

Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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Editor:

Derek Honour
 01279 647213
 editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

Advertising:

Mike and Marion Dyer
 01279 814059
 adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk
 Or check on website for prices

Distribution:

Janet Townsend
 01279 812593
 distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk

Treasurer:

Janet Townsend
 accounts@stanstedlink.org.uk

Committee:

Susan Bone
 Katharine Hurford
 Wendy Moss
 Dick Pollard
 Eileen Quinn
 Ruth Rawlinson

Printers:

Copyzone
 01279 657769

CIRCULATION:

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CONTRIBUTIONS:

by email (*preferred*) to:
 editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

or by hand to:
 58 Chapel Hill, Stansted

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Editorial



A welcome trend in Stansted, which has withstood this past season's weather, is the increase in outdoor eating shops in Cambridge Road and Silver Street; it was also noticed at the Tapas bar on a recent charity evening. Pavement space is inevitably at a premium, so the scope for expansion is limited, but if the market is there, ingenuity will prevail.

On the subject of pavement space, concern should again be expressed about the amount of parking and half-parking which occurs and has become so widespread in the village. Despite economic stringency, car usage seems to continue unabated, but the shortage of parking space becomes more acute. There may not be an early solution, but consideration and safety for pedestrians and children in buggies must be paramount. I know many readers share this concern, so perhaps public pressure can become the deterrent. Please speak now to police and local councillors before there is a serious accident.

We are delighted that Stansted Hall Cricket Club's First XI has won 17 out of 18 games in the '08 season. Nothing succeeds like success! In general our sports clubs are slow to take advantage of the publicity which the 'Link' can offer them. Is there someone who could take on a correspondent's role with our magazine? Suggestions would be gladly received.

Another under-used 'Link' facility is the 'Congratulations' opportunity provided by the panel at the foot of our last page. Do let other readers know of family and personal celebrations and occasions. It's free!

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DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of the editorial committee

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"We're not going to win this war."

These are the words of the outgoing British military commander in Afghanistan, Brigadier Mark Carleton-Smith, as quoted in the Sunday Times. According to the Brigadier, the best that military operations can achieve is to reduce the insurgency "to a manageable level". So what will win the war if military force, with all the painful sacrifices, death and suffering that this entails is not enough?

The Brigadier suggests an answer. "If the Taliban were prepared to sit on the other side of the table and talk about a political settlement, then that's precisely the sort of progress that concludes insurgencies like this. That shouldn't make people uncomfortable." In offering this as a way forward, the Brigadier clearly believes that 'winning' is ultimately about reaching a diplomatic and political solution.

This November, on Remembrance Sunday, as in so many towns, villages and cities across the country, we will be gathering together at the war memorial to remember all those who have died in the wars of the twentieth century and in the continuing conflicts of the twenty-first century. As we do so, this year, I will be thinking particularly of all those currently serving in our armed forces, their families and friends, and especially of those who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. These are men and women who are giving – or have already given – their all to achieve the best that military force can hope to deliver in the circumstances. But if the Brigadier is right and 'winning the war' is not within their reach, it is even more vital that real progress be made on the political and diplomatic fronts. Courage, bravery and sacrifice are as much called for in these circles as they are on the battlefield. Every effort must be made, all energy expended, and no cost spared to 'win' the peace. Our armed forces and the peoples of the countries in which they serve deserve no less.

Rev'd David Mullins
Stansted Free Church



The Ghost Train

Following the success of 'The Importance of being Earnest' at St Theresa's last year, The Windmill Players are presenting 'The Ghost Train' by Arnold Ridley (Godfrey in *Dad's Army*) at Ugley Village Hall on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd November at 7.30pm and Sunday 23rd November at 3.00pm. The play is a comedy thriller mystery, set in the 1920s. It is about a group of passengers forced to spend the night in a waiting room in a remote location in Cornwall. If this is not bad enough, the Station Master tells them that the station is haunted, but is everything what it really seems!!

Tickets: adults £6, concessions £4, family £12 are available now from 814059, 814865 or St John's Church office. All proceeds to Churches Together in Stansted.

David Morson
Tel: 850209

Carol Concert and Carol Singing

Advance notice that this year's Village Carol Concert will be at the earlier time of 3.30pm on Saturday 20th December at St Mary's Church. Carol singing around the village will be from 7.30pm on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December. This year we shall be supporting Uttlesford Community Travel. More details of both events next month.



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



SHALOM

On 3rd November, we will be having an evening with Margaret Cramphorn from Broxbourne. This will be at 7 Blythwood Gardens. Then on 17th November, one of our own members, Catherine Dean, will be talking about John Wesley. This meeting will be in the Free Church Hall. Both meetings begin at 8.00pm. Please join us – you will be warmly welcomed!

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9th November

Led by Rev'd Paul Wilkin

10.45 am Ceremony at the War Memorial

11.00 am United Service in St John's Church

All Welcome



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Ministers Rev'd David Mullins
 Tel: 654475
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Rev'd Allen Morton
 Tel : 757635
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for November

2nd 10.30am New Directions in Worship
 2.30pm Gillian Taylor
 9th 10.50am United Service at St John's
 16th 10.30am Rev'd Allan Morton
 Holy Communion
 23rd 10.30am Gordon Doyle
 30th 10.30am Rev'd Allan Morton

Harvest Festival and Special Pilots Service

Sunday 28th September saw our Harvest Festival which incorporated a special service in which our Pilot Group also took part. Both Sylvia Paine, our London based Pilot Officer, and Henry Playle, the Youth Development Officer of the United Reformed Church, attended the service and presented the Pilots with a large colourful Pilot Plaque. This will in time be placed on the front of the church showing the existence of the group within the village. Pilots attended the service and took part in several activities showing their work and future projects for the term. Some parents also attended and a lively service ensued, which was enjoyed by all.



Valerie Trundle
 Pilots Contact
 Tel: 813433

All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
 St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
 Tel: 815243
 Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com
 Office hours: 9.00am-12 noon, Monday,
 Wednesday, Friday
 Administrator: Mrs Elizabeth Jennings
 Website: www.stansted.net/stjohns

Rector: Rev'd Paul Wilkin
 Tel: 812203
 Email: paulwilkin@iname.com

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Dr Caroline Curren
 Tel: 815243
 Email: through the Church Office

Director of Music: Lorraine Everett
 Email: church.music@stansted.net

St John's Diary

Sunday
 8.00am Said Holy Communion Junior Church meets in church at 9.30am and then goes to the Church Hall halfway through the service.)
 9.30am Choral Eucharist The Lazer youth group meets on Sunday evenings at 7.30pm.
 4.00pm Open Door @ 4 Service (all age worship) 3rd Sunday
 8.45pm Night Prayer

Monday-Wednesday
 8.30am Morning Prayer
 5.00pm Evening Prayer
 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.

Wednesday
 10.30am Holy Communion

Thursday
 8.30am Morning Prayer

From the Registers
September

Baptisms
 28th Amelia Eve Cunningham
 Daisy Isabella Hope Evetts

Funerals
 18th Beryl Mavis Barca, age 85 -
 at Parndon Wood
 23rd Joyce Yvonne Ingold, age 80 -
 at St Mary's

ALL SOULS SERVICE

This will be held at 6.00pm on Sunday 2nd November. Anyone who would like a departed loved one remembered by name at that service is invited to submit that name to the Church Office or fill in the sheet at the back of St John's by 9.00am on Friday 31st October.



ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS MARKET



This will be held on Saturday 29th November 2008 between 12 noon and 3.00pm in St John's Church. There will be all the normal well-laden stalls – gifts, crafts, toiletries, candles, cakes, toys and games, books, bric-a-brac, tombolas and grand raffle, etc as well as a few 'extras' this year, together with tempting refreshments to enjoy whilst savouring the festive ambience.

Do come along to find some Christmas presents, grab a bargain, have a chance of winning a great prize in our raffle or on one of the tombolas and generally join in the fun. Hope to see **EVERYONE** there!

Francine Cope

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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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

HELPLINE

On 30th September, three members of the Helpline 'team' attended an event organised by Care Network (Uttlesford) with a variety of speakers on the theme 'Keeping Healthy and Feeling Safe in your Home and in your Community'. We gained so many useful tips from this event that I thought I would try and share some of the information gleaned with you.

The first speaker was Alan Johnson, Chairman of Uttlesford Neighbourhood Watch, who was promoting the Nominated Neighbour Scheme whereby anyone living alone who feels vulnerable to unsolicited callers at their door can hold up a card instructing them to call at a specified neighbour's house. The idea behind this is that, if the caller is genuine, they will indeed contact the neighbour who can verify their credentials and accompany them back to your house to give you added security. The other main promotion from this speaker was the 'Message in a Bottle' scheme, whereby anyone who is on

regular prescribed medication or suffers allergies can record the relevant details on a form which is put into a special small bottle and stored in the fridge. A small sticker is then placed on the fridge and another by the front door which alerts the emergency services to the existence of the bottle in the event of someone collapsing, for example. This is such an easy measure to take but could so easily prevent serious problems in those vital early stages if the medical services are unaware of the drugs you are on or any allergies to which you are prone. If anyone is interested in either the card for the Nominated Neighbour Scheme or the Message in a Bottle containers, please contact me as I can obtain the former and have a supply of the latter.

Following on this theme, we had a speaker on the 'Safer Doorsteps Campaign', emphasising the simple things we can all do to safeguard our homes from common, opportunist thieves, etc. Of course, putting a door chain on before opening the front door was an obvious point but how many of us think to make sure the back door is locked before answering a knock at the front door? This is the way in which many thieves work; one will provide a distraction at the front door, whilst an accomplice sneaks in the back to help themselves to the purses/wallets/money pots or whatever lying around in the kitchen.

Now a quick précis of other information gleaned:-

Did you know that if you are 2 stone or more over your BMI (Body Mass Index) you could be eligible for a free place on the Healthy Eating & Lifestyle Programme (HELP) being run at the Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre? This programme runs for 12 weeks and aims to obtain a weight loss of 11lb per week by introducing 'sensible, healthy, enjoyable' eating and short bouts of moderate activity. It is sponsored by Sport England until the end of this year but it is hoped to find alternative funding to enable it to continue in 2009. Applicants need to be referred by their GP and the Stansted Surgery is very supportive of the programme; so, if this applies to you, why not pop along to the surgery for a chat?

Did you know that Essex County Library Service can provide books in large print for those with failing eyesight and can also provide a delivery of books to you in your home if you are housebound?

Did you know that, if you own your own home or rent from a private landlord and you receive a disability or an income related benefit (eg Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit or Council Tax Benefit), you may qualify for a grant of up to £2,700 to make your home warmer and more energy efficient under the Warm Front Scheme funded by the Government? This could include installing or repairing gas, electric or oil central heating.

If you are over 60, own your own home or rent privately and do not qualify for the Warm Front scheme above, you can still claim a £300 heating rebate to help pay towards repairing or installing a heating system.

If anyone requires any further information on any of the subjects raised above, please give me a call on 814562 and I will be happy to provide further information if I can.

HELPLINE – STANSTED'S COMMUNITY CARE SCHEME

Francine Cope



QUIZ

7.30 for 8 pm Sat 1st Nov
St John's Church Hall

TABLES OF 6 TO 8
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Raffle ~ Licensed Bar

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Vanessa 01371 831193
vanessa@sfax.co.uk



Village Fireworks & Bonfire

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

Sat 8th November

- 6.30 pm Gates open
- 7.00 pm Bonfire lit
- 7.30 pm Fireworks

Wear wellies!

Adults £3, Children £1 - pay on gate

Refreshments Available



SAFFRON
WALDEN
CHORAL
SOCIETY

Morten Lauridsen ~ Lux Aeterna
John Rutter ~ Requiem

7.30 pm Saturday 8th Nov
St Mary's Church Saffron Walden

Tickets from:

Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre
or SWCS Box Office 01279 812849
Adults £15 Concessions £12

VILLAGE EVENTS

November

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--|
| 1 | Sat | SSE Quiz |
| 2 | Sun | Outreach Tea |
| 3 | Mon | Shalom Group |
| 5 | Wed | Mountfitchet Seniors
Mountfitchet Garden Club |
| 6 | Thu | Local History Society |
| 8 | Sat | S. Walden Choral Concert |
| 8 Sat & 9 Sun | | Skips |
| 12 | Wed | Shoobox Packing Evening |
| 13 | Thu | WI
Recorded Music Club |
| 15 | Sat | Farmers' Market
Interfaith Quiz |
| 17 | Mon | Shalom Group |
| 18 | Tue | Link AGM |
| 21 Fri / 22 Sat | | The Ghost Train |
| 22 Sat & 23 Sun | | Skips |
| 23 | Sun | The Ghost Train |
| 27 | Thu | Recorded Music Club |
| 29 | Sat | St John's Christmas Market |
| 30 | Sun | Music@stansted |

- | |
|---------------------------------|
| St John's Hall 7.30 for 8 pm |
| Free Church 3.30 pm |
| 7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm |
| Day Centre 2 - 4 pm |
| Day Centre 8 pm |
| Day Centre 8 pm |
| St Mary's Church, S W 7.30 pm |
| Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm |
| Free Church Hall 7 pm |
| St John's Hall 7.45 pm |
| Day Centre 7.45 pm |
| Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon |
| St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm |
| Free Church Hall 8 pm |
| Free Church Hall 8 pm |
| Ugley Village Hall 7.30 pm |
| Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm |
| Ugley Village Hall 3 pm |
| Day Centre 7.45 pm |
| St John's Church 12 noon - 3 pm |
| St John's Church 3 pm |

December

- | | | |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 3 | Wed | Mountfitchet Garden Club |
| 6 | Sat | Skips |
| 11 | Thu | WI
Local History (by pre-booking) |
| 12 | Fri | Huw Johnson Carol Concert |

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| Day Centre 8 pm |
| Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm |
| St John's Hall 7.45 pm |
| Manuden Village Hall 8 pm |
| St Mary's School 7.30 pm |

Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

7 pm onwards Wed 12th Nov
Free Church Hall

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



For more information
tel 812593 or see Link article

All welcome

Stort Interfaith Group

QUIZ EVENING

7 for 7.30 pm
Saturday 15th November
St John's Hall

Tickets £6 (incl supper)
Tel 850209

Bring your own drinks & glass

Manuden Singers Messiah in Manuden

7.45pm Sun 30th Nov
St Mary's Church, Manuden

Tickets £10 Children £5

from Fiona 812157 or on the door

Proceeds to Church Toilet & Kitchen Renovation



The Panoply

3 pm Sun 30th November
St John's Church

Music spanning the globe - from the tangos of
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The Windmill Players present

The Ghost Train

by Arnold Ridley
7.30 pm Fri 21st Nov
7.30 pm Sat 22nd Nov
3 pm Sun 23rd Nov
Ugley Village Hall

Adults £6 Concessions £4 Family £12
from 814059, 814865
or St John's Church Office

All Welcome

Proceeds to Churches Together in Stansted

St John's Church Christmas Market

12 - 3 pm
Sat 29th November

Gifts ~ Tombolas ~ Toiletries
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VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

Nearly 100 people packed into St John's Hall on 12th October for the first Village Harvest Supper for many years. An excellent meal of home made shepherd's pie and crumble was efficiently served by the willing band of helpers from all the Stansted churches. We were then treated to an amazing feast of entertainment. What a wealth of talent lies within our church folk and friends! A very big thank you to all the organisers and to those who came to support this new venture. A total of £440 was raised for the Whitechapel Mission.



Food Glorious Food!



Never did a Psalm sound quite like this!



"Please Sir, I want some more!"



"O Doctor, I'm in Trouble"

**Photos by
Alan Wheeler**



Miaow!

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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

September has been a very active month for our WI - beginning with our 'Flog It' evening on 11th to which we invited members from other Institutes as well as anyone from the village, and so the hall was full and the tables laden with a great variety of items. Sue Hitchmough acted as auctioneer with Chris Morris ably assisting. Each person was given a bidding card as they entered so if you wanted something you only had to raise your number and pay at the end. Bargains were plenty and we raised over £300 for our funds.

On 17th we were lucky enough to have a trip to Sworders new Auction House at the invitation of Tim Turner, who met us there and allowed us to wander freely amongst all the items which were to be sold the next week. The contents of Lancobury Manor in Bedfordshire were on show and had been set out in imitation of the house that they once had graced. These were a fascinating collection of pictures, pottery, furniture and samplers, including a beautiful Delft Ware charger which Tim waved about in the air to show us -while remarking that the value was about £8,000! We managed not to fall over or break anything and admired this unique building constructed by using compressed straw bales, which requires no fossil fuel for heating and is proving to be an inspiration to people from many countries.



On 27th we had a stall at the Mountfitchet College Fête. This proved to be probably the best Saturday of the summer for weather, and to the delight of all who took part, the sun shone all day. We had a cake stall and also put up a display of pictures and information about the WI. A steady stream of people came and talked to us and weren't allowed to leave without a cake! At the end of the afternoon we had raised another £80 and had really enjoyed being part of it all.



Judy Colliver
Hon Secretary

Wellbeing

*Exploring the connections
between mind, body and spirit
with Isobel Bradshaw*



Some modern psychologists believe that human nature is created through language, eg conversations, narratives, folk tales, songs and poetry. We literally 'talk ourselves into existence'. I read this in the psychology section of the Natural Science Museum. I laughed at my own existence - that of a mum. Whilst I had been useful chaperoning my daughter and friends during a trip to London, I had also been instructed not to talk. I felt like a non-person but could appreciate that my conversation was potentially very embarrassing, even crushing for a teenager's wellbeing. I did as I was told!

My mother on the other hand, at the wonderful age of 85 years, isn't doing as she's told. She often speaks out of turn and appears to have an uninhibited freedom of self-expression. Did I mention she is also suffering with dementia? I have been helped by the views of psychologist James Oliver. In his new book 'Contented Dementia' he suggests that both the relatives and the person themselves may find a way to live with the illness by accepting the conditions of the illness. My mum cannot remember my name because of a lack of short-term memory but she hasn't lost her feelings. She 'skillfully' returns to her long-term memory to communicate. When my mum greets me by calling me by my Aunt's names and says that she has just returned from a wonderful wedding where the Lord Mayor was in attendance, I'm able to think I'm hearing my mum telling me that she is happy and that she recognises me as someone she loves very much. I'm listening for the sub text - I'm listening for my Mum. We recognise each other at a deeper level but still continue to talk and laugh our way through a jumble of memories and stories; we share our wellbeing as we always have.

There is a lot of discussion about how a person's wellbeing can be enhanced using language full of positive affirmation. Talking to ourselves about ourselves becomes a tool to reshape our perspective and attitude to life. We can hear ourselves setting new goals. Exchanging "I should," "I ought to" for phrases like "I wish," "I choose to" improves wellbeing. Remembering simply to say thank you when paid a compliment rather than responding with some self deprecating line affirms your own worth and the other's generosity in paying the compliment.

I hear my relationship with my daughter changing. Intuitively, when she was young to give her a sense of security I would introduce her, as "this is my daughter Hope." Now that she is an independent, confident young woman I introduce her as "Hope (pause) - my eldest daughter." I agree with the psychologists. Language helps to tell me my story. Human experience/existence needs a voice, language to express appreciation for and understanding of life. It's true - "It's good to talk".

Take care for now.

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IN MEMORIAM

MARY ECCLESTONE

I first met Mary at a meeting of the Shalom Group at Stansted in July 1988. The topic was apartheid, and as the lecture progressed I noticed Mary's eyes slowly closing and then she fell asleep. Her head started to nod and then she started to sway gently to the right until I became concerned that she was going to fall off her chair. Just as I was going to help her, she righted herself and then the process started all over again ... and again. This was particularly disconcerting for the speaker who, in this case, was me. But I did not take it personally because it seemed to happen at every subsequent Shalom meeting. What was strange, however, was that when the lecture was over, Mary always woke up, as if by magic, just when refreshments of tea, coffee, biscuits and cake were being served.

Mary loved her food and had a very healthy appetite, as some of us who shared our picnic lunches with her would testify!! Mary, although ostensibly a member of the Church of England and also the Methodist Church, spread her ecumenical loyalties according to what was going on in each Church!! Of course, this may have been for the pragmatic reason that the Methodist Church worshipped in the Quaker Meeting House which was right next door to Mary's house. It may also have been because the Anglicans were getting a bit too lively with shorter sermons. Mary loved long sermons as they gave her a longer time to enjoy some silent meditation! When challenged about whether she had dropped off to sleep she would claim to have heard every word.

Mary enjoyed life to the full in all the activities she participated in whether it was Church, Women's Institute, trips and, especially, country dancing where a number of male partners, including Mike Dyer and myself were pushed to the limits of our endurance by Mary's insatiable enthusiasm and energy. She took these occasions very seriously and I have fond memories of Mary like an exasperated sergeant major pulling people into line for their correct places at the start of a dance with consummate vigour. She was a keen member of the Bishop's Stortford folk dance group from its reformation in 1974 right up until its closure in 1998. Whereas less sprightly dancers would often sit out for alternate dances, Mary insisted on being on the floor for each and every one. She claimed that dancing was too much fun to take time out for resting! Although not of Scottish origin, Mary was also a member of the Bishop's Stortford Caledonian Dancing Club for many years.

Mary was not slow in coming forward when it came to 'doing a turn' at the harvest socials and other occasions. Many Stansted residents will recall the time when our clergy dressed up in rather fetching frocks only to be outclassed by Mary, who literally 'let her hair down' and sang "How much is that doggie in the window"! Mary was very much a Stansted character, renowned for her help at her father's pharmacy, and for being seen up and down Chapel Hill in various hats, so much so that she became known as 'The Hat'.



Older residents of Stansted were deferential to Mary and were more comfortable addressing her as 'Miss Ecclestone'. This is probably because they remember her august father who ran successful pharmacies in Stansted and Bishop's Stortford. In fact, Mary had a keen sense of humour and used to collect cartoons from daily newspapers and kept them in her handbag to share with anyone who was interested, or even not interested! One that probably reminded her of the family business depicted a chemist's shop with the ambiguous slogan, "Why not buy our medicines? You will get no better!"

She was a regular supporter of the local National Trust group and particularly enjoyed going on their weekends away. It was Mary's very stoical independence and pride in her home which was much admired by her friends but, sadly for her, over the past year she had to go into a home. All of her friends thought it was the right decision for her and she could not have been better cared for by Ann Owen and her team.

In conclusion, at one Shalom meeting in November 1996, we did an exercise in which each one was asked to write a sentence, as if for an obituary, on those present. Mary was a great hoarder and so we are fortunate to have the comments written about her. They include: a good friend, a quiet companion, self-contained, a sincere and loving person concerned with justice and fair play, a light heart, ready to share a smile. But Mary herself wrote ... A good dancer with a flair for hats.

I don't think we should attempt to top that. Mary was known and loved by many people. God bless you, Mary.

David Morson

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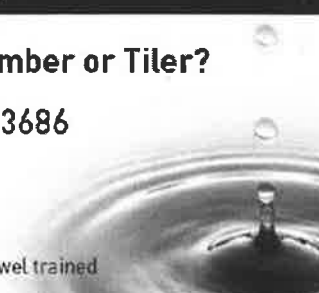
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SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect
of the night sky



From the start of this series we have looked at each of the planets and the Moon. All planets (and moons), anywhere in the Universe, are the detritus of the creation of a star: in our case the Sun. It looks so much brighter than the other stars because it is so close to us at a mere 93 million miles. Incidentally, the stars are there all the time but the Sun outshines them. But what is a star?

Presenting the Blue Peter way of 'How to make a star', it is quite straight-forward. You first get some hydrogen gas, then give it a squeeze which makes it get hot, and when it is sufficiently squeezed (and therefore sufficiently hot) the hydrogen atoms will be forced to join with each other to make another gas called helium. This process is called atomic fusion. However, the helium atoms weigh slightly less than the hydrogen atoms that made them and that difference is given off as heat. It's as easy as that, though it may take some time.

Humanity has made that nuclear fusion in the form of a hydrogen bomb. Aren't we clever? Well, scientifically, yes we are. The only difference between bomb and star is the amount of hydrogen available. Here is what really happens. Of everything in the Universe, hydrogen makes up 75% of all the atoms that exist. There are areas in the sky that are measured in light years that are vast fields of gases, mainly good old hydrogen. Over millions of years, almost by chance, spots of denser gas develop. The higher density gains a greater gravity than its surroundings thus drawing in more gas which means even more gravity, and so on. Meanwhile, in the middle of this ball, now many millions of miles across, it is getting hotter and hotter (at least 14 million degrees) and denser and denser until fusion starts up.

It is not a quick process. You have just been reading a story covering something around ten million years; but eventually, a star is born. If it is our star, it will expect to live another five thousand million years and it has already lived about half of its life. But think of this - the hideous hydrogen weapons we have created use about eight ounces of hydrogen. The Sun uses four million tons a second, every second, even at night.

Martin West
Mooncraft Productions

Christmas Lunch

Members of the Salvation Army are proposing to provide a lunch for anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day. If interested, Col Alan Hart should be rung on 01279 758412 as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.



1st STANSTED AND TORTOISE SCOUTS

NEW HQ WORKS

Following extensive repairs and improvements the new improved Scout HQ in Water Lane was officially opened on 7th July last year. Many organisations gave almost £50,000 towards the work! Saturday 20th September 2008 saw the completion, thanks to the generosity of 'Viridor Credits' who donated over £6,000 from the Landfill Community Fund. There is now security fencing around the grounds.



The photo shows L to R - David South - Beaver Leader, Derek Honour - Tortoise Scout Chairman, Ray Franklin - Chairman Scouts Fund Raising Committee, Freddie Jonas - Beaver, Colin Clarke (Viridor Representative presenting plaque), Roger Musgrove - Cub Scout Leader, Fintan Lambe - Scout Leader.



Saffron Walden Choral Society have an exciting year ahead starting with the pairing of two sublime twentieth century sacred works, Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* and John Rutter's much loved *Requiem* which they will perform with the Chameleon Arts Orchestra on 8th November.

The season will continue with the hugely popular Spirit of Christmas concerts on 6th December; and then on 7th February there will be a chance for singers or would-be singers to join the choir at its singing day with the highly experienced teacher and singer Colin Baldy. In *Your Voice - Using it with Ease*, Colin will lead singers through an energising vocal workout before putting his ideas into practise in movements from Bach's *St John Passion*. For details of the whole of SWCS's concert season pick up a brochure from the Tourist Information Centre.

Tickets for the concert at 7.30pm on 8th November at St Mary's Church Saffron Walden are £15 (£12 concessions) and are available from SWCS Box Office Tel:01279 812849 and from Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre.

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494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

We start this month with the news that 494 have made a successful bid for funding from the Stansted Airport Community Trust. The £2,000 received will help pay for a large trailer to carry equipment on camps and expeditions and will prove a most useful addition to squadron assets. The Squadron is most grateful to Susan Barker, Trust Chairman, and the rest of the Trustees for their kind support.

Cadets and staff were supporting the wider community at Stansted Airport during Battle of Britain Week, collecting on behalf of the Royal Air Force Association. Over a period of seven days they managed to raise over £1,300 with a superb individual effort by Cadet Matt Barton who single-handedly collected £524! Local RAFA members were very impressed and presented Matt with a rather nice book on the RAF as a thank you for all his hard work.



The Squadron held a presentation assembly at the Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College where the pupils were shown some films of our activities and were treated to an impromptu drill session. The unit enjoys a good reputation within the Colleg; a large number of our cadets are also students at MMCC. The cadets and staff were also in attendance at the MMCC Fete later in the same week, where we manned a recruiting stand and the Civilian Welfare Committee ran a Tombola Stall.



As part of the autumn recruiting campaign we held an open evening at St John's Hall where potential recruits had the opportunity to see what we get up to and view a display of equipment. There was a lot of interest shown from young people and as a result we have nine junior cadets who have just started their basic training with us.

As a Squadron we are supporting one of our cadets, Matt Barton, in his bid to attend the World Transplant Games in Australia next year. Matt (15) who received a heart transplant as a baby has enjoyed great success in swimming competitions stretching back over the past five years and has competed in Italy, France and Thailand winning many gold medals. We are especially grateful to Paul Moore and the King's Arms Pub and the Stansted Firefighters for their most generous donations to Matt's fund.



Finally 494 had the opportunity to let their hair down at the celebratory BBQ and Disco held to mark the 10th anniversary of our formation as a Squadron. Commanding Officer Flight Lieutenant Ellie Chinnery cut the cake specially commissioned to mark the event. The party, held at the Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club, attracted cadets and staff old and new along with friends and guests from around the county.

If you are aged between 13 and 17 and interested in joining us visit our website for more information:
www.stanstedaircadets.org.uk

Simon Stacey



Huw Johnson Club

In October we once again enjoyed an evening bowling in Bishop's Stortford. All our members, in spite of their disabilities, can play a full part, and the shrieks of joy if they score a strike almost lifts the roof. I even scored a strike this time and shouted as loudly as the rest of them. They always enjoy the basket meal which follows. The staff are excellent and so helpful by making everything easy.

My call for more drivers and escorts has not so far brought a response. Please think about this and having a chat with me for more details will not mean that you will be bulldozed into joining us. When you consider that we have been in existence for 34 years, many of our drivers, helpers and escorts have been with us a long time. They deserve to take things easier. Please make a note of our concert date - 12th December at St Mary's School.

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

PARISH PLAN-QUESTIONNAIRE IN PREPARATION

A detailed questionnaire is being drawn up from which we hope to gain a better understanding of where our community is now, where you have issues, and where you believe Stansted Mountfitchet should move over the next ten or fifteen years. This will be the key to creating the Parish Plan and, as such, we hope for a high response.

The questionnaire may not be distributed until the New Year but please, if you can and wish, give the time needed to reply. This is your community and the Council needs as many views and ideas as possible. The strength of the response will help in negotiations with other authorities and agencies whose powers and money will be needed to build a place where all of us would want to live.

AIRPORT INQUIRIES – ALMOST A FARCE IF IT WAS NOT IMPORTANT

As this is written, the report from the Public Inquiry (G1), which concluded in November 2007, has just been published. The Secretary of State has supported the appeal of BAA and permitted an increase to 35mppa (currently 25mppa). Another Public Inquiry is to begin in April 2009 (a date which has already been moved back) covering the planning applications for a second runway (G2). The date for making representations to Uttlesford District Council has passed but it is worth noting that the Council received a substantial number of representations. Assuming that the Public Inquiry into G2 is held, then it is expected to last for a year. No decision will be taken until after the next General Election. Both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties state that a second runway would not be supported, whilst the Labour Government is behind the proposal.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER!! NOT THE 5TH, BUT THE 8TH NOVEMBER

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MORE HOUSING – ANOTHER OPTION TO CONSIDER

As reported last month, the Parish Council has been consulted on a possible fifth option for the allocation of housing within the district. Option 5 proposes dispersal of the additional housing required (4,200 homes) around the towns and villages within Uttlesford, with each settlement increasing its housing stock by around 15%. [Our apologies to Sir Alan Haselhurst for attributing this proposal to him - in fact it emanated from the Joint Parish Council Group].

Members of the Council discussed this at some length recently and finally passed the following resolution:

"That this Council supports the principle of a dispersed solution to accommodate the additional 4,200 houses required in the district, but it is not prepared, at this stage, to commit to the number of homes that we could take, especially as we are currently undertaking the preparation of a detailed Parish Plan."

HIGHWAYS

By the time you read this edition of The Link, a meeting will have been held with Essex Highways and Uttlesford District Council to discuss a number of issues, some of which have been ongoing for too long.

The major issues which will be discussed are as follows:

- a Residents' Parking Scheme for Lower Street/Grove Hill and phasing of traffic lights on Grove Hill
- b Waiting restrictions around the village
- c Safety of pedestrians – Church Road
- d Lack of yellow lines – Clarence Road/Cambridge Road
- e Traffic surveys – results awaited
- f Upgrade of crossing at top of Chapel Hill.

Although it is to be hoped that the resolution of these issues will be speedy, past experience says that this is too optimistic a stance. There is a working party looking at all matters relating to highways. The co-ordinator of this working party would welcome your thoughts. If you have concerns or ideas please e-mail them to the Council Offices.

REMEMBERING SACRIFICE AND SUFFERING AFTER 90 YEARS AND 63 YEARS

On Sunday 9 November at 10.45am there will be a short, traditional ceremony around the War Memorial on Chapel Hill, followed by a service in St John's Church. The ceremony will be led by Revd Paul Wilkin.

Although we come together to give thanks for those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom, we also remember all those who have suffered and continue to suffer in war, mostly innocent civilians. In coming together to remember we also look forward in hope that negotiation, with understanding and patience, may resolve and replace armed conflict.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We had a very successful meeting on 17 September at the Day Centre. Ten interested residents attended and ideas for moving forward with the scheme were discussed, among them being new 'NW' signs for the village.

The meeting was attended by our local Sergeant James Gilchrist and Alan Johnson, Chairman of the Uttlesford Neighbourhood Watch. We hope that more residents will attend the next meeting on 26 November at 7.30pm in the Day Centre – our aim is to reintroduce Neighbourhood Watch into every street in the village.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Oct 29	-	Finance
Nov 12	-	Full Council
Nov 19	-	Open Spaces
Dec 3	-	Full Council

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings, and may address the Council on any relevant issue at the start of Full Council meetings. These comments are noted but no discussion is entered into. Meetings are held in Crafton Green House at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated on the agenda. Agendas are posted on the Parish Council's website www.stansted.net under Publications.

BENTFIELD POND

Phase two of the three-year project will be on **Sunday 26 October**. A group from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers will join us again for a day of activity starting at around 11am. If you have an hour or two to spare at any time during the day we would be delighted to see you at the pond by Bentfield Upper Green. You will need to wear wellies (or waders!) and bring protective gloves and any useful equipment you may have. A skip will be ordered for some waste removal, although some must remain close to the site for a while to allow insects etc to return to their habitat.

This year will concentrate on opening up the view from the road, removal of dead branches from the willow and enlarging the water area. Please come along if you can.

YOUTH CENTRE

The Centre is now open every Friday from 7-9.30pm with Emma, PCSO Simon Horne and new Youth Worker Jacquie. The numbers are growing steadily. The garden project has had a final tidy up and the young people are now raising funds to develop the garden in the Spring.

The chosen Christmas event this year is a trip to see "Billy Elliot – The Musical". One member, Kirsty Hardcastle, was nominated as a young achiever earlier this year for her commitment and volunteering at the Centre. She was awarded £300 to spend and has used it to subsidise this Christmas trip and make it more affordable for those from low-income families. Congratulations and many thanks to Kirsty.

Further information on the Youth Centre's activities from Linda Barnes 07920 466923.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Catherine Dean	813579	
Gaye Ellington	813933	
Jo Freeman	812524	
Bridget Gott	814440	
John Hudson	814489	
Peter Jones	813252	
Janice Loughlin	812346	
Tudor Owen	812825	
Ruth Rawlinson	814222	**
Jonathan Rich	813112	
John Salmon	814789	
Geoffrey Sell	815925	*
Bill Stiles	813172	
Valerie Trundle	813433	
* Chairman		
** Vice Chairman		

GARDENING

We are aware that our floral displays were not wonderful this year. The troughs suffered again from vandalism and although the flowers in the beds were super, the hanging baskets were a disappointment. We have discussed weeding and watering with our contractor, and

hope that the pansies we plant for the winter will have better effect. We have also sought the advice of the Gardening Club for what might work next year.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

From Cllr Geoffrey Sell

Just as a barometer in our home can tell us what the temperature is like outside, local councils are a good indicator of how the economy is faring. Readers may be familiar now with terms such as credit crunch and sub-prime mortgages, but may be less aware of how an economic downturn is already affecting the District Council.

In an interesting presentation to councillors, the Chief Executive, John Mitchell indicated how demand for some services is going up whilst others are going in the opposite direction.

- Increased number of housing benefit applications
- More council tax reminders and liability orders issued
- Increase in the number of people presenting themselves as homeless
- More abandoned dogs
- Level of rent arrears increasing
- Number of planning applications down
- Land searches down
- To date none of our council housing stock has been sold under the right to buy legislation this year. The proceeds from council house sales are normally a valuable capital receipt.

When things go wrong, it's councils that step in. They provide a safety net for people in need and can help people through tough times. The Council is currently doing a review of its fees and charges. I argued at the Finance Committee that we should think very seriously before, for example, increasing car parking charges to match the current rate of inflation. If parts of the High Street are hurting it is not helpful to increase the pain.

To end on some good news - from April 2009 senior citizens will be able to use the swimming pools at Saffron Walden and Dunmow at no charge. The council has been successful in

obtaining government funding for this initiative. We are also looking if we can widen this to include the under 16s. In the longer term, the Council still wishes to explore the possibility of having a swimming pool at the Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY COUNCIL

From Cllr Ray Gooding

In its Budget this year the County Council announced that it would be setting aside £1.5 million over three years to keep open post offices in Essex which were threatened with closure, and several weeks ago the first post office in the Country was reopened by ECC at Buckhurst Hill.

It is generally acknowledged that Post Offices in both urban and particularly rural areas often present a lifeline to many people. We must all celebrate this initiative, which has received both national and international acclaim, particularly since it does mean that post offices in this area may be next in receiving this support and be reopened in the near future.

On another matter the *Building Schools for the Future* programme is now well under way and at the end of September the first two Essex schools that will be rebuilt as a part of this programme were given outline planning permission, and completion is planned for 2011. The intent of this programme is that every secondary school in Essex will be rebuilt or substantially refurbished over the next fifteen years. Although the north and west of the County were scheduled to fall within the later years, a new initiative has meant that a review of this will be carried out so that where schools have particular requirements, they may warrant earlier attention regardless of location. This £2.2 billion *BSF* programme offers Essex, which is one of the largest authorities to take part, a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop its school building stock to a level suitable for educating children in the 21st Century.

NEWS FROM ESSEX POLICE

As some of you are already aware, Stansted has two new members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team – PCSOs Stuart Stranger and Kelly Roberts. We began our patrols on 29

September and each have a few years' experience as PCSOs.

On Thursday 2 October we held a Charity Coffee Morning in the Day Centre to enable members of the public to come and meet us. Although it was a bit last minute, we had a fairly good turnout and raised £80.50 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

When you see us out and about, please do not hesitate to stop and chat to us. If you have any community related issues or would like any advice, please ring the mobile number 07801 461666. If you wish to report a crime, please use the new number given at the end of these Network pages. In an emergency always ring 999.

PCSOs Kelly Roberts & Stuart Stranger

CONTACT US!

Clerk – Ruth Clifford
Admin Assistant – Anne Court
Phone/Fax: 01279 813214 – 10am – 1pm
E-mail: parishcouncil@stansted.net

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members

Alan Dean Tel: 01279 813579
Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Hudson Tel: 01279 814489
Email: cllrhudson@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Salmon Tel: 01279 814789
Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell Tel: 01279 815925
Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cllrgooding@essexcc.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 5214
Fax: 020 7219 5600
Email: haselhursta@parliament.uk

Police

Stansted Police Station, Hargrave Close
Tel: 812211
Essex Police non-emergency number:
0300 333 4444
Mobile phone carried by PCSO
07801 461666

St Mary's CE Foundation Primary School



Caring, Sharing, Preparing For Life

It has been a very eventful half term since we returned from the Y6 residential in Norfolk. There have been a number of visitors to the school, not least an Ofsted inspector! The school is given just a couple of days notice for an inspection, so it is very pleasing when there is a good outcome because the inspector sees what is our normal practice. We are very happy with the report on our school – here are some of the findings in the report:

Parents' views are positive.

The school lives up to its motto of 'Caring, sharing, preparing for life.'

Pupils learn effectively, teaching is good and lessons take account of individual needs.

Pupils achieve well both academically and personally.

Standards reached are above average.

... pupils make good progress through the school.

St Mary's is a good school.

The report also comments favourably on the quality pastoral care and the school's links with the church and community. The full report can be viewed on the Ofsted website, or follow the link from our school website www.st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk. Of course, there are always areas for further development. Those that appear in the report - to use speaking and listening as a means of further developing the pupils' independence and their taking more responsibility for improving their own learning - are already a part of our School Development plan.

Our next visitor was Sir Alan Haselhurst MP. He toured the classes, met with the School Council to hear about their fundraising and plans for the school, and also discussed the nature of Democracy with Year 5. Very serious!



Other welcome visitors were from the Stansted Hilton, with a handsome cheque! Staff, parents and pupils of the school took part in the Hilton Hotel fundraising last summer, and the fruits of our labours are now in the bank, waiting to be spent on furniture for the dining hall.

And finally ... In these days of concern about the weight and fitness of children, our Key Stage 1 pupils walked to

Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College and joined with other schools for an energetic morning of Multi-skills games and activities led by MMCC students. They then walked back to school, and still enjoyed an energetic lunchtime play!



Christine Tonkins
Headteacher



Rainbow children have been focusing on the theme of Autumn this month, starting with a trip to Hatfield Forest. On a warm autumnal morning the older group gathered to investigate the animals (and their habitats) who would be preparing for hibernation over the coming months in the woods. Once back at the classroom they made their own hedgehogs using plenty of matchsticks for the spines and painted lots of leaves to decorate the walls. The children also went on a nature walk around the village, collecting everything from fallen leaves to conkers and pine cones.

On 15th October we celebrated our Harvest Festival and the children greatly enjoyed singing the songs they had been practising all about wiggly worms and caterpillars. These were performed again for the residents of Norman Court who also appreciated the harvest goodies that the children brought along with them.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears has been the story of the month and the children have all enjoyed retelling the story complete with narrative songs.

Once again this year the Rainbow committee will be selling Christmas puddings to raise funds to help with the upkeep of the classroom and to buy more equipment. Keep an eye out for the puddings (and the delicious ginger; chocolate and orange and lemon versions) at various sales in the coming months or you can order them direct from the pre-school.

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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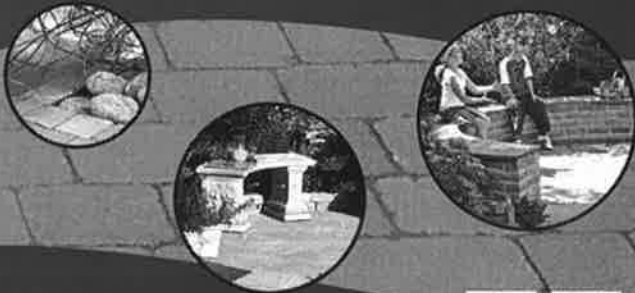
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Recent Tournament Results

Firstly, a huge thankyou to all those who came to **music@stansted's** first concert of the new season. The Barbirolli String quartet delighted an almost full house with music by Haydn, Beethoven, Debussy and Joe Cutler. A fantastic start!

music@stansted's next concert, given by 'The Panoply' is on Sunday 30th November at 3.00pm in St John's Stansted. The dictionary definition of panoply is 'a complete or splendid array', and the musical group of that name is certainly diverse and splendidly exuberant!

Panoply was formed by Bobby Chen, the exciting young pianist who played in Stansted in 2004. The friends who have joined him in the group are Alex Woodhead (percussionist), Anna Cashell (violin), Yi Yao (accordionist), Carl Herring (guitarist) and Matthew Baker (double bass). Their repertoire spans the globe from the tangos of South America to the folk-melodies of China, with emphasis on colour, energy and fun. The perfect antidote to a British November day! See their website, www.thepanoply.com to find out more.



Panoply's programme should be full of excitement with new and popular items. Many students and young people should find their music appealing and we are reducing the student rate, for this concert, from £3 to £1. A bargain!

Tickets - adults £12, students and children £1 - are available from

Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted
Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford
Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill, Stansted (815282) or at the door on the night.

Future **music@stansted** concerts will be on Sunday 18th January at 3.00pm - David Kimberg (baritone); and Saturday 14th March at 7.30pm - Erdem Misirlioglu, this year's winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year (piano section). Please visit our website at www.musicatstansted.com for more information.

Alan Corbishley

Annual Club Tournament

The season culminated with some exciting matches on finals day. Knock-out rounds had started in June and despite the bad weather this summer, all matches had been completed. George Luther regained his Mens' Singles title defeating Chris Hollis 6-0 6-2. Nikki Penderis also regained her Ladies' Singles title, defeating Fiona Pye 6-1 6-3. Father and son team, Chris and Joe Hollis won the Mens' Doubles, beating Fred Kirby and George Luther 6-3 6-4. It was five in a row in the Ladies' Doubles, with Daphne Lunnon and Nikki Penderis beating Jenny Kirby and Fiona Pye, 6-1 6-3. The last event of the day, the Mixed Doubles was won in straight sets by Joe Hollis and Jenny Kirby, who beat Chris Hollis and Nikki Penderis 6-4 6-3. Joe Hollis received the award for most improved player of the season.

Hospital Cup Finals

The finals were hosted by Elsenham Tennis Club this year. Stansted managed to produce eight of the ten final spots in what has been a very successful season. Clubs which participated this year were Stansted, Henham, The Grove, Castle Hill and Elsenham. More than £600 was raised this year for the Saffron Walden and District League of Friends charity.

Mens' Singles - George Luther (Stansted) beat Alex Lupton (Stansted) 6-3 3-6 6-4
Ladies' Singles - Sue Griffiths (The Grove) beat Fiona Pryce (Henham) 6-1 7-6
Mens' Doubles - Joe Hollis and Alex Lupton (Stansted) beat Ross Armorgie and Charlie Kirby (Stansted) 6-2 3-6 6-4
Ladies' Doubles - Daphne Lunnon and Nikki Penderis (Stansted) beat Sandra Ayres and Sue Sebley (Stansted) 6-4 6-2
Mixed Doubles - Martyn Taplin and Daphne Lunnon (Stansted) beat Chris Hollis and Nikki Penderis (Stansted) 3-6 6-1 6-4

Coaching

There are a couple of free spaces at the adult coaching session on a Friday between 2.00pm and 2.45pm. If you would like to come along and join in, please call Chris Hollis on 319155. You don't have to be a member of the club. Junior coaching with Chris Hollis also continues. If you would like to find out more and get your name on the waiting list, please call Chris on the above number. Martyn Taplin 816386 continues to coach adults on Saturday afternoons at the club.

Used Tennis Balls

Price £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:
Wednesday from 10.00am and 6.00pm
Fridays from 9.30am; Sundays from 10.00am

Contacts

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

Chris Hollis



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

October Meeting

'Autumn flowers of the Peloponnese' was the subject of our October meeting. The first question our speaker, Mr Joe Sharman of Monksilver Nursery, is usually asked is "Where or what is the Peloponnese?" Visualise a map of Greece – Athens is central south. To the west is a peninsula, shaped like a cow's udder. The northern boundary of the peninsula is the Corinth Canal and the historic town of Sparta is found in the centre. This area is the Peloponnese and its flora is unique.

The hills and valleys run in a north-south direction and were formed in the last Ice Age. As the glaciers pushed forward, then receded and pushed forward again, the flora either adapted or perished. Many of the flowers found are unique to a particular valley. In the centre of the peninsula is a limestone plateau. The hot dry summers, cold winters, and the varying amount of rain which falls in each valley all influence the plants, trees and shrubs that grow there. In this country, climate change is causing plants to flower later, and the seasons are becoming later in the year. However, the climatic conditions in the Peloponnese causes bulbs and plants to flower earlier and earlier and therefore plants we associate with spring and summer now flower in the autumn.

Members were then shown a series of slides of the region. Some areas were carpeted with crocus, daffodils, and cyclamen; other areas had swathes of colourful flowers and shrubs, whereas in the foothills and plateau areas, small alpine plants and bulbs grew in sheltered spots between the limestone outcrops. The last slide was Mr Sharman standing in front of an old knarled olive tree - its girth dwarfed him - it was one of the oldest trees in this part of the world. Mr Sharman has visited this area on many occasions and has noted that areas are being 'stripped' of its flowers by people digging up bulbs and corms, either to take home or sell on the 'black market'. He asked that when members buy bulbs etc they check they are from official sources, as unless this illicit trade is stopped the unique nature of this part of Greece could be lost forever. A selection of plants which can be found growing in the Peloponnese were brought from his Nursery for members to purchase.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th November at the Crafton Room, when John Wyatt, who is a volunteer speaker from the Council of National Parks, will talk about the The National Parks of Great Britain. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start and everyone is welcome. Visitors £2 – membership available.

Maralyn Harris

STOP PRESS

The 'Link' wins award

The 'Link' magazine was awarded a Highly Commended certificate in the 2008 annual competition organised by the Essex Rural Communities Council. Further details will appear in next month's issue.



"PREDICTABLE, CYNICAL AND UNJUSTIFIED"

SSE response to the Government's approval for an extra 10 million passengers a year at Stansted

SSE has described the 9th October decision by the Government to approve an increase in Stansted's permitted passenger throughput from 25 million passengers per annum to 35mppa as entirely predictable, cynical and unjustified. However, the campaign group is warning BAA and its Spanish owners, Ferrovial, not to assume the matter is settled since initial readings of the Inspector's report and Government decision letter indicate that there may well be scope for legal challenge. SSE has already referred the matter to its legal advisers. The decision has taken a year to emerge from Whitehall following a Public Inquiry held between May and October 2007 to consider BAA's appeal against a refusal from the local planning authority for intensifying the use of the Stansted runway. Since then, BAA has submitted another planning application, this time for a second runway at Stansted which would make the airport bigger than Heathrow.

Given the Government's gung ho approach to airport expansion, we always knew that the dice were loaded in favour of BAA, not least since the Government wouldn't want to see the policies set down in its Air Transport White Paper fall at the first hurdle. Nevertheless, it beggars belief that there has been such a cynical disregard for the evidence presented to last year's Inquiry. BAA failed to bring forward any direct evidence even to support an economic case for its application. Today's decision is wholly unjustified on the basis of the evidence; however, the Government's determination to approve this application could prove to be its undoing. The flaws in the process and the rationale given by the Government in reaching its decision may well provide scope for challenge. That is why we are seeking advice from our legal advisors. We have six weeks to decide whether to appeal.

Apart from the cynical manner in which the Government has approved the extra 10mppa, there is enormous cynicism in the decision itself. Aviation is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions and yet the Government claims global leadership in combating climate change. This exposes the Government's climate change rhetoric as entirely hollow. There is one piece of good news for local residents in the conditions imposed upon BAA as part of the approval. The Inspector has taken on board SSE's recommendation for a reduction in the number of 'non commercial' flights at Stansted. Last year there were a staggering 17,000 such flights mostly involving noisy business jets and the repositioning of aircraft at night. A limit of 10,000 will apply in future.

Runway Ramble

Hundreds of people joined SSE's seventh annual Runway Ramble on 13th September to walk through villages and

across countryside threatened by BAA's second runway application for Stansted Airport. They were joined by County and District Councillors including Cllr Peter Martin, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council, Uttlesford Leader Cllr Jim Ketteridge and the District Council's Chairman Cllr Mark Lemon. Some 200 ramblers gathered at the villages of Duton Hill and Molehill Green before taking part in a choice of three walks designed to highlight the scale of the destruction that would be wreaked by the planning application submitted to Uttlesford District Council earlier this year and now due to be heard at a public inquiry starting in April 2009.

Historic buildings, homes, countryside and ancient woodland would disappear or be severely compromised by the plans to make Stansted Airport bigger than Heathrow today if the application were to be approved. Most of Molehill Green would be obliterated, while Duton Hill would find itself at the end of the proposed second runway and subject to direct overflying by more than 40 planes an hour. In addition to this local impact, people in Essex, Hertfordshire, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire would all suffer from the increase in overflying that would result from the tripling of aircraft movements which BAA is seeking. They would also have to contend with greater pressure on the region's road and rail network because of the airport operator's emphasis on encouraging passengers to travel to Stansted by road and its reluctance to invest in the rail service to accommodate the proposed expansion.



L to R: SSE member Liz Woods of Widdington dressed as a medieval Essex wench, Uttlesford District Council Leader Cllr Jim Ketteridge, Cllr Peter Martin, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council Chairman Cllr Mark Lemon, SSE Chairman Peter Sanders, Cllr Ray Gooding of Essex County Council (with dog Misty)

BAA Break Up

SSE has made its final submission to the Competition Commission in response to the Commission's 'Provisional Findings' report which concluded that BAA should sell two of its three London airports. In effect this means Gatwick and Stansted, because it is inconceivable that BAA would choose to sell Heathrow since it provides 65% of the profits earned by BAA's seven UK airports. Importantly, the Competition Commission has independent legal powers to order BAA to sell the airports (whereas its predecessor, the Monopolies Commission, could only make recommendations). In addition, the Commission can appoint an 'Administrative Trustee' to manage the airports until the sales take place and to oversee the sale process. SSE considers that the Commission has presented thorough and compelling evidence to demonstrate that the present BAA monopoly is

not in the public interest. Inevitably BAA will desperately seek to persuade the Commission to change its mind. SSE, however, urges the Commission to stand firm. Its catalogue of BAA's many shortcomings, as set out in its Provisional Findings Report, is robust and convincing.

BAA Decision to sell Gatwick Airport

SSE welcomes the announcement by BAA that it is to sell Gatwick Airport. The BAA announcement came just four weeks after the Competition Commission issued its Provisional Findings report, concluding that BAA's monopoly was not in the public interest and that it should sell two of its three London Airports. As expected, BAA intends to resist the Commission's call for the sale of Stansted as well as Gatwick. This is merely prolonging the agony. The Commission is highly unlikely to change this central conclusion, when it publishes its final report next February, just because BAA does not like it. It is therefore a case of 'one down, one to go' and BAA's reluctance to accept the reality of that situation means that Stansted's employees and the local community face several months of unnecessary anguish and uncertainty. BAA clearly wants a pat on the head from the Competition Commission for putting Gatwick up for sale in a last ditch attempt to retain ownership of Stansted. We expect it will be sorely disappointed.

Carol Barbone
Campaign Director
Tel: 07775 523091
Email: cbarbone@mxco.co.uk



BIRTHSTONE OF THE MONTH

November - Topaz

A glassy mineral, consisting of a silicate of aluminium and fluorine in crystalline form, topaz can be colourless but if it contains chromium it can be pink or red. It can also be found in yellow and other colours and is one of the hardest of the gemstones. Its name comes from the Sanskrit word meaning fire. A 600 pound piece was once found in Brazil but it is often discovered in small slivers. It is quite rare and also one of the many gemstones mentioned in the Bible. Topaz can be found in parts of Scotland as well as Cornwall. William McGonagall, the Victorian poet whose verse was so bad his public readings caused both hysterical laughter and ridicule, had the unusual second name of Topaz.

Peggy Honour



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Very good Ofsted report (March 2008)

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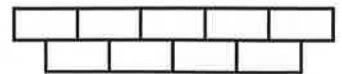
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CAT TURNED INTO HAMSTER!

As I think I've said before, no two days are alike when you are a veterinary surgeon. This month we seem to have had our fair share of unusual cases, or perhaps more accurately, unusual descriptions. Like most veterinary surgeries we are fully computerised and our appointments are displayed on a diary page on the computer. Each appointment slot allows space for the animal's name, the client's name and a brief description of the problem. Most of these are straightforward and self explanatory: 'Millie Jones diarrhoea, Sadie Smith sore ear' etc. However when I glanced down the list for one of last week's evening surgeries I was surprised and a little alarmed to see 'Cat turned into hamster'. I wondered for a moment whether Harry Potter had been on a secret visit to Stansted, or there was more to these genetically modified crops than we'd been led to believe. To my relief, the cat turned out to have an abscess on its face and was therefore looking rather puffed up in the cheek region. A problem easily sorted out with antibiotics and meant I didn't have to do a crash course in transfiguration!

A couple of days later there was a message on the computer, asking me to telephone a worried client as "her cat had eaten a dog". I rang rather apprehensively wondering what size of cat this client had, and what possible advice I could give to her about it. Starve for a week? Take two Alka Seltzer and go to bed? To my relief the cat was an ordinary moggie and had been playing with one of the children's toys, a small stuffed dog, and had managed to eat some of the stuffing. Phew!

Most of the strange messages we get are luckily not as dramatic as they first seem, and usually turn out to have quite mundane problems which are easily resolved. There are however some messages which turn out to be exactly what they say. Two of the most memorable for me have been "cat with spike in head can't move". I telephoned the owner who seemed surprisingly calm and informed me her cat seemed to have got its head impaled on a metal spike in a fence and was stuck. She sounded so calm I couldn't quite believe what she was saying could be true. I asked her to have another look and see if in fact it was just caught in some wire as is usually the case. She rang me back a couple of minutes later to say "no, she really thought the spike was in its skull". I jumped in the car and raced to the house still thinking it couldn't possibly be true, but yes, there in the garden sitting quietly under a hedge with bits of old metal fencing was a small black cat with a piece of the metal fence going in near one ear and out on the top of its skull! I'm happy to say we managed to find some wire cutters, free the cat and take it back to the surgery and remove the metal and it made a full recovery. The other memorable message was a telephone call early one morning from a client sounding quite agitated "My horse is in the swimming pool, please come at once". As you can imagine so many questions go through your head at that point, usually quite short ones like "how?" and "why?". I did a high speed dash and we managed to get the horse out before the fire brigade arrived and again it made a full recovery. Apparently it had a bit of a reputation as an escape artist and had managed to open its stable door, walk through the yard, open a garden gate, walk through a garden, up some steps and finally into the pool. The owners were able to laugh about it afterwards but it certainly caused all our hearts to beat a bit faster at the time. Someone at the surgery thought I ought to

send a spoof swimming certificate. 'Congratulations on swimming 25 metres at your local pool.' Hmm, maybe a joke can be taken too far ...

Ilse Pedler
Partner,
Mercer & Hughes
Veterinary Surgeons



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Following his well received talk last year, Stephen Ruff returned on 2nd October to give the second part of his talk on the 'Buntingford - St Margaret's Railway with local history'. This part dealt with the line from Hadham to Braughing. The talk was illustrated throughout with Edwardian postcards and photographs showing the line in operation, with views of rolling stock, stations, sidings, bridges and railway staff. Many of these were contrasted with modern photographs taken by the speaker on his regular walks along the line.

At each stop along the line, we were shown views of the adjoining villages, Little Hadham, Barwick, Thundridge, Wadesmill, Standon, Puckeridge and Braughing. Although many of the street scenes are still familiar today, the images of 100 years ago show just how many pubs, shops, businesses and schools have disappeared and road layouts have changed over the years. Thoughts of today's A120 with level crossing meeting the A10 in the centre of Standon caused much merriment. The talk was full of interesting and amusing historical facts and anecdotes including:

The connection of Edmund Tudor, father of Henry VII, to Hadham;

The spark from an engine going up Hadham Bank in 1863 and setting light to acres of barley resulting in the farmer getting £20 compensation;

The Standon station bench with engraved iron fish at the ends, one of ten made for Great Yarmouth station but which apparently 'dropped off the back of a loco'. It is now at the old Braughing station; and

The Dutch lorry driver crashing into the Angel at the Hadham cross roads on the A120 in 1971, coming to rest inches away from a member of the Fairport Convention band.

A very nostalgic, interesting and amusing talk - members look forward to Part 3 next year!

The next meeting at 8.00pm in the Day Centre is on 6th November when one of our members, Roger Barrett, will talk on the Collections of William Fuller Maitland.

Paul Embleton

'LINK' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 'Link' AGM will be held at 8.00pm on Tuesday 18th November in the Free Church Hall. There will be a review of the year and the presentation of the accounts.

Editor

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Local student amongst the top in the country

Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College student Sophie Carter was one of the 2.7% students to achieve 100% for GCSE Art and Design in the country according to Edexcel, the UK's largest awarding body. Sophie sat the GCSE Art and Design exam earlier this summer and the results, issued in August, show that out of 36,294 candidates, Sophie achieved one of the highest overall marks. Jerry Jarvis, Edexcel's Managing Director, said: "This is a tremendous achievement and testament to the hard work students put into preparing for their exams. We send our congratulations to Sophie."



*Sophie Carter with Mrs Marion Warren,
Head of Creative Arts*

Ruth Martin
College Administration Manager

Habla usted espanol?

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PTA Fête

What a glorious day we had for our third College Fête on 27th September. The early morning mist burned off and the sun shone through to bring us one of the hottest days for a long time, creating a festive mood for what was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. It was a real community event. Among the stalls were those run by students at the College, including face-painting, a book stall and crafts; there were local charities, including Mencap and Stop Stansted Expansion, as well as the Stansted Air Training Corps, the Stansted WI (with their wonderful cakes), Bishop's Stortford Archery Club and all the traditional attractions – Punch and Judy, pony rides, coconut shy, shooting range and a bouncy castle and high slide. Spectacular dance displays were put on by Ruth Taylor-Greene's School of Dance, who performed street dancing, and Studs and Stars, the local line dancing group; while down in the drama studio students from Hill's Road Sixth Form College invited visitors to try their hand at steering their hand-built robot around an obstacle course. The afternoon was helped along by music courtesy of our very able PA, Martin and a band from the College, Electric Chess, while people basked in the sunshine outside the refreshment and beer tents.

Our thanks go to all those who helped to make the afternoon such a success: Local businesses who donated raffle prizes or bought advertising in our programme, David Lee who sponsored large advertising boards, Stansted Fire Brigade for bringing along their fire engine, Stansted Plant Hire, who not only brought along a digger but also helped with transport on the day, and finally to everyone who came along.

Sue Churchill
Chair of PTA

SEAT PRESENTATION

On a glorious afternoon on 27th September, Eddie Laird, close family and the Rev'd Paul Wilkin gathered in St John's churchyard for the dedication of a bench in memory of Eddie's wife, Edna.

Edna was born and brought up in Stansted and worshipped at St John's for most of her life. Edna left school at Christmas 1937 at the age of 14 to go into service until she joined the WAAF in 1941, working at various hospitals nursing and caring for injured aircrews. Edna studied hard to become a State Registered Mental Nurse in 1950, and a State Registered Nurse in 1952, and was a member of the Royal Medico Psychological Association. She spent the last 18 months of her nursing career tutoring at Claybury in London and left in 1953 to get married and start a family. Edna died in October 1988 after many years of ill health. Eddie and his family felt that a bench placed in St John's churchyard would be a fitting and useful tribute to Edna's memory. After the dedication a family gathering was held in the Stansted Free Church Hall.

Eddie Laird

ada

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In the July issue of the 'Link' I described the rearing of vapourer moth caterpillars. When the five survivors had pupated I had assumed that the moths would not emerge until the following spring, but within a month they all hatched out and they were all wingless females. These were weird looking creatures with a plump, hairy moth's body without any wings and they started to lay eggs right away. That was a bit of a surprise because they were in a sealed carboy and there was no male moth in there with them. Anyway, I was not prepared to go through the whole process again so they were deposited on some bushes down the lane.

In another article early in the year Felix was all gloom and doom about the seemingly inevitable invasion of the harlequin ladybirds which were threatening to exterminate our native ladybirds along with butterflies and other insects. As it turned out we have hardly seen a ladybird of any sort this last summer, presumably due to miserable weather during the spring and early summer. The numbers of various other insects are also down. The ivy blossom is prolific this autumn and on a sunny day one would expect this late source of nectar to be buzzing with wasps, bees, butterflies and other flies, but they are noticeably few in numbers.

Another late bloomer seen scattered on a wooded bank to the north of the village was sowbread, or wild cyclamen. It is quite rare for this to become naturalised away from gardens. A cowslip which had got its seasons mixed up was also flowering into September. This was a few miles away in the churchyard at Little Munden where an ancient yew tree has a spectacular hollow trunk, and also on the outside wall of the church is what I assume to be a hornets nest. This would normally be out of sight inside a hollow tree and I have never seen one outside before.

It has been a good autumn for fungi, which come in a variety of fascinating shapes and colours and these are readily found along our lanes and wooded paths. Identification is not always easy unless it is a large red toadstool with white spots, but you don't have to be an expert to admire them. It seems that, due to whatever changes, the days are gone when one could go out and gather a basket of field mushrooms before breakfast. However, in Loates Pasture some mushrooms forced their way up through the pavement and one wonders how a soft bodied fungus could break up thick tarmac which would be hard work for someone with a pickaxe. Presumably mushroom spores still survive under there from when it was a pasture some 40 years ago.

A family of long-tailed tits passed through the other day and their presence seemed to excite other birds in the area. It ended up with a frenzy of washing with a mixture of various tits and finches splashing about in the bird bath four and more at a time. Maybe a parasite-infested bird like the poor swift mentioned last month had come along and spread a few unwelcome little visitors.

Felix

A STRANGER FOR CHRISTMAS

Visits from strangers at Christmas began with shepherds turning up at a Bethlehem stable, and continued with the arrival of wise men from a foreign land. You could carry on this tradition, by inviting an international student to spend Christmas in your home. HOST is a well-established charity, backed by the Foreign Office and many universities, which links adults studying in the UK with

hospitable volunteers throughout Britain. Guests come from all over the world, including many from China. They speak English, are keen to share their own culture, while longing to know more about our way of life. Welcoming a student, who might otherwise spend Christmas on a deserted campus, fosters international understanding, and will make Christmas special. See www.hostuk.org or call 020 7254 3039, for more information. HOST arranges visits throughout the year, so if your 'inn' is full this Christmas, you can still offer an invitation at another time.

Margaret Stevens
Publicity Officer, HOST
Tel: 020 7254 3039
Mob: 07852 184096

MILE STONE

During the week commencing 29th September, it was noticed that the mile stone at the junction with Pennington Lane and the B1383 had been damaged and was leaning in a rather precarious position. Unfortunately it has now completely disappeared leaving only a large empty hole. County Highways have been consulted about this matter, but cannot throw any light on the subject so far. The mile stone is a piece of our local history and if anyone knows of its whereabouts and can give any information that would help to locate the same please contact the Parish Council or the Editor of 'Link'. Also, a finger post indicating Stansted Village and Bentfield Causeway has been missing for almost a year. It stood outside the property called the Snuff Box in Bentfield Road.

Peter Trundle

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This coming winter, why not take the pressure off cooking yourself a hot, nutritious meal every now and again? The Crafton Room is open three times a week for a delicious two course meal for just £4.50. We have regular roast dinners with all the trimmings, pies, casseroles, stews and much more. Desserts include crumbles, trifles, pies and sponges. We use local produce in all our cooking and will do whatever we can to accommodate special dietary requirements. Come and meet some new people. A warm welcome awaits you and we promise that you will leave us feeling well catered for! If you are concerned about how you might get to and from the Day Centre, please contact us and we will arrange a lift for you. Please call 815091/812144 to find out more or book a lunch.

Kat Lupton
Day Centre Manager

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The club is running from 9.30am to 1.00pm every Saturday from 22nd November until 13th December. For more information about this or any of the sessions at the centre, please give Mandy, Lesley or Debbie a call on 812348, or pop into the centre on Lower Street, Stansted. We look forward to seeing you!

Mandy Fitchett

**THE QUENDON WILLIAM WINSTANLEY
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

This festival, to be held at Quendon Church on 29th November, was inspired by Alison Barnes's biography of the famous Quendon writer and poet William Winstanley (1628-98), which was published in November 2007. Entitled 'William Winstanley: the Man Who Saved Christmas' the book shows how William saved our Christmas customs for us after the Puritans had banned them for 13 years and they had almost died out. It describes all the Winstanleys' own wonderful Yuletide merrymaking at their fine Tudor farmhouse in Quendon called *Berries*, and proves that the so-called 'Dickensian' ideal English Christmas stems from William and his multitudinous heart-warming Christmas writings. William was the uncle and best friend of Henry Winstanley of Saffron Walden and Littlebury, the etcher, inventor and architect who built the first Eddystone lighthouse off Plymouth. Henry and his wife Elizabeth always spent the Christmas holidays at Quendon with William.

The William Winstanley Festival will have numerous stalls in Quendon Church between 11.00am and 3.00pm on Saturday 29th November, selling local produce, Christmas gifts, Christmas cards, Christmas decorations, candles, toys, sweets and cakes. There will be games to play and other activities as well. Many of the stalls and activities will have a seventeenth century theme. At 7.00pm in the Church there will be a short talk by Alison Barnes (delivered by Caroline Wingfield, Curator of Saffron Walden Museum) which includes more recent information about Henry and William. There will also be poetry readings, singing and music. All proceeds from the Festival go towards the upkeep of Quendon and Rickling parish churches. William was churchwarden of Quendon between 1670 and 1698, and dearly loved the church.



May the trumpets sound for Mary Ecclestone, good friend and long-serving member of Ugley WI for some 60 years! How to assess her contribution? – perennial committee member (often with more criticism than suggestion); entertainer – as vocal soloist at the drop of a party hat; member of our choir in competitions; pantomime witch (her choice!); determined slogger with our '80-'90s walking group; if not 'jam-maker', rock-cake builder; but most valued of all 'Jerusalem-player' faithfully accompanying our song every month. We shall miss those notes – even the missing ones!

As a village club, we turned our thoughts to other village friends lost so recently: to Joey Braeckman, holding the fort so long for the farming family; and to Sam Corrigan, a 'hidden' WI supporter. How good to learn he liked to hear our WI news as well as all the life of the village!

Andrew Babicz was proud to present himself as a Scottish Pole, trained in horticulture at Edinburgh, Inverewe, Kew, Hampton Court and Wisley Gardens, whose charms he showed with his beautiful slides – a 'must visit' for all. Gardening tips were amusing: gloves are 'out' (I wonder if they sell them in the Gift Shop?) ... *feel* the growing things! If a panel of four 'Gardeners' Question Time' give four different answers – "They are all right!" – was the speaker's happy attitude.

Our team for the County Quiz at Ugley Village Hall came a very good second out of eight teams, leaving Hatfield Heath to go on to the next round. We are hot on cosmology, speliology and some anthologies; but remember, falling stars are meteors not 'ites', as every amateur astronomer knows.

Phyllis Harrison

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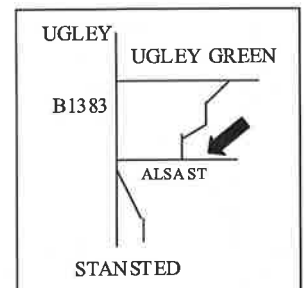
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Christmas is
a time of giving



Nothing to do on 12th November?!!!!

Then come to the Stansted Free Church Hall and join in the fun and help pack shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, have a cup of coffee and help to put a smile on a child's face this Christmas in some of the war torn areas of the world. Any items you have collected for the shoe boxes can be left at 58 Chapel Hill no later than 11th November but please don't forget the Customs Regulations that the boxes must NOT CONTAIN CHOCOLATE IN ANY FORM. Also no glass containers or liquids of any kind, war type toys, and books with words. There are still plenty of items that can be sent: cuddly toys, small jigsaw puzzles, toy cars, pens, pencils, crayons, felt tip pens, note books and pads, and colouring books, toiletries and for girls jewellery including clip earrings, and hair bands and clips. It is also nice to add a greetings card or a photo of yourself in a completed box, and, as I said in my article last month, donations of money towards transportation costs are also very welcome. Completed boxes can be brought to the hall or left at 58 Chapel Hill. Empty shoe boxes are always needed but please NOT BOOT boxes. For leaflets and more details ring me on 812593 or visit the Samaritans Purse website at www.samaritanspurse.uk.com where you can find interesting stories about the children, and also a pattern for a hand puppet which can be used as a mitten or a 'friend'.

**Don't forget 12th November
Stansted Free Church Hall at 7.00pm
Everyone welcome.**

Janet Townsend
Tel: 812593

STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

September Lunch

Manor of Groves 'done us proud' on 24 September with an excellent venue, lunch and address by Nikki Orsini, Manor of Groves Sales Manager, on the subject of Conferencing and how to do it well.

Future Lunches

I am looking for sponsors for March, May and later in 2009 and I would ask those interested in sponsoring a lunch to contact me as soon as possible.

19th November 2008 – GE Sworder & Sons (sponsors)

28th January 2009 – Savills (sponsors)

25th March – *Sponsor needed* 27th May – *Sponsor needed*

St Clare Hospice Ball and Show Mania

Saturday 22nd November

Weston Business Centres and Daniel Robinson generously sponsored the July lunch in the interests of St Clare our local Hospice. As a Trustee of St Clare, I now ask for support once more. St Clare Hospice provides an invaluable service to the local community and is committed to further developing specialist, palliative care services for patients and their families in West Essex and the neighbouring areas of East Hertfordshire. However, the NHS contribution is just 30% of the total needed and support from the local community is vital to raise the £4,000 needed every day to fund the Hospice's work.

The St Clare Hospice Autumn Ball is one of the most prestigious events in the area, made famous by Daniel Robinson & Sons and this year generously organised by Pellys LLP. The Ball is seen as one of the most important fundraisers in the St Clare Hospice calendar.

Alastair Richardson
Tel: 07850 295109
amg.richardson@gmail.com



This picture was taken probably at a British Legion dinner in the late 1940s, maybe in a room at the Working Men's Club which was used for their meetings. The man in the middle, the guest of honour, may be someone from the British Legion headquarters, as the men on either side of him are both prominent Stansted men: Colonel Dove and Major Cawkell.

From the left: ?? Brown? William Whiffin Philip Camp Arthur Sugars Frank Banks ? Endersby ? Allin ? Ridgewell Monty King? Aubrey Levey

Seated: George Levey Colonel Dove Headquarters? Major Cawkell Morton? Jack Sampson Hubert Caton

Of further interest is the array of Rayment's Pelham ale bottles, now part of our history.

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BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk or send the form below to 58 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AQ. Details must be submitted by the 11th of the month for publication the following month.

Message _____

Sender's Name _____ Tel _____



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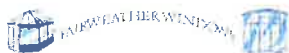


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