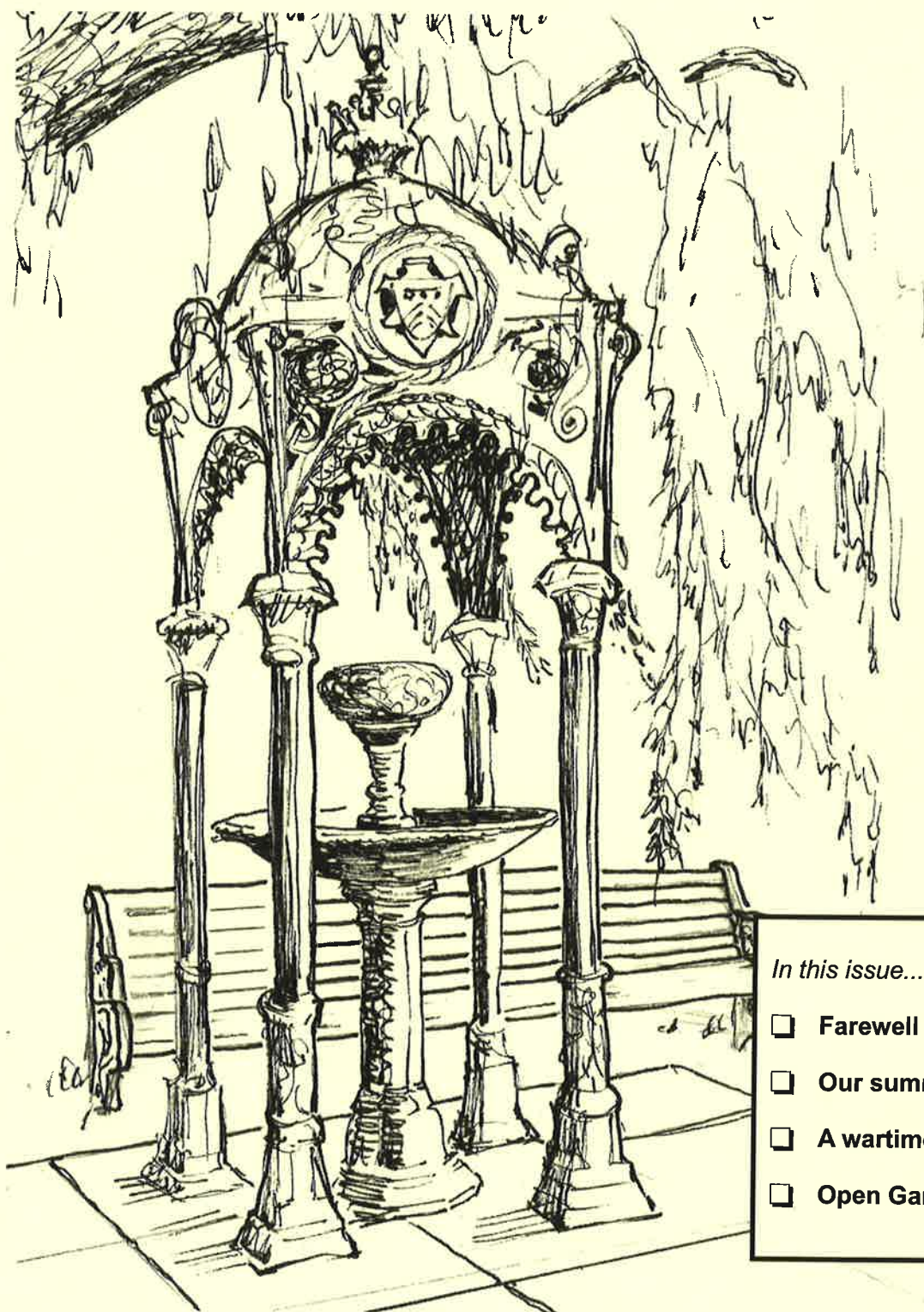


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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Why is Science Fiction so popular?

With imagination, a plausible storyline and special effects, we glimpse what might be. A common plot involves time travel. They are warned never to take action in the past that can change things in their time. The classic conundrum: what happens if I go back in time and kill my grandfather? If I kill him, I would cease to exist. So how can I kill him in the first place?

This reveals crucial truth – Actions have Consequences. How will my existence, my thoughts and my actions affect the future? Good or bad? I know someone who terminated her music education because of an unkind word by a Rector – 40 years ago! There is something strange going on today. Modern society is divorcing actions from consequences. It works like this. We claim individual freedom of action but society is increasingly seen as responsible for the consequences.

Teenagers have always been prone to this – seeking benefits of adulthood but avoiding as much as possible the responsibilities! But it is becoming our nation's mindset. For example: 500 abortions every day last year. This is not down to women alone, but also men refusing to recognise their responsibilities.

"Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognised by its fruit." Matthew 12:33

I feel privileged to write my final article for this issue of the 'Link'. It is an example of how people work for the good of all. Stansted would have been less without it. The actions in producing the 'Link' have brought good consequences to our community. As I am moving on soon to 'pastures new' (actually Leigh-on-Sea), I would like to express my deep thanks for the friendship and support you have given me.

Rev'd Keith Page

Preachers for July

1st	10.30am	All Age Worship
	2.30pm	Rev'd Murray George
8th	10.30am	Ken Mark
15th	10.30am	Rev'd Keith Page Holy Communion
22nd	10.30am	Rev'd David Thompson
29th	10.30am	Gordon Doyle

Other Activities

Sun 1st	3.30pm	Outreach tea in the Foyer
Mon 2nd	6.00pm	Pilots in the Hall
	8.00pm	Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens The Salvation Army
Sun 15th	12 noon	Farewell Lunch for Rev'd Keith Page
Mon 16th	2.30pm	Monday Club in the Hall
	6.00pm	Pilots in the Hall
	8.00pm	Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens Music, Poetry and Party!

Church news

As Keith has said, in line with Methodist tradition, he will be moving to another Circuit over the summer. His last service with us is on 15th July, which is, quite fittingly, a communion service. After the service we shall be sharing a church lunch. Keith has been minister to the Stansted Methodists since 2003, and to the members of the Free Church for the past year. We will all miss him very much, and wish him well in his new appointment.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Dora Camp, the mother of Janet Townsend. Dora was a member of the United Reformed Church for over 70 years and will be missed by many. Alan Dean's mother also died recently. We remember Janet, Brian, Alan and Catherine and their families in our prayers.

It is in our church constitution that we should have both a Methodist and a United Reformed minister. We look forward to welcoming our new Methodist minister, Rev'd David Mullins and family at the beginning of September. We have recently completed our church profile, and this is being sent to all United Reformed ministers over the summer.

Marion Dyer
 Church Deacon

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Conscience and the State

After a recent conference, I found myself reflecting on how, in many ways, our lives are increasingly subject to control, regulation and intervention by the State. We are told this is for our own good. The threat of terrorism is part of it, of course, and that is why it has now been suggested that the police should have powers to stop anyone in the street, and demand to know who they are and what they're up to. Prosecution and a £5,000 fine could face anyone not playing ball. Identity cards, efforts to further extend detention of terror suspects without charge, the almost covert introduction of what could become a national DNA database, and the ever increasing surveillance of people wherever they meet are just a few other examples of how our lives are not entirely our own.

All of us should be grateful for the freedom, protection and opportunities afforded to us by the State. For that reason it is right that people should pay their taxes, keep laws and conduct themselves as responsible citizens. However, laws do not make morals. What is illegal may be immoral but what is immoral may be legal. By the same token what is moral may be illegal, for example staging peaceful protests at military bases or not paying the proportion of one's tax that goes on military weapons. Increasingly we may be faced with hard decisions about whether some laws or regulations offend against our sense of who we really are and how we want to live our lives in order to uphold our personal integrity. Then it may be a very difficult issue of conscience to decide exactly what to do next.

Jonathan Morrell



SHALOM

South Africa – Awesome Beauty – Fragile Hope!

Think for a moment how you imagined the apartheid problem in South Africa would be resolved back in say 1980! Does the word 'bloodbath' spring to mind? Isn't it a miracle that a peaceful solution was achieved? (However, 50,000 people died during transition but at least not millions!) In the days of apartheid Stuart and Brenda Veitch were active in the campaign to shame the South African government into reform. Because the memories of the injustices of those days were still uncomfortable, South Africa was not top of their list when it came to seeking a holiday destination. However, it was difficult to refuse when a trip to coincide with their wedding anniversary was offered as a gift by their daughter and son-in-law. Stuart and Brenda kindly presented us with an evening of slides, music and vivid narrative at Shalom recently. They are a slick act, and maintain the listener's interest by subtly interacting with each other in a very professional way.

First came the stunning photographs of Table Mountain, the Cape garden area and safari wild life – lions, elephants, buffalo

and giraffe. Next they entered the strange world of the tiny highland kingdom of Lesotho. As we listened to the haunting rendition of a migrant workers' song we could picture the workers leaving their simple thatched huts and making the tough trek through the spectacular canyons to work in South Africa, none of them owning a car. Even today many of the villages can be reached only on horseback, by foot or light aircraft.

After the awesome beauty of the Drakensberg Mountains, came the noisy urban scene of Johannesburg, violent as ever in parts, and definitely not a tourist spot – no useful open top tour bus! Yet a city steeped in history; of Gandhi and Mandela. We were shown Mandela's first home and Tutu's house; the only place in the world where two Nobel Peace Prize winners once lived in the same street. In the Apartheid Museum, families who were unceremoniously kicked out of the notorious Capetown District 6, pored over the huge map of the area and identified their former homes. Still today the district is deserted. Stuart reminded us that South Africa is still fragile. Their people need our prayers for the next step in their journey.

Alan Wheeler

On 2nd July, we are having a talk by Colonel Alan Hart of the Salvation Army. On 16th July, Marion and Alan will be leading an evening of music and drama, followed by a bring and share party. Both meetings are at Blythwood Gardens and start at 8.00pm. Everyone is most welcome – please join us.

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the grand total of £2075.79, collected in Stansted during Christian Aid Week. In particular I would like to thank all the collectors; and also Brenda, Pauline and Stuart, who ran a coffee morning which raised £95.

The worship material for the Christian Aid service was written by John Bell of the Iona Community and focused on El Salvador. We heard how a fertile and vibrant country with much potential has had that potential diminished for various reasons. Many will remember how Archbishop Oscar Romero, who spoke out for the poor and oppressed, was shot by the army in 1980 as he was celebrating mass. About 75,000 people died during the civil war from 1980 to 1992. Recently earthquakes, drought, floods and hurricanes have battered the country, increasing in frequency and intensity, most likely as a result of global warming.

We also heard how Christian Aid's partners are training people to grow fruit and vegetables to improve their health and incomes. We heard about HIV prevention programmes in San Salvador and how communities are being taught how to reduce the risks posed by natural disasters and how to respond to emergencies. We ended the service with the following prayer:

May the peace of God
reign in all our hearts and in our nations.
May the justice of God
inform our thinking and that of our leaders.
May the love which God has for the world
infect our compassion.

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579



St John's
STANSTED

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all enquiries

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Director of Music

Lorraine Everett

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Contrasts and Balance

When I came to Stansted three years ago, I resolved to walk the bounds of the parish as a way of getting to know the area. The main impression that I am left with from those walks is of the contrast between narrow pretty foot-paths, bounded by excellent blackberries (it was August at the time) and the extensive transport systems (air, rail and road networks) that we came across as we rounded a bend and emerged from the trees. One moment you could feel as if you were miles from anywhere, and the next there were cars tearing along the motorway, planes taking off or trains rushing past. And this set me thinking about the importance of balance in life.

It seems to me that increasingly people are either too busy or too bored. Those at work seem to work longer and longer hours, and be rushed off their feet, whilst others spend long periods alone. Whilst I might long for a moment's peace, someone else might long for human company and stimulation. We are blessed indeed if we are able to create a good balance.

Balance between activity and rest is crucially important to health and well-being in a spiritual sense as well as a physical one. That is why the idea of 'sabbath' – of a day set apart - is so important. Some of the world faiths have managed to retain this. I have a Jewish friend who observes the Sabbath on Saturdays, and I have lived in a Moslem country where the times of prayer punctuate each day at regular intervals. Yet for most people in this country (whether church goers or not) there are now few religiously or culturally recognised guidelines. Now that Sunday opening is with us to stay, we have

to make our own decisions about how to retain a sense of balance. With computer technology, many people work from home and work increasingly flexible hours. So the onus falls on us as individuals to establish our own boundaries. For those who spend much of their time alone at home, the problem may not be how to find space as much as knowing how to structure the time.

In both situations, we become, if we are not careful, increasingly passive - dependent either on external demands or on things such as the TV listings to set our schedules. Hobbies may be lost, and often we do not really know what to do when external pressures are absent – or when the TV breaks down. And so we lose a part of our true identity as individuals with particular interests to pursue. When I look at myself, I realise that although I recognise the importance of balance, I am not very good at achieving it. I think that the secret is to regain a sense of being in control, and to rediscover a sense of purpose and direction from within, rather than being either driven by events or becoming the victim of them.

Whatever our circumstances, we need to have a sense of time as a precious gift, to be used responsibly and neither frittered away nor so packed with activity that there is no time for reflection. "Be still and know that I am God" seems to me to be good advice in a world that sometimes just rushes by. And looking around I think that the contrasts in the local environment between modern technology and hidden paths offer a good image of the sort of balance that we should be seeking to achieve in our lives overall.

CC

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

May

Funerals

9th John Robert Alexander Loader,
age 76 - at Parndon Wood

31st Jane Catherine Clarke,
age 73 - at St Mary's

Welcome to our new Rector

It seems a long time since we had our own Rector, but at last we are getting ready to welcome Paul and Janet Wilkin and their family to Stansted. They will be moving in to the Rectory in the early part of July, and preparing themselves for life among us.

Paul's ministry will start with his induction service on Monday, 30th July at 7.45pm. This service will be conducted by the Bishop of Colchester and the Archdeacon of Colchester. It will take place in St. John's, Stansted, and will be followed by refreshments in the Church Hall

This is our opportunity to welcome Paul and Janet and their family to the Benefice, and to pray for their ministry among us. All are invited to the service – not just members of our congregations in Stansted, Birchanger and Farnham, but also any others who wish to come and add their prayers to ours.

Alastair Bone
Gary West
Churchwardens

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

Masses	Saturday	6.00pm
	Sunday	9.00am and 10.30am
	Holy Days of Obligation	8.00am and 8.00pm
	Tuesday-Saturday	9.30am

Confessions		
	Saturday	10.00am and by appointment

Baptisms	By appointment
-----------------	----------------

Perhaps you think that being a member of a church takes just one hour in the week, when we go to sing hymns, say a few prayers and then we disappear until the following Sunday when we do the same thing all over again! However, church life can be very busy and in the life of a church there are many memorable occasions. Looking back over just the last month there have been quite a few.

The one day which many will hold in great affection from their own childhood is the day they made their First Holy Communion. In June, on the feast of Corpus Christi, eight children of our parish took communion for the first time. For the past year they have been regularly attending classes with their parents, to prepare them and help them to understand what an important occasion this will be, in their lives and in the life of our church community.

The little girls all looked very beautiful, traditionally dressed in their white dresses and veils and the boys in their best outfits. The church was packed with their friends and relatives.

However, it is not this, nor the party afterwards that makes this such a special day. In the Eucharist we receive Christ, we believe it is a sign of His love. The children will have learned about God's love; that each of them is created unique and the love they each give to God will also be unique.

We all know that today many young people will stop going to church and will no longer practise their faith. The parents may worry that it is their fault, but although the knowledge of beliefs and practice is important, it is not the most important thing. The heart of our faith is not a set of doctrines but a person, Jesus Christ. We are called to be his followers. Even though our own relationship with Christ may be a loving one there is no guarantee that we will communicate it to our children or others. A relationship cannot be forced; not everyone Jesus called chose to follow him, but we pray that those children who received this wonderful sacrament will continue to obtain strength and grace in a very special way.

Recently we have been told that we would all benefit from just taking three minutes out of our day for contemplation and quiet thought. Some of us are now of an age when we are fortunately able to take longer than three minutes! Our Seniors' Wednesday Club arranged a contemplative day at Clare Priory. Helped by two lay members attached to the community, we learnt about various methods of meditation and were given new insight into the prayer of the Rosary. Whatever our age we all need to find harmony within ourselves. We need time and space to regain our balance, to feel healing and to let peace enter our lives. We are fortunate in this area to have many places available for us to go on retreat, or just to spend a few quiet hours in peaceful surroundings. One of these places is our Diocesan House of Prayer at Abbotswick near Brentwood where we joined the community in their celebration of 20 years of ministry. Their door is always open to all who are seeking spiritual renewal, guidance and healing.

Our Yoga Group members also continue to learn new ways of refreshing their daily lives. We believe that a healthy body is not separate from our spiritual life but one complements the other; hence an end of term session in one member's beautiful garden bringing the special blessing of nature to our class, followed by a delicious bring and share lunch.

Two members of our congregation, Barbara and David Broad, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary recently, and Father Joe presented them with a Papal Blessing. We were all included in their special day and we all enjoyed the wine and cake in the parish centre afterwards!

There are also sad times in the life of a Parish and we said goodbye to a dear friend of St Theresa's, Joan Mercer. Joan worshipped at St John's Church and her husband Francis worships in our church. Francis and Joan have been a model of how successful a mixed denomination marriage can be and have set an example to everyone, always respecting each other's faith and differences and always supporting each other in their spiritual life. Joan died just a few short months away from their diamond wedding, which we would have loved to celebrate with them, but we give thanks for the 59 fruitful years they spent together.

These were just a few events during a short period in the life of a church; in the life of an extended family.

Eileen Quinn

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

The New Council

Our annual meeting in May began the formal life of the new council. Cllr Catherine Dean was elected Chairman. Catherine is, I believe, the first Stansted resident to hold this position since the Uttlesford District was formed over thirty years ago. The new leader is Cllr Jim Ketteridge from Saffron Walden.

Both Alan Dean and myself will be playing an active part in providing constructive opposition to the new administration. By convention the Scrutiny Committee is chaired by members of the principal opposition party. Alan will be chairing this committee and I will be serving as Vice-Chairman. The committee at its first meeting in July will be determining its work programme for the coming year. An effective scrutiny process is essential if the council is to achieve its aims of being one of the best district councils in the country.

Uttlesford is the planning authority for the district. As such the Development Control Committee plays a vital role in determining planning applications. Stansted is fortunate that Catherine Dean, Janice Loughlin and John Salmon are members of this important committee.

South West Area Panel

The panel had its first meeting at Henham Village Hall in May. The new Chairman is Cllr Derek Jones from Takeley. The panel approved Stansted Parish Council's application for £3500 towards replacement of swings.

One of the most important issues facing the new council will be the local development framework. This is the successor to the local plan, and amongst other things will be determining housing provision in the district up to 2021. The panel agreed to my request that there should be a workshop this summer for interested stakeholders to consider the local development framework.

The Area Highways Manager for Essex County Council gave a presentation. Amongst schemes affecting Stansted in the current financial year are footways in Chapel Hill between the King's Arms public house and Sunnyside. Other footways measures include the reconstruction of Rainsford Road, Cambridge Road and Church Road.

Street Lighting

The previous district council administration and the parish council have fought hard to keep the county lights on after midnight. Unfortunately, we have been unable to persuade the County Council to reconsider and the trial will be proceeding. We have however, secured a few exemptions such as Coltsfield (pt), Coopers Alley (this runs from Cambridge Road to Bentfield Road), High Lane, Spencer Close (pt), the Spinney. Cllr Norman Hume, who is the portfolio holder for Highways and Transportation, has made it clear that the trial would be reviewed if crime and road accidents were to increase as a result of the lights being switched off.

Airport Inquiry

The Inquiry into Uttlesford District Council's refusal to grant planning permission for full use of the runway is taking place at Endeavour House, Stansted Airport. Members of

the public are welcome to attend. The Council has made its initial submission in conjunction with Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils. The Inquiry is expected to last until October. Full information is available on the council's website.

Councillor Geoffrey Sell
Tel: 01279 815925
Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

SOUTH WEST AREA PANEL

The next meeting of the South West Area Panel is on **Monday 23rd July at 7.00pm** in Great Hallingbury Village Hall (parking available opposite village hall).

The main agenda items are:

Energy Efficiency

Presentation by Jake Roos, Uttlesford District Council's Energy Efficiency Surveyor

Community Project Grant

Decision on applications received from South West Area

Updated information on Stansted Airport

The meeting will start with a question and answers session at 7.00pm followed directly by the main agenda items. Doors open at 6.45pm.

Sue Hayden,
Uttlesford District Council

NEWS FROM THE DAY CENTRE

We now have a new cook, Susan Benito, who comes with 20 years experience from Bishop's Stortford High School. Happily, Bridget is still giving us one day a week, so our catering situation is now very healthy.

We would like to open on Wednesdays just for lunch and would be pleased if anyone could spare two hours to help serve (no cooking!). We would also welcome helpers on the other days when we are open. If two hours a fortnight is too much we would be pleased to put you on the relief list which means you can work when it is convenient. There is also a shortage of drivers to take members to and from the Day Centre. If you are interested in any of the above please ring our Manager, James Ramselle, on a Tuesday, Thursday or Friday on 01279 815091.

Brenda Scarr

An apology. In the June issue we said that Andrew Proud helped to set up 'Helpline'; it was actually Tony Bundock who was responsible for this.

UGLEY GARDEN FETE

2 - 4 pm Sat 7th July

Mammoth White Elephant Stall
Magnificent Bottle Tombola
Fun Dog Show ~ Raffle ~ Books
Cakes ~ Produce ~ Toys
Mouthwatering Teas ~ Games Galore
... at **The Cottage, Snakes Lane**
(between B1383 & Ugley Green
- follow the signs)

Manuden Village Glyndebourne

6 for 6.30 pm Sun 8th July
Wilford House, 70 The Street

Bring your friends and picnics!
Madrigals, close harmony & instrumental
items by the Manuden Singers

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VILLAGE EVENTS

July

1 Sun	St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
	Manuden Open Gardens	2 - 6 pm
	Afternoon Tea (after service)	Free Church 3.30 pm
2 Mon	Shalom	7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
4 Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
7 Sat / 8 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
7 Sat	Ugley Garden Fête	Snakes Lane 2 - 4 pm
8 Sun	Manuden Glyndebourne	Wilford House 6 for 6.30 pm
12 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 8.15 pm (<i>change</i>)
14 Sat	Lib Dem ploughman's Music in the Park	Day Centre noon - 2 pm Bentfield School 2 - 8 pm
	Village Music Club Soirée	St John's Church 6 pm
15 Sun	Mercer & Hughes Open Day Stansted Open Gardens Windmill open	Saffron Walden 10 am - 4 pm 2 - 6 pm 2 - 6 pm
18 Wed	Stansted Lunch Club	Old Bell Hotel 1 pm
21 Sat / 22 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
23 Mon	Shalom South West Area Panel	7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm Gt Hallingbury Hall 7 pm
26 Thu	Health & Personal Safety	Foakes Hall 10 am - 3 pm
30 Mon	Induction of the new Rector	St John's Church 7.45 pm

August

4 Sat / 5 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
5 Sun	St Mary's Church open Windmill open Afternoon Tea (after service)	2 - 5 pm 2 - 6 pm Free Church 3.30 pm
9 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
11 Sat	Lib Dem ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
18 Sat / 19 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

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ST MARY'S FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

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The second half of the term has been extremely busy already, yet we have only had two weeks at the time of writing!

Firstly, many congratulations from all of us at St. Mary's to Liz Gillson-Hill and husband Dom on the birth of Ethan Thomas on 12th June. Ethan weighed in at 8lbs 1oz.



Mrs Gill Aspland 'opening' the new gazebo at the Sports Day-Summer Fair

The children received a lovely surprise when they returned in June to find our new gazebo in place on the school playground. The whole school community worked very hard throughout the last year to raise the funds for the gazebo. Planning permission duly arrived, Mr Verderame built the base and the gazebo itself went up in a day! Hawthorn Class have planted up the flower boxes in the school's colours of royal blue and gold. We have had an official opening, attended by many of last year's Year 6, who had worked so hard on the fundraising. We also welcomed other visitors who had made donations: Mr Derek Poole-Adams of the Rotary Club, Mr and Mrs Aspland and Mr Andrew Arnold representing the Royal Bank of Scotland. The gazebo is used as an outside classroom, a quiet sitting area at playtimes and as a shelter for parents waiting in the playground.

Willow and Maple classes had a very successful visit to Audley End House. Teachers and parent helpers as well as the children dressed as Victorians for the day. They toured the house and gardens and took part in activities in the kitchen and the laundry. St Mary's children were complimented on their behaviour and enjoyment of the activities by Audley End staff, their guides and by other visitors. Seeing the children dressed for the part added to the enjoyment of all the other visitors too. Everyone had a wonderful time: "The children were a delight!" was the unanimous verdict!


The Key Stage 2 classes have taken part in a 'Make a Film' day. A film maker came to school for the day to help the children make a documentary about the school based on our motto 'Caring, sharing, preparing for life'. Each of the four classes prepared a storyboard on one aspect of the motto, then filmed it. They had the chance to use the equipment and to appear in the film. The younger children were also caught on camera when they were filmed working in the ICT suite with the Year 5.



Year 6 pupils working with the film maker

The rain stayed away long enough for our Sports Day and Summer Fair to take place as planned. The children enjoyed a variety of events and followed them up with a picnic lunch and the PTFA Summer Fair. Very many thanks to everyone who made the day work so well: Bex Carter for planning the sports, Judith and Jill in the school kitchen, the PTFA, staff, parents and all who manned the stalls and activities. And of course thanks to everyone who spent their money!

Christine Tonkins



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IN MEMORIAM

Roy Bernard Stebbings

Family and friends gathered at the Harlow crematorium on 23rd May to remember the life of Roy Stebbings, who passed away on 12th May within three months of his 80th birthday. A light-hearted tribute was given by Peter Baker, and an edited version is included below. It epitomises the robust sense of humour that Roy shared with the other two members of the OFC. We were reminded of 'The last of the summer wine' rather than 'Grumpy old men'!

"Roy, Peter Hammond and I were members of the OFC - an exclusive luncheon club. In fact we were the only members because nobody else wanted to join. We would visit various hostelrys and establish our priorities - Roy would look for an ashtray, I would find the gents and Peter would check the space between the tables for his gammy leg.



Photo by Peter Hammond

Many will know of Roy's voluntary work maintaining canal boats for disadvantaged youngsters. Another feature of Roy's busy life was the French class at our house. Imagine the scene - Thursday evening, 8 o'clock, six exuberant, highly charged, voluble ladies ... and Roy.

The French class did prove useful when Roy suggested a day trip. When he broached the subject I thought "Good. A nice day out, a few cases of wine and some juicy snails." There was more. As soon as we docked in Boulogne, Roy became agitated and directed me to turn left and keep going. There was a note of urgency and nervous excitement. We crossed the border into Belgium undetected and stopped at the first wholesale warehouse where he purchased quantities of Gaulloise, his favourite rolling tobacco.

Yet another of Roy's pleasures in life, which illustrates his caring and patient nature, was his weekly shopping for two elderly ladies; especially when he staggered home laden with groceries and then had to take them back because they were the wrong size, the wrong weight, the wrong colour, too cheap, too expensive or out of date!

A memory that sometimes jolts me awake at night sweating is the Stansted Fun Run. Roy and I would collect our marshal's kit and then charge off in his DIY three-wheeler

Lomax Special. It was a low-slung open-top flier - we were motoring at an altitude of six inches above the ground and all my life seemed to pass before me.'

Peter's amusing slant on a selection of Roy's various activities illustrates that he was a man of many parts. Another voluntary activity that he enjoyed (away from the bad influence of the OFC!), was to help repair and sharpen re-cycled carpentry tools destined for self-help groups in Africa. Roy was one of the founder members of the Tools for Self Reliance group in Stansted, and in 2006 he received his 15 year service certificate for this. He is sorely missed by Rod, Fred and Mike, his fellow 'toolers'.

Peter Baker
Michael Dyer



Nature Notes

We are very fortunate in Stansted in having in the vicinity two reserves managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. The Aubrey Buxton reserve is probably the better known as it is nearer, lying beyond Gall End to the north of the village. It can also be approached from half-way up Alsa Street. The wooded area of the reserve contains a good variety of tree species including some beautiful lofty beeches. Within the reserve are several ponds, somewhat stagnant now, an open grassy ride at the top of the wood and a sloping meadow area fringed with willows and poplars. It is here that you find orchids during June. Earlier on, in April, you could see wood anemones that have colonised an area near the wood edge.

The other reserve is Turner's Spring, situated east of the village near Burton End. The footpath from the road winds round the back of Burton Bower, across a field and into a small wood. This is an ancient place of woodland that is lovely at any time of the year but perhaps especially in the spring when the daffodils are out and pale yellow oxlips line the path through the trees. The oxlip, *primula elatior*, is a particularly good indicator plant of ancient woodland. It is found in over a hundred ancient woods on the boulder clay of Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Another indicator species that grows in this wood is herb paris, a rare plant with four dark green leaves from which rises a flower with pale green sepals and eight long golden stamens.



Turner's Spring reserve also includes an area of damp meadow and sedges, fringed by blackthorn trees. It slopes down to a small tributary of the Stansted Brook. The banks of the stream are surprisingly steep and are shaded by hornbeams. Earlier in the year bluebells, wood anemones and celandines all flower here. A few yards away from this tranquil spot is the rail spur carrying passengers on the Stansted Express to and from the airport.

Rosina Kirkwood

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A BOY IN THE WAR

This contribution comes from Keith Turner, a former resident and organist at St Mary's Church. It makes an interesting alternative to Dick Pollard's recollections of the recent past and we hope that more of Keith's (and Dick's) reminiscences will follow.

I was born at 55 Lower Street (Victoria Villas), and five years old when World War II broke out. I moved with my mother and father to 28 Park Road for a short while and then to 41 Lower Street where my father and uncle had a grocery store trading as Turner Bros. The Turner brothers were my father, Kenneth, and his brother, Ronald, and they had inherited the business from their father, Frederick.

Ken and Ron were a little too old to be conscripted initially, but after the first 18 months or so both were 'called up' leaving my brother, mother Ellen with my elderly grandfather to try to continue to run the business and to bring up myself and my brother, Paul.

My first few years at school were in the Infants class at the Council school on Chapel Hill and the teacher was Miss Thorpe. At the age of five, boys and girls were taught together but separated at the age of eight, the girls progressing to Miss Double's class and finally to Miss Woolley (Headmistress). In the playground boys and girls were separated by iron railings. The boys were then taught by Miss Bradford and finally Mr Enoch (Headmaster).

The boys' playground was on quite a steep slope and in mid-winter we were not only allowed, but encouraged, to pour water from the toilets at the top of the playground down the slope to form a really thick icy slide. I don't remember any boy breaking an arm or a leg during this highly dangerous annual event but I wonder what school inspectors might have to say about this activity if it happened in the present 'Nanny State'? You might imagine from this that our headmaster was easy going, or laid back. The opposite was the case, and in the top of his cupboard was a large bamboo cane. It was about 3 ft long and was a bit split at the end from constant use. We were caned for some of the most minor of misdemeanours. To digress for a moment – Brian Bunting, whose father owned the greengrocers in Lower Street, supplied us with hair from his father's pony's tail which, if laid along the palm of our hands, was reckoned to split the cane.

When I was seven my uncle, who was an accomplished organist, decided that I could sing in tune and should therefore join the church choir (St Mary's) and also receive piano lessons. In wartime there were no street lights and every dwelling including churches etc had to observe the blackout; consequently my piano lesson was during my lunchtime break at school. I had to get to Mrs Godefroy's house on the Recreation Ground and she would often keep me too long causing me to be late back and for this I was caned by the Headmaster. You will not be surprised to learn that my progress as a pianist was slow, to put it mildly, and I was greatly relieved when my uncle decided not to pay for any more lessons. Of course, I know now that I should have told the family what was happening but I was too scared to do so in case of further punishments.

A few years later one of my Harlow College School reports said that I was 'A Serious Child'. I think this remark would have applied to a high percentage of children of my age. We were old enough to understand the terrible situation that had existed during the war. We saw on cinema newsreels the devastating effect of the bombing and experienced bombs in our own village, including a flying bomb which came down at Burton End. Also our fathers were somewhere in Western Europe. We all had evacuees living in our homes and we could see how awful it was for them. We saw in the press pictures of columns of defeated soldiers with heads bandaged, legs and arms missing and we knew of families whose fathers would never return home. Hitler and his war machine were only a few miles from our coast, so in spite of our British stiff upper lip and Mr Churchill's powerful rallying speeches, was it any wonder that we were considered to be of a serious disposition.

At the back of our shop in Lower Street there was a wooden loft (I believe it still exists) and underneath were some stables, a slaughter house, a smoke room (for smoking bacon) and a cheese cellar. During air raids my grandfather and my mother would take us to the cheese cellar where we tried to sleep on wooden slatted shelves until the *all clear* was sounded. Many school lessons were interrupted by air raids and we had to use candles in a dug-out shelter in the bank between the Council School and the Memorial Gardens next to St John's Church. Miss Bradford would read to us while the spiders and other creepy crawlies were all around us – what fun! Later on a brick built shelter was constructed. Children were not always able to have proper footwear as leather was short in supply and generally only one item of footwear had to be used come rain, snow and sunshine. Boys could sometimes be seen in mid-summer with only a pair of wellies and in winter just a pair of plimsolls.

American soldiers and airmen were living under canvas while they were building the very long runway at Stansted. The *Flying Fortress* bombers needed this to be able to take off fully loaded. Many of the Yanks enjoyed meeting local families in the village where they could spend an hour or so in the warm, and chat about their families back home in the States. I still have a lovely letter sent to my family by Corporal William S Madden (from New York) No 32231102 US Army C/O C817 ENG AVIATION, which was written on 31st November 1942 after he had been posted to North Africa. He was always grateful for a few home comforts. I remember him well and he liked to tell us about his folks back home. He was a kind man and as children we enjoyed the *Candy* he gave us and my grandfather was given *Lucky Strike* cigarettes (free to US troops abroad).

I have lots more memories of those few years which I hope to put on paper in the future.

Keith Turner

IN MEMORIAM

Joan Mercer 1919 - 2007

Joan was born in Wimbledon and after local schooling went on to study economics at Regent Street Polytechnic. After a period as a typist, the war intervened and Joan went into the Air Ministry's Meteorological Branch in Gloucestershire. It was here that she met Francis, then stationed with the RAF at Moreton Valance, where at a dance coins were tossed for the unaccompanied girls. Francis' choice of coin led to a wedding and ultimately good news for Stansted.



After the war Francis took a job in Birmingham. Joan lived for a short time in London, where Elizabeth was born, before joining Francis. Living conditions were not good, so in 1952 Joan went to her parents home, a large 17th century former ropewalk house at Newham-on-Severn, a place of which she had fond memories. The family then grew to four with the arrival of Vincent.

In 1954 the family reunited at Harlow where Julia was born. Joan worked for a time for Pitney Bowes and was active at Latton Church where she became Rev'd Barry Rose's PCC treasurer. Following Francis' retirement in 1984 they moved to Stansted (again coming under Barry Rose's pastoral oversight) and where they have had a happy retirement in their Benfield Gardens home.

Joan was active in the village and particularly St John's Church where her self-effacing manner won her many friends. She and Francis consistently worked for the Save the Children Fund and were awarded their Long Service Medal. Joan became a regular participant in many village activities and in joint church ventures such as Shalom and in their reciprocal visits to Belgium. A truly ecumenical family. At all times her three children and eight grandchildren were her great love and concern; in fact, Joan was a true matriarch, never happier than when surrounded by or at table with the whole family. Frequent visits to Woodbridge and Bowness (where Joan had her favourite room in Elizabeth and Tony's large B & B) became a feature of their lives. Her passing will be keenly felt in so many places. Our condolences go to Francis and the family.

Derek Honour

STANSTED POLICE STATION

Firstly I will introduce myself; I am PC Jo Jeggo and I am the Stansted North Neighbourhood Specialist Officer. I am here as a point of contact for the Stansted neighbourhood team as a dedicated problem solver. Although I will not have ownership of every problem I will be a point of contact for external organisations involved in problem solving. If you have any issues you can contact me via the Neighbourhood policing web page or phoning the mobile phone.

Secondly, Stansted Police station is open during the following times:-

Wednesday - 1.00pm-6.00pm
Saturday - 2.00pm-8.00pm

Although these are the opening hours, if you have a query and you are passing please feel free to knock on the door as there may be someone in.

Contact numbers are as follows:

01279 812211 for the Police Station with an extension number of 22140.

07801 461 666 for the neighbourhood policing telephone. This is a mobile phone that is carried by an officer when on duty.

Please feel free to call either of these numbers if you wish to speak to an officer relating to any non-emergency crime or issues that you may have.

Call 999 if you have an emergency matter to report.

The mobile telephone is carried by an officer when on duty. If there is no reply when this number is rung the officer may be dealing with an incident. Please leave a short message with a name and number and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Stansted Police Station is the base for a 24 hour service with two Sergeants, eight Constables and three PCSOs. We are all supported by other officers based at Hatfield Heath, Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden.

PC Jo Jeggo,
Stansted Police

STANSTED RED CROSS WEEK MAY 2007

I would like to thank all those people who so kindly gave their time to collect for this very worthwhile cause, and to everyone in the village who contributed so generously. We raised the excellent sum of £1133.17.

Diana Pelly

STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

May Lunch

Almost 70 members of the Stansted Lunch Club gathered at Bury Lodge in May to enjoy vibrant and good company (we always provide that!), an excellent meal and a stimulating talk on investment issues courtesy of the Lunch's sponsor, Stephen Mussard, a partner in The St James's Place Partnership, one of the UK's leading wealth management groups. Investment markets, like pensions, normally tend to blur the mind, leave most of us with misted spectacles and bring on an almost irresistible desire for a post-prandial nap. However, Phil Woodcock, one of Stephen's colleagues, brought simplicity, clarity and comprehension to this most obscure of subjects during an incisive and entertaining presentation; no sleepers were observed.

It is pleasing that the Club seems to be in robust health – over 50 members wished, but were unable, to attend.

Future Lunches

Our next Lunch, on 18th July, will focus on St Clare Hospice of which, as Trustee and Treasurer, I must declare an interest. The Lunch, which is being facilitated by two of St Clare's strongest corporate supporters, Daniel Robinson & Sons and Weston Business Centres Limited, will focus on some of the huge challenges facing St Clare at present and on initiatives being undertaken to meet those challenges. The vagaries of the Internet mean that occasionally you may not receive your invitation so please diarise the occasion and other dates now:

Wednesdays

19th September - Hewitsons
7th November - GE Sworder & Sons

It may also help to finesse the enthusiasm of spam blockers if you enter my email address in your computer address book.

2008 Lunches

I am now inviting members to sponsor the six lunches in our eleventh year and look forward to hearing from those members who wish to sponsor a lunch during 2008. Normally lunches are held at 13.30 hrs on a Wednesday in the second half of January, March, May, July, September and November.

A Day at the Races

I am working with Pam Coulson of Breakfast Synergy and Barry Root of Essex Bloodstock, on a Day at the Races in the autumn for members of Breakfast Synergy and Stansted Lunch Club. I hope to be able to provide full details shortly.

Golf

Tony Bowden, who does charitable work for Zimbabwe, is running a golf day at Stockley Park, Uxbridge on Friday 14th September 2007. It would be good if we could enter a couple of teams so please consider entering the competition; better still enter a team.

Alastair Richardson,
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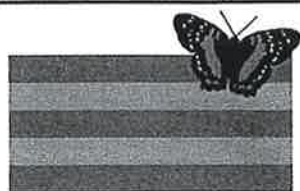
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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

For our June meeting we were fortunate to make a visit to Dr Weller's garden in Thaxted. Dr Weller has developed his garden over many years and has planted numerous shrubs/plants and patches of nettles especially selected for visiting butterflies and moths.

Dr Weller pointed out the plants particular butterflies favoured including the alder or blackthorn for the brimstone, thistles for the painted lady and stinging nettles for the red admiral. He gave us a very informative talk on the life cycles and habits of the migrant butterflies. He apologised for such a chilly damp evening which prevented us from seeing any butterflies. Our only consolation was an eye catching stripy moth caterpillar. However, we all enjoyed a pleasant stroll around Dr Weller's beautiful gardens and came away with many good ideas on which plants to grow in our own gardens to attract butterflies and moths.

Our speaker on Wednesday 4th July will be Mr Mike Rowley who will be giving a talk on 'The Essex Wildlife Trust - Uttlesford District'. As usual the meeting will be at the Day Centre, 7.30 pm for 8 pm start. Gourd plants will be for sale during social time. These are in preparation for our Gourd Competition at our December meeting. Why not give us a visit? Do come along - you will be most welcome. You don't need a garden to enjoy gardening. Come along, hear the talks, see the slides and demonstrations and join in the various outings/social events.

Christine Hope



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

WINDMILL FUND RAISING

Steady progress is being made with the windmill fund raising whereby donated items are sold on eBay or through other suitable outlets. We are now approaching the £200 mark with more sales to be finalised. If you have any unwanted items to dispose of please give us a call on 01279 813614.

Please support the Open Gardens (display in the next column); part of the proceeds of the day will go towards the windmill. The windmill itself will be open that day.

A date for your diary

Don't forget the windmill fete - 27th August (Bank Holiday Monday) held around the windmill between 2.00pm and 5.00pm. The windmill will be open from 2.00pm to 6.00pm.

The Stansted Millers

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**Stansted
Evening
Women's Institute**

It was a rather damp evening for our June meeting, but there was a reasonable turnout of members. Linda Foster was welcomed as our latest new member, and it was announced that our coffee morning on 6th June in aid of the Meningitis Trust and WI funds raised £180, which, after paying Day Centre rental payment, meant that we were able to give the trust £90 and our fund £80.

Our speaker for the evening was Mr Chris Winter, who is by trade an undertaker, and his talk was entitled 'Where there is a will there is a relative'. Although during the evening we didn't hear about wills or relatives, he had us in stitches with stories of various people and situations he comes across in his day job, and also when he has his other hat on as an after dinner speaker. After addressing one meeting, a woman came up to him all smiles and warmly shook his hand, and smiling said "You can bury me any time"! On another occasion he went to address a young wives meeting thinking the audience would be made up of young women only to discover that the Young Wives were elderly, and during the meeting went one by one to have their corns attended to in another room. Another occasion saw him at a rugby club; finding it all quiet and no-one about he went into a side room and the woman in there said "You're too early, we're not ready for you, we sent messages". He said "I didn't get them" - the punch line of that story is that they thought he was a kissoqram for someone's birthday!

Chris also likes to read epitaphs on gravestones, some of which he read out to us and they were really funny. It is not allowed nowadays, due to regulations, to have those sort of rhymes on tombstones. He also went to America, and did a tour of a cemetery there, where they point out where famous people are laid to rest. At the end of the tour, the bus stopped at a gift shop, which sold souvenirs including plates with images of the cemetery! As he said, it would be off-putting for your dinner guests after eating their meal to see such images at the bottom of the plate! That's America! On joining the undertakers Chris was told that the perks of the job were a free funeral and 30% off for the wife!

A member from Manuden was our delegate at the AGM of the Women's Institutes at the Albert Hall and gave her report, which noted that the resolution to ask the Government to stop the closure of community hospitals was passed with an overwhelming majority.

Our outing to Ladies Day at Newmarket on 12th July leaves from the Bell and Feathers at 10.30am. It is the night of our July meeting so in order that those of us going on the trip can attend, our meeting starts at 8.15pm in St. John's Hall (normally we start at 7.45). Do come and join us - we do have some good evenings.

Kath Johnson

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Will Self to lead protest walk against Stansted Expansion

Author and columnist Will Self will lead a five mile protest walk through Hatfield Forest on Saturday 15th September to highlight the threat to the 1000 year old National Trust property from airport expansion plans which would make Stansted's 'airport in the countryside' bigger than Heathrow today. The five mile Runway Ramble through the ancient woodland is being co-ordinated by SSE to coincide with the planning application for a second runway, expected in September from airport operator BAA. Hundreds are expected to attend the morning walk, which sets off just after 10.00am. Will Self agreed to take part in the event when he toured Hatfield Forest and other ancient woodland threatened by BAA's plans last December.

Airport expansion would jeopardise the tranquillity of the forest, while there are grave concerns over the impact that such massive expansion would have on its ecosystems as a result of changes in air quality. There are also fears that climate change impacts would render the woodland vulnerable to extreme weather conditions, which would further compromise its survival. Aviation is the fastest growing source of the emissions, which contribute to climate change. Beyond the perimeter of the forest, the massive landgrab being sought for the airport's development would see nearly 500 hectares of land (much of which is of special landscape value) and up to 27 hectares of woodland destroyed. A total of 73 homes including 18 listed buildings would also be demolished if the plans were ever allowed to go ahead.

Proposals for expansion on Stansted's single runway are already being considered at a public inquiry this summer following the local council's refusal to give permission to lift the cap on current throughput at the airport. A further public inquiry to consider the second runway application is expected to begin in 2008 although it will be 2010 before the outcome is likely to be known.

Hatfield Forest is located at Bush End on the B1256, just off Junction 8 of the M11. Entry is free with a suggested donation to the SSE's fighting fund. Car parking fees apply to non-members of the National Trust. Refreshments available. Further information: www.stopstanstedexpansion.com (Coming Events) or from SSE on 01279 870558.

Carol Barbone,
Campaign Director
Tel: M 07775 52 3091
Email: cbarbone@mx.co.uk



Huw Johnson Club

Gavin Madge Memorial Service

It may seem strange to say that this service was a happy occasion; however we had mourned for Gavin at his funeral but now we remembered his fun and laughter. We discoed to music from 'Grease' and marched around the church singing "We are marching in the light of God". We say a big thank you to the Rev'd Dr Caroline Curren, to Lorraine Everett the organist and St John's church choir for making this such a joyful event.

Visit to the London Eye

This was another great occasion in our list of events planned this Summer. We travelled with Meridian Line coaches who have a specially adapted lift for wheelchairs. Our driver Mark entertained us with a commentary which often raised a great laugh as he gave us a tour of London. At the London Eye the staff were so helpful and we were soon high up over the River Thames hoping the Queen could see us all waving. The weather was perfect and even Alex, who was very reluctant to board the Eye, thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We concluded our tour with a quick look at Buckingham Palace on the coach trip home. Many thanks to our many benefactors who made this trip possible.

Marion G Johnson



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

'Whatever next?' might have been the title of last month's meeting. Following the May Day carol, the explanation and discussion of the national resolution led to a unanimous vote carried for the retention of **all** community hospitals nationwide (though Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden are not threatened).

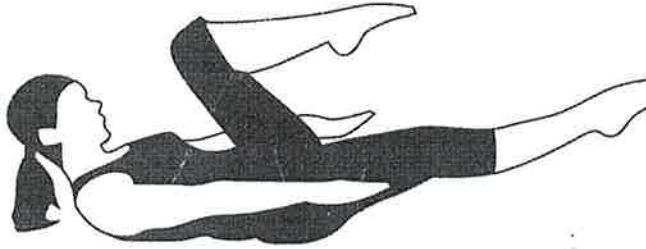
A Magazine Day then produced most varied and many hilarious items; some strange revelations about William (Jerusalem) Blake; Grandma's Household Hints on *Preparing a room for a guest* or *Washing Stockings*; snappy snippets from a daily newspaper (no advertising here); a member's original on her Derbyshire Days; taped choir music from Namibia (we are not parochial in Ugley); a jolly rendering of Pam Ayres (fun in any accent); and a 1920's photograph of Stansted Women's Own (were you there as a baby with your mother?). Reminders to the pre-1940 brigade of an age of simplicity and innocence.

Grand Finale: 'Jerusalem' sung solo with actions by newly 90 year old Mary. Thank you to all those who forgot to bring a party piece for your contribution of applause!

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Stansted Tennis Club



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The new date for this tournament, for all girls 15 or under on the day of the tournament, will be on Sunday, 16th September.

Primary Boys' Singles Tournament

Due to bad weather, this tournament, which should have been played on 13th May had to be cancelled. The new date will be Sunday, 22nd July.

Forthcoming Tournaments:

Hospital Cup and Club Tournament

The draws for these are up on the clubhouse noticeboard and all participants should please check their play-by dates and arrange their matches.

Membership

If you have not yet renewed your membership for the 2007/2008 season, please contact Daphne Lunnon (Membership Secretary) on 01279 817574.

Coaching

There are still a couple of places left for any keen ladies who would like to join in our coaching and match practice session at 2.00pm 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.

The junior coaching and match practice sessions are now well under way for ages 6-15. If you would like to find out more and get your name on the waiting list, please call Chris on the above number.

Martyn Taplin (01279 816386) continues to coach adults on Saturday afternoons at the club.

Used tennis balls

These are available for sale at the reasonable price of £1 per tin of 4 balls. Please contact Jan Hollis on 01279 812073 or call at 105 Cambridge Road.

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
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Contacts

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

Chris Hollis

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MERCER AND HUGHES

ALL ABOUT OUR OPEN DAY

This month sees a flurry of excitement and activity at Mercer and Hughes. We have decided to hold a practice open day at our Saffron Walden surgery on Sunday 15th July, from 10.00pm -4.00pm. These have become quite popular in recent years; in fact we held one about 12 years ago, and it was great fun.

It's a good opportunity to come and see behind the scenes at the surgery, to meet all the staff, who keep the practice running and to find out where your pet goes when it's taken from you for an x-ray or operation. This year we've decided to make it as interesting as possible for children, so there are lots of puzzles, quizzes and competitions to stretch your imagination, including a find the flea game, guess the weight of the dog, identify the bone and guess the surgical instrument.

There will be a pets corner so you can learn how to handle rabbits and guinea pigs correctly and what the best type of food is for them; and we're hoping for some more unusual pets including a pair of rats and even a snake! The vets and nurses will be on hand to give out lots of useful information on how to look after various pets, as well as explaining how all the different bits of equipment work, what you need to do if you want to train as a vet or veterinary nurse, and if you stand still long enough they may even use you in the bandaging demonstration!

The Raptor Foundation are visiting us and we are also trying out ferret racing! There will be refreshments, a raffle and a lucky dip with all proceeds being split between local charities that we help or help us in our work. We will also be having a complementary therapies room with demonstrations of acupuncture, chiropractic, homeopathy and animal healing throughout the day.

Last but not least we are also holding an art competition. We are inviting children to submit a piece of art work on the theme of 'my ideal pet'. This could be their own pet, or a pet they would like to have, or a made up pet from outer space! It could be a drawing, a painting, a collage or a mixed media piece. There are four categories: under 4 years, 5-9 years, 10-14 years and 15 years and older. All you have to do is bring the piece into the Saffron Walden surgery by 11th July. The winners will be announced at the Open Day and we've got some fabulous prizes including computer games, art materials and days out at local attractions such as Linton Zoo.

We're getting excited about it already, and we hope to see as many of you as possible throughout the day.

Ilse Pedler, Partner,
Mercer and Hughes, Veterinary Surgeons



HELPLINE

STANSTED'S COMMUNITY CARE SCHEME

Care Network (Uttlesford), of which Stansted Helpline is a member, are holding a Summer Event on **Thursday, 26th July** on the theme of :

Care and Safety in the Home

There will be speakers from Essex Fire Service, Essex Police and the West Essex Public Health Service. The event is to be held at Tabard Room, Foakes Hall, Great Dunmow between 10.00am and 3.00pm and lunch will be included. Having heard a presentation that Darren Riddell, the Community Safety Liaison Officer with the Essex Fire & Rescue Service, gave to Care Network (Uttlesford), I can definitely recommend this event to everyone. He is a very enthusiastic, informative and interesting speaker and we all learned a great deal about how to improve safety in the home.

If you would like to book a place for this event or find out more information, please contact CVSU on 01371 878400. Alternatively, you can ring me on 814562 by which time I should have full details of times, etc. For any older or disabled people who would like to attend but are in need of transport, please ring the Helpline telephone number - 07704 553727 - and we will do our best to provide assistance.

Francine Cope,
Chairman



The arrival of our new water cascade (purchased with the money raised at our quiz night a few months ago) has been encouraging the children at Rainbow to think about our current topic - water. They have also been out and about looking for different water flows in the village. Our book of the month 'Mr Gumpy's Outing' has also been echoing the theme, entertaining children with tales of trips along the river.

Our annual trip this year was to Standalone Farm in Letchworth where the children enjoyed experiencing life on a farm, milking, getting up close to the animals and activating the model railway. Before the end of term we are planning a lunch party for all the children at Rainbow to celebrate their time with us and to raise money for more equipment. There will be face-painting, a bouncy castle, hoop-the-duck and a raffle, so we hope this event, together with the teddy bear's picnic on the last day of term, will make for a fun end to the year.

As the end of the school year approaches we will be sad to say goodbye to our older children but feel that they are well prepared for primary school. However, we look forward to welcoming the new children in September for a new school year. If you are interested in a place at Rainbow Tots (age 18 months to two and a half years) please contact Tina South on 814371. If you are interested in a place at the pre-school please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for further information.

Isabelle Page,
Rainbow Committee

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BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

School news

The last half of the summer term, with its sunny weather, is always an enjoyable and busy time, with trips, entertainment and sport. We sent a rounders team to the annual *Howe Green Tournament* and came back successful for the second year running! Well done to all who played. Our Years 5 and 6 are looking forward to their five day visit to the Isle of Wight, while also practising hard for the end of year production (look out for more about both of these next time!!).

As usual at this time of year we have our wonderful *Music Evening*. Any child can take part and they really enjoy performing to the audience of attentive parents and siblings. The residents from Hargrave House were invited to the dress rehearsal and thoroughly enjoyed the music and the tea they were given! The choir also performed at *Newport Music Festival*. Nursery and Class 2 have been to the Pelham Environmental Centre and Class 4 had an amazing visit to Greenwich Observatory, while the Reception children have an exciting visit to Linton Zoo planned.

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 a visit for you. We still have some vacancies in both classes for this September. 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 during term time. It is open to children 18 months upwards. If you would like to come, contact the school or just turn up! Sessions cost £1 and children should be accompanied!

PTA News

Music in the Park – Saturday 14th July
(Gates open 1.30pm, Music 2.00pm-8.00pm)

It's that time of year again! We look forward to welcoming back many familiar faces, but also hope to see some newcomers to this lovely village event. Last year's *Music in the Park* was a complete sell-out, with fantastic advance ticket sales, and we would be delighted to achieve something similar again this time. So please come along and help us to make this another wonderful celebration of community and musical talent. Our fantastic line-up of local talent includes Bamboo Loud, Dew Drop Trio, Reload, Slow Time Mondays and What's That! All of these great bands have played for us before at *Music in the Park* and we're really excited that they have agreed to take part again this year! We are also very much looking forward to introducing the Samba Band from Mountfitchet College to the *Music in the Park* audience for the first time.

Bring a picnic, bring your family, bring your friends! Head for the bar for Pimms, Cava, red or white wine, draught beers and Magners. Visit the barbecue for one of Olly's legendary lamb wraps or a mouth watering vegetable kebab. We will also have plenty of bottled water and soft drinks available to buy, not to mention ice creams, popcorn and sweets.

There will be a large area dedicated to keeping our younger visitors entertained throughout the afternoon and evening

while the bands are performing. As well as a bouncy castle for the very young, you will find a 35 foot inflatable fun run for older children (both supervised by trained, CRB checked staff). In addition to these there will be a special area marked off where children will be able to play giant Jenga, giant Connect 4, table football and table tennis. This area will be supervised by volunteer parents. In line with the new legislation, please note that this is a **NON-SMOKING** event.

Ticket prices are the same as last year – and children under 16 go free with a paying adult. You can save £1 on each ticket if you buy them before the event, viz £7.50 in advance or £8.50 on the day - available from the School or by calling me (see below). I look forward to seeing some of you on Saturday 14th July. Let us hope for a glorious weekend for us and also for everyone who is involved in the Open Gardens Day on the Sunday. I am looking forward to taking a fairly unenergetic stroll around the village enjoying the fruits of other people's labours and marvelling, as usual, at the incredible variety of those delightful hidden gems!

Alison Thompson
Bentfield School PTA Co-Chairman
Tel: 816188



www.villagemusicclub.co.uk

**A reminder that Saturday, 14th July, Bastille Day
is the date set for our popular, biennial**

Summer Soiree

in St John's Church and Grounds

Erdem Misirlioglu, the 17 year-old from Ipswich, who performed at our last soiree in 2005 returns to perform again for us this year. During the last two years, Erdem has had considerable success, most recently being awarded 3rd place in the International Rachmaninoff Competition for Young pianists, held in the composer's birthplace, Veliky Novgorod. His solo concerts and chamber groups have taken him to St Martin-in-the-Fields, Snape Maltings, Cardiff Millennium Centre and various venues in Poland. This year Erdem will be playing piano works by Chopin, Liszt and Scarlatti for us.

A number of other **outstanding local young musicians** will also be taking part, many of whom have been prizewinners at The Harlow Young Musician of the Year awards. The first half of the concert will begin in the Church at 6.00pm followed by supper outside in the grounds and marquee, when a jazz group will entertain us.

Tickets must be purchased in advance for catering purposes. Adults £10, Children £3, incl supper from: Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill Jackie Corbishley, 36 Bentfield Causeway Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill Tel: 815282.

Alan Corbishley

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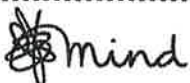
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