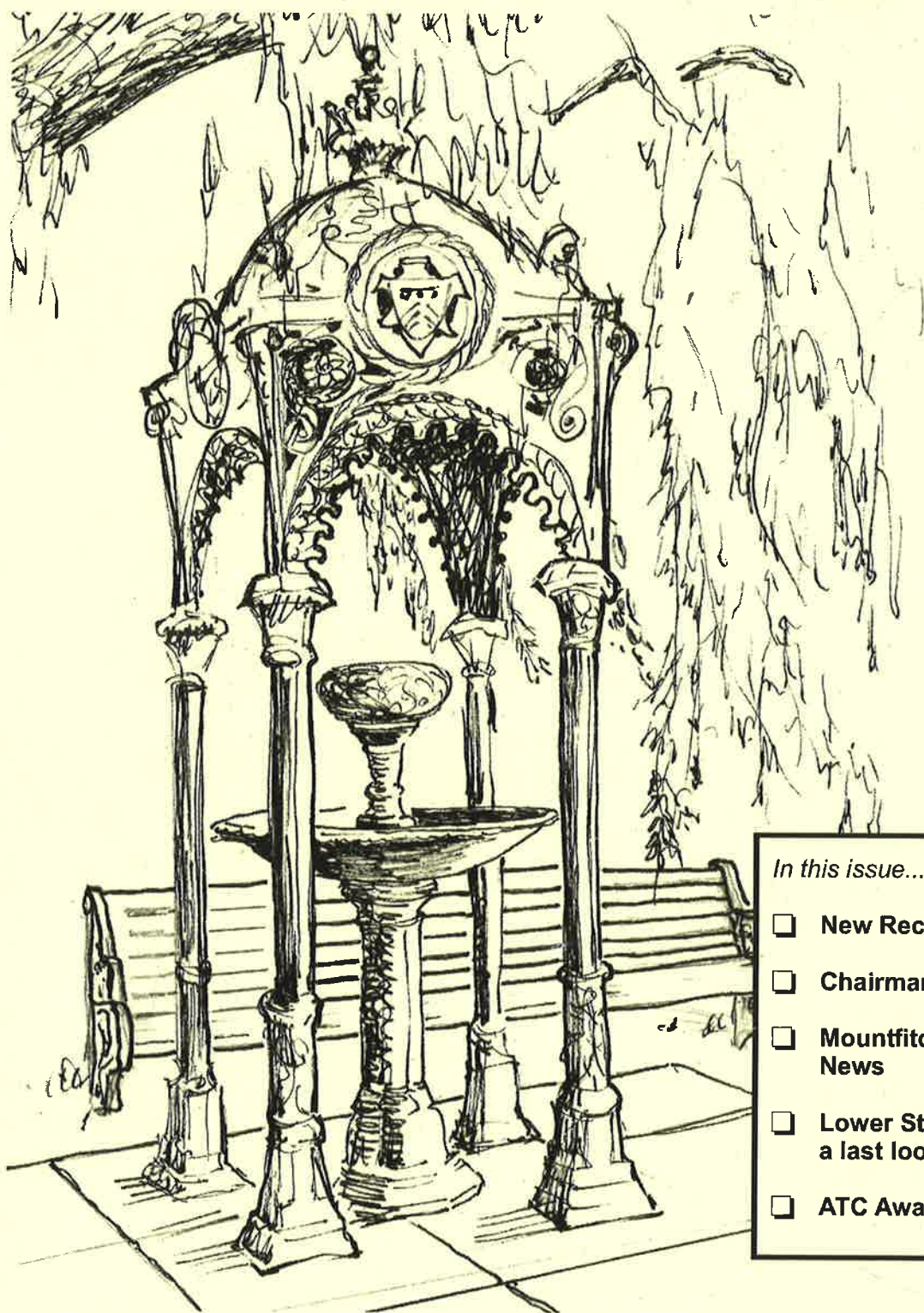


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



In this issue...

- New Rector arrives** p3
- Chairman's challenge** p6
- Mountfitchet College News** p13
- Lower Street at war - a last look** p21
- ATC Awards** p23

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Index to Advertisers

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Animal Care	fin 'n' fur 24	Household Services	Knights Windows 26
	Mercer & Hughes 28		Mark Robinson (handyman) 24
Community & Care	Alzheimer's Society 20		Ray Morton (painter/decorator) 16
	Hearing Help 20	Leisure	Tim's Tiles and Interiors 26
	Helpline 26		Elsenham Golf Centre 26
	Stansted Day Centre 24		Graham School of Dance FC
	Uttlesford Carers 12, 18		Mitchell School of Dance 22
	Uttlesford MIND 28	Motoring	Stansted Angling BC
Computing & Office Services	Alan Horsley 12		D Bonney & Sons 10
	Gina's Business Services 12		David Nunn's Garage 20
	Shadowfax 16		Elsenham Taxis 10
	Women in Business 18		Larry Jolley Driving Tuition 24
Education	Adult Community Learning 17		Rowland Ridgwell (van hire) 12
	Birchanger Nursery Unit 26	Personal Services	Sterling Chauffeur Service FC
	Montessori Day Nurseries 8		Back to Basics (Pilates) 22
	Rainbow Pre-School 20		Barnet Fayre (hairdressers) BC
Electrical	Albury Electrical Services 28		Beauty Elements BC
	Zelta Batteries 20		CK Men's Room 16
Financial & Legal	Genesis Financial Services 18		Fancy Fingers 18
	Greenways Financial Planning BC		Glynis Cheers (hypnotherapist) BC
	Pothecary Witham Weld 22		Jan Rickwood 10
	Siemens Motor Contracts 20		Jenny Wood (hypnotherapist) 16
	TaxAssist Accountants 12		Lower Street Clinic 10
Food & Lodging	Bada Bing! 19		Mobile Hairdressing 28
	Chimneys Guest House 16		Newwin-E Ltd 8
	Eddie Ho Fish & Chips 12		Once Upon a Time 26
	Royal Tandoori 10		Slimming World 22
	Star of India 12		Stansted Chiropractic 15
	The Laurels Bed and Breakfast 28		Stansted Psychotherapy 20
	Yummys sandwiches and coffee 10		Stansted Reiki 16
Funeral Services	D C Poulton & Sons BC		Sue Leech (chiropody) 28
	Daniel Robinson & Sons BC	Printing & Publishing	The Park Clinic FC
	Grave Concern 12		H C Williams (osteopath) 8
	J Day & Son 12		Copyzone 20
Furniture & Furnishings	Fabrications 28		Millway Stationery 8
	Kate Harrison 28	Property Services & Auctioneers	
	New Look (upholsterers) 16		Aldwych Construction 8
	Valley Carpets 8		Bareham Overy Partnership FC
	You're Furnished 18		Inter County 28
Garden Supplies, Services & Floral	D Honour & Son 18		Mullucks Wells BC
	Garden Design 12		PHD Associates (architects) 12
	Green Thumb 22		Sworders BC
	J R Johnston 12	Retailers	The Kenneth Mark Practice Ltd FC
	Mayfair Ponds BC		Family News 12
	Perry's Garden Centre 26		King's Family Butchers 26
	SimplyLawns 16	Travel	R & K News 12
	Steve Hall Garden Services 18		Travel Counsellors 24
Household Services	A Better Aerial 18	Other	
	ada Decorating 16		Knot Toys 12
	A&M Collins Roofing 22		Parklands - Quendon Hall BC
	Bubbles Bathrooms BC		Stansted All-Steel(gates,railings) 18
	Do-It-4U FC		Ugley Village Hall (for hire) 18
	Foster Plumbing & Heating 24		Chocolates for Chocoholics 28
	Grenville Construction BC		
	JDW Gas Heating Specialist 20		



St John's
STANSTED

contact us

all enquiries

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curate@stansted.net

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Thanks for your welcome

Last Sunday evening a visitor to Farnham Church asked me how long I had been Rector, and when I answered that I had been in post three weeks they expressed a surprise that I found myself sharing. It does seem a long while since we watched all our worldly goods being packed into a removal van in Hornchurch and saw them depart into the distance and then leaped into the car and drove up the M11 to await the van's arrival. I have been told that moving and changing one's job are some of the most stressful things it is possible to do, and I have to say that it certainly felt like it! Yet (with the notable exception of British Telecom) we did find that everyone was as helpful as possible and did everything they could to smooth our way.

The induction service, which took place on the evening of 30th July, was a real high point in my ministry and an inspiring beginning to my time as Rector of the United Benefice. My thanks go out to all who were involved in organising the service and the refreshments afterwards; and to all who have done so much to make my family and myself feel so welcome here.

My aim in the immediate future is to get to know as many people in the Benefice as possible by visiting them in their homes. You may already have encountered the clip-board that I have taken with me to the three churches in the Benefice. On it I have indicated times when I will be available and have invited people to put their name, address and telephone number (in case I get lost) next to a time and have then gone on to visit people at the times indicated.

All these visits have been times of joy as I begin the process of 'getting to know you'. I intend to keep the clip-board going for as long as it is needed and I hope that eventually I will be able to visit everyone who is a regular or even occasional worshipper in our churches. If you've not put your name down yet, and if you see the clip-board at the back of the church, do take a look to see if there is a time that might be convenient for me to visit you.

I am looking forward (God willing) to a long ministry here amongst you, as together we seek to discover the will of God for this place and seek to play our part in the plans he has for us. The prophet Jeremiah is often regarded as gloomy and pessimistic but one of my favourite passages from his book gives a very different picture:

"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord"

Jeremiah 29.11-13

Together we go forward in hope, trusting in the plans God has for us and in His power to fulfil them.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Paul Wilkin,
Rector

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

July

Weddings

7th Wendy Joy Powter to Colin John Petts
21st Nicole Drugan to Anthony Robert McVickers

Funerals

2nd Percy Wilson, age 80 - at St Mary's
3rd Agnata Cecilia Pollock, age 99 - at St Mary's
26th Dawn Colleen Elsmore, age 70 - at St John's
30th Marina Elizabeth Bird, age 70 - at Parndon Wood

Back to Church Sunday

A special Sunday to invite people (back) to church

There are various reasons why people stop going to church when once it played an important part of their lives. *Back to Church Sunday*, 30th September, is a day where your local church, St John's on Chapel Hill in Stansted, is offering an especially warm welcome. There are three services on Sundays:

- 8.00am **Holy Communion** (said)
- 9.30am **Family Communion** (sung), and **Children's Church** in the church hall
- 11.00am **Open Door** a family service, in a more relaxed atmosphere

We would love to see you and your family there. Don't worry about where to sit, what to say, when to stand, and all those details that can seem an issue. The welcome is real, and we will help you feel at ease. Do come!

Yours in Christ,

Rev'd Paul Wilkin and Dr Caroline Curren



Book this date!

HARVEST QUIZ AND SUPPER



Saturday 6th October

St John's Church Hall

7.00pm for 7.30pm



Tickets available from Katy Dockerill Tel: 812997,
Rosemary Thomson Tel: 815551 or Church Office
Tel: 815243

The Reverend Paul Wilkin, Rector

On 30th July the Rev'd Paul Wilkin was inducted by the Bishop of Colchester into the livings of Stansted Mountfitchet, Farnham and Birchanger. The new Rector came from the parish of All Saints, Squirrels Heath, Hornchurch, from where a number of his former parishioners came to support him and assist with the evening's choral contribution. Clergy from the Dunmow Deanery and elsewhere, as well as civic leaders and a large congregation also attended. The service, at which the Bishop gave the address and welcomed Paul's family, was followed by a reception in the Church Hall. As the Rev'd Paul himself put it, the real work began the following Sunday when he preached at the 9.30am Eucharist and launched a series of 'getting to know you' visits.

The people of the three parishes warmly welcome their new Rector and wish him a fulfilling ministry.

Alastair Bone
Gary West
Churchwardens



FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES

Sponsored Ride and Stride

Saturday 8th September 2007

This nationwide annual event invites cyclists and walkers to find sponsors who will pay an agreed sum for each church or chapel visited on the above date. (It is always the second Saturday in September.) Most churches are open between 10.00am and 6.00pm and will offer refreshments. The money each participant raises will be shared equally between The Friends of Essex Churches and the church or chapel nominated by the participant. As the event is nationwide, churches in Hertfordshire will also be open and these can be added to the list. Last year over £100,000 was raised. It would be splendid if we could manage to better this. If your church does not have the necessary sponsorship forms or you would like to take part in this worthwhile cause please contact me.

John Jaques
Tel: 656645



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

URC Interim Moderator
 Rev'd Janet Tollington

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

We are very pleased welcome our new Methodist Minister, Rev'd David Mullins, his wife, Louise, and their two daughters, Rachel and Jenni. David is preaching at the Remembrance Day service on 11th November, so many of you will have a chance to meet him then, if not before.

Preachers for September

- 2nd 10.30 am No morning Service
 2.30 pm 1st Church Anniversary - Rev'd John Buxton followed by celebration tea.
- 9th 10.30 am Maureen Kendall
- 16th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins - Holy Communion
- 23rd 10.30 am Doug Coulton
- 30th 10.30 am Rev'd Martin Cressey - Harvest Festival

Other activities

- Sun 2nd 3.30 pm Celebration outreach tea in the Hall
- Mon 10th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall
- Mon 17th 2.30 pm Monday Club
- Mon 24th 6.00 pm Pilots in the Hall

News from Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church
HYMNS OF PRAISE (Local style)

When is it? Saturday 8th September 2007
Where is it? Bishops Stortford Methodist Church
What time? 8.00pm (doors open 7.30pm)

Who should come?

- Anyone who enjoys listening to music or singing and remembers their favourite hymns and songs from yesterday, last week or even years ago
- Church congregations, groups and organisations
- Recent arrivals who have yet to visit a local church

Have a great evening singing along or just enjoy the music.

Can you come? You'll be welcome! Diary it now!
Entrance free!

Enquiries to John Simkins on 01279 504964

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

Restorative Justice

Quakers have a long history of involvement in the criminal justice system, some of it from the inside! In the 17th century thousands of Quakers were imprisoned for their beliefs and later this made people like Elizabeth Fry keen to reform the cruel practices that held sway in Newgate prison. We believe in original blessing rather than original sin and tend to think that anti-social acts are an expression of the pain of fragmented lives: both the result and the cause of broken relationships in the family and in the community. Certainly there is a need for restraint of those few who are exhibiting dangerous behaviour but we believe that the kind of restraint used and the help offered during that time must reflect our concern for the spark of the divine inherent in every person. Simply leaving people to rot in prison without any meaningful help is a recipe for disaster.

Bob Johnson, a Quaker psychiatrist, spent five years working with or, as he puts it, cross-examining, 60 violent murderers in Parkhurst prison and managed to help them come to terms with and understand their crimes. He realised that unless you know where evil is coming from you can't undo it; whereas if you do, you assuredly can. For him "Eve and the apple myth scores 100% for misogyny but zero for realism". In other words evil is not inherent in man but is man (or woman) made. During his time at Parkhurst he came to the conclusion that all crime, especially murder, comes from fear and anger, which are healthy when taken as a warning but lethal when mixed with the desire to avenge earlier childhood 'injustices'. Alice Miller's book on Hitler shows where his revengeful evil came from!

Working on the premise that twisted revenge is the root of all evil and that to cure it we need to cure the fear that invariably lurks beneath it, Bob managed to help many violent murderers. Initially many inmates threatened to kill him but he persevered and whilst he was at Parkhurst the atmosphere improved enormously. Few prisoners needed to be restrained or have calming drugs administered. Sadly Michael Howard did not support Bob's work and he had to resign. However, he still believes passionately in restorative justice and has set up a private organisation to help all those who struggle to understand their violent impulses.

Anthea Lea



SHALOM

Our Autumn term begins with a Prayer and Praise on Monday 17th September at 7 Blythwood Gardens. This will be led by Mike Dyer.

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.

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

Marion Dyer
 Tel: 814059

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

Be still for the Presence of the Lord

The first two words of the three verses of the above hymn are 'Be Still'. These days are we ever still with so many distractions of modern life. We are never still, we are always on the move, dashing here for this event, or that meeting, even at home where we should relax, we are not still and quiet. The television is on, or we are at the computer; even the radio provides us with distraction.

Is it possible that in the present age we have lost the art, the knowledge of how to be still, being still in the presence of the Lord? There is a discipline in Christian life, called 'meditation', where one is still and can shut out the distractions of every day life. Meditation is not something new to Christian life, but a deeply rooted Christian tradition. Many of us today have lost touch with this ancient tradition of prayer. Meditation involves bringing the heart, mind and body to a stillness, a calm, a shutting out of the hustle and bustle of everyday life. One of the extraordinary things is that, in spite of all the distractions of modern day life, this silence is perfectly possible for all of us. To obtain the silence and stillness we have to devote time, energy and love.

The mind has been described as a mighty tree filled with monkeys, all swinging from branch to branch and all making an incessant riot of chatter and movement. When we begin to meditate, we recognise this as a wonderfully apt description of the constant whirl going on in our minds. Prayer is not a matter of adding to this confusion by trying to shout it down and covering it with another layer of chatter; the art of meditation is to bring our distracted mind to stillness, silence and attentiveness. Meditation is the prayer of silence, the place where direct contact with Christ occurs, once the constant activity of the mind has been stilled. In meditation one goes beyond words, thoughts and images into the presence of God within. Julian of Norwich says, "God is the still point at my centre". Meditation is making one's own daily pilgrimage to one's own centre.

There are many ways of achieving this stillness of the heart, mind and body. First, find somewhere to sit that will allow you to relax while continuing to stay alert. My suggestion is to listen to a piece of music that you can relax with. As the music plays, gently work at maintaining a sense of yourself

as well as the music. Notice how your emotions, thoughts and body sensations change as you listen. As you find your mind drifting away, you can gently bring your attention back to your body and to the music. Listening to the music in this way, your concentration will gradually deepen, and this experience of deep concentration is both extremely pleasurable and deeply satisfying. In fact, it is through this kind of meditation practice that it is possible to completely transcend the painful sense of dislocation that we often experience between the world and ourselves.

The important aim in Christian meditation is to allow God's mysterious presence within us to become more and more not only a reality but the reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, to everything we are!

Francis Mercer



The next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th September at 8.00pm in the Stansted Free Church Vestry.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 23rd October in the Stansted Free Church Hall, as follows:

7.00pm Tea and coffee
7.30pm Speaker on Churches and Ecology
8.15pm Business

Please join us - all are most welcome.

David Morson, Chair
Tel: 850209

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

It's not only in Britain that it has been raining too much. The recent floods in Asia, which are the worst for 20 years, have left many people homeless and destitute. Christian Aid has launched an **Asia Flood Appeal** to raise £2 million for immediate aid. Cheques can be made out to Christian Aid and sent to them at FREEPOST London SE1 7YY or donations can be made by credit or debit card by calling 08080 004 004. Stansted Free Church is having a special collection over the next three Sundays.

Of course, Christian Aid will still be working in Asia after the floods helping communities to rebuild and to prepare for future disasters. At this year's Christian Aid service we watched a film about El Salvador, where Christian Aid's partner APRODEHNI is helping people reduce the risks from natural disasters and improve health and sanitation. The money that was generously given in Stansted this year will go towards some of these projects such as construction of wells and latrines.

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579



**Development Pressures –
Where Will All The Housing Go?**

One of the most important decisions that the new Council will have to consider is our response to the East of England Regional Plan. Uttlesford has been set a target by the plan to provide 8000 additional houses in the district by 2021. The Regional Plan assumes that Stansted Airport will have two runways. Although it is a government imposed target, the Council does not have the option of doing nothing.

At the recent Area Panel meeting held in Great Hallingbury the Local Development Framework was discussed at some length. Most Parish Councils have responded with their views. Councillors are already being sent details by developers of locations they have identified as suitable for development. The East of England Plan identifies what it calls key service centres. These are settlements that have a primary school, secondary school, shops, village hall, pub, doctors surgery, frequent bus service and a railway station. However, Elsenham meets all the criteria with the exception of a secondary school.

The Colin Buchanan partnership acting on behalf of Crest Homes has identified a 24.9 hectare site to the west of Elsenham near Alsa Woods. A further site has been identified on land east of Elsenham near the railway station and is being promoted by the Fairfield Partnership. They claim that their master plan will be flexible allowing growth from anywhere between 7-800 homes and 3000+ homes.

What may happen in adjoining parishes should be of interest to Stansted as this will have an effect on us. It is important to stress that the Council has not made any decisions on the location of the additional housing. Options will be put forward to the September meeting of the Environment Committee by our planning department for councillors to consider.

As someone who has lived in the district almost all my life, I wish to retain the character of the area as much as possible. I would not be prepared to support large scale additional housing in the immediate area particularly as the Rochford Nurseries development (700 houses) will shortly commence building.

Ward Walks

Stansted ward councillors recently accompanied UDC Chief Executive Alasdair Bovaird on ward walks. This is always helpful as it gives us an opportunity to point out local issues.

Council Finances

There has been some press coverage on this topic. Neither of the two main parties on the Council can reach agreement. The Chief Executive has issued a press release, which sets out objectively the situation. This is available on the Council website. He makes the point that the Council's balances stand at one million pounds. This should be placed in the context of the Council's net annual expenditure of approximately eight million pounds.

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

I would like to take the opportunity of telling you about the challenge I have set for myself in my year as Chairman of the District Council. This summer I have visited fêtes around the district giving away free low energy light bulbs and calculating carbon footprints. I have also started bag painting in schools, encouraging pupils to use cotton rather than plastic bags. The challenge is to reduce the carbon footprint of Uttlesford district!

When people find out how large their carbon footprint is, they are given tips on how they can reduce it. These range from things that can be achieved easily, such as not leaving appliances on stand-by, fitting low energy light bulbs to ones that are more painful, like using the car less and taking fewer flights.

Helping me in this is a sterling group, who don't mind giving up Saturdays to stand in the rain and cajole people into answering a few questions. Before the last UDC Council meeting, they measured the footprints of my fellow councillors. There was no 'name and shame' but I did announce the councillor with the smallest footprint, who appropriately was the Council's champion for (or should that be against!) climate change.

So if anyone would like to know the size of their carbon footprint, I will be happy to take measurements. It is quite painless and straightforward, using the 'Carbon Gym' computer programme designed by the Cambridge Centre for Alternative Technology. Then of course there is the challenge – shrink that footprint.

Walking the Uttlesford Way

Any walkers reading this will know that there is no footpath designated the Uttlesford Way. But there are a lot of footpaths in the district and I am aiming to walk on as many as possible this summer. My aim is to set foot in every ward and I am asking people to sponsor me to do this. The money raised will go towards environmental projects in the district. If anyone would like to sponsor me or join me on a walk, please make contact.

Catherine Dean,
Chairman of Uttlesford District Council
Tel: 813579

Advance Notice



On Saturday 17th November there will be a half-day lecture in the Day Centre by Gwyn Bailey on lesser known aspects of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. Please book the date and support this venture.

Ralph Phillips



SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE & STRIDE

Sat 8th September
10 am - 6 pm

Forms available from
John Jaques 656645

Come and join the fun

Mountfitchet Garden Club



AUTUMN SHOW

2.30 pm Sat 8th Sept
Stansted Free Church Hall

Refreshments ~ Raffle
Prizes awarded & sale of
produce at 4 pm

UTTLESFORD CROSSROADS Caring for Carers COFFEE MORNING

10 am - noon Wed 12th Sep
Stansted Day Centre

Entry £1 (includes coffee & cake)
Tombola ~ Cake & Produce Stall
Bring and Buy

Please support us - everyone welcome

VILLAGE EVENTS

September

1 Sat / 2 Sun	Sun Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
2 Sun	St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
	Windmill open	2 - 6 pm
	Anniversary Tea	Free Church 3.30 pm
5 Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
6 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8 Sat	Cycle Ride & Stride	10 am - 6 pm
	Garden Club Autumn Show	Free Church Hall 2.30 - 4 pm
12 Wed	Crossroads Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon
13 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
15 Sat	SSE Walk	Hatfield Forest 10 am
15 Sat / 16 Sun	Sun Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
17 Mon	Shalom Prayer & Praise	7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
22 Sat	Music in the Park	Bentfield School 1 - 7 pm
23 Sun	Kingfisher Ensemble (EYO)	St John's Church 7.30 pm
29 Sat	Lib Dem Sausage & Mash	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
29 Sat / 30 Sun	Sun Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

October

1 Mon	Shalom	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
11 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
13 Sat	Music Quiz	Bentfield School 7.30 pm
	Community Travel Quiz	UDC Offices 7.30 pm for 8 pm
	Village Music Club	St John's Church 7.30 pm
13 Sat / 14 Sun	Sun Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
23 Tue	Churches Together AGM	Free Church Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
27 Sat	Garden Club Quiz	Free Church Hall 7.30 pm

STOP STANSTED EXPANSION Protest Walk with Will Self

10 am Sat 15th Sept
Hatfield Forest, Bush End

Please note car parking charge
for non National Trust members

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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Just over 20 members were fortunate with a lovely balmy evening when they visited Pat Barrett's garden in St John's Road for our August meeting. We spent a leisurely time enjoying refreshments and wandering round Pat's garden. There were many oohs and aahs over the many unusual plants and planting.

The theme of the evening was 'Any Questions' mainly so that members could get advice on any particular problems they had in their own gardens. There were some surprising answers and tips. David Lloynds, our expert on hostas, suggested planting bigger, tougher leafed hostas which seem to fare better against slugs. Another member advised that slug pellets need to be in the garden (or pots) by 14th February because slugs find fresh shoots before we can see them.

Cyril Stoneham offered some very useful tips, including putting two tea bags in the bottom of plant pots to boost nitrogen content. He also found that planting sweet peas between runner beans attracted the bees and so helped pollinate the bean flowers. As regards planting bedding plants, Cyril suggested filling the hole with water, let it drain, then filling the hole again with water before putting in the plants. Judging from Cyril's award winning garden there must be some truth in his methods. Another member said she always puts a banana skin in the ground when planting a new rose. The potassium from the banana strengthens the roots.

A big thank you to Pat for a super meeting. It was a rewarding and very relaxing evening and hopefully we will be able to repeat this next year.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 5th September, 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre when Mr and Mrs Greenway will be giving a talk on clematis at Prior's Woods. Visitors very welcome.

October reminder: On Wednesday 3rd October Adam Woolcott will be 'Designing a Show Garden for Chelsea'. More details next month.

Christine Hope



STANSTED & DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Our next social event is a 'Sausage and Mash' evening at 7.30pm for 8.00pm on Saturday 29th September at the Stansted Day Centre. Supper will be followed by a discussion on topical issues. Tickets £8 - further details and tickets please ring 814222 or 813432.

Ruth Rawlinson

STANSTED IN BLOOM

This year's Best Kept Garden award went to Mr Cyril Stoneham of Bentfield Green, pictured here with Parish Councillors Anne Marchant and Valerie Trundle. Mr Stoneham, a previous winner, is to be congratulated on his consistent success.



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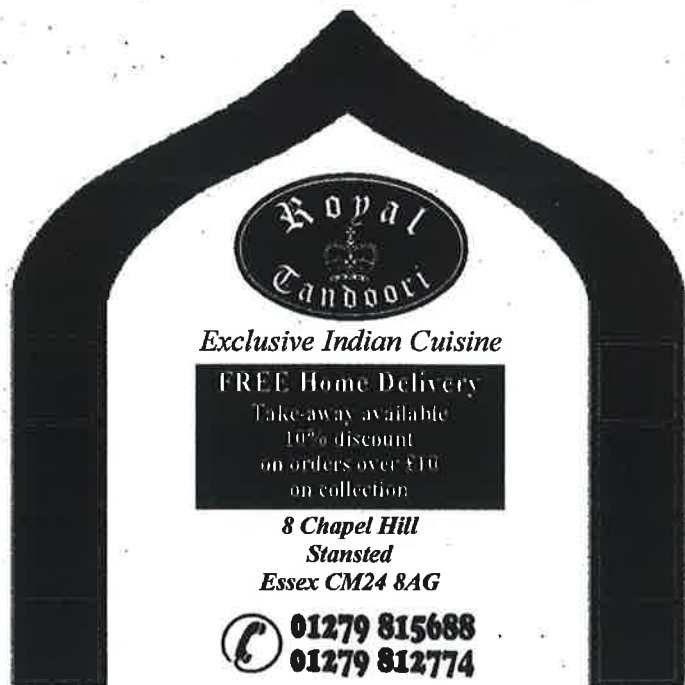
Welcome back to a new school year! I hope all our pupils and their families had a happy and restful summer holiday before the challenges of the new term ahead. We are looking forward to welcoming the children who will become our Foundation Stage class. They have already been into school on a number of occasions last term, and have joined in with all of the activities including playtime and lunchtime so we hope they will settle in quickly and happily. The school is also happy to welcome the new Rector, Rev'd Paul Wilkin. He will be taking his first assembly in the school on Wednesday 5th September. He is very keen to get to know the school and to support us in our RE curriculum and in the occasions we share with the church.

We will be without our Year 6 for the first week of the new term. They are off to Aylmerton in Norfolk for their residential visit. They will be enjoying a week of outdoor environmental, team-building and problem-solving activities. They will be reporting on how it all went in the next issue of 'Link'.

Our school website is up and running, designed and managed by Mark and Sarah Moulds. Do visit it to see what is happening here! There are links to news and information from the school and the PTFA, pages for each class, a picture gallery and more. There is also an on-line shopping link to many major stores. By using the link from our website you would be supporting St Mary's, as purchases made via our link raise money for the school. Our web address is: www.st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk

Our Breakfast Club will be running again next term. The first session is on **Tuesday 5th September from 7.30am.**

Christine Tonkins,
Headteacher



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IN MEMORIAM

Dawn Elsmore

Dawn was born and brought up in South India in the Nilgiri Hills, a place that she loved. Her father John was in the civil service and it was in India that he met her mother Dorothy. She was very close to her father who was a strong Christian.

Dawn became a teaching assistant in India. She met Des in 1958 in Bombay aboard a ship bound for England when Des was returning from New Zealand. They married in June 1959. Back in England, Dawn took shorthand and typing work in Bournemouth and Bromley for several years before Mark was born in 1963. The following year the family spent a year in Sydney, Australia. Until 1971 they lived in Parkstone, Poole, before moving to Stansted where they have lived in the same house ever since.

In the 1970s, Dawn worked as an ancillary assistant at the old Rye Street Hospital in Bishop's Stortford and as a shop assistant at Caton's shop on the Cambridge Road in Stansted which was formerly Green's Stores Buildings. Then in the 1980s she worked for eight years as a dinner lady at St Mary's School.



She was both loved and liked by friends and neighbours who have spoken highly of her, referring to her as a warm, caring, gentle and outgoing lady, always speaking to people, whether neighbours, friends at the shops or church. Dawn was a regular member of St John's Church and a devoted wife and mother who gave herself to caring for Des, particularly as he grew older. She imparted her Christian faith to Mark. She was greatly loved by Des and Mark and will be sorely missed by them as well as by many others.

Dawn's death at the age of 70 and following a stroke, was very sudden. She passed away peacefully, without paralysis, which she would have hated, having been an active person – this is something that both Des and Mark see as a blessing and mercy.



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

For our August meeting, the summer evening brought out a full house of members and visitors to hear Russell Clark from Uttlesford District Council, our speaker for the evening. Russell arrived a bit late so that we were just beginning to wonder what we would do, when he arrived a bit breathless to tell us that he had to stay home and have the dinner his wife had cooked as she was pregnant and mustn't be upset! He was sure we would all understand! So he had won us over before he even started his very comprehensive presentation on Recycling Management in our District.

Russell is Chair of the Waste Management Team of 80 employees on the Council and is dedicated to improving the understanding of the problem of waste growth both locally and globally. There was 434 million tonnes of waste in the UK last year and 26 million of that from our own homes. The growth of food waste is enormous and seems partly due to the 'buy one get one free' trend, which quite often results in the extra one being thrown away eventually, households being smaller. The supermarkets have now got targets to reduce packaging and it is hoped that increased landfill tax will discourage over-packaging. The good news is that our district has increased its rate of recycling by nearly 20% in the last year.

We were shown how the bins with the recyclable rubbish are sorted at the plant at Braintree; initially some of this is done by hand, which we found surprising. Some of our recyclable stuff is sent to Spain and Scandinavia where it is processed and can be returned here in other guises. A lot of recyclable plastic is made into street furniture - there seemed to be no end to the fascinating facts about rubbish!

The large brown bins, which none of us are ever likely to fill, had originally been going to be used for garden waste as well, but this was found not to be practical and also the size needed to be the same as the others in order to fit on to the lorries. Many members had questions for Russell during the coffee break, which he was delighted to answer.

Our Autumn County Meeting is to be held at the Princes Theatre in Clacton this year and six of our members wish to attend. The principal speaker is Zena Skinner who was one of the first television cooks and she will tell us of those early days.

A trip to see 'Fiddler on the Roof' has been organised for October. These trips offer greatly reduced price tickets and are matinee performances. There is also an opportunity to see the Sadler's Wells production of 'Nutcracker' in December or January - sometimes it's a bit difficult to think that far ahead on a hot summer evening!

Several of our members will be visiting neighbouring Institutes in Manuden, Berden and Elsenham this September and some of their members will be visiting us for our Members' Day meeting on 13th September. We always welcome visitors, so come along too. Members' Day means that non-committee members take the Chair, act as Secretary and arrange a speaker, so giving the committee a chance to sit back!

Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

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UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Midsummer – without seaside sun – brought the Punch and Judy man to Ugley. Mr John Saville gave a very full account of the P & J history from its mediaeval origins in Italy as he wielded his SLAPSTICK, the two bladed wooden piece which gives such an alarming 'THWACK' to its victim ...

While political and social satire is often softly woven into the fabric of the shows, we saw Mr Saville's subsequent performances as the usual clever display of savage behaviour and hilarious banter. Present day laws do intrude: 'political correctness' of Punch? Health and Safety of that tent – awning over a crowd of children on a windy beach? A naughty boy hiding in the tent and kicking Punch on the shins ... We love it all.

Next month came the Members' Day – always a surprise in the calendar. The guest entertainer, Juliet Richards, told briefly of her training in drama, writing and production and then performed her own piece 'A fateful night'; the imagined diary of a governess on board the sinking Titanic. An eerie atmosphere right to the end – even if we knew it.

A medley of reports, recitations, 'Rene Camp anecdotes' preceeded by Gladys Dix who gave an account of the Chelmsford Cathedral festival of 'Roses, Roses all the Way', as she displayed the products of their workshop – gaily decorated flower pots. A high spot was the celebration of Claire Francis' 90th birthday with cake, song and poetry.

The programme for 2008 was prepared and presented by Frances Spalding and warmly approved. More good things to come.

Phyllis Harrison



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MOUNTFITCHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



We have received the summer issue of the College's News. It is interesting to know that their Learning Centre, still being constructed, is intended for use by other education providers and the community. A non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need raised over £1000 and there has been a sponsored silence and an effort for Comic Relief which raised £750. Their second VW Show was a great success and justified the massive organisational effort.

Of particular interest is the work placement (experience) held in May; the Dyslexia Unit's results were most encouraging. A team-building day in Hatfield Forest was another unusual venture. It is also good to learn that the College won the Essex Regional Competition in the 'Maths in Motion' Challenge.

We have a lively college in our midst which seems determined to build on its 'Most Improved School' accolade of 2006. Keep it up!

Editor



BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Music in the Park
Saturday 22nd September**

Live music 1.00pm-7.00pm (Gates open 12.30pm)

Please come and join us and help us to make the sixth Music in the Park the biggest and best yet! The fantastic line-up of bands includes all time favourites *All of a Sudden* and *Slow Time Mondays!* We are also delighted to welcome back *Dew Drop Trio*, *Bamboo Loud* and *Reload*, all of whom have made memorable appearances in the past!

Head for the bar tent for your beer, wine or the essential jug of Pimm's – check out the barbecue for mouth-watering lamb wraps, burgers, sausages and vegetable kebabs. You will also find soft drinks, popcorn, sweets and ice cream for the young and young at heart! Our supervised children's area will have a bouncy castle for smaller children and an inflatable fun run for the older ones – as well as giant Jenga, face painting, Connect 4, table tennis and the football shootout!

THIS IS A NON-SMOKING EVENT.

Tickets cost £7.50 in advance or £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



STANSTED OPEN GARDENS



Following the demise of the local Heal Cancer Relief branch in 2006, the popular Open Gardens scheme was this year taken over by the Garden Club and Stansted Millers. Some 14 gardens were opened and received a steady flow of visitors throughout the afternoon of Sunday 15th July. A brief downpour at 5.00pm terminated some of the visits but most visitors were able to complete their itinerary. One or two cyclists came and demonstrated that this is an excellent way to cover a large number of gardens. Several homes offered welcome refreshments.



19 Spencer Close

A great deal of preparation was put in by the garden owners but they may take comfort that the rain held off until near the end, that many people took pleasure from their efforts, and that over £500 was raised for two societies. A big thank you to all of them.



Sonia's, Chapel Hill

Photographs courtesy of Lucy Mannering

PLANNING - a view

It's probably fair to say that no one positively likes the planning system, but overall it is trusted as being fair and transparent. Local people can take part in the decision-making process by making their views known and the reasons for decisions are all open to inspection. The decision makers, whether they are Council officers, elected councillors and even elected Government ministers, are ultimately accountable to the people affected.

This may all change for major infrastructure projects such as airport runways, wind generation farms and nuclear power stations. The Government wants to take these decisions out of the hands of elected representatives and hand them over to what they call an Independent Planning Commission (IPC). The IPC would make decisions based on government guidance in National Policy Statements.

I spoke at a conference in London on this in July. I subsequently received a letter from the organisers saying it was good to have a speaker who was prepared to be critical of the Government. I was not alone. The CPRE, National Trust, Friends of the Earth and others condemn these proposals.

My main argument against what is proposed is the need to maintain trust in the system; that decisions by unaccountable quangos are on the whole treated with suspicion. Ultimately, if people can no longer trust democratic processes, they are more likely to resort to direct action or civil disobedience against proposals. The Government says it wants to engage with local communities while simultaneously proposing to take decisions away from them and their elected representatives. It is simply not enough to pay lip service to the concept of 'being heard'. People have to be convinced that their views have influenced a decision beyond more than the design of the landscaping.

The concept of 'independence' for the proposed commission concerns me. Independent from what? Independent from political accountability? Independent from big business interests? It seems the Government wants to change the planning system for the second time in three years so that big business will get an easier ride.

At a time when the 60th anniversary of Indian and Pakistani independence is much in the news, I thought that the following quotation from the internet Wikipedia was a telling historical parallel: "The India Office provided the bureaucratic and policy ammunition that the Secretaries of State of the late 19th century used to convert the Viceroy and Government of India into little more than the agents of the Government of the United Kingdom." I fear an Independent Planning Commission would, in reality, be the obedient agents of UK Government ministers.

Cllr Alan Dean
Tel: 813579

Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

WHERE ARE YOU?

I'm writing this month's contribution in between packing for our family holiday and making beetroot chutney! "Multi-tasking again" my husband mutters as he walks past. "Show off!" It did get me thinking that the ability to multi-task apart from being handy as a mother is also handy as a vet. Quite often I find that I end up doing or thinking about several things at once.

A good example was the other day while I was removing a grass seed from a dog's paw. Angela, our receptionist, came down to the operating theatre to see if I was free to speak to a client about some poorly chickens; Jackie, our nurse, needed to know what antibiotics to give a cat we had just seen; Angela also had a lab report in her hands that had just been faxed through and seeing I was busy she said "Oh don't worry, I'll add it to your list of messages". This was in addition to the builder knocking plaster off our consulting room wall and a dog in the kennels doing a fair impression of 'The hound of the Baskervilles'! All in a day's work I suppose. We always tell our student nurses that the first thing they need to do is hurry up and grow that third pair of hands. They look at us as if we are a bit mad to begin with, but they soon understand why.

Summer generally is our busiest time of the year and I can always tell when the holidays have started as we get the 'left my pet with the neighbour' syndrome. This usually begins with the appearance of an anxious person, holding a dog/cat/rabbit/iguana (delete as appropriate) at arms length, saying "He's not mine, I'm just looking after him for the neighbour, they're on holiday". This is usually closely fol-

lowed by "I don't know anything about him but he's not eaten for three days." We usually manage to sort things out fairly well (thank goodness for computer records), and the carers generally turn out to be wonderfully responsible and caring people, but I would make a plea to everyone when they are leaving their pet with a kennels or a neighbour, to leave a contact telephone number wherever possible.

Mostly your pet will be fine when you're on holiday, but occasionally the unthinkable will happen and a dog may run in front of a car or a life-threatening condition may be discovered, or an emergency operation may be needed to be carried out and without being able to contact an owner we have to take the responsibility between ourselves and the carer to try and carry out what the owner would want, and what is in the best interests of the animal. Usually this works out fine but I do remember on one occasion doing my best with some quite complex surgery to save a cat's leg after it had been run over only to have the owner return from holiday to say "Oh he was only a farm cat, I would have had him put to sleep."

I suppose you can never get everything 100% right, but it does make it so much more straightforward if we can contact an owner. We quite regularly ring people in France and on one occasion we even spoke to an owner who was on holiday in Australia. Now there's service for you!

Ilse Pedler,
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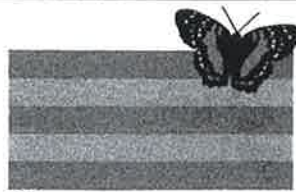
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Adult Community Learning at the Peter Kirk site is thriving

Readers of the Stansted Observer a few weeks ago may have been led to believe that West Essex Adult Community College is closing. The article was factually inaccurate, and this is far from true! The Peter Kirk School (now part of Adult Community Learning Essex) is not being lost to the community. The former special school has not been out of action since 1998. Since that date it has been used to deliver adult education to the local community and still continues to be used for that purpose. What is being lost to the community is the original village school building which had a clause on it which meant when it was no longer used as a school it reverted to the original owner. However this is only a small part of the Peter Kirk School site. The Peter Kirk School site is part of the Adult Community Learning Service in Essex which is one of the flagship services for adult education in the country. It provides education for adults of all abilities in their local community, from computing, to yoga, from literacy and numeracy to A levels and all things in between. The site is fully accessible to adults of all abilities and has had considerable investment made in it over the past eight years to maintain the ethos of its previous use.

We are pleased to report that the Observer has since published the above report. The College term begins on 17th September and enrolments are now being taken. For a prospectus, please telephone 01279 813319, email lifelong.learningwest@essexcc.gov.uk or call in at the Peter Kirk Centre, St John's Road or Stansted Library.

Joan Herbert,
Strategic Manager Health and Care,
and Locality Link for Uttlesford

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Nature Notes

The sparrowhawk has not been seen very often over the garden this summer, possibly because we seem to



Many of you will have noticed the prolific growth of most of the plants, bushes and trees this summer which has resulted in what promises to be a bumper crop of blackberries, sloes, wild damsons and nuts. The damsons may well all be picked by the time you read this, but there will be plenty of the rest along the local lanes and paths. Perhaps even the beech-nuts will be worth collecting this year.



have fewer birds around this year. This morning, however, when we had driven 50 yards out of the village a hawk swooped low over the car, coming from behind, and flew just ahead of us for a short distance before rising over the hedge. This has happened several times over the last few years. Pre-

sumably the hawk is hoping that our movement will flush some unwary little bird out of the hedge.

September is one of the best months for getting out and enjoying the countryside. Paths and tracks are usually firm and clear after the harvest traffic and the contrast of stubble or plough with the green hedgerows gives a new dimension to the landscape. Stansted is also fortunate to be surrounded with numerous interesting country lanes. So, it's all out there. Get to it!

Felix

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MEMORIES OF LOWER STREET IN WARTIME

No III

As mentioned in my first episode, our family business at 41, Lower Street was Turner Bros (Grocers and Pork Butchers). Before the Second World War this was a substantial business with weekly deliveries to customers in Stansted, Henham, Broxted, Elsenham and Ugley. My father was a very good pork butcher. His cooked hams and finest pork sausages gave the business an excellent reputation for quality, and customers came from as far away as Braintree and parts of Cambridgeshire to buy them. To the rear of the premises we had stables, a slaughter house, brine tubs and a smoke-room. The sausage machine was driven by an old gas engine which had a large flywheel, and it also drove (on a belt system) the circular saw in the loft above. We sold firewood in bundles because nearly all supplies from the manufacturers came in wooden boxes. Live pigs were brought from many local farms including Audley End Estate (the home of Lord Braybrooke) to be turned into bacon and hams etc. Lord Braybrooke wouldn't allow his livestock to be sent anywhere else. He always claimed that various other processors often sent him meat that hadn't come from his estate.

At the beginning of the war when petrol was rationed, only one permit for petrol coupons was issued by the Government for the six grocers in Stansted and that was for Greens Stores, Cambridge Road. Consequently Greens were responsible for taking every other trader's deliveries to their customers - you can guess what the result of this was. It meant that the other traders had to struggle to reclaim their customers after the conflict.

I have been asked how much I remember about the highly anticipated invasion by the Nazis. I think those of us children who understood would agree with me that grown ups tried very hard not to let us be terrified. However, it was impossible to hide it from us, when things like the removal of all road signs happened, and I remember reading Official Notices issued by the War Office saying 'IF THE INVADER COMES' what to do. We were told not to run and hide, but to stay where we were. Everyone was to have a bag packed with some medications, iron rations (biscuits, water etc) gas-mask, ration books and ID cards. People were hiding food, and where babies were involved, tins of National Dried Milk and Government issue concentrated orange juice.

The morale of the people wasn't helped by broadcasts by the German propaganda. William Joyce (Lord Haw Haw) was constantly telling us on the radio that the German Intelligence knew what was happening in England even at local Women's Institute meetings, and that it was just a matter of days. My mother used to send me up to Mr Johnson at Stansted Water Works Pumping Station to get our accumulator re-charged so that we could always hear the news on the radio. Any strangers in the village were viewed with suspicion, and we were told not to speak to them as they might be spies. After the war, I learnt that many families had hidden poisons in case of invasion, as they considered it better to poison their children than subject them to the Nazi occupation.

During the blitz the evacuees arrived. One morning I saw a line of red London buses parked along Lower Street. People, whose only remaining possessions were in a suitcase or a carrier bag, were being directed to various houses where the locals were instructed to find them some accommodation by men with clipboards and official badges. There was an empty cottage belonging to my grandfather, and the Ross family was billeted there. I believe it was Mrs Ross, Ronnie and Vera. In our house we had an elderly couple - Mr and Mrs Magnus and a single woman - Miss Freer. In the Bull yard cottages were Mrs Swan and daughter Jean; the Osborne family, Tony, Rita and Thelma; and the Wise family whose children were Ron, Brian, Douglas and Gwen. I believe some of those unfortunate people still live in Stansted and have brought up their families in the village and if so I hope they feel that we tried to make them feel welcome.

At the end of the War in Europe, 8th May 1945, there were huge celebrations and again when the Japanese surrendered on 12th August 1945. The whole of Lower Street and Station Road had bunting and flags on every house, shop and pub. Two searchlights were positioned at the Working Men's Club and Station Road, and everyone in the village was out singing and dancing all night - dancing with the person nearest to them, young and old together. People had tears of joy in their eyes. I was only 11 years old but it seemed to me that the relief from all that pain and misery brought everyone together and that there was hope for peace in the world. Whenever I am at a funeral service, and those words from The Revelation of St John chapter 21 vs 4 are used, I am reminded of that day of thanksgiving, when people from all over the world rejoiced. If only the human race had learnt to live together in peace! Sadly it seems that our hopes and prayers were in vain.

Keith Turner



Uttlesford Community Travel

You may have seen the green and yellow buses in the district and you may be interested to know that UCT is celebrating its 10th anniversary. The service transports people who are disabled, including the wheelchair bound, the elderly and anyone who cannot access public transport.

We have had a strawberry tea for members, a coffee morning to advertise what we do and to raise money and our next event is a quiz at the Uttlesford District Council offices in London Road, Saffron Walden on Saturday 13th October at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Tables are for eight and the price is £7.00 including a ploughman's supper. Please bring your own drink and glasses.

We do hope that you will support this worthwhile charity. Please ring me on 01279 813080 to book a table.

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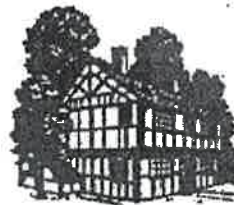


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STANSTED SCOUTS



Scouting's Centenary

All 28 million worldwide members of the Scout Movement were asked to renew their promise on 1st August to celebrate 100 years of Scouting. To renew our promise, Stansted Scouts held a small Sunrise event at the HQ in Water Lane. A games evening was followed by making 's'mores' outside until lights out at 11.30pm. At 6.30am the Scouts were woken to begin cooking their breakfast. A full English always goes down well in the fresh air, especially when it takes so long to cook! At 8am we joined via the radio with the renewal of promise from Brownsea Island by Chief Scout Peter Duncan. Happy Birthday Scouts, here's to the next 100 years.



Buon giorno

Stansted's Scout HQ was home to 30 Italian visitors during the Scouts' World Jamboree held in Chelmsford. The 29 Scouts and their priest spent two nights in the village, and many of you may have seen them taking photos around the village. Their priest, Father Roberto, visited both St Theresa's church and St John's, the latter being the first time he had been in an 'anglicano' church. Thanks to Father Joe White and Rev'd Paul Wilkin for their help. After the usual swapping of badges and scarves, they returned home rather tired but very happy with the hospitality shown to them.

Mike Byrne



494 (STANSTED AIRPORT) SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS



Squadron Celebrates Success

On Friday 3rd August, 494 Squadron ATC celebrated a year of great achievements as it held its annual awards presentation

evening. The occasion was also marked with the enrolment of 12 new cadets. The Squadron, which now stands at 47 cadets, has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months. The cadets made an impressive sight as they marched behind their Standard from their Stansted Airport Headquarters to the Harrods Aviation building, the venue for the event. Flight Lieutenant Rob Hall, Officer Commanding, opened proceedings with a speech of welcome and praised the hard work of both cadets and staff over the past year. Squadron Padre, Canon Bishop, conducted the oath of allegiance for the new cadets as they completed their transition to fully fledged members of the Corps.



The emphasis then switched to the awards as trophies were presented for Best NCO (Flt. Sgt. Alistair Michie), Best Probationer (Cdt. Alex Deller) and Best Cadet (Tom Rofe) along with the BAA Community Award (Cdt. Sophie Stacey). Five cadets were promoted to the rank of Corporal - Mitchell Adams, Alistair Wise, Daryl Staggs, Robert Fox and Reece Teagle. Three Corporals were promoted to the rank of Sergeant - Nicola Hume, Robert Hume and Nathan Basford. The audience then enjoyed a video presentation of the year's activities, giving both cadets and staff time to reflect on some memorable moments. As an end to the formal part of the Evenings' events the unit staged a march past, with the salute being taken by Squadron President, Ron Paternoster, former Operations Director at the airport. The cadets, staff and guests then had a chance to relax and socialise over refreshments. The evening was hailed a great success.

494 have a ball at The Ash, Burton End, Stansted

A great time was had by all as 494 Squadron ATC held their Summer Ball at the Ash, on Saturday night, 4th August. Over 70 cadets, staff and their guests of the Stansted Airport-based unit enjoyed a splendid three course meal and disco. There was some significance to the choice of venue as during the Second World War the Ash pub was a favourite watering hole of American airmen from the nearby Stansted Airfield. The Squadron shares its designated number with 494th Fighter Squadron United States Air Force, represented on the night by Captain Martinez and his guest, Ms Hiley. The unit is currently stationed at RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk. The two Squadrons enjoy close links and toasts were made to both units. Flight Lieutenant Rob Hall, Officer Commanding 494 Squadron ATC, gave a speech and wished the Americans all the best for their forthcoming deployments.

The Squadron were very grateful to the proprietors and staff of the Ash for providing such an enjoyable evening.

Simon Stacey,
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494 Squadron ATC

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Inuit leader evidence against Airport Expansion at Stansted Public Inquiry

The leader of Greenland's indigenous human rights organisation the Inuit Circumpolar Council and expert member of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Aqqaluk Lyngé, gave evidence on Friday 27th July to the Public Inquiry into the proposed expansion of Stansted Airport. Speaking as a witness for SSE, Mr Lyngé highlighted the impacts of climate change which are already being experienced in the Arctic and called for a halt to the airport expansion proposals which would add to the global warming burden that is already affecting the traditional Inuit way of life.

In February 2003, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) passed a resolution effectively recognising the Arctic as a 'barometer' or 'indicator region' of the globe's environmental health. This resolution called upon Arctic states to significantly increase environmental monitoring arrangements in the Arctic. "The Arctic is no longer isolated from the rest of the world," Mr Lyngé told the Inquiry. "What happens in countries such as Britain affects us in the North. Many of the economic and environmental challenges facing the Inuit result from activities well to the south of our homeland and Inuit traditions are being severely tested by the changing Arctic environment. The Inuit people and the Arctic are sometimes overlooked, but in relation to global climate change I suggest you do so at your peril. What is happening now to Inuit will happen soon to you in the south. This is why the UNEP is looking to the Arctic and why you should as well."

Stansted will be the litmus test of the seriousness of the Government's commitment to properly tackling the climate change issue. If Gordon Brown doesn't grasp that nettle then his claims about acting to address global warming will be exposed as mere platitudes. BAA is seeking unlimited passenger use of the airport's single runway, currently capped at 25 million passengers per annum, which could result in the eventual doubling of passenger throughput and an increase in the number of flights from 192,000 (latest 12 months total) to 264,000 annually. Permission for the application was refused by Uttlesford District Council last November and the Public Inquiry is hearing BAA's appeal against that decision, the result of which is expected in the Spring.

Will Self to lead protest walk against Stansted expansion

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

Airport expansion would jeopardise the tranquillity of the forest, while there are grave concerns over the impact that such massive expansion would have on its ecosystems as a result of changes in air quality. There are also fears that climate change impacts

would render the woodland vulnerable to extreme weather conditions, which would further compromise its survival.

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

Carol Barbone,
Campaign Director
Tel: 0777 552 3091
Email: cbarbone@mxco.uk

Stansted Tennis Club



Primary Boys' Singles Tournament

Twelve boys took part in this annual tournament on Sunday 22nd July 2007. The players were divided into three groups according to age. Within each group, players played five games against all other players in the same group. Teddy Oliver won the oldest age group, Robert Lawson was triumphant in the middle age group and Matt Hollis headed the youngest age group. For the knock-out stage the boys were seeded according to their performance in the round-robin stage. In the semi-finals, Zach Veitch defeated Joseph Coles, while Matt Hollis overcame Teddy Oliver. So it was two players from the youngest age group who were to contest the 2007 final. In a match of long rallies it was Matt Hollis who became champion, defeating Zach Veitch 4-0 in the best of seven game match. The day was supported by the players' families and friends.

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 2pm on Friday afternoons. You may be a complete beginner or may have not played for several years. You may just want to socialise and have some exercise. If any of these apply to you, then please give Chris Hollis a call on 01279 319155 to find out more. You don't have to be a member of the club to join in.

The junior coaching and match practice sessions for ages 6-15 will restart when the schools return in September. If you would like to find out more and put 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 9th September - Stansted Tennis Club Finals (all day)
Sunday 16th September - Clower Girls' Singles Tournament
Saturday 22nd September - Hospital Cup Finals at The Grove Tennis Club, Saffron Walden
Sunday 23rd September - Clower Secondary Doubles Tournament

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



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A new season will soon be upon us and we have an exciting series of concerts lined up for next year in St John's Church:

Saturday 13th October 7.30pm – Cordelia Williams, Winner of the Piano Class, BBC Young Musician of the Year.

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

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

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

If you are not already a member now is the 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.

Individual tickets for the first concert on 13th October - adults £10, children £3 - are now available from: Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill; Nockolds, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford, and Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill tel: 815282.

Alan Corbishley

EYO 50

The Essex Youth Orchestra is celebrating its 50th year this summer with a series of concerts throughout Essex. On Sunday 23rd September the Kingfisher Ensemble (all former members of the EYO) - led by Beth Spendlove, former leader of the EYO - will be playing Mendelssohn's glorious string octet and other light classical music at St John's Church at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and can be obtained, along with other information, from Sonia Levy tel: 815282.



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Thank you!

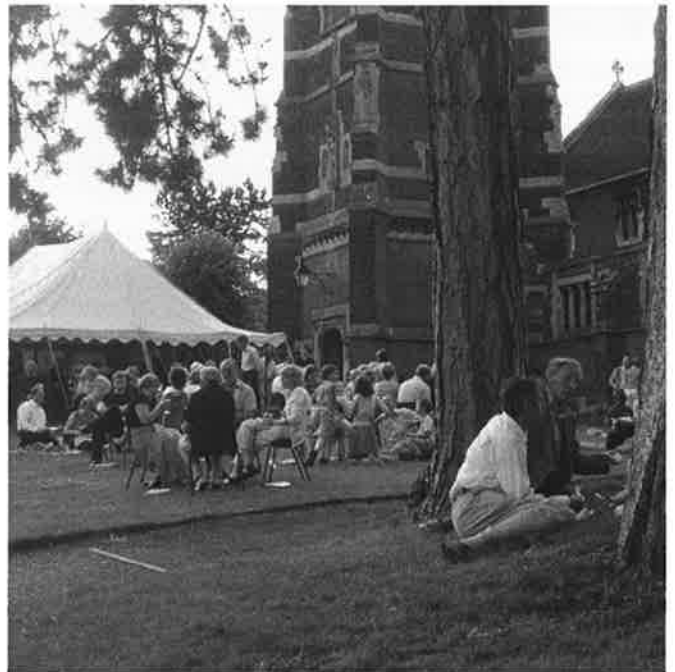


THE SUMMER SOIREE

The big Music Club event of the year was held in St John's Church and grounds on 14th July. The artistes were all young musicians, many from the surrounding district, plus a return visit by 17 year old Erdem Misirliognu, an outstanding pianist from Russia. The quality of their performances was remarkably high and demonstrated that our musical future is in capable hands. The evening was enhanced by liquid sustenance from a marquee in the grounds, together with refreshments from the Hall. A two-piece group entertained during the interval. As in previous years it was well attended and favoured with good weather.

The Soiree was a fine example of the excellent value which the Village Music Club offers to its members and supporters. Manuden had its Glyndebourne; Stansted had its Soiree!

Editor



We are still up the road!

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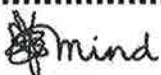
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