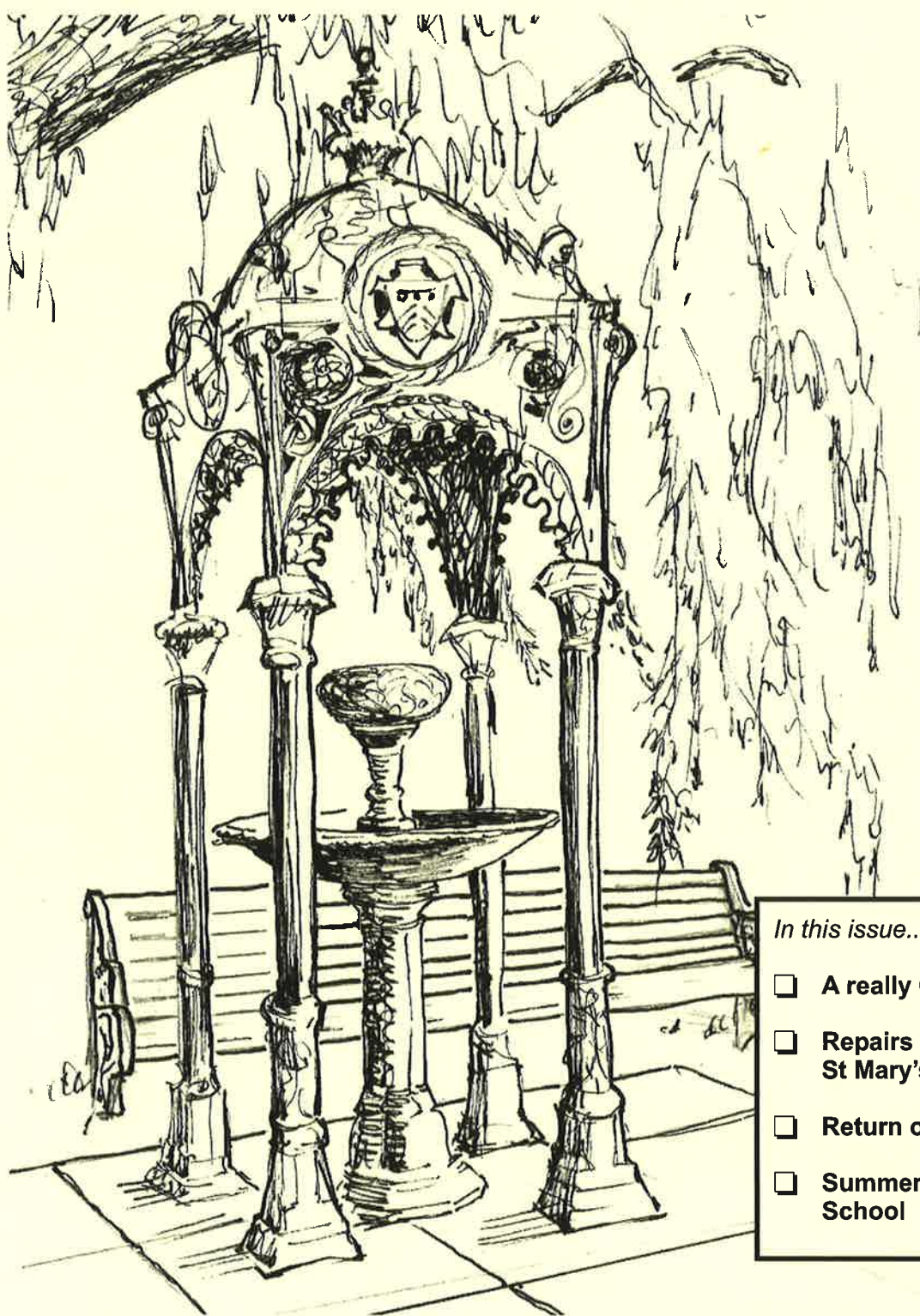


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill or email to StanstedLink@aol.com

By 14th June for publication on 30th June

By 12th July for publication on 28th July

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Clergy in the workplace

A university professor; a signal engineer with Network Rail; an editor with the BBC; a school head; an accountant; a judge and someone who works for the harbour authorities in Harwich – what do we all have in common? This could be a party game, and I am sure we could come up with a lot of amusing answers, but the one that I am thinking of is that all these people are – like me – Anglican priests at the same time as continuing to carry on with their ‘day job’ in these varied settings.

When we think about the clergy – certainly within the Anglican Church – we tend to imagine the parish priest who lives in a vicarage or rectory and ministers on a full time basis in the place where he or she lives. There are, however, other models, some of which have very old roots. An increasing number of Anglican clergy are now what used to be known as NSMs (non-stipendiary ministers), and some of us continue to work outside the church as well as within it. In the Chelmsford Diocese, which stretches from inner London out to the borders of Cambridgeshire and over to Colchester, Harwich and Southend, there are about 60 of us who are ‘clergy in the workplace’, and there are some features of this ministry which are special.

One is that we are doing what most other Christians do – earning a living and having to work out how our faith and Christian life relates to that. For all of us who have an active faith – whether we are clergy or lay people, it is easy sometimes to see our beliefs as something we attend to on Sundays, whilst the rest of the week we don’t think about it. That model doesn’t work for any of us. Faith and the Christian life are matters that affect who we are, wherever we are, and we all have to work out how to make

that real in our own contexts. So although sometimes it feels as if I have two jobs – at work and in the church – that is not a helpful way of thinking. It just ends up making me feel torn in two. The fact that some (not all) priests also have to work out for themselves how to integrate faith and life in the workplace is, I think, helpful in that it prevents the Church as a whole from thinking in separate boxes.

At work, we are not chaplains, with a special ‘Christian label’ – we are there by virtue of having the skills for the job. Some of us wear a dog collar at work, others don’t – so you can’t always tell us from our colleagues. This leads to questions about the ways in which we are exercising a priestly ministry in our workplaces – a question that all Christians should try and answer for themselves in relation to their own ministry.

Clergy who are self supporting and spend much of their time in the workplace are not likely to ‘take over’ from the more usual model of parish based ministry, and Stansted is about to have its own full time Rector once more. But that traditional model of ministry is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain. Other forms supplement the basic model, and also bring ‘added value’. Clergy in the workplace challenge any separate view of people and clergy, and they force us all to think about what our faith means every day. I wonder how you would feel about being given the sack at work by someone who is wearing a dog collar? Does it make a difference that they are a priest as well as your boss? Should it make a difference? Answers on a post-card, please ...

CC

contact us

all enquiries

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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

April

Baptism

15th Jacob Robert Heald

Funerals

13th Leslie Ronald Peachey, age 84 - at St John's

23rd Doris Ada Thurgood, age 90 - at St John's

26th Anthony Dellow, age 72 - at St Mary's

BISHOP ANDREW PROUD

A second former Stansted curate has become a Bishop! Following on the Rev'd Graham Lennard in the 'fifties who went on to become Bishop of Truro, then of London, the Rev'd Andrew Proud, who was Rev'd Barry Rose's curate in 1982, has just been consecrated Area Bishop of the Horn of Africa which includes the 'hot spots' (in both senses) of Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Many of us remember Andrew – chubby and cheerful, and his wife Janice, who seemed all that a priest's wife should be and who were much-loved members of our flock for two short years. It was in his time that Stansted 'Helpline' was initiated. Andrew left us to join a Team Ministry in Borehamwood before becoming Rector of East Barnet in 1992.



"It may not be everyone's cup of tea, but missionary work in Africa has enabled Andrew Proud to help bring Christ's message to millions." - East Barnet Parish Church

In 2002 he went to Ethiopia and obviously made our Lord's and his mark on a turbulent region. In 2006 Andrew had a bad fall and suffered compression fractures to two vertebrae plus a broken arm and wrist. The wrist 'repair', which was made in Addis Ababa, was not well done so he returned to London to have a bone graft from the hip with metal plate and wires. This interrupted but not prevented his ministry.

On becoming Bishop he told his former parishioners: "We both feel overwhelmed, inadequate and excited – all at the same time." At East Barnet he brought a run-down parish up to being a vibrant community and has apparently had a similar influence in Africa.

Let us pray for Andrew and Janice and for the thousands committed to their care.

Derek Honour

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

Simplicity

Quakers have, as part of their ethos, a testimony of simplicity, which began as a protest against the extravagance and snobbery which marked English society in the 1600s, and Quakers have been aspiring to lead simple lives ever since.

Quaker testimonies are not ethical rules or a set of words but an expression of spirituality in action. They are ways of behaving, matters of practice involving everyday actions and insights about how our ordinary behaviour connects up with our spiritual experience. They hold up an alternative vision of humanity and society centred on meeting real needs rather than ever-changing desires.

Simplicity is not naïvety and plainness is not drabness or narrowness, but is essentially positive and has to do with trying to avoid getting involved with things that can dilute our energies or scatter our thoughts. Getting to the bottom of simplicity is not a simple task but it can be very rewarding and illuminating to try to unravel what it means to us and how it can become part of our everyday lives.

I have to confess that living my life simply is a goal I aspire to but can't yet claim to have totally understood or achieved, so I was pleased to find Richard Foster's 'Ten Principles of Simplicity,' which are his attempt to flesh out the meaning of simplicity in 20th century life. He wrote them in 1973 but I think they can still be usefully relevant today. However I'm not tackling them en masse. One at a time is enough for me and number three is the one I'm concentrating on at present.

1. Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.
2. Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.
3. Develop a habit of giving things away - de-accumulate!
4. Refuse to be propagandised by custodians of modern gadgetry.
5. Learn to enjoy things without owning them.
6. Develop a deeper appreciation of creation.
7. Look with healthy scepticism at all 'buy now pay later' schemes.
8. Remember Jesus' injunction about plain, honest speech.
9. Reject anything that will breed the oppression of others.
10. Shun whatever would distract you from your main goal.

Anthea Lee



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www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Minister Rev'd Keith Page
2 South Road
Bishop's Stortford CM23 3JH
Tel 654475

Lettings Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AQ
Tel 812593

Preachers for June

3rd 10.30am All Age Worship
2.30pm Pamela Cressey

10th 10.30am Geoff Grundy

17th 10.30am Rev'd John Buxton
Holy Communion

24th 10.30am Rev'd Keith Page

Other Activities

Sun 3rd 3.30pm Outreach tea in the Foyer

Mon 4th 6.00pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00pm Shalom at 7 Blythwood Gardens
- Julian of Norwich

Thu 14th 8.00pm Church meeting in the Hall

Mon 18th 2.30pm Monday Club - Marion Johnson
6.30pm Pilots in the Hall
8.00pm Shalom in the Hall
- Richard and Shirley



SHALOM

This ecumenical group meets for discussion and fellowship on alternate Monday evenings at 8.00pm. Details of the next few meetings are as follows:

Monday 4th June - Pat Simpson will be introducing us to the writings of Julian of Norwich at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Monday 18th June - Shirley and Richard Lavender will be leading us in the Free Church Hall.

Monday 2nd July - Colonel Alan Hart of the Salvation Army will be sharing with us at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

All are welcome to join us.

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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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

At our Book Group's retreat to Pleshey in April, we had a session on Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's speech which he wrote when he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970, and we have since read his first work, which was published in 1962 - 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich'.

Both of these works are extremely powerful statements. Solzhenitsyn had served in the Russian Army through the Second World War, but had been arrested in 1945 for making critical remarks about Stalin when writing to a friend. He was sentenced to eight years in the labour camps and then to internal exile in Siberia. He was finally freed in 1957, after the death of Stalin. He felt he owed a debt to the millions who had died in the camps, and to those who were still held in them, and was compelled to write 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich'. Until its publication, any truthful discussion of events that had shaped Soviet history was curtailed, and the book exposed to the general public for the first time the violent implementation of the collective farm system, the imprisonment or deportation of enormous numbers of people, and the existence of the vast network of prison camps. After publication, Solzhenitsyn came under great pressure from the authorities, and when he was awarded the Nobel Prize, the Soviets attacked the Nobel Prize Committee and denied that he had any literary talent.

Although Solzhenitsyn was never able to deliver his speech, a short film has since been made, using words from the speech, which we watched on video. The film dramatises contemporary issues such as the differing scales of values in the world, the relevance and power of art and literature, and the crucial role of the individual. Solzhenitsyn was converted to Christianity in the camps and the film emphasises the importance of moral and spiritual values.

Solzhenitsyn was expelled in 1974, but remained convinced that he would return. He was finally able to return to his beloved Russia in 1994, where he is still living, now in his late eighties and in frail health.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN - 'GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT'?

Photographs by Mike Howes

For many, many years, St John's church members and participants from other churches in Stansted, have put on this activity that was initially thought up by our own Marion Johnson.

Good Friday 2007 was wonderfully sunny. Early in the morning the children eagerly lined up to be registered, their own packed lunches stowed ready for later. The adults had all been CRB checked, and they too looked forward to the day with anticipation. Each child's first task was to make a badge to wear. The rest of the day was filled with painting, craft, acting and singing. The seven to eleven year olds were divided into four groups, which rotated between four separate activities. The youngest children, too had their own activities, including making the fantastic spirit of God collage.



Luckily because of the sunny day, the backdrop was completely dry before it was displayed in church. Made from a large white sheet and painted with water based paints during the morning, it had been laid out on the grass in the church garden during the lunch break, then once it was dry, it was attached to the supporting palm trees that had also been manufactured in the hall along with some of the plants for the garden of Gethsemane. Because I was based in the hall with the painters, I didn't see any of the other activities or the younger children, until the actual production was taking place, so my account is not necessarily complete.

Each group of singers learnt their songs during the time that was allotted. 'We have a king who rides on a donkey' was very appropriate, 'Stay with me, remain with me' was sung in different parts, which was quite challenging for some of the younger children, but they managed it very proudly. There was 'The Servant King', which is one of my particular favourites, 'Meekness and Majesty' and finishing with 'Lord of the Dance'. These were slotted into the action at suitable times during the production.

The craft group managed to make some wonderful costumes, including those of Roman soldiers; the children also made some roman type sandals along with Easter gardens which the children were able to take home for Easter decorations



The rehearsals took place in the church, I understand they even had a game of hide and seek! The children and young people took their various roles, be it Jesus, radio announcer, radio reporter, soldier, disciple, priest, Pilot or onlooker. Each group would have their part to play in the action of the play.

During the morning there was a break for each group to have squash and a hot cross bun, then on to their next activity. And then finally lunch, when the children and adults could sit down and relax and eat their packed lunches.



Everything was leading up to the afternoon presentation put on for the children's parents and other members of the congregation, including Bishop Christopher of Colchester.

On entering the church through the south door, the first thing one noticed was a wonderful collage of brightly coloured tissue paper, showing a cross and representing the spirit of God, with swirling sweeps of red, yellow and orange, and purple and silver; this had amazingly been made by the smallest children during the morning. Another unusual thing was that the chairs all faced the centre aisles not the front of the church. We took our seats expectantly, the palm trees made by the children, looked down and gave a distinctly Mediterranean air to the church.

Then Jesus, attired in biblical costume and attended by similarly dressed disciples, triumphantly rode down the church aisle on his donkey, waving and stopping to speak to those on the way, and with much cheering from the children.

On previous years there have been space ships, galleons, or underwater scenes, but this year, a radio reporter and radio announcer helped to tell us the plain and unadulterated story. Our announcer, positioned in the pulpit, gave commentary on the action, while our reporter followed events on the ground and interviewed characters in the play, and members of the congregation.



The action moved backwards and forwards, now at the back then at the front, and each time a further part of the story was told.

Eventually, Jesus was lead away by the soldiers to be crucified.

Then astonishingly, the body of Jesus had gone! He had risen!

'I am the Lord of the Dance' was the last hymn, and when the people left the church perhaps still humming the tunes, they were offered chocolate Easter eggs.

I for one left the church in a very buoyant frame of mind.



Carole Crosby

It's good to note that Bishop Andrew Proud has taken the Good Friday Project to his various parishes - and possibly Africa too.

St Mary's CE Foundation Primary School



Caring, sharing, preparing for life

We have enjoyed welcoming the children from Rainbow Nursery who will be joining our Foundation Stage class in September. By making a number of visits the children have experienced all parts of the school day and a wide range of class activities. The current Foundation Stage and Year 1 children have acted as guides and mentors to show them the ropes!

We all had an energetic and profitable afternoon recently when our School Council organised a very successful Sponsored Skip. We were raising funds for the latest of the School Council's projects to improve the school grounds. One of the strengths of the school is the way in which the pupils of all ages are able to work together. All the children are involved in sharing ideas and planning what we will be working on and everyone feels a sense of achievement when we succeed! Of course the teachers make good use of the projects in giving the children opportunities to learn – they practise problem solving, manage a budget, survey opinions and evaluate designs ...the list could go on!

Friday June 15th

Sports Day, BBQ Lunch and Summer Fair

The PTFA Summer Fair will be held on the school field during the afternoon after our morning of Sports followed by a families' barbeque lunch. Come along for a mixture of stalls, activities and refreshments. There will be plenty for everyone!

Tuesday June 19th

BILLY ELLIOTT

Join our visit to the West End to see '*Billy Elliott*' at the Victoria Palace Theatre.

Ticket price of £50 includes transport and a top class seat. The coach leaves St. Mary's School car park at 5.00pm. Call Lyn in our office on 01279 812212.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher



**Stansted Evening
Women's Institute**

COFFEE MORNING

**Wed 6th June
10 am - noon
Day Centre**

Raffle and Stalls

Admission £1 incl. coffee/tea
& refreshments

Proceeds to Meningitis Trust & WI funds

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

7 - 10 pm Friday 8th June

'Sonia's Place' 31 Chapel Hill

£8 for supper & a drink

Tickets: 817937, 816407 or 815282

In aid of Church Hall improvements

ELSENHAM VILLAGE FÊTE

1 - 4 pm Sun 10th June

Village Playing Field

Punch & Judy Show

Dawn's Animal Encounters

Newport School Band

Children's Rides & Sideshows

Bouncy Castle - Face Painting

Handicrafts - Plants - Hog Roast

Licensed Bar - Teas & Cakes

Adults 50p

OAP & Unaccompanied Children 30p

Car Parking **Free!**

VILLAGE EVENTS

June

3 Sun	St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
	Afternoon Tea (after service)	Free Church 3.30 pm
6 Wed	WI Coffee morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon
	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
8 Fri	Hill Chilli	31 Chapel Hill 7 - 10 pm
	Celebrating Gavin's life (HJC)	St John's Church 7.30 pm
9 Sat / 10 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
9 Sat	Lib Dem ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
10 Sun	Beginners' session	Bowls Club 10 am - 1 pm
	Elsenham Village Fête	Playing Field 1 - 4 pm
14 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
15 Fri	Summer Fair	St Mary's School afternoon
16 Sat	Saffron Walden CS Concert	St Mary's Church S/W 7.30 pm
23 Sat / 24 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
24 Sun	Family Barbecue & Mini Fête	St John's Churchyard 12.30 pm
30 Sat	Lib Dem Lebanese evening	Chantry Hall Henham 7.30 pm

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
4 Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
7 Sat / 8 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
7 Sat	Lib Dem ploughman's	Day Centre noon - 2 pm
8 Sun	Manuden Glyndebourne	Wilford House 6 for 6.30 pm
12 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14 Sat	Music in the Park	Bentfield School 2 - 8 pm
	Village Music Club Soirée	St John's Church 6 pm
15 Sun	Stansted Open Gardens	2 - 6 pm
18 Wed	Lunch Club	Old Bell Hotel 1 pm



**St Mary's Primary
School**

SUMMER FAIR

Friday 15th June

In afternoon following morning sports



- stalls
- activities
- refreshments



For more details tel 812212



**SAFFRON
WALDEN
CHORAL
SOCIETY**

**Vaughan Williams - Mass
Kodály - Missa Brevis**

7.30 pm Saturday 16th June

St Mary's Church Saffron Walden

Tickets from:

Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre

or tel: 01223 560315 or at the door

£12, £10 (conc.), £1 (accomp. under 18s)

**St John's, Stansted 
Family Barbecue
and Mini Fête**

Sun 24th June at 12.30 for 1pm

St John's Churchyard

Adult £7 Child £3 Family £18

Tel: Church Office 815243

or Rosemary 815551

For local and parish needs



**THE VILLAGE
MUSIC CLUB**

Summer Soirée

by talented young musicians

6 pm Saturday 14th July

St John's Church

Tickets from:

Stansted Carpets or Sonia Levy tel 815282

£10 adults, £3 children (includes supper)

Interval jazz

Bentfield School PTA

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Saturday 14th July

Live bands from

2pm - 8pm!!

bouncy castles ~ ice cream

sweets ~ popcorn

children's games ~ BBQ

face painting ~ bar

Tickets - £7.50 in advance/£8.50 on gate

from school or tel 816188

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

Entry by programme

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CONGRATULATIONS!

We are delighted to report that our doughty Editor has recently joined the octogenarian ranks. Contrary to rumours stemming from a coincidence of birthdays, Derek would like to make it clear that he is not the Pope's twin brother and never will be! This is rather a shame because we had hoped for some Vatican sponsorship when the new-style 'Link' launches in November. Some of us think that DNA testing is needed to make absolutely sure that Derek does not have Bavarian roots.



Photo by Mandy Honour

In spite of his disputed pedigree, we are extremely grateful to Derek for his steady hand on the tiller of the 'Link' over a good many years. He is beginning to mutter about 'moving on', but as the 'Link' pension scheme is in very poor shape we anticipate that he will have to stay for a while longer.

Congratulations Derek. Just imagine, in 20 years' time you will get a telegram from the monarch whereas the Pope will probably not!

Michael Dyer



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

This being the last meeting of our season, we commenced with a brief Annual General Meeting. We were very pleased to note that we were in a good financial situation (thanks to our Treasurer, Ralph Phillips); we had equalled our previous record number of members; had enjoyed an interesting programme of speakers (through the efforts of David Harrison), and been sustained through refreshments organised by Janice McDonald and Pam Seavers and served by members of the Society. With this satisfactory state of affairs, you will not be surprised to learn that Peter Brown, our Chairman, the officers and the Committee members were re-appointed!

Having got the business out of the way, the mood called for something lighter. We were not disappointed when Barry Francis, one of our members, told us of some of the people he had worked with in the tunnelling industry, especially Jacko, Mike and their Polish friends. I cannot tell the tales as he could but he finished with an anecdote involving kingfishers, a heavy runaway crane and a lake, which reduced the audience to helpless laughter.


After a very necessary break for refreshment, David Harrison produced a project he has been working on for some time. A member of the Society discovered in his attic a magic lan-

tern, together with some slides, and David thought it would be useful if a speaker failed to turn up one night. It was made in 1885 and was originally powered by four fish-tailed gas jets - not exactly meeting present day Health and Safety regulations! He had converted it to a more efficient (and safe) electrical lighting system. David then asked us to imagine it was before the age of television and motion pictures so, with the aid of Peter Brown, he presented his magic lantern show.

This included 19th century photographs of local people and places, together with hand-painted stories and pictures of costumes of 'all nations'. Enjoyable as they were, I hadn't realised that there were so many ways to put a slide into a magic lantern other than the correct one, but we saw them all! The audience enjoyed every minute and we look forward to seeing the next show.

The Society now has its summer break and meets again on 6th September at the Day Centre, when Audrey Collins will be giving a talk with the intriguing title 'Sex, Lies and Registration'. Hope you will be there - meanwhile have a good summer.

Ian Seavers



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ST MARY'S CHURCH STANSTED

Many of you will have heard of the recent vandalism at St Mary's. In an unsuccessful attempt steal the lead from the tower, the door to the tower was completely broken away – the thieves, failing to force either the lock or the great iron bands and hinges, smashed out the stonework from the door posts and took out the whole door. Sadly all the tools being used in the highly specialised repair work being carried out to replace the lead and copper were stolen. Until the door can be replaced the bell ringers cannot practise. A suitable punishment for the vandals would be a lengthy spell in the bell chamber, with Edmund Wilkinson and the ringers in full flow for several hours. Needless to say, there is little hope of anyone responsible for the theft and damage being caught or punished.

Some weeks before this event I was privileged to shake 'the Upright Hand' from the weather vane – taken down as part of the refurbishment of the tower. It – the Hand – is in remarkably good condition if, as we believe, this may be the first time it has been taken down since the tower was built in 1692. The builders hope to inform us when the whole weather vane is to be replaced. Several of the Local History Society will be there to witness the event and record it for posterity. But how many Stansted people know that there is an 'Upright Hand' at the top of the spike, some 20 feet higher than the tower? This same hand is part of the great Middleton memorial beside the altar in the church. Its significance is not recorded in the 'Heraldry of St Mary's' kept at the back of the church. Can somebody enlighten us? Is it a symbol used by a City of London Livery Company? Thomas Middleton was a 'Grocer'.

One of the many old photographs hanging in the vestry is to be restored; a label attached states that it is believed to be of St Mary's in about 1870 – that is before the Victorian restoration in the 1880s. For some time there has been debate about the position of the gallery and this is clearly shown (on the north wall) as is the barrel roof (before the columns!) and the box pews each side and benches down the middle, along with several other previously unknown features. It will be most interesting to see what modern photographic techniques can reveal.

When you visit St Mary's, do take time to read the many memorial tablets. Stansted Local History Society made a record of all these (and those in the churchyard) in 1995 – again the book is at the back of the church. There are some translations should you need help with the Latin, but do take special note of the dedications to some splendid women – Harriet Croasdaile, for instance, who was 'a friend to the poor and a most kind neighbour', or to the left of the altar is Bridgett Dalton – the dedication too long to quote here, but an example to us all!

St Mary's will be open to view on the first Sunday of each month until September, but if you would like to come at any other time please telephone Mrs Phyllis Saban – 01279 815847 or Audrey Rodgers – 01279 812162 from whom the keys can be obtained. Before you leave, do please sign the Visitors' Book.

Audrey Rodgers



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Even anyone thinking they knew all about daffodils would have learned something from John Burroco's extensive knowledge of growing and showing daffodils, of which there are almost 24,000 types, but only 3,000 in commercial production. They are easy to grow in any soil but they need a lot of water. When in flower they also need a weak feed of potash such as Tomorite and when flowering is over they need a fertiliser, eg Growmore when dead heads have been nipped off and leaves are allowed to die back naturally, whilst the sun helps bulk up the bulbs. They still need water.

On the problem of blindness, we were told this is mainly the result of starvation of feed or water, or cutting back leaves whilst they are still green. After five or six years it is best to divide clumps in June or July.

We were encouraged to compete in the Spring Show and given some tricks of the trade in presenting bulbs, and reminded of the need to read, understand and keep to the Show's schedules. Now is the time to order bulbs for next year's Show, for delivery in the autumn.

This month's competition for a daffodil was won by Pat Barratt.

On Wednesday 6th June the Club will be visiting Dr Weller's Garden for Butterflies.

Oh, and please remember the Open Gardens Day on 15th July. Further details next month.

Sally Stockman



Huw Johnson Club

Once again we have enjoyed an evening bowling at Bishop's Stortford with loud cheers when a strike was achieved and moans when one skittle refused to fall.

On 8th June we are holding a service at St John's Church at 7.30pm to celebrate the life of Gavin, one of our members who died in a road accident last June. A presentation plaque will be unveiled using the money we raised at our Christmas Concert in memory of Gavin. We hope that all our friends and families will join us on the occasion so please come along. We hope too that you will join us after the service for refreshments. This will be a good opportunity for you to meet our members who are always pleased to have a chat with friends.

On 15th June we are all off for a visit to the London Eye. This outing is one of several we are planning in place of our usual annual holiday.

Marion Johnson

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OF DAD'S ARMY, CRICKET & MUMS

Many people in Stansted will need no introduction to Keith Turner, choirmaster, scout leader, etc. Although now resident in Cambridgeshire, Keith is often back in Stansted visiting his friends. Recently I and Keith Patmore, another past Stansted resident and local character (in the nicest possible sense) spent an enjoyable evening and 'Bed and Breakfast' together with Des Winder, another old Stansted resident who now lives quite near Keith. We 'old' Stansted boys tend to stick together! Keith is busy researching and writing about his reminiscences as a boy in Stansted during the war period. Being a bit older than me Keith has some great memories of this period and has agreed to share some of them with the 'Link' readers. We look forward to seeing them.

I was born the day before war broke out and so my first few years were spent growing up whilst the war was on and I have a few memories such as all of us going into the cellar whilst a doodlebug flew over. It made an unusual sound and I was told if the noise stopped that meant it was coming down. I recall receiving a food parcel and insisting on sucking a banana which I had never seen before. We had two lovely 'girls' staying with us, Jean and Joanna. I believe Keith has vivid memories of the evacuees coming to Stansted.

My father was in the Home Guard, led by Major Alsop who lived up Alsa Street. From some of the tales he told me of their exploits it was very close to the television programme 'Dad's Army'. I would welcome any input on Stansted's 'Dads Army', which I am sure would make interesting reading.

Recently two deaths of 'old' Stansted residents evoked many memories for me. Tony Dellow, known by all his friends as 'Tabs', was a great sportsman. I played cricket with Tabs and, as the 2nd XI wicket keeper, can lay testament to the speed of his bowling. Tabs' brother Ted was the 1st XI demon speed bowler. I recall that for some reason Ted played for the 2nd XI in a match against Hornchurch. Early in the home side's innings there was an audible click off Ted's bowling. "Howzat" rang round as the ball sailed towards me. To my horror I dropped it! I can see Ted now (first team speed bowlers took the game very seriously!) hands on hips glaring at me. I wished the ground would open up beneath me.

This was not one of my better days. The batsman I dropped, and his partner went on to make a stand of over 100 runs. I watched helplessly as a mighty hit propelled the ball in the direction of my parked car on the boundary, which it hit with a resounding thud and as I left the ground with a full load of passengers my exhaust caught on a small post protruding from the ground and was nearly ripped off.

When Tony retired from playing cricket he took up bowls and reached county standard. The esteem with which 'Tabs' was held was witnessed by the many ex-playing colleagues and friends at his funeral.

Another death was Rene Rice, my great friend Geoff's mother. Rene was a redoubtable lady and I have many happy memories of her and her husband Stuart.

It set me thinking about 'mate's mums' and the influence they had on us when we were lads. We were always round each other's houses and most mums welcomed (and often fed) us and treated us as one of the family, in spite of some of the tricks we used to get up to.

Rene was 92 years of age and many 'mums' are no longer with us, but there are still some with us who are generally over 90. My good friend Peter Brown tells me his mum enjoys reading the 'Link' and the reminiscences of Stansted in the past.

It's funny how quite small things stick in your memory. As a boy I hated coffee and wouldn't touch it – that was until I was round my friend Ian and Stuart Maskells at Watemill Farm. Mrs Maskell gave me a very large mug of coffee made with lashings of fresh farm milk. I was entreated to try it and found it to be delicious. From that day onwards I never turned my nose up at coffee again.

My mother was great friends with Keith Turner's mother, Nellie. I loved going to their house as they had a large box of toys which used to come out. I can remember it now! Memories are so important and I feel that if they are not put down on paper they are often forgotten. That is why Keith is writing about his memories of being a boy in Stansted during the war. He is doing it mainly for his grandchildren to read.

If anybody has memories of 'Stansted past' they would like to share with 'Link' readers please let me have them. How time does fly. I am writing this on Saturday morning prior to going to Bentfield School for their May Fair. Hoping the rain holds off. They seem to come round so quickly now!

Dick Pollard



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

WINDMILL FUNDRAISING

The fundraising for the Windmill is under way again this year. We have had some generous donations and also a house clearance, which included some good bric-a-brac for the Windmill Fete, along with items of furniture which we will sell on Ebay, the internet auction site.

The next issue of 'Link' will give an update on the progress so far. Meanwhile, bear us in mind if you have items to dispose of. Call us on 813614 (our apologies for posting the incorrect phone number last month).

The Stansted Millers

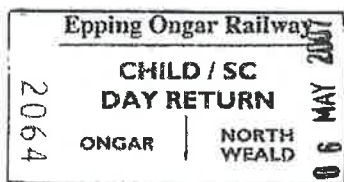
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Epping Ongar Railway

It seems that comparatively few people in the Stansted area know that this railway is running again. This needs to be rectified as it is our nearest restored railway and can make a pleasant Sunday afternoon's outing, as well as enabling the historic market town of Ongar to be explored at leisure.

The single track line actually dates from 1865. It operated by steam until the 1950s when it was electrified and made an extension of London Transport's Central line. The relatively small populations of Ongar and North Weald did not allow the line to reach its passenger or freight potential, and one intermediate station, Blake Hall, was closed in 1981. The extension continued to operate but make a loss until 1994 when London Transport closed it down.



A proper ticket!

The Epping Ongar Railway Volunteer Society was formed in 2000 and in four years returned the line to regular use. One of its first tasks was to lower the track under the M11 road bridge, as the engineers had only reckoned on the low-slung underground trains. The Society has had to climb a financial mountain to achieve what it has, but given time and money it has a springboard to make it into a first class visitor attraction - a genuine living museum.

Trains run between Coopersale and Ongar, although at

Ongar station and DMU



present there is no platform at Coopersale. Plans are in hand for a halt and picnic area, but at present North Weald Station serves as the western boarding point. The short there-and-back run to Coopersale takes one through the delightful Roughtalleys Wood, part of Epping Forest. The five mile line from North Weald to Ongar is largely tree-lined, sometimes on low embankment but also in cutting. The views are of unspoilt Essex countryside, a delight in itself, with the prospect of seeing wildlife at almost any point.



At Ongar there are locomotives and rolling stock of Finnish origin which were last used in the film 'Anna Karenina'. Unfortunately these run on a 5' gauge and must remain a static exhibit. There are six trains in each direction every Sunday throughout the year, with additional events on bank holidays and at Christmas. The stock are diesel motorised units (DMUs), familiar to travellers in the fifties and sixties, and in themselves a form of vintage traction. There are simple refreshment facilities at both North Weald and Ongar stations, while on "special" days drinks are dispensed on the train. The railway also operates a veteran green London Transport RTL bus which plies between Epping LT and North Weald stations.



In addition to the Coopersale halt the Society has long-term plans for an extension towards the underground station at Epping, while steam engines remain a glint in the Society's eye. It all depends on money.

Your Editor and Peggy can recommend a visit to this homely little railway with its friendly volunteer staff and absence of superficial tourist glitz. For further information phone 01277 366616 or the Talking Timetable on 01277 365200. Their website is www.eorailway.co.uk.

Derek Honour



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

The new season started on Saturday 21st April with a club game between the President's team and the Captain's team. The weather was fantastic and remains so, which makes the game even more enjoyable. What more could you ask for - playing a game with friends, sipping a cold beer or G&T and getting a tan!

The sad start to the season was the loss of a very long-standing member of the club, Tony (Tabs) Dellow who died recently. Tony was a very good bowler and club member who was known throughout Essex having played in numerous competitions and games where he represented the club. His main achievement was winning the North West Essex Bowling Association Singles Championship, twice during the 80s but he also won as part of a team the Mackeson Trophy/Greene King Triples Trophy on more than one occasion. Tony also had a flare for painting and a number of clubs in the area have a painting of their clubhouse hanging on the wall, which Tony had created. Although he had not been able to play for a couple of years due to mobility problems, he remained a social member and would sit at the end of the rink on many an evening with his pint of bitter, passing on 'advice' to bowlers as they played. He will be sadly missed.

Two important dates

Sunday 10th June between 10.00am and 1.00pm we are holding a beginners session for anyone who would like to try bowls.

We know that there are lots of you out there who would like to try but perhaps a bit uncertain about learning. It is not a difficult game to learn and once you have had one or two goes at it you will know whether you like it or not. Come along, bring a friend, son or daughter, young or old just bring a pair of flat shoes, we supply everything else. If you are unable to make it on that day or want to start sooner, come to the club on any Friday evening and one of our coaches will be pleased to take you for a training session. You can contact me in advance by email rex999t@tiscali.co.uk or tel 817388.

Wednesday 12th September: The Chelsea Pensioners are coming to the club to play a game in the early afternoon. They are a great bunch of people. Anyone wanting to come along and watch is most welcome.

Rex Turner,
Hon Secretary



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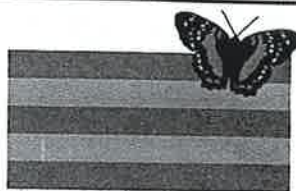
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Nature Notes

May and June are busy months for nature and you will have seen lots going on in the gardens and countryside. In the gardens round us there are not so many young birds as there were this time last year. Maybe predators have taken their toll, or perhaps the warm, dry weather in April, which encouraged huge amounts of blossom, has not produced the normal foodstuff for the birds. The blackbirds and thrushes have been finding plenty of worms and leatherjackets in our lawn, but their offspring are very few. The other day a thrush was pulling out a big, juicy worm when a blackbird, having a size advantage, came and mugged the thrush and went off with its meal. I would not go as far as calling up the sparrow hawk, but it would be rough justice if a great big mistlethrush came and showed the blackbird who was boss.

I came across a spindle bush covered with a mass of silky web. Hundreds of tiny caterpillars under the protection of the web were busy devouring the leaves. Three or four of them would start together at the edge of a leaf, which would literally disappear before your eyes. I believe several little moths produce caterpillars, which spin webs in this way. The caterpillars seem to stay on the one bush until it is stripped bare. In recent years several bushes have been attacked like this in the hedge on the left hand side of the B1383 road just after leaving the Audley End bends and heading along the straight towards Littlebury.

The fallow deer tend to gather in herds at this time of year and are often to be seen in the fields when driving around this area. If you take a walk along some of the quieter rides in Hatfield Forest you are almost certain to sight some. The little muntjac deer are more solitary and shy and are usually glimpsed sloping off through the bushes. The other day I met one on a path in a wooded area not far from Stansted and instead of disappearing it stood its ground ten yards away, stamping its front hoof and scratching the ground - actually challenging me! The fresh breeze was coming from the side and after a minute it circled round, still with a belligerent attitude, until it caught my scent and then beat a hasty retreat. Presumably my stance, carrying a coat, wearing a deer coloured sweater, with the wind blowing my wispy hair up into little horns with grey sideburns, gave him the impression that I was a competing buck muntjac, albeit a rather large one.

Orchids will soon be flowering and can be seen in the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve off Snakes Lane. Last year there were hundreds of thousands of centaury plants with their lovely pink flowers blooming across an area of Ugley beyond Orford House. Amongst all the pink flowers there was the occasional plant with white flowers. None of my reference books mentioned white centaury until I unearthed an old Victorian tome, which, sure enough, confirmed that it was occasionally found. It will be interesting to see whether such prodigious quantities grow again this year from June onwards. Linnet's Wood, which is managed by the Woodland Trust, is open to the public with green open space and picnic table and is a good place to see the flowers. Access is off the road behind Orford House or at Hill End further along the road towards Ugley Green.

If anyone is thinking of stocking their pond with goldfish, be aware that a heron regularly patrols Stansted early in the morning.

Felix

TIME TO GET 'CHIPPED'

It may sometimes seem odd to people that small animal veterinary work has seasonal variations in how busy it can be, but we always find that June, July and August are our busiest months.

This year however we have been unusually busy in April. So busy in fact that I find myself writing this at 11.00pm, one hour before the deadline for submitting it! So apologies this month; I can only say that getting up in the middle of the night to assist ewes having difficulty lambing and spending two hours waist deep in a river with a horse that had fallen in on Bank Holiday Monday has left me a little behind schedule!

Just time to tell you that June is microchip month and we are offering 25% off the normal price for all animals that are microchipped during the month. So ring Angela to book an appointment.

Ilse Pedler,
Partner,
Mercer & Hughes,
Veterinary Surgeons



This month the children at Rainbow have been investigating the air and the wind. One of the first projects was to go up to the recreation ground and fly kites to see the power of wind. The children have also been thinking about how hot air balloons work and they even had the excitement of a hot air balloon landing in the classroom! The older children have also been making their own papier mache hot air balloons. To carry on with the theme the book of the month is 'Walter's Windy Washing Day'. The playleaders have also been encouraging the children to have a greater awareness of hygiene and introducing the idea of germs and the importance of washing hands.

The sponsored cake bake went extremely well, raising further funds for our classroom equipment and the children and parents greatly enjoyed the chocolate crispy cakes in the process. In preparation for the older children moving on to primary school in September a number of them have been making visits to reception class at St Mary's.

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. Please note that we do not have any places to offer at Tots or the pre-school at the moment but we are taking names for September.

Isabelle Page,
Rainbow Committee

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STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

Next Lunch

Wed 18th July 2007 – Daniel Robinson & Sons

March Lunch

Some 50 members of the Lunch Club attended the March lunch hosted by The Bishop's Stortford High School and enjoyed an excellent lunch – the School has always been noted for its high quality catering. Andrew Goulding, the Headmaster, gave an interesting overview of the School's recent history, its activities and aspirations. Of particular interest were the School's core values, which included fairness, respect, kindness, consideration for others, integrity and hard work; values that make a sound model for the professions and business.

Andrew also spoke of the importance for students of exposure to local professions and businesses in the post-school world into which they would soon be launched, stressing that it need not be a one-way traffic, because the School can offer a valuable contribution to the local community by making its facilities available to, and by participating in, community activities. Chris Roberts, a Governor and Chairman of the School's Business Links Committee, then outlined the purposes of the Committee which, in addition to fostering links with the professional and business communities, also sought to tap the talents and experience of parents and others for the benefit of the School.

Presentations by two groups of Sixth Formers were then made on business activities in which they had engaged. Each

Had been carefully researched and budgeted and then the results, not always success, were analysed and compared to budget to see what lessons could be learned from the experience. It was salutary that the experience gained and the lessons learned were a microcosm of what happens in 'grown-up' businesses. Altogether a delightful interlude in stimulating and congenial company for which many thanks are due to the School, but especially to those upon whom the burdens of organisation and presentations fell. It was a great pleasure to welcome members of the staff, the Sixth Form and a number of new members of the Lunch Club. I do hope that they all enjoyed themselves and that we shall see them all again at some time in future.

Help Zimbabwe

As many of you will know, Tony Bowden has family interests in Zimbabwe and does much charitable work on behalf of Zimbabweans, such as the collection and distribution of medical supplies and the promotion of 'Homes in Zimbabwe', a charity which provides support for Zimbabwean old peoples' homes. In support of this charity there will be a golf day at Stockley Park – further details and entry forms from me. It would be good if we could enter a couple of teams so please consider entering the competition; better still enter a team. If you wish to go under the banner of the Lunch Club I shall be delighted to hear from you.

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UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Is Stansted Mountfitchet on the map? Some residents complained on the doorstep in the recent election campaign that there is little road signposting in our direction from the A120 and M11 as opposed to how to get to the airport, Newport - a much smaller village - and even Mountfitchet Castle. I am waiting for Essex and Herts county councils to advise whether they can provide better signage to Stansted Mountfitchet.

Other issues that came up on the doorstep are the need to sort out new recycling arrangements for people with flats and those who live on roads like Woodfields that can't accommodate wheelie bins. The Council's officers are willing to meet with residents to sort out local arrangements.

The political pendulum swung again on 3rd May and put the Conservatives back in charge at Uttlesford. The Lib Dems retained their majority in the Stansted area but Saffron Walden seats swung from a near Lib Dem monopoly to a complete Tory monopoly on the district. It only takes a small shift in votes to make this happen under our first-past-the-post electoral system.

May I thank all those who turned out to vote in Stansted South on 3rd May. Turnout was up considerably on 2003 thanks to a vigorous campaign run by my Conservative opponents. John Hudson and I will do our best to serve all residents over the next four years.

Councillor Alan Dean
Tel: 01279 813579

Email: cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Election aftermath

I should like to thank electors of Stansted North for voting in such numbers and for allowing me to serve for another term. Turnout was substantially up compared to 2003. Although I was sad to lose my colleague Anne Marchant, I look forward to a constructive working relationship with her replacement, John Salmon.

The political composition of the Council is now 26 Conservatives, 15 Liberal Democrat and 3 Independent.

Issues raised on the doorstep were the Rochford's development, Stansted Airport and speeding in the village.

How the infrastructure will cope with increased housing development was a widespread concern.

Councillor Geoffrey Sell
Tel: 01279 815925

Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

Councillor John Salmon would like to thank all those who supported him.




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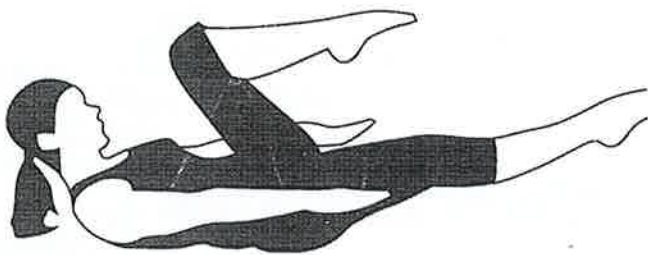
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Stansted Tennis Club



Recent Tournaments

Cayless Chilli Tournament

The sun shone brilliantly for this rearranged tournament. Sixteen players, including five invited junior members, battled it out in the round robin stage. Everyone qualified for the knockout stage which was seeded according to the results from the earlier round. In the final, the number 1 seeds, Chris Hollis and Kevin Hutchinson defeated the number 2 seeds, Charlie Kirby and Richard Mott 6-2. It was especially good to see Fran Cayless playing at the tournament. Fran moved up to Nottinghamshire nearly two years ago and donated a beautiful trophy to the club which is played for each year. A mouthwatering selection of both meat and vegetarian chilli dishes were enjoyed al fresco by all the players and spectators.

Adult/Child Tournament

This ever popular tournament took place a week later on 22nd April. There was a strong entry of 12 pairs and it was great to see a couple of new partnerships joining in this year. The pairs were split into three groups (according to the age of the child) for the initial round-robin. The oldest group was won by father and son Matt and Charlie Kirby. The middle age group winners were father and son, Chris and Joe Hollis and the youngest group was won by grandmother and grandson, Jan and Matt Hollis. The knockout stage was fiercely fought and the outright 2007 champions were father and son, Martyn and Ben Taplin, who defeated Matt and Charlie Kirby in the final. This was Martyn's third successive triumph, having won twice with his eldest son Ben and once last year with youngest son, Thomas.

Forthcoming Tournaments

Hospital Cup

The draw is now up in the clubhouse and members should check carefully when their matches need to be played.

Clower Boys' Secondary Singles Tournament - Sunday 17th June, 12.45pm start.

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. Please give Chris Hollis a call on 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 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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SCHOOL NEWS

The beginning of May is when the serious business of tests takes precedence, with the Year 6 students taking their SATS while the other years are doing end of year progress tests.

With this important week completed, the summer continues with trips and outings planned for all years. Class 2 had a wonderful day out at Harlow Garden Centre looking at plants and how they grow, and returned to school to enthusiastically do their own planting and, hopefully, growing! We welcomed a visit from a Transport Police officer. He spoke to all our KS2 children on how to behave safely and responsibly near railways.

Classes 3 and 4 have been hearing some very interesting talks from people about their jobs including an airline pilot, nurse, radiographer and hairdresser. This is a very valuable insight for the children into various careers which they may know little about. We are looking for more speakers! If you would like to come and speak about your job to a very attentive audience please 'phone the school. You will be sure of a warm welcome!

During the summer term we are offering the KS2 children a variety of after school activities including athletics, cricket, rounders and chess.

For the first time we now have an Infant choir, as well as the well established Junior choir, both under the expert guidance of our Reception teacher Miss Croucher.

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. 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. It is open to children of 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

May Fair

As the weather was so unsettled our 'Beside the Seaside' May Fair was held partly outside and partly inside (as last year!). We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a success; all those who volunteered to set up or run stalls, those who came and spent their money, and also to all the local businesses and individuals for their very generous donations to the raffle. I do feel a need to single out Tony Jolley who kept the children enthralled with his magic shows and Perry Oliver who paints faces for us all afternoon at every event we hold and has patiently done so for years!

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

We are very pleased to invite you to join us for our sixth Music in the Park! As always, this year's musical extravaganza takes place in our lovely parkland setting against the stunning backdrop provided by Hargrave House.

We have booked an excellent and varied line-up of local bands to entertain you throughout the afternoon and well into the evening, including popular MITP veterans, the *Slow Time Mondays*, who are playing for the fifth time; *Bamboo Loud*, who made a memorable debut with us last year and *Dew Drop Trio* featuring Bentfield's own Rachel Croucher on vocals. We are also delighted that the *Mountfitchet College Salsa Band* will be joining us to perform two sets during the afternoon. This is the band's first appearance at Music in the Park and we wish them a very warm welcome to the event. Dick Pollard will be holding the whole event together in his own inimitable style on the PA!

Head for the barbecue for wonderful lamb wraps, burgers, sausages and vegetable kebabs; to the bar for your draught beer, lager, wine or fizz – not to forget the essential jug of Pimms to share with your friends in the sunshine, which we have also booked!

Of course, there will also be plenty of water and other soft drinks available to buy, as well as sweets, popcorn and ice cream. If you are wondering how you will keep your children entertained while you are soaking up the music and the atmosphere, take a look at the children's area! This year we will have a bouncy castle set aside for smaller children and a 35' inflatable fun run for the older ones (both supervised by experienced, trained staff). There will also be a large play area dedicated to activities for our younger visitors, including giant Jenga, face painting, Connect 4, table tennis and the football shootout.

Please come and join us and help us to make the sixth Music in the Park the biggest and best yet!!

Tickets cost £7.50 in advance/£8.50 on the day and are available from the school office or by calling Alison Thompson on 01279 816188.

Alison Thompson
Co-Chairman,
Bentfield School PTA



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**Stansted
Evening
Women's Institute**

There was no speaker in May but we had former County Chairman, Barbara Ball, to lead us through a discussion for the Resolution Debate which takes place next month at the Albert Hall. We are being represented at this Meeting by Manuden WI as it is not possible to seat a delegate from every Institute even at the Albert Hall! Barbara is well known to many of our members as she has been serving on the County Committee for many years and is responsible for helping to organise so many of the county events during this time.

The Resolution, which we in fact helped to choose last year, concerns the closure of community hospitals and asks the Government not to stop this essential service to local people. Barbara began the discussion by asking us what we thought of as a 'cottage hospital' and what we expect to have provided by our community hospitals and whether it is feasible to expect to have all services on our doorstep in view of the tremendous cost. It is felt that all proposed hospital closures should go through public consultation. There was a lively discussion on the facilities that we have in this area. Barbara thought that we were relatively fortunate in having a newly-built community hospital which is accessible by public transport, when so many more rural areas have tremendous distances to travel. The Resolution was carried by a clear majority of members, and we will keep an eye on any suggestions that can be carried out for local services improvements.

Barbara then told us of Essex Institutes' part in the 'Great Milk Debate' which WI's throughout the country are holding, to highlight the plight of dairy farmers in this country. Dairy farmers are currently only receiving 17p a litre for their milk, which makes it non-viable to carry on with dairy farming. There are now only 22 dairy herds left in Essex where there used to be hundreds. This whole subject was one of our Resolutions two years ago and following pressure there has been an improvement so that now Waitrose, Tesco and Sainsbury's are paying their suppliers 22p a litre. We were urged to buy British produce where possible, which is always marked as such.

A trip to the Manor House at Hemingford Grey is planned for August and it is hoped to have a pub lunch before a tour of the house and garden in the afternoon. A trip to Ladies Day at Newmarket is taking place in July.

We were asked by the Parish Council to do the refreshments for their Reception on 11th May in the Day Centre, which we were pleased to do. People from all the societies in the village attended as well as some visitors and we must have done something right as they asked us to do it again next year! It was good to be part of this village event.

Next month we have a talk entitled 'Where there's a will there's a relative' - which promises to be entertaining so come along if you will ...

Meetings start at 7.45pm in St John's Hall on the second Thursday of each month.

Judy Colliver



www.villagemusicclub.co.uk

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

**Summer Soiree
in the Church and Grounds of St John's Church**

If you were at the last *soiree* in 2005 you will remember **Erdem Misirlioglu**, a 17 year-old from Ipswich, studying at the Guildhall in London. Since that time, he has achieved 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. He is returning this year and will be playing works by Chopin, Liszt and Scarlatti for us.

Several 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, which we ask you to purchase in advance for catering purposes, are Adults £10, Children £3, inclusive of supper - available from Stansted Carpets, Jackie Corbishley, 36 Bentfield Causeway or Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, 815282.

Alan Corbishley



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our meeting on 18th April members heard a fine illustrated talk by Mrs Margaret Rogers showing the 'Best of Britain'. Mrs Rogers entitled her talk 'Why go Abroad?' - a very timely title amid all the present push for home travel.

While giving us the fun of 'guessing the castle/palace/village/church ...' reminding many of favourite spots, she encouraged us to explore more of our lovely countryside.

Some of our members recently made it to 'Beautiful Berden' to enjoy the Spring Group meeting in far West Essex.

Phyllis Harrison



**STANSTED & DISTRICT
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

Our next ploughman's lunches will be on Saturday 9th June and Saturday 14th July, 12 noon to 2.00pm, at the Stansted Day Centre. All are welcome.

We will be holding a midsummer evening event on Saturday 30th June at Chantry Hall, Henham. For details and tickets please ring 814222 or 813432.

Ruth Rawlinson

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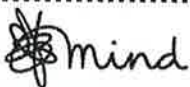
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