have ten Monday evening sessions starting in January 2008, with the very popular Rosemary Williams. Details will be announced as soon as they are known, so watch this space; who knows what you might find of interest!

Peggy Honour

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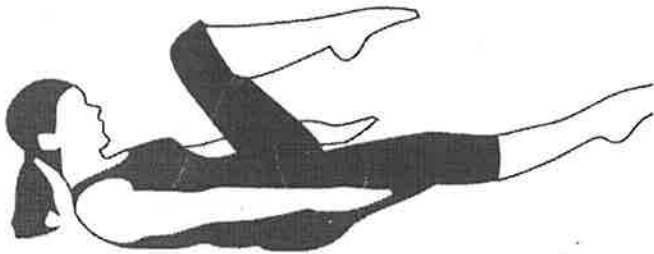
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**Road and rail issues  
relating to a second Stansted runway**

The announcement on 27th February by BAA, the Spanish-owned operator of Stansted Airport, regarding the road and rail improvements necessary to support its second runway proposal utterly fails to grasp the scale of the problems that would arise if Stansted were, as proposed, to become bigger than today's Heathrow.

In fact BAA's proposals would lead to an extra million people a week travelling to or from the airport, and the pressure on the road and rail infrastructure would be far greater than at Heathrow today. Heathrow not only has the benefit of London Underground connections but, as an international hub, more than a third of its passengers (36 per cent) never leave the airport, simply transferring from one plane to another. Stansted, however, is a very different operation – its focus being on short-haul leisure flights taking UK residents to Mediterranean beaches and weekend breaks to European cities – and has minimal international hub traffic.

Significantly, BAA's emphasis is not upon investing in rail infrastructure but on building more and more car parking spaces at Stansted which already has, proportionately, more car parking spaces than any other airport in the world. Car parking is the hidden cost of cheap flights and accounted for 74 per cent of Stansted's profit last year which may help explain BAA's reluctance to address the rail investment backlog, never mind the additional infrastructure needed to serve the extra million people a week who would travel to and from BAA's hoped-for two runway airport – mostly by road.

BAA's failure to invest in rail infrastructure to support Stansted's expansion over the years has resulted in a deterioration in local train services with overcrowded and unreliable commuter trains. Even Stansted's own passengers are increasingly using the roads rather than train to access the airport: the proportion of passengers travelling to and from the airport by rail fell from 28.8 percent in 2004 to 25 per cent in 2005. The number of car journeys continues to increase despite BAA's attempts to use coach services to disguise the underlying trend away from rail transport.

BAA's reluctance to invest in rail infrastructure is completely out of step with the Government policy of achieving a radical shift to public transport. There is already a backlog of over £500m of rail investment which should have been funded by BAA to support Stansted's passenger throughput which has grown from under four million passengers in 1995 to almost 24 million today.

Even the latest planning application for expansion on the existing runway, refused by Uttlesford District Council for reasons including surface access concerns, is evidence of BAA's reticence to invest in infrastructure improvements. A second runway is no closer to implementation today than it was when the Air Transport White Paper appeared in late

2003. Then, the expectation was that a second runway would be developed by 2011. Today, BAA acknowledges that the earliest possible completion date is eight years off at 2015 subject, of course, to planning permission which will – at the very least – be problematic in view of overwhelming opposition from almost all quarters including its own customers.

Peter Sanders,  
SSE Chairman,  
Tel: 01799 520411  
Carol Barbone,  
SSE Campaign Director,  
Mobile: 0777 552 3091  
Email: cbarbone@mxco.co.uk

**Contradictions, contradictions, contradictions**

The Government is in denial over the aviation industry's contribution to climate change SSE said in response to the publication of the draft Climate Change Bill published on Tuesday, 13th March. If the Government is serious about tackling global warming, it should review its plans for major airport expansion which, if allowed to continue, would cancel out the overall 60 percent reduction in energy emissions being sought over the period to 2050.

While efforts to address the climate change problem through the new bill are welcome, global warming emissions from airport expansion are on track to negate all the savings expected of households and the rest of the UK economy. This was clearly highlighted by the recent Tyndall Centre for Climate Change report that showed the predicted growth in air travel for the UK over the period to 2050 would eliminate all the savings made in other sectors.

At Stansted Airport, where expansion on the existing runway and a second runway are proposed, an additional seven million tonnes of carbon dioxide would be added to annual emissions. This is equivalent to the saving that could be achieved by replacing ALL the conventional domestic light bulbs in the country with low energy ones. Some would question whether such a valuable one-off saving should be frittered away to accommodate more and more cheap leisure flights. The Government is in denial with an expansionist aviation policy which predates our present understanding of the seriousness and urgency of the climate change issue. You can't tackle climate change without addressing aviation growth. Aviation is already responsible for the equivalent of between 12 and 21 percent of the UK's carbon emissions and Environment Secretary David Milliband's claim that "The planet doesn't mind whether it's an emission from aviation or an emission from home heating" is simply untrue. Aviation emissions are between two and four times more damaging as pointed out by The Stern Report and the 2,500 leading international scientists who make up the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It's as if the Government has concluded that cheap stag nights in Prague take priority over everything else, including the health of the planet for future generations.

Brian Ross,  
Economics Adviser  
Tel: 01279 814961 or mobile: 07850 937143  
Email: brian.ross@lineone.net

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## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

The subject of Home to School Transport is always problematic and it is a particular concern for parents and their children who travel by bus to Mountfitchet School. I can report that Essex County Council has now received the details of the long awaited Act (Education and Inspection Act 2006) that has an effect on this difficult subject.

It has been hoped that the application of this new Act would free the County to deal more equitably with home to school transport and provide a service which more suitably provides for the needs of children and families today. The new Act, it appears, does allow this in part but, as is normal in these matters, it contains caveats that need careful consideration. Firstly, may I bore the reader with some facts and figures regarding the service as it stands:

Essex currently transport three per cent of primary and 16 per cent of secondary pupils to school free of charge and where applicable spare places on buses are charged for at the rate of £105 per term, whilst elective transport to faith schools costs parents a similar £105 per term and post-16 year olds are charged £155 per term. The net cost to the County (or rather, the council tax payer) of all this is £15.6 million per annum and when the cost of providing transport for children with special educational needs is added on, the total expenditure for Home to School Transport comes to £28.8 million per annum.

Readers will be aware of the constraints that the old system has placed on the provision of transport with assessment of distances and 'availability' of routes forming a major part. The new Act does make some changes and is divided generally into four parts that are as follows:

### Part 1 Sustainable School and College Travel

This sets out a number of measures to ensure transport to school to be 'sustainable' and to discourage the need for parents to transport children themselves with the effect that this has on traffic congestion and carbon emissions. This will involve additional expenditure by the County and no new funding is available from the DfES to mitigate these costs.

### Part 2 Provision of Travel Arrangements

The effect of this loosens the application of distance and other affordability criteria, the main effect being that all primary school children up to age eleven will be entitled to free transport if their journey is more than two miles. At present this is only available to children under eight. In addition there will be greater choice in transport for elective faith education and free transport will be available for children whose parents receive Working Tax Credit and other benefits. For these provisions some funding is available from the DfES but this will not meet the expenditure required by ECC.

### Part 3 Other requirements in Transport Provision

This part of the Act imposes a number of other provisions, which include a responsibility to provide free transport to all eligible children, that the arrangements must be suitable for all children and not impose undue stress or require them to walk long distances at the ends of their bus journey.

### Part 4 Pathfinder Councils

The act provides the opportunity for councils to achieve Pathfinder status and if Essex were to pursue this it would enable them to free themselves of the old restrictions and provide transport to all children at a single fixed cost. This is an option that ECC have been considering for some time. However, this new Act caps the cost to parents at £1 per day and at present the actual cost of transporting children is between £3 and £4 per day. When this is coupled with the other criteria that are a part of becoming a Pathfinder Council, it is considered that an exceptional financial risk would be placed on Essex.

Clearly the new Act provides both opportunities to provide a better service but these must be set against the increased financial risk. At present it is estimated that an additional £10 to £12 million per annum would be added to the bill, so clearly there is some careful analysis to be carried out. This is work in progress and I will write again on this subject as decisions are made.

Ray Gooding,  
County Councillor, Stansted Division  
Tel: 01279 813103  
Email: [cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk)



**STANSTED & DISTRICT  
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

Our next ploughman's lunch is on Saturday 14th April, 12 noon to 2.00pm at the Stansted Day Centre. All are welcome.

Instead of our usual ploughman's on Saturday 12th May, we will be holding a post-election buffet lunch for our helpers and supporters.

Ruth Rawlinson



**UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

At our February meeting we had a very interesting talk on the Home Farm Trust by Hilary Colbert, manager of the Trust. The Home Farm Trust is now 45 years old and still helping teenagers and adults with learning difficulties who are given the opportunity to find what they would like to do with the talents they have. Staff and teachers are helpful in coping with the challenges it gives them. The redevelopment of Orford House, Ugley, has just finished and it now has a Day Centre and extra rooms for the treatments. Fund raising is always needed.

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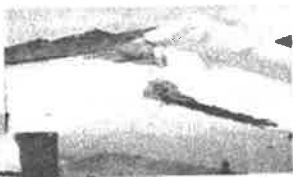
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# Stansted Tennis Club



## Annual General Meeting

This was held on Monday 12th March and was attended by 18 members. Martin Nankivell was elected as shadow-treasurer over the next few months before the current treasurer, John Eyre, retires. Sadly, Roger Loveday resigned from the committee. Two other newly elected general members were Sue Simpson and Jamie Alder.

Last year, the tennis club decided to try and integrate invited juniors to play with the adults at the Wednesday evening club session. It was very rewarding to get the feedback at the AGM that the adults who have been on court with these juniors were full of praise for their excellent playing ability and also their impeccable manners and court etiquette.

Members were encouraged to return their questionnaires, which were distributed with the annual letter, to Janet Hollis as soon as possible, so that the committee can start to include a wider range of people, who may have hidden expertise in certain areas. The completed forms should be returned to 105 Cambridge Road.

## Tournaments

Unfortunately, the Cayless Chilli tournament had to be cancelled due to adverse weather, and has been re-scheduled for Sunday 15th April. Would members please sign up for this on the notice in the clubhouse, if they are interested in playing. The entry form for this year's Hospital Cup tournament is also on the notice board and members are encouraged to put their names up for this tournament as well.

Two forthcoming tournaments in April are the ever popular

Adult/Child tournament on Sunday 22nd April and the Clower Girls' Singles the following Sunday, 29th April. Watch the noticeboard for further details.

## Coaching

There has been a good response to the request in last month's issue for any keen ladies to come along to a group coaching session on Friday afternoons. You may be a complete beginner or may have not played for several years, but are keen to start up again. You may just want to socialise and have some exercise. If any of these apply to you, then please give Chris Hollis a call on 01279 319155 to find out more. You don't have to be a member of the club to join in.

Chris has started the spring 2007 coaching groups for juniors (ages 6-15). If you would like to be added to the reserve list for any of the age groups, please give Chris a call. Martyn Taplin (01279 816386) continues to coach adults on Saturday afternoons at the club.

## Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions at the following times:

Wednesday mornings from 9.30am  
Wednesday evenings from 5.00pm  
Friday mornings from 9.30am  
Sunday mornings from 10.00am

## Contacts

If you would like further information, please contact Richard Mott (Secretary) on 466348, Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 812073 or Daphne Lunnon (Membership Secretary) on 817574.

Chris Hollis

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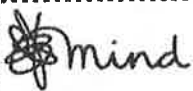
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## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our March meeting began as usual with Jerusalem, but two verses were sung in memory of Rosemary Minshull, who was an active member of our institute for over 30 years and who passed away on 27th February.

Our speaker for the evening was Sue Tompkins who demonstrated some beautiful flower arranging. One consisted of pink hue roses, white Cyprus orchids and red carnations and greenery arranged round a large church candle, which was very effective. Another arrangement, suitable for Easter, was of apricot coloured roses, four at the top tied together, another four lower down with moss round the base and four duck eggs round the base - simple but effective. These arrangements were put into the raffle - we had never made so much on a raffle before!

The competition which was for a homemade bookmark, together with the book that related to the design of it, was

won by first: Christine Hope, second Kath Johnson, third Judy Colliver. The first two winners' bookmarks are going forward to the Spring Group Meeting where other villages in the group meet once year, this year in April.

An outing to Ladies Day at Newmarket on 12th July was announced - a chance to dress up for the day! Christine Hope told members of an interesting evening coming up in the Gardening Club on 4th April should anyone wish to go along - they are looking for new members in that organisation.

Our next meeting is on 12th April when the subject of our speaker will be 'Tales of an Antiques Dealer'. Do come along - our meetings start at 7.45pm in St. John's Hall on the second Thursday of the month.

Kath Johnson

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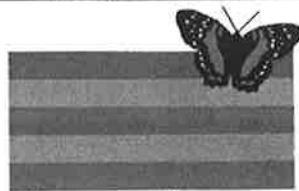
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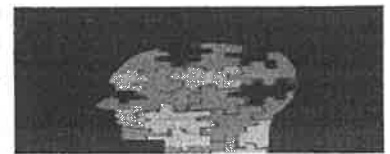
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## MORE GLIMPSES OF FORTY YEARS BACK

Recently I was given by Miss Evelyn Tame, a long time resident of Stansted, a Stansted & District Guide to shops and services 1979. It made very interesting reading and although only 25 years ago it shows how Stansted has changed in a quarter of a century.

Under Restaurants there are only two listings, namely Bury Lodge Restaurant and China Garden (takeaway in Station Road). Of course the public houses served meals and there are fourteen listed (including Elsenham and Manuden). Contrast this to the situation today where Stansted is well served with Chinese, Indian, Italian, etc; both sit down and takeaway. When I was a lad I remember Barratt's café and Arthur's café, both of which I have very fond memories. As I recall, quite a few American servicemen frequented Barratt's café which was also very popular with the local girls. The Americans seemed very well off in contrast to the locals, which I am sure gave them a distinct edge in the romantic stakes. Enough said!

We were better served with ladies' wear with Felicity and Popinjay (good as new). There was also Green's Stores, which I can't find any reference to in the Guide. Looking through the list of shops and services many are no longer with us but bring back memories for 'older residents'. There was Peter Arundel's which was quite a large concern catering for most motoring needs. A S (Albert) Whall, a lovely chap who did private hire and taxi service. Les Oldfield, who ran a large well-stocked hardware store. Les was such a quiet unassuming chap. Bunting and Sons, run by my uncle Bill and cousins Bob and Doug, was a very highly thought of greengrocers and florists. I don't think we have a florist in Stansted now.

The London and Stansted Furnishing Company was where I started my first job. This was advertised as the largest village furniture store in England. Some great characters worked there, Bertie Sarson, the upholsterer, Sid Swann, the carpet maker, Len Sweet, the carpet and curtain fitter, Vic Dixon, who ran the electrical department, to name but a few. We had three banks then, four antique dealers and two solicitors.

In this issue is a wonderful article by Irving Sanders; what a debt Stansted owes Irving, his love for and great historical knowledge about Stansted have ensured that the history of our village is well preserved. This article is titled 'The Roads of Stansted' and is well worth reprinting in a future issue of 'Link'. It details that Stansted probably grew up in the shadow of the castle in that part we now call Lower Street which, until about 60 years ago, was known as The Street. In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries it was known as Bradford Street. The name survives in Bradford House.

Gall End was long thought to be a shortened form of Gallows End since apparently it was once the practice to hang the bodies of executed felons in chains in the trees there 'to encourage others'. North End House was once the parish workhouse and on old maps the lane is shown as Workhouse Lane. Speaking of Gall End, I have heard of a wonderful tale of how Henry Hutley fell down in the tunnel (before the rails were in place). It seems he was fished out by a Mr Saunders near the Kings Arms Hotel. What a journey, underground all the way down Lower Street! I am assured by several senior residents that this is a true tale. The article

details how many roads got their names such as Rainsford Road, named after Mrs Charlotte Rainsford, who was resident from 1848 to 1864.

I end this article with a plea for any information and pictures of 'It's a Knockout' which was a very popular attraction at some of the carnivals. There were lots of local characters involved and some hilarious stories to be told!

Dick Pollard



### Nature Notes

In early January we were aware of sights and sounds more traditionally associated with the spring months. Primroses were flowering in sheltered spots, the great spotted woodpecker was drumming on trees between High Lane and Gall End and a slow worm was sighted sunning itself on top of a compost heap!

Hazels, which normally flower in February or March, were already producing flowers in the mild weather at the start of the month and were very noticeable in the Aubrey Buxton reserve. The dangling male catkins are more affected by temperature than the minuscule red female flowers and during an early warm period will produce pollen before the females come out. The hazel is an ancient shrub that has long been utilised by man. Because of its pliability, it has always been a valuable wood in the building trade, used as thatching spars and in earlier times in the wattle and daub construction of buildings. The wattles were the panels of interwoven split hazel sticks or rods placed between the posts forming the framework of the house. These panels were then daubed with a mud and straw mixture.

To provide a ready supply of sticks, hazel bushes were regularly cut down or coppiced, usually about every seven years. Coppicing has been carried out for at least 4000 years and hazels and other trees continue to be coppiced today as part of the ongoing management of woodland. One intriguing use of hazel rods is in the strengthening of river banks. In the Wash area mattresses of hazel stick bundles mixed with reed are used along the banks of the Ouse. The thick mesh of sticks traps tidal sediment and thus helps to build up the banks. It is good to know that the ancient practice of coppicing can still be viable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Rosina Kirkwood



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