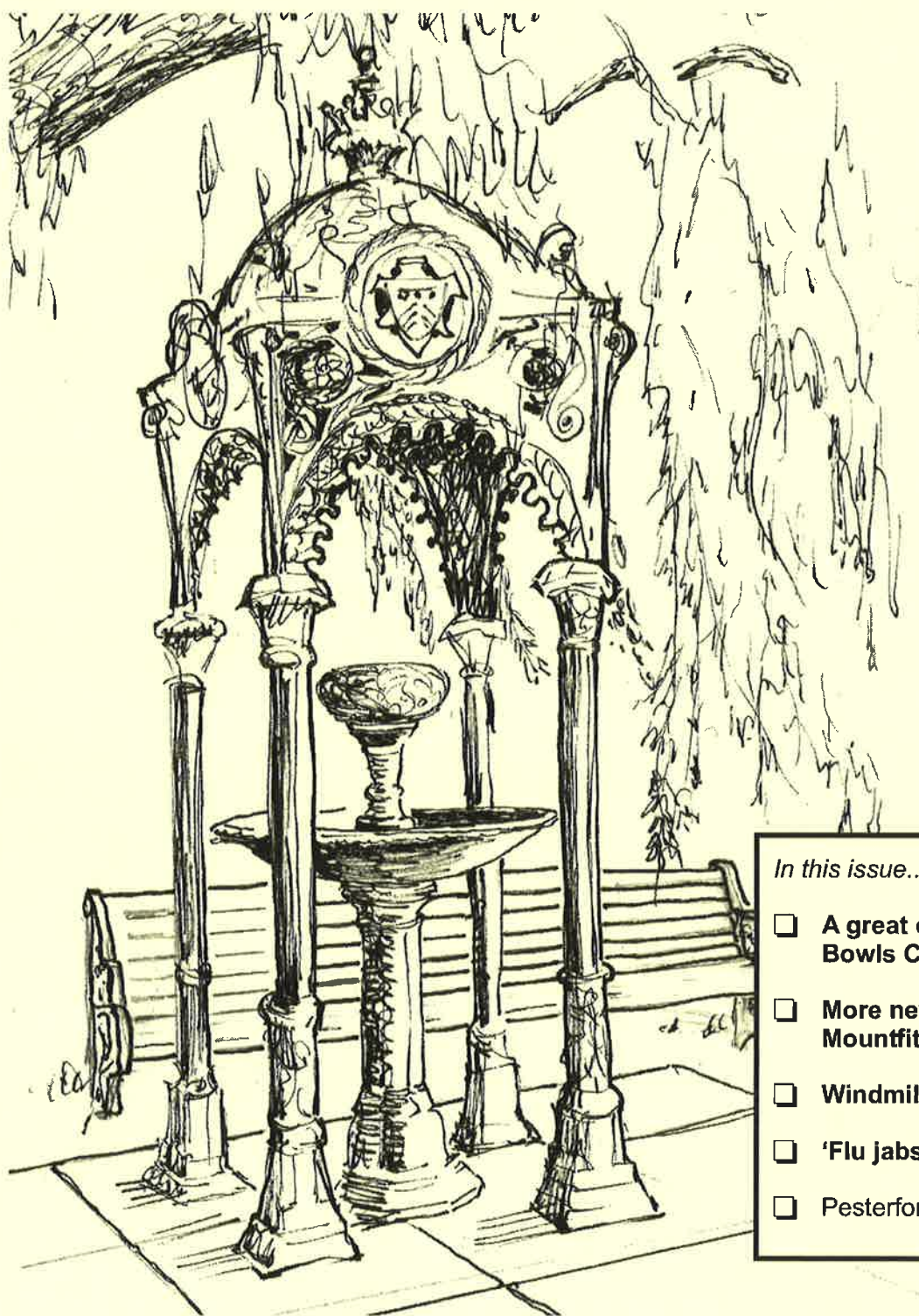


Stansted Mountfitchet **The Link**



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Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of CTS, its member churches, village organisations or advertisers.

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By 11th October for November issue

By 11th November for December/January issue

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A 'NEW' LINK

This is the last issue of the 'Link' format with which you are familiar. The 'Link' which will come out in November may seem different at first glance but, as you will soon realise, essentially it will be the 'Link' that you have known.

The changes are:

- It will have coloured covers with three pages of full-colour advertising
- It will contain Parish Council and other local authority items in the centre pages
- You will receive it at no cost
- It will be delivered under contract to every house and business in Stansted plus the Rochford development as it moves towards completion
- It will contain a contents index and some new features
- The 11th of the month is the date for last receipt of copy rather than the variable dates that have applied in the past. Because of more demanding printing and distribution timings, we have a tighter production schedule and must therefore make the 11th of the month the date after which no copy can be accepted. So no more late copy please - *it just won't go in that month!*

The 'Link' will still contain reports, news and a village events page as at present. The Editor, Advertising Co-ordinators and Distribution Secretary will continue to be available, so please let them know how you feel about the changes, as we are always pleased to hear from you.

The most significant point, and the principal reason why the change has been made, is that the 'Link' will not only go to every home but will include within one magazine all the Stansted news and information which is fed to the Editor. For readers outside Stansted, the 'Link' will continue to be available, largely by the same means that it is received now, but a charge of £5 annually or 50p per copy will be made.

For the first year we are grateful for a grant from the Parish Council to help us through the transition. It is, however, our firm intention to become self-financing as soon as possible. The 'Link' remains an independent publication produced by local volunteers. Although it includes local authority copy it is not an 'officially' produced publication.

Finally, an appeal for your understanding. Our distributors will need to familiarise themselves with their new area and there may be a few cases where in the early days houses may be missed. Normally distribution will take place between the 25th and 27th of the previous month, so if you have not received your copy by the last day of the month, please give Janet Townsend a ring on 812593 or email distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk.

The Editor



STANSTED FREE CHURCH
Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Minister Rev'd David Mullins
23 Cranwell Gardens
Bishop's Stortford CM23 5DP
Tel: 654475
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

URC Interim Moderator
Rev'd Janet Tollington

Lettings Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AQ
Tel: 812593
lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Preachers for October

7th 10.30am All Age Worship
2.30pm Rev'd Murray George
14th 10.30am Andrew Brown
21st 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins - Holy Communion
23rd 10.30am Faith Paulding

Other Activities

Mon 1st 8.00pm Shalom - 7 Blythwood Gardens
Catherine - Chairman's Year
Sun 7th 3.30pm Outreach tea in the foyer
Mon 8th 6.00pm Pilots
Mon 15th 2.30pm Monday Club
8.00pm Shalom - church hall
Romanian Orphans Fund
Mon 29th 6.00pm Pilots in the hall

Pilots

Our theme for this term is *Children Building Peace*:
Peace within ourselves
Peace in the community
Peace in the world

Dates for meetings:

October 8th and 29th
November 12th and 26th
December 3rd and 17th

New members are very welcome; please contact me for more details.

Valerie Trundle
Tel: 813433

Operation Christmas Child

Summer is over, the children are back at school and our thoughts begin to turn to Christmas and shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Christmas 2006 saw a record number of completed boxes leave the United Kingdom, 1.24 million in fact, bound for destinations across Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. World-wide more than 7.5 million were distributed to nearly 100 nations to children who speak more than 70 languages. The gifts are given regardless of national-ity, political background or religious beliefs to children,

requiring nothing from them, their families or their communities in return. If you would like to help to put a smile on these children's faces come to the *Pack A Box* evening on 13th November in Stansted Free Church hall from 7.00pm; please book the date in your diary and start collecting items for the boxes now. Please don't forget NO chocolate, crisps, biscuits, liquids, glass or books with a lot of words. For more details ring me or visit the Samaritans Purse website at www.samaritanspurse.uk.com. Empty shoe boxes are also needed [please not boot boxes] and these can be left at 58 Chapel Hill at any time.

Janet Townsend
Tel: 812593

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

At the time of writing, we are hearing a lot about anniversaries: ten years since the death of Princess Diana, and 9/11 looms. Anniversaries are *special days*, something Quakers do not make much of. We do not even have a Meeting for Worship on Christmas Day, unless it happens to be a Sunday! This all sounds rather dull, and fits in with a traditional view of Puritans as killjoys.

However, when you look deeper and examine the thinking behind it, there is a completely different story, and one which is much more positive. Quakers believe that every day is a gift from God, and as such, every day is special. When you're having a bad day, it can be very helpful to remind yourself of this.

Jane Mitchell



SHALOM

On 1st October, Catherine Dean will be telling us about her awareness raising and fundraising for environmental causes during her year as Chair of Uttlesford District Council.

The following meeting will be a talk about the Moreton Romanian Orphans Fund, given by Jane Perkins from Bishop's Stortford United Reformed Church. This will be on 15th October and will be at the Free Church hall.

All meetings start at 8.00pm, and are open to all. Please join us - you will be warmly welcomed!

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



contact us

all enquiries

The Church Office

St John's Hall
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church.office@stansted.net

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church.music@stansted.net

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Praise God for the harvest

Late September and early October seems to be the time when the churches celebrate harvest festivals. It's a time to stop and recognise that we depend on the earth to feed us, on the labour of others to supply our food and on the provision of the Creator whose work underlies everything. Certainly the theme of harvest will dominate the next few weeks for me as I attend thanksgivings in schools and in churches; and several well provisioned harvest suppers!

In the Bible the theme of harvest is often used as a metaphor for our human existence. In the Book of Revelation there is a wonderfully cartoon-like description of the beginning of God's judgement of the earth as an angel sitting on a cloud reaps the earth with a sickle – a reminder to us that this world is not as permanent as we sometimes assume it is. Certainly for each one of us there comes a point when the harvest of our lives is gathered in. Jesus told a story about a man who gathers vast amounts of goods into his barns only to hear God say to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And these things you have prepared, whose will they be?" Harvest calls on us to stop and reflect on where our lives, the life of our community, and the life of our planet are going.

It's a reflection we desperately need nowadays. As I see the busyness of life around

us I'm sometimes reminded of the story of the person who sees a horse and rider dashing down the road at an alarming rate. "Where are you going to at such a speed?" the bystander calls out to the rider. "Ask the horse", shouts back the rider, "I'm just trying to stay on!" In the twenty-first century, life can be a bit like that for everyone at one time or another.

Harvest, then, is a time for looking back and looking forward. Looking back in thankfulness for the good things we received from God and through the labour of others, and pausing to look forward and consider the harvest that we are growing in our lives; the people we are becoming and the legacy we will leave behind us.

And finally, of course, harvest calls us to action. It's no use sitting reflecting if our reflection does not lead to action. Whether it's choosing the 'Fair Trade' option, turning off the tap to save water, or not leaving the TV powered up on the 'standby' setting – or whether it is something vastly more costly and life changing than any of those things – there are things that we can all do to make the world a better place. We just need to think about it, and harvest can be a good time to do that.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Paul Wilkin
Rector

St John's Diary

Sunday

8.00am said Holy
Communion

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

August

Baptism

26th Ethan Thomas Gillson-Hill

Weddings

18th Helen Louise Palmer to
Jonathan Neville Green

25th Laura Katy Dockerill to Paul Anthony Higley

Funerals

9th Frederick Roy Simmonds, age 78 - at St Mary's

14th Vera Irene Galliford, age 91 - at Parndon Wood

31st Reginald James Hawkes, age 99 - at Parndon Wood

8.00am service in St John's

The 8.00am Sunday Holy Communion service was resumed on 23rd September and it is hoped that, as in the past, it will become a regular service in St John's. So far the congregations have been modest and, if that were to continue, the future of the service must be in doubt. As one who has attended both the 8.00am services so far in September, I think that would be a sad loss.

The 8.00am service provides an excellent opportunity for those who cannot attend the 9.30am or Wednesday Holy Communion. It gives Sunday a great, early start and frees the rest of the day for those other things that so often have to be done. There is also the pleasure of being engaged early on a Sunday morning before much of the world has started stirring. From early morning sunshine and birdsong to crisp, cold winter days, it is a great time to be out and about.

The service used is the more traditional Order 1b with neither singing nor sermon. It is an opportunity for quiet worship, thought, contemplation and private prayer. We hope to see more of you there.

Richard Shervington

A date for your diary

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

Friday 23rd November

3.00pm-5.00pm and 6.00pm-8.00pm

Please note the new times - an opportunity for **everyone** to come along. More details next month.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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



Annual General Meeting

The Churches Together in Stansted AGM takes place on Tuesday 23rd October in the Stansted Free Church Hall.

7.00pm	Tea and coffee
7.30pm	Rosina Down (Saffron Walden Methodist Church) 'Environmental Sustainability and the Churches'
8.15pm	Business meeting.

All very welcome. Please come along.

Birmingham Visit

On Sunday 21st October we will be visiting our friends at the Church of Cherubim & Seraphim in Birmingham, leaving Crafton Green 11.00am and returning to Stansted approx 9.00pm.

If you are interested in going please telephone me.

David Morson,
Chair
Tel: 850209

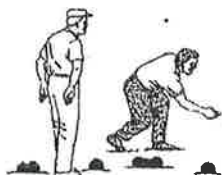


STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Local History Society's new season opened on 6th September where the assembled company of members and guests were made welcome. The programme for 2007-8 was to be given an interesting and somewhat intriguing start, as the subject of our guest speaker, Audrey Collins, was 'Lies, Sex and Registration'. The title, of course, was making a general reference towards the many problems that those researching family history and other such related subject research may, and so often will, encounter. The interest was expanded to show and tell of various entries so made years ago upon old certificates and registration documents, where details of the speakers' subject headings may not always have been recorded perhaps as they should have been. The reasons, of course, may be many, some perhaps down to the very fact of not quite understanding, or simply a misinterpretation of the questions requiring a written entry. Others may not have fallen under this category and have been adjusted a little to better the situation, occasion or date.

Our next meeting is on 4th October when we will be joined by Mr Robert Bartrop who will be telling of 'The Fancy on the Marshes'.

Peter Brown



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Well here we are again nearly at the end of the 2007 season, it appears to go quicker every year. Not the driest of years for outdoor bowling and most of those that did not have wet suits now have them (you only get wet so many times!). We had hoped to get plenty of new members this year but having held an open day in June we only managed to get three – Rob, Carl and Charlene who have I know enjoyed the season with us. Maybe we can lure more of you next year.

All in all it has been a successful year with our A team in the NW Essex league managing to win Division B and go up to Division A next year. The B Team managed to stay up in the B Division, so well done to both. Congratulations to our ladies who won their Monday evening and Friday afternoon leagues and the Ro Turner Cup game against Bishop's Stortford. The Daniel Robinson Inter-village bowls competition was held at Birchanger on 8th September and our team consisting of Rex and Ro Turner and Derrick and Janet Petchey were the winners and received a cheque for £125 for the club funds as well as super sets of glasses for themselves. I must thank, as always, Daniel Robinson & Sons/Peasgoods/Golden Charter for their continued support to clubs in the area.

Our competition finals day took place on 1st September and it was a fine sunny day! The bowling was very competitive ending with really exciting battles in both the Men's and the Ladies' Championships. Rex Turner led the way in the Men's with a score of 19 shots to 8 but then in an amazing come-back from Roy Prentice lost by 21 shots to 20. In the Ladies, Ro Turner and Tina Prentice fought nip and tuck all the way through the game until Tina managed to get the shot required to win 21 shots to 20. It was a great final between two husbands and wives.

The results of all competitions:

Fletcher Cup – (Men's Championship) – Roy Prentice beat Rex Turner.
Brett Cup – (Men's 4 wood singles) – Roy Prentice beat Paul Barnes.
Allcock Trophy – (Men's 2 wood singles) – Rex Turner beat Del Sharp
Buck Cup – (Men's Pairs) – Rex Turner and Reg Butcher beat Roy Barnes and Daniel Barnes
Eleanor Irwin Cup – (Ladies' Championship) – Tina Prentice beat Ro Turner
Challenge Shield – (Ladies' 2 wood singles) – Ro Turner beat Pat Perry
Dolly Thompson Cup – (Ladies' Pairs) – Pat Perry and Suzanne Page beat Janet Petchey and Ann Conroy
Newman Rose Bowl – (Mixed 4 wood singles) – Ro Turner beat Chris Bushnell.

The highlight of the year took place on 12th September when a group of 24 bowlers from the Royal Hospital Chelsea (Chelsea Pensioners) came to the club to play in an afternoon

match. This followed the visit last year of our club to the RHC as part of our centenary celebrations. They wore their famous red coats, blue trousers and caps plus medals – what a delightful sight! From the minute they stepped off the coach all the members of the club felt their friendliness. Everyone was made welcome and avid conversation took place regarding the Hospital, their way of life and their past lives, some of which were very colourful indeed. Some of the stories of their military careers and history brought back memories of some of our fathers who sadly are no longer with us but who shared in some of the actions these gentlemen had entered into; it was fascinating listening to these stories. Jim Ashdon, a Stansted member, and one of the Chelsea Pensioners found through conversation that they both joined up for their National Service in 1951 at the same time and in the same battalion – small world!

Following a wonderful lunch catered for by Margaret, Tina and their team, we then played a game of 18 ends during which there was plenty of banter and barracking from all concerned, but those taking part and the many observers will long remember the spirit in which the game was played (even the coach driver played.) No one really cared who won but we think Stansted just pipped them at the post!! (It's the alcohol again!!)

We sat down to a buffet tea followed by a speech from our President John Hollis. In response, Colonel Gilbert, on behalf of the Pensioners, had nothing but praise to give to our members for their hospitality and friendliness. Badges were exchanged and a RHC book to commemorate the day was presented to the Stansted club.

It was obvious that everyone had thoroughly enjoyed the day – so much so that Stansted have been invited to play a game at the RHC again next year which is something that not all clubs have a chance of doing. Sadly there was a report by the coach driver that the locked coach had been entered whilst parked in the Lower Street coach park and a bag containing a number of DVDs and sweets taken; a poor reflection on Stansted. All in all a fantastic day, which will be remembered for a long time and thanks to the Police for their help.

Rex Turner,
Hon Secretary





St Mary's CE (Foundation) Primary School
St John's Rd, Stansted CM24 8JP
Tel 01279 812212

OPEN MORNING

9.30 - 11 Mon 1st Oct

All parents looking for a school for their children are warmly invited to visit St. Mary's for a tour and coffee morning. Meet with the Headteacher and Foundation Stage teacher who will be able to answer your questions.



Uttlesford Community Travel
10th Anniversary
QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 for 8 pm Sat 13th Oct

Uttlesford District Council Offices
London Rd, Saffron Walden
Tickets £7 (incl ploughmans)
from 813080

Bring your own drink & glass



**CORDELIA
WILLIAMS**

Winner of

Young Musician of the Year Piano Class

7.30 pm Sat 13th October

St John's Church

Tickets £10 adults, £3 children
from Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;
Stansted Carpets; Sonia Levy 815282
or at the door

VILLAGE EVENTS

October

1 Mon	Open Morning Shalom	St Mary's School 9.30 - 11 am 7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
3 Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
4 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
6 Sat	Harvest Quiz & Supper	St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
7 Sun	Outreach Tea (after service) Windmill open	Free Church 3.30 pm 2 - 6 pm
11 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
13 Sat	Music Quiz Community Travel Quiz Village Music Club	Bentfield School 7.30 pm UDC S Walden 7.30 pm for 8 pm St John's Church 7.30 pm
13 Sat / 14 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
15 Mon	Shalom	Free Church Hall 8 pm
23 Tue	Churches Together AGM	Free Church Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
27 Sat	Garden Club Quiz	Free Church Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
27 Sat / 28 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

November

1 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
3 Sat	Village Fireworks	Elms Farm from 6.30 pm
7 Wed	Stansted Lunch Club Mountfitchet Garden Club	Bury Lodge 1.30 pm Day Centre 8 pm
8 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
10 Sat / 11 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
11 Sun	Remembrance Day	War Memorial 10.45 am
13 Tue	Shoebbox Evening	Free Church Hall 7 pm
17 Sat	WEA talk 'A Christmas Carol'	Day Centre 10 am - 1 pm
23 Fri	Christmas Market	St John's Ch 3 - 5 pm & 6 - 8 pm

Bentfield School PTA

MUSIC QUIZ

Sat 13th October

7.30 for 8 pm

£7.50 incl Supper

bring your own drinks & nibbles

Please tel 815765 or 816188

An entertaining evening guaranteed!



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in STANSTED

AGM

and Talk
All welcome

Stansted Free Church Hall

Tuesday 23rd October

7.00 pm coffee

7.30 pm Rosina Down on

'Environmental Sustainability
and the Churches'

8.15 pm AGM

Mountfitchet Garden Club



QUIZ NIGHT

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 27th Oct

Stansted Free Church Hall

£6 including supper

Bring your own drink & glass

Tel Maralyn 07919 478144



A Christmas Carol

a talk by Gwyn Bailey

Stansted
Branch

10 am - 1 pm Sat 17th Nov Stansted Day Centre

Tickets £8 (cheques payable to WEA Stansted) in advance from
David Palmer, 26 Brewery Lane Stansted CM24 8LB

Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

7 pm onwards Tue 13th Nov
Free Church Hall

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

For more information tel 812593
or see Free Church article



All welcome

REMEMBRANCE DAY

10.45 am Sun 11th Nov

War Memorial, Chapel Hill



Laying of Wreaths
and
Act of Remembrance



Followed by service in
St John's Church



Village Fireworks & Bonfire

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

Sat 3rd November

• 6.30 pm Gates open

• 7.00 pm Bonfire lit

• 7.30 pm Fireworks

Wear wellies if wet!

Adults £3, Children £1 - pay on gate

Refreshments Available



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UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the second month running the hot topic is planning. Last month I wrote about central Government plans to change the system for dealing with major projects such as airport runways. This month the issue is much closer to home and concerns an important decision about future housing in Uttlesford.

The Council has been consulting on what is known as the Local Development Framework; a plan for the future of Uttlesford that will take us into the 2020s. Plans have to be made for the allocation of 4,200 homes on top of some 5,000 that are already planned or built. It is reasonable to expect that some of these will eventually be planned in or around Stansted and over recent months questionnaires have been completed by residents and others about how the homes should be distributed across the district. Should they be evenly spread across all towns and villages? Just in the towns and larger villages? Concentrated mainly in Dunmow, Saffron Walden and Stansted? Or would a completely new settlement be the right way to go? What is not an option is to do nothing.

To make the right decision first requires principles or criteria to be established against which any particular option can be evaluated. It is fair to say that such criteria have not yet been drawn up so none has yet been explained to the public.

It was a major surprise to many of us when our District Council officers produced a report in September, which bypassed the stage of agreeing criteria and jumped straight to the next stage of recommending options with specific housing number and locations. Members were asked to choose their preferred option from three proposals. The first would place 470 homes to the north of Stansted Mountfitchet village. The second and third would place 30 homes in Stansted, north of St Theresa's Church. Our officers dismissed the idea of a new settlement.

But the real bombshell came only just before the committee meeting, when the Conservative administration announced a proposal for a new town of 3,000 homes on land at Elsenham east of the railway line and growing towards Henham as their preferred option. They voted this through. No papers were tabled about this plan. There was no technical justification beyond vague ideas that it would bring about new facilities like a secondary school, shops, etc. The proposal is not backed by our professional planning officers.

The following day it was discovered that the promoter of this scheme would make no road improvements in and out of Elsenham, which would put significant congestion onto Grove Hill and the centre of Stansted as well as places like Ugley Green. But the potential developer has also said that he would take advantage of new roads that BAA proposes to put into the Elsenham area were a second runway given permission. He has also said that a quarter of the resident workers of the new town would work at the airport provided the jobs from a second runway were created. Needless to say, this has caused enormous consternation.

An extraordinary meeting of the Council's South-West Area Panel has been demanded at Elsenham Primary School on either 26th or 28th September with the aim of providing

some explanation to the public. Meanwhile, the decision has been 'called-in' by several councillors. This means that the decision has effectively been put into suspense until it is investigated by the Council's Scrutiny Committee on 3rd October at 7.30pm. The Scrutiny Committee could vote to take no action or ask the Council to think again. As I write this in the middle of September, I cannot say what is likely to happen. What I am sure about is that a big mistake has been made that has serious long-term implications for all of us. I would urge anyone who has an interest in the future of this area to try to get to the Scrutiny Committee meeting or to make your views known by other means.

Cllr Alan Dean

Tel: 813579/ 07710 105824

Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Mountfitchet Green

The Council is working with the Parish Council to deliver a multi-use games area aimed at the 10-19 age group. This would complement the nearby existing equipped play area for ages 4-8. A bid has gone into the National Lottery. If successful, this will deliver a much needed leisure facility for this part of the village.

Short Stay Managed Accommodation

Following discussions with residents the Council is proceeding with the redevelopment of the old garage site in Manor Road. A formal planning application will be shortly made to the Council, followed by a bid for funds to the Housing Corporation. This will reduce the need to use expensive bed and breakfast accommodation and should be built within the next two years. The accommodation will house an office as a point of contact.

Tenant Forum

If you are a UDC tenant have you considered putting your name forward for the forum? The forum represents tenants' views and is regularly consulted by the Council. It has representation on the Community Committee which is responsible for housing matters. For several years there has been no tenant representation from Stansted. I should very much like this to change. If you want to influence council housing policy please contact the tenant participation officer on 01799 510571.

Community Achievement Awards Scheme

This scheme was launched in 1996 to mark the significant voluntary work carried out by people across Uttlesford. If you know of someone who you feel worthy of an award please contact the Parish Council for details. The closing date is 12th October.


Local Development Framework

The proposed 3,000 housing development in Elsenham, if it is approved, represents a significant threat to the quality of life to Stansted residents. I believe it would have a significant adverse affect on Stansted. Already at peak times our roads are severely congested; can they withstand even more traffic? I hope residents, once the consultation period begins, make their views heard.

Councillor Geoffrey Sell

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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our September meeting was Members' Day. This means the usual committee take a rest and the other members form a committee and organise the evening. We had visitors from neighbouring Institutes in Elsenham, Ugley, Manuden and Berden. Everyone was welcomed with a glass of wine, which was bought with a donation given by Elsie Stoddart, in celebration of her 60th Wedding Anniversary.

The speaker for the evening was Linda Scoles, who is an American who came to England in 1971 with her husband, Jim, an American Air Force officer. Her talk was entitled 'Around the World in 23 years (travelling with Jim and the US Air Force)'. Their first posting was to Guam, which was a lovely place but with shellfish that could kill one in an instant. She had one of her children there, and had us in stitches over the account of the maternity wing of the American hospital being run by sailors who had a unique way of washing babies rear ends, by having one in each arm and turning on taps with their elbows and putting the necessary part of the babies under the running water.

Another of their postings was to Japan, where on visiting a local house for dinner, they were required to take a bath first. This was a hip bath set over a fire, with the water therein bubbling away. She felt like she was being put into the cooking pot but apparently the secret is get in quick and don't move, then just relax and you come out with all stresses soothed away. Linda has her own way of telling these stories. She stands on a step stool and is very theatrical with her expressions and pauses, which bring a great deal of humour to the talk.

Another story was when they were stationed in Maryland and had friends from England visiting. Jim broke his leg while skating, and much to his disgust Linda put him in a wheelchair to show the friend Washington DC. He was pushed by his tall athletic son, who was a track runner, and while crossing a three-lane highway with Jim, thought he had better get a move on to miss a bus that was coming towards them at speed, and ran with Jim in the chair. His leg, which was plastered up to the thigh, stuck out before him. Unfortunately they hit a kerb and Jim shot out of the chair like a jet propelled missile and landed on the sidewalk. Linda, still in the middle reservation, collapsed with laughter. She told this tale with her usual flourishes of dramatics and had us in gales of laughter. However, Jim was OK. When Jim retired they came back to live in England. She made the joke he had a medical condition that could only be cured in England - with a pint of Greene King bitter! As she says, when things go wrong they make a good story.

Our speaker for our next meeting on 11th October is Ilse Pedler, who is giving us *A Veterinary Talk* in St John's Hall at 7.45pm - all are welcome. The competition will be *An Animal Ornament*. Do come along and join us - we do have some fun evenings, as well as discussing more serious issues. The WI does make its mark when required, and above all we have a good sense of humour.

Kath Johnson



MOUNTFITCHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



Term has started with a few changes. Our new Learning Resource Centre is well on the way and on schedule, even though there is no access to our library and foyer area and we are managing with wooden partition reception areas. The new Centre and reception area are due for completion on 5th October.

After our record results last year, the overall headline 5 A*-C figure took a drop. With all the data schools have nowadays on students' achievement on entry and likely progress, we accurately predicted this figure to the percentage point. The individual students in the year group made excellent progress over the five years and, therefore, our value-added measure is just as good as last year.

This September has seen the introduction of our new uniform. All new students are to wear it and students who were already in the college have the option of changing to it over the next two years. Many students are already wearing the more businesslike black garments with the burgundy/gold logos and scarves. They are also telling us that they find it more comfortable. We are looking forward to another successful year.

Jo Mullis,
Headteacher

Photograph shows Emily-Jayne Wells and Steven Cowen, both Year 8 students, wearing the new College uniform.



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494 (STANSTED AIRPORT) SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS



Squadron helps with Wings Appeal 8th–12th September 2007

Cadets from 494 Squadron ATC gave up their spare time to collect for the RAF Association Wings Appeal at Stansted Airport this week. The Association is well known for the help, assistance and care that they provide for the whole RAF family and the Air Cadet Organisation is only too pleased to help RAFA in turn. The appeal is held each year during the week leading up to Battle of Britain Day on 15th September, the date that marks the RAF's famous victory over the Luftwaffe in 1940.

The Air Cadets, whose Squadron is based at the airport, collected from passengers and staff in the busy terminal area. Although the final total won't be known for a while, the Squadron is hoping to top the £700 raised last year. The Cadets and Squadron staff were very grateful to the BAA Customer Service Duty Team and Terminal Customer Services Staff for all the kind help and support they provided over the five days of collecting.

Simon Stacey,
Civilian Instructor,
494 Squadron ATC



Squadron launches 'Community Challenge'

The Squadron is offering local young people the opportunity to test themselves with a weekend of adventurous training. The Squadron has been awarded a grant to enable the running of a number of weekend experience events for young people called the Community Challenge. Funding for the project has been awarded by the Local Network Fund, under the auspices of the Department for Education and Skills, administered by Essex Community Foundation.

The residential weekends will be open to local youngsters aged 13 to 17, and will run in the autumn. The idea of the scheme is to provide a taster of life in the services and the Air Cadet Organisation and to introduce young people to a range of activities that many will have never experienced before, including obstacle course, shooting, shelter building, camp craft, leadership tasks, team building exercises, citizenship development, team sports, climbing wall and a night exercise.

It is planned to offer three separate weekend sessions, with 20 places on each, at Carver Barracks, Essex Wing's headquarters, near Saffron Walden. The cost of the scheme will be covered by the LNF funding and will be free for all participants. For further information and an application form visit www.stanstedaircadets.org.uk or please contact me.

Civilian Instructor Simon Stacey (Scheme Coordinator)
Tel: 647301



BENTFIELD POND UPDATE

Ruth Clifford, Parish Clerk, has now asked The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers to come to Bentfield pond on Sunday 14th October to start the project to clear the pond. If you are able to come along to help or find out more about the project, please do so.

Marion Williams
Tel: 813124

**Remember, remember - it's nearly
November.**

**Our date for 'Link' copy is the
11th of the month**

PLEASE, NO LATE COPY

STANSTED WINDMILL FETE

To: the Stansted Millers

28 August 2007

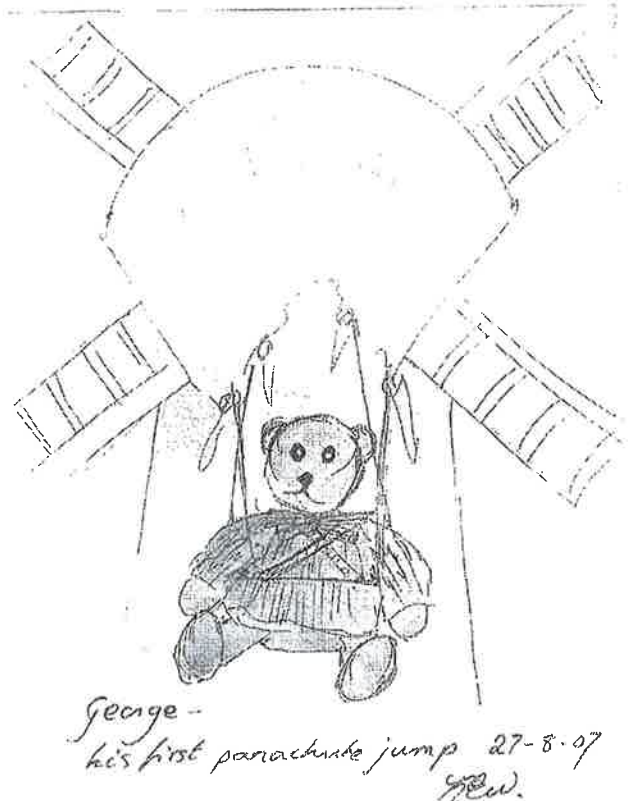
I just wanted to write to thank you for making the Stansted Windmill Fête such a special occasion this year with the Parachuting for Teddy Bears. Although I was nervous before I made my jump - it was a long, long way up in that basket - the ride down was sensational! And I managed to avoid that tree!

My owner was so excited at seeing my parachute open that she forgot to press the button on her camera and missed the photo opportunity of a lifetime! Never mind, as you will see from the attached, the teddy bear artist was on hand to record the scene - and made a lightning sketch as I whizzed by!

I'm looking forward to next year (probably!)

Best wishes

George The Teddy Bear



What a relief - after so much rain this year - a fine day for the Windmill Fete! The crowds came out with the sun and found much to occupy themselves and on which to spend their money. Cupboards and charity shops had been scoured for chipped and cracked crockery for the china smashing, heaps of bric-a-brac and books were available to rummage through and cakes, bread and other items to buy.

The refreshment tent was overwhelmed with requests for tea and the music was much appreciated.

There were sideshows for adults and children and both enjoyed the new attraction this year - Teddy Bear parachuting. Nearly £2000 was raised for the upkeep of our village landmark, the best sum yet.

Only one thing was lacking, we could do with a few more helpers. Even if you are not able to give time during the year to become a Mill Steward, please consider helping at the Fete on August Bank Holiday Monday next year.

Peggy Honour

Photos by Ian Seavers - Link Photographer





BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

PTA EVENTS

Music Quiz Saturday 13th October

Bentfield School brings you the one and only Rebecca Carter with her very special take on quiz nights. If you think you know a lot about music or even if you know you know absolutely nothing, you are guaranteed a highly entertaining, often surprising evening! Please arrive from 7.30pm for a prompt start at 8.00pm – latecomers will be subject to public humiliation by the quiz mistress – you have been warned! Tickets cost £7.50 including supper. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Please call 815765 or 816188 for tickets or more information.

This event will be very closely followed by a Cheese & Wine Evening with a short AGM at the start. This will take place in school at 8.00pm on Monday 15th October. All parents are warmly invited to come along to this free event and meet us over a glass of wine – it is a really good way to find out more about the PTA. Then on Friday 19th October the children will be able to strut their stuff on the dance floor at the School Disco!

After half term we will be putting on two more popular family events. This year's Sparkler Party will take place on Friday 2nd November from 6.30pm-8.00pm. As well as sparklers for the children, there will be many of the old favourites including Apple Bobbing, Donut Munching, Bat the Rat, Glowsticks and Dare Boxes! Not to mention hot dogs and homemade soup to keep everybody warm, as well as a selection of soft drinks and sweets for the children. There will also be a licence for the sale of seasonal mulled wine – always very welcome on a chilly night!

To round off a very busy term, our traditional Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 8th December.

We hope to see you at one or other of our events and, as always, would like to express our sincere thanks for the generous support which we receive for our fundraising activities throughout the year.

Alison Thompson,
Co-Chairman,
Bentfield School PTA



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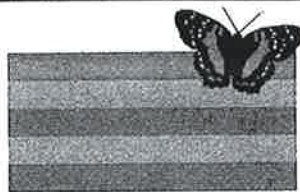
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Nature Notes

The new school year is now well under way. Children and teachers are settled into their new classes and the children starting school for the first time have settled beautifully into the Foundation Stage class. Our induction programme has clearly worked well, so we will be repeating it next summer. A warm welcome to all our new pupils and also to their parents. We also welcome two new members of the Learning Support team. The term has begun full of promise so we are looking forward to a really good year!

Year 6 Visit

The annual Year 6 residential visit to Aylmerton in Norfolk has taken place. The children were busy from dawn 'til dusk on a great variety of activities. Even the weather was perfect! Below are some of the Y6 comments:

'The coolest day ever was going to see the seals at Blakeney Point. They didn't scurry off. They even swam under our boat!'
'The instructors were really kind. They supported every child and encouraged us to join in.'
'We had to cooperate, encourage and communicate ...'
'On the high ropes I was scared ... it was a challenge, I felt very proud.'
'We squelched across mud flats and trudged through sand dunes ...'
'We ventured into rock pools. The first crab we found was big; then Charlie found two whoppers!'

The children all had different things they particularly enjoyed:

'Using walkie-talkies ...'
'Cooking on the camp fire ...'
'Seeing the bats on the Twilight Walk.'
'Getting my welly stuck in the mud!'
'Going swimming, because of the slide.'

And finally...

'I didn't want to come home!'
'I would go again if I could.'
'Everyone should go - it's fantastic!'

Open Morning

To all parents of pre-school children who will be starting school in September 2008, and any other parents looking for a school for their children, there will be an Open Morning at St. Mary's on Monday 1st October from 9.30am. If you are looking to choose a school for your child you should not fail to come and see St. Mary's. We are a friendly, caring school with a long-standing place in the community of Stansted. The Open Morning includes a tour to see the school at work, followed by a coffee morning when you will be able to ask any questions you may have. This is an informal occasion but to help us gauge numbers please call the office on 812212.

PTFA

The AGM of our PTFA is to be held on Tuesday 9th October at 7.00pm in the school. All parents are welcome - please support your school and the PTFA. The PTFA are already planning the Christmas Shopping evening, to be held in the school on Wednesday 21st November. Do put this date in your diary and come along for some gifts and early Christmas cheer.

Christine Tonkins,
Headteacher

Hedges forming field boundaries are particularly beautiful in the autumn months with both leaves and berries displaying a wide range of colours. Blackthorn and hawthorn, both members of the rose family, are common shrubs in local hedges. Blackthorn produces dark bluish-black sloe berries which are very astringent (but provides an excellent flavour in sloe gin). Hawthorn (also known as whitethorn or May tree) has deep red edible fruits, the haws, which this year are especially plentiful. The amount of berries may be affected by weather during the previous summer when the flower buds are being formed.

The leaves of the blackthorn turn lemon yellow, contrasting with the orange gold colour of the field maple. This is our only native maple. It tends to grow on the more chalky soil which is found to the north and west of Stansted. The dogwood shrub also prefers calcareous soil. It is quite inconspicuous in spring but its leaves turn a deep red in early autumn. Its inedible berries are black. Dogwood was originally 'dagwood' - its hard wood was used for butchers' skewers or 'dags'.

Spindle and wayfaring tree (*viburnum lantana*) are also found where chalk is present. The latter was named by the herbalist John Gerard in 1597 because he so often came across it on his walks on the chalk downs of southern England. Its berries turn from green to red and then to black. The spindle has ber- ries which are quite distinctive, being a beautiful bright pink and revealing orange-coated seeds when they break open. In its bark the spindle contains gutta-percha. It grows in Lime Kiln Lane where the chalk outcrops.



It is surprising how many members of the rose family (*rosaceae*), apart from blackthorn and hawthorn, are found in hedges: wild plums, cherries, apples, blackberries ... The true crab apple is rare but 'wildings' are quite common. These grow from discarded pips which can produce any variety but still with traces of their ancient ancestors. Blackberries abound in almost any hedge. Over 400 micro species have been recognised in Britain, with subtle variations in flavour, texture, size and time of fruiting. The related dewberry, which is usually very sweet, is more prostrate and has a bloom on its fruits.

Boundary hedges are now known to be several hundred years older than previously thought. Many hedges still grow on the same spot as those of a thousand years ago. In the 1970s Max Hooper formulated the following equation of dating a hedge: the number of tree and shrub species in a 30 yard stretch of hedge equals the age of the hedge in centuries. This rule will obviously have exceptions but it is an interesting exercise to try out next time you walk along a well established hedge.

Rosina Kirkwood

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As far as we know there should not be a shortage of vaccine but get your vaccination booked and then you know that you will not miss out if a shortage occurs later in the year. The staff of The Stansted Surgery look forward to welcoming you for your annual visit.

Carole Dedman,
Practice Nurse

WEA WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

On Saturday 17th November the Stansted Branch of the WEA are trying something different for us - a half-day lecture by Gwyn Bailey on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. We all think we know the story of 'A Christmas Carol' - but do we? Is it just a ghost story? Do we know why it was written? Why has it remained so popular for so many years? This half-day school will be an interesting look at a Christmas favourite but may also hold a few surprises on the way - for instance, what was really wrong with Tiny Tim?

Our meeting will be held between 10.00am and 1.00pm at the Day Centre, Crafton Green. The cost, including refreshments, will be £8.00. Please make cheques payable to WEA Stansted and send in advance to David Palmer, 26 Brewery Lane, Stansted, Essex CM24 8LB. We look forward to seeing you. Look out for details, which will appear in a future issue of the 'Link', of our 10 week course to be held in the New Year.

Ralph Phillips

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Stansted Tennis Club



Club Finals Day

The annual Stansted Tennis Club Finals day was held on 9th September. It was to be a hot, busy and tiring finals day for both Sandra Ayres and Nikki Penderis as both managed to reach all three finals, Ladies' Singles, Ladies' Doubles and Mixed Doubles. The day started with Nikki comfortably winning the opening set of the Ladies' Singles in a repeat of the 2006 final. With purposeful hard-hitting groundstrokes, she soared into a 6-1 lead. Sandra's wealth of experience brought her quickly back into contention forcing a tie-break at six games all. In a nail-biting finale to the tie-break Nikki just managed to edge ahead to win it by 8 points to 6.

The Mens' Singles final was played between two seventeen-year olds, George Luther and Fred Kirby, both having reached the final for the first time. George took command from the start in determined fashion and did not let up his stranglehold, comfortably winning 6-0 6-1. George managed to conjure up winning groundstrokes in a Federeresque manner, which were appreciated by an enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

The Ladies' Doubles final was a repeat of the 2005 final and it produced the same result in three close and competitive sets. Daphne Lunnon and Nikki Penderis managed to outplay Sandra Ayres and Sue Sebley, the score 6-4 4-6 6-4. In the Mens' Doubles, last year's winners, Kevin Hutchinson and Richard Johnson managed to repeat their success against brothers, Fred and Charlie Kirby (15), but not without a scare in an exciting second set. Having easily won the first set 6-0, they were taken all the way to 7-5 in the second, with some long and powerful rallies by all players.

The last final of the day, the Mixed Doubles, was played between Chris Hollis and Nikki Penderis and George Luther and Sandra Ayres. Chris and Nikki took a confident early lead at 5-1, but were brought back to 5-4 in a nail-biting set, which they served out at 6-4. Sandra and George came back strongly in the second set, winning it 6-3. So, the final set and once again Chris and Nikki raced to a 4-1 lead, only for Gerge and Sandra to get back on level terms at 4-4. The next two games were won in determined fashion by Chris and Nikki, who clinched the title 6-4 3-6 6-4. This completed a successful day for Nikki as she collected the silverware for all three events.

The trophies were presented to the winners by club president, Richard Shervington and an after-tournament barbecue was enjoyed by both players and spectators.

Coaching

The adult coaching session on a Friday between 2.00pm and 2.45pm is now full. If you would like to go on the waiting list, please call Chris Hollis on 319155. You don't have to be a member of the club to join in. The junior coaching and match practice sessions for ages 6-15 have now restarted. 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.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 7th October - Primary American Doubles Tournament

Sunday 14th October - Pearce Tournament

Please check club noticeboard for further details of these events.

Used tennis balls

These are available for sale at the reasonable price of £1 per tin of four balls. Please contact Jan Hollis on 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

Friday mornings from 9.30am

Sunday mornings from 10.00am

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



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

A large group of members and visitors welcomed Mr and Mrs Greenway of Priorswood Clematis, near Ware, to our September meeting who came to enlighten us on growing clematis. Mr and Mrs Greenway have successfully run a clematis nursery for many years exhibiting annually at Tatton, Malvern and Chelsea. Their nursery has over 400 varieties of clematis from all over the world including Russia and America. They brought many colourful and showing varieties and their slide show offered other tempting varieties.

Mr Greenway emphasised the importance of correct planting. Clematis are deep rooted plants and need a deep hole (about 2 ft). Incorporate a lot of manure in the whole and heel in firmly. Mound well rotted manure around the clematis and water well. Clematis are very thirsty plants. The best time for planting clematis is October to March. If a clematis is to be grown in a pot, choose a deep pot and put crocks in the bottom. Line the inside of the pot with firstly tin foil (shiny facing inside) then an inner layer of newspaper and use multi-purpose compost. Water the clematis well and keep out of direct sunlight. As regards pruning, if you are unsure, the safest bet is to cut back after flowering. A thoroughly enjoyable evening. Mr Greenway had a very keen sense of humour. He answered many questions interspersed with witty anecdotes. Do visit the clematis nursery. You will be warmly welcomed.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 3rd October, 7.30pm for 8.00pm when a local man from Bishop's Stortford, Mr Adam Woolcott, will be giving a talk on 'Designing a Show Garden for Chelsea'. He is a gold medal winner! Visitors are most welcome.

Christine Hope

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Pesterford Bridge 2005 - 2007



How it was



The ostensible reason for the protracted bridge works is the development of some 700 houses on the Rochford Nursery site. Work should have started in November 05 with a declared completion date of November 06 but the programme suffered severe slippage.

The Forest Hall Road junction would not have been capable of taking the greatly increased traffic load that will be generated. Moreover it is a planning condition that house building could not proceed in advance of the junction improvement. We now seem to have reached that stage.



The extended construction time has been one of great frustration to road users who suffered a 24 hour single line roadway for several months on end. A swear box at the junction could almost have paid for the scheme!

A superficial look does not indicate much difference – just more barrier rails and a slightly wider roadway. However, as with all bridge and tunnel works, much has been done that remains unseen. The photograph of Stansted Brook where it passes beneath the road and railway gives some idea of this. Perhaps time (and familiarity) will soften the scene.

Now for the real test. We wait to see how the junction will work when the houses arrive!

Editor



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Our new season (our twelfth) begins on Saturday 13th October at 7.30pm in St John's Church, with a recital by Cordelia Williams. Many of you may have seen her on television when she was the outstanding 20 year old winning pianist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. Cordelia's programme will include two sonatas by Mozart and Schubert, three familiar Mazurkas and the very popular Ballade in F minor by Chopin. Also in her recital will be virtuoso transcriptions of Glinka and Kreisler by Balakirev and Rachmaninov. Taken altogether it is a fantastic programme and, if you are free that evening, a concert not to be missed.

If you are not already a member there is still time to join! Full membership for the whole season is £30 (concessions £28), while tickets for individual concerts are £10 each. Children and grandchildren accompanying members pay £1 at the door. If you would like to join, and we are always delighted to welcome new members, please send a cheque with your name(s) and address to The Membership Secretary, The Village Music Club, 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted, CM24 8BY. Alternatively you may join when you attend the first concert. Tickets for the first concert are: adults £10, children £3, and can be purchased from: Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford, Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted. (015282) and at the door.

Future concerts this season

Sunday 9th December at 3.00pm – the Guildhall Strings directed by Robert Salter.

Sunday 20th January at 3.00pm – Marie McLeod ('cello) accompanied by Martin Sturfalt.

Saturday 8th March at 7.30pm – Thomas Barber (oboe) accompanied by James Southall.

Alan Corbishley



At the start of this term the team at Rainbow have been working hard to settle in lots of new children and we hope they enjoy their time with us. Our theme for the month is mini beasts - investigating all sorts of bugs and beasties in our environment. Our first outing was on a bug hunt around the village to get the younger children used to going out as a group and walking safely. The older children then extended their search to Hatfield Forest where they were able to find a greater range of insects. To reinforce the theme of mini beasts we have been looking at *The Hungry Caterpillar* story and *There was an Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly* book and song.

We have just taken delivery of the proceeds of last year's Sainsbury's vouchers, which got us a brand new CD and cassette player that will certainly help provide hours of entertainment for the children. We are now collecting Tesco sports vouchers so, if you have any spare next time you go shopping, please drop them off in the box inside the classroom or hand them to us over the fence!

Thanks to the fundraising activities of last year, Rainbow has invested in some new equipment for the home corner including a smart wooden kitchen, complete with washing machine and cooker. If you would like to help us with our fundraising efforts this year and/or be part of the Rainbow Committee then please come along to our AGM on 10th October at 8.00pm in the Quaker Hall to find out more.

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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Huw Johnson Club

With a boat trip on the River Cam at the end of September and a visit to the Bishop's Stortford ten pin bowling we have started the Autumn Term with a flourish. Plans are already in hand for our Christmas Concert which will take place on 14th December at St Mary's School, so please get the date in your diary now.

We are happy to announce that we have two more volunteers to drive the Uttlesford Community Minibus which will relieve the pressure on our present drivers. We are very grateful to our drivers who loyally turn up to transport our members. We would still like a few more escorts in the minibus and car drivers to ease the present load of our drivers. A big thank you also to Barbara and all her staff at the Rose and Crown, Bentfield Green, for the welcome our members met when we called in for a drink.

Marion Johnson

STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

Report on July Lunch

In July, Daniel Robinson & Sons and Weston Business Centres together sponsored the Lunch at the Stansted Centre in Takeley for the benefit of St Clare Hospice of Hastingwood. St Clare provides specialist palliative care services for the population of its bailiwick, the area bounded to the North by Saffron Walden; to the East by Great Dunmow; to the South by Loughton and Buckhurst Hill; and to the West by Bishop's Stortford.

Some 50 members and around a dozen guests heard Richard Cowie, St Clare's Chief Executive, and Melanie Nightingale, St Clare's Director of Fundraising, outline the nature of St Clare's excellent palliative care services which help many suffering from cancer or a number of other terminal illnesses, to live their lives to the fullest possible extent without undue suffering and pain. They also described the extent to which St Clare cares for, and provides bereavement counselling to the families of its patients over the months preceding death, and the months following bereavement.

All these services are provided free of charge by a professional team of clinical and support staff including fundraising, shop and administrative staff, and over 500 volunteers who give their time in a wide range of activities from clinical support to gardening. Bearing in mind that much of St Clare's support, both in money and in kind, comes from its bailiwick of West Essex and immediate surrounds, it really is a wonderful example of a community working together to provide quite remarkable care for some of its less fortunate members.

Anyone wishing to support or visit this remarkable charity should contact: Richard Cowie (rcowie@stclare-hospice.co.uk), Melanie Nightingale (mnightingale@stclare-hospice.co.uk), St Clare on (01279) 773700 or me.

Future Lunches

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STOP STANSTED EXPANSION

Support the British Economy – Stop Stansted Expansion

On 10th September, SSE launched a new phase in its campaign aimed at raising awareness of the adverse impact upon the UK economy of the inexorable growth in cheap leisure flights. SSE's new campaign signboards feature the Union Flag alongside the SSE campaign logo with the message 'SUPPORT THE BRITISH ECONOMY – STOP STANSTED EXPANSION'.

Figures published by the Office of National Statistics in August show that the UK tourism deficit continues to grow rapidly. During the first six months of this year, UK residents took 34.3 million overseas trips – almost double the number of trips to the UK by foreign visitors (17.5 million). The difference in expenditure was even more marked. UK residents spent £17.7 billion abroad during the first six months of 2007 compared to £7.9 billion spent by foreign visitors to the UK. The dramatic deterioration in the UK trade balance on inward and outward tourism over the past ten years coincides with the boom in cheap leisure flights, and SSE has provided extensive evidence to the current Stansted Airport Public Inquiry to demonstrate that BAA's proposed expansion of Stansted Airport would give rise to an even bigger UK trade deficit and cause further damage to the UK and East of England tourism industry.

BAA is seeking permission to handle an additional 10 million passengers a year at Stansted Airport (more than either Luton or Birmingham Airports currently handle) but admits that just 290,000 of the extra passengers would be business passengers (145,000 round trips) and that the additional capacity would primarily cater for more and more UK residents on cheap leisure breaks overseas.

The purpose of this new phase in our campaign is to raise awareness of the adverse economic consequences of expanding Stansted Airport and to encourage a wider debate so as to challenge the longstanding myth that airport expansion is always good for the economy. Approving further expansion of Stansted Airport would undoubtedly serve the interests of its Spanish-owners and its main customer, Irish-owned Ryanair but this would entirely be at the expense of the UK economy and of the many thousands of taxpaying local residents around the airport who would suffer the consequences.

Carol Barbone,

Campaign Director,

Tel: 0777 552 3091

Email: cbarbone@mxco.co.uk



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