

Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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Editorial

The down-side of the late summer season has of course been the incessant rain, to which we may add a renewed spate of mindless overturning of flower troughs in Cambridge Road, and breaking of windows in St John's and the Free Church. Fortunately there are up-sides to Stansted-in-autumn of which we should be aware. Among our young people the local No 494 ATC Squadron is one of which we can be proud, especially as its cadets play their part in local events. Stansted Scouts have re-emerged as a go-ahead movement, which visitors to the Windmill Fete will have noticed, while the Pilots from the Free Church are maintaining their numbers and variety of activities. The sum of these is so much greater than the misdeeds of a minority.

Rather belatedly the 'Link' should express Stansted's thanks to the Collins family who ran the friendly newsagents in Chapel Hill for many years. We wish them well in their retirement and welcome the Patels who have succeeded them. Another late thank-you goes to Bill Fegan who retired from the West Essex Bench last year. Bill continues to chair the Terry Reed North West Essex Sunday Adult Football League and operates a thriving school books business, so he is still an active member of the community. We have two JPs in the village, Frank Haynes and Janice MacDonald, whom I hope we meet only at the social level. Being a magistrate is a demanding role requiring empathy with a multitude of human conditions. Again, we should be grateful to them.

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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

A sensitivity to things unknown

The Large Hadron Collider project is breathtaking in its brilliance. Ambitious, audacious, determined and, perhaps most impressively, a bridge builder between nations. Physics, it seems, can bring people together from across the globe in a common spirit of inquiry to find understanding and truth. In this case, they hope, the ultimate secrets of the Universe. If only politics or religion were so potent.

As I reflect on what I understand to be the natural affinity between science and religion, I recall a piece by Charles Carter from *Quaker Faith and Practice*, our own collection of insights into what it means to be a Quaker. He wrote:

"True faith is not assurance, but the readiness to go forward experimentally, without assurance. It is a sensitivity to things not yet known. Quakerism should not claim to be a religion of certainty, but a religion of uncertainty; it is this which gives us our special affinity to the world of science. For what we apprehend of truth is limited and partial, and experience may set it all in a new light; if we too easily satisfy our urge for security by claiming that we have found certainty, we shall no longer be sensitive to new experiences of truth. For who seeks that which he believes that he has found? Who explores a territory which he claims already to know?"

This inquiring spirit is at the heart of who we are and explains why something like the Large Hadron Collider is so essential not just to science but to our humanity.

Jonathan Morrell
Society of Friends



SHALOM



On 6th October, Mione and George Goldspink from Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church will be telling us of their experiences doing voluntary medical work in India. This will be in the Free Church Hall. Then on 20th October, one of our own members, Pat Simpson, will be telling us about the YMCA, for whom she works. This meeting will be at 7 Blythwood Gardens. Both meetings begin at 8.00pm. Please join us – you will be warmly welcomed!

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

ST MARY'S CHURCH



Choral Evensong will be sung by St John's Church Choir and St Mary's Singers at 4.00pm on Sunday 4th October.

All are welcome.

Harvest Supper and Entertainment

It is many years since the last village Harvest Supper, so we hope that this year's event on Sunday 12th October, 6.00pm to 8.30pm, will tempt you along! It is to be held in St John's Church Hall, starting with a hot supper of shepherd's pie, peas and crumble, followed by a 15 minutes entertainment from each of the churches. Tickets are £5 with accompanied schoolchildren free (bring your own drink and glass). Any money raised after covering expenses will go to Whitechapel Mission. Tickets are available now from: Mike and Marion Dyer 814059, Helen Baker 814865, or the St John's Church Office 815243. Everyone welcome.

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. Tickets: adults £6, concessions £4, family £12 are available from local churches. All proceeds to Churches Together in Stansted.

David Morson
Tel: 850209



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Preachers for October

5th 10.30am Michael Dyer - Baptism
 12th 10.30am Mike Render
 19th 10.30am Maureen Kendall
 26th 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins
 Holy Communion

Baptism

Our service on Sunday 5th October will include the baptism of Hamish, son of Craig and Joanne Paxton (née Colliver) and the latest grandchild of Judy and Herbert Colliver. We give all the family a most warm welcome. Please join us!

St John's Diary

Sunday

8.00am Said Holy Communion
 9.30am Choral Eucharist
 4.00pm Open Door @ 4 Service
 (all age worship) 3rd Sunday
 8.45pm Night Prayer

Junior Church meets in church at 9.30am and then goes to the Church Hall halfway through the service.)
 The Lazer youth group meets on Sunday evenings at 7.30pm.

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
August

Baptism

3rd Alfie John Ward

Funerals

4th Cecil Shirley, age 95 - at Parndon Wood
 6th Wilhelmina Thick, age 96 - at Parndon Wood
 7th Stanley Fountain Dubery, age 84 - at Parndon Wood
 7th Joyce Amelia Bell, age 83 - at St John's

'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



All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
 St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
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 Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com
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 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

STOP PRESS!

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.



Christmas is
a time of giving



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Imagine not being able to go to school because you haven't got a pen or pencil to write with or a notebook to write in, but that is what happens to Mehi and the gypsy children of Northern Romania. Then an Operation Christmas Child project representative came along and gave Mehi a shoebox, and inside were pencils and paper. He could not stop smiling as he said "this is the best Christmas present ever; I can now go to school". This is just one of many stories that illustrate how important the shoebox scheme is. The gifts are given to children regardless of nationality, political background or religious beliefs, requiring nothing from them, their families or their communities in return. For some children it is the first Christmas present they have ever received.

In 1990 when Operation Christmas Child began 3000 boxes were sent from the UK. In 2007 over 1.3 million left this country bound for some of the poorest and most disadvantaged children in Central and Eastern Europe, Mozambique, Swaziland and, for the first time, Liberia, where children at a school in Voinjana who have only known war and violence queued for several hours to receive their boxes, some terrified because they thought the only reason you queued was to be immunized. Imagine how their faces changed when they saw the brightly covered boxes, and as the OCC distributor watched the children rush away as soon as they were given a box to open it on their own, in case their precious gift was taken away from them, he said "to my surprise the things they treasured most were pens and pencils and anything that would help equip them for school and a better future".

Our shoebox packing evening will be on 12th November, when everyone is invited to come to the Free Church Hall from 7.00pm and join in the fun of packing the boxes and have a cup of coffee at the same time. Items to be included in the boxes would be very welcome such as small toys, balls, cars, dolls and cuddly toys, colouring books, pens, pencils, rubbers, pencil cases, jewellery, make up, hats, gloves, scarf and, of course, toiletries; the list is endless but please do **not** include any of the following:

- Glass containers or fragile items.
- Liquid, blow bubbles, shampoos, bubble bath.
- Biscuits.
- Chocolate (but small packets of sweets not containing chocolate are allowed).

As we all know fuel costs have escalated in the last few months and the recommended donation this year towards transportation costs is £2.50 per box, the first increase since 1996, so if you would like to help and put a smile on a child's face this Christmas but are not able to fill a shoe box or provide items to be included, a donation of money is just as important. For leaflets and more details ring Janet on 01279 812593 or visit the Samaritans Purse website at www.samaritanspurser.uk.com where you can also find a pattern for a hand puppet which can be used as a mitten or a

'friend' and these are always very popular. Completed boxes, items to be included and empty shoe boxes (please not boot boxes) can be left at 58 Chapel Hill at any time.

Janet Townsend
Tel: 812593



Huw Johnson Club

We are holding our Firework Party on 13th November, but this will take place at Great Easton, so you will not be disturbed by our bangs and rockets. We already have a date for our Christmas Concert – Monday 12th December in St Mary's School. More details nearer the time, but please book the date now. Meanwhile, apart from rehearsals, we will continue with our usual activities. Garry's discos and our bingo nights are always popular, as everyone can join in, whatever their disability.

We are still anxious to recruit more minibus drivers. Drivers are asked to take a familiarisation session with the Uttlesford Community Travel staff before driving for the club. Please help to lighten the load of our present drivers. Escorts sit with the members so that the driver can concentrate on the road! The club meets on Thursday evenings, and visitors are always welcome, but please ring me first, as our venue does change sometimes.

Marion Johnson
Tel: 812284



Stansted Cricket Club

The League season ended on 30th August with the 1st XI finishing 6th in Division 4 with 10 wins from 18 matches, and the 2nd XI finishing 3rd in Division 6 with 11 wins. The season's highlights included two centuries by Charlie Kirby (aged 16); hat-tricks by Ben Baker and Ben McNally; and senior maiden 50s by juniors Andy Banks and Max Baldock. In the Sunday friendly games against Stansted Hall, both clubs won their home fixture by a large margin. On 13th July the President's XI beat the Club by 33 runs, their first victory in this fixture for several years. Our thanks go to Keith Ayres and his helpers for maintaining the quality of the pitches; to Gill and Christine for managing the catering and bar so beautifully; and to Ian Parsons, Matt Abbotson, Keith Ayres and Dave Roach for selecting and captaining the teams.

Our focus now turns to planning for our 150th season which is due in 2010. Anyone interested in joining the club (either in a playing or a non-playing capacity) should contact David Hedge on 812509 (adults) or Keith Ayres on 814471 (juniors).

David Hedge
Hon Secretary

music@stansted
Barbirolli
String Quartet
 7.30 pm pm Sat 4th October
St John's Church
 includes music by Haydn, Beethoven,
 Debussy plus Folk Music by Joe Cutler
 Tickets £12 adults, £5 children
 from Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;
 Stansted Carpets; Sonia Levy 815282,
 or at the door

 **Stansted Windmill**
 Open 2 - 6 pm
 St Mary's Church
 Open 2 - 3.45 pm
 Evensong at 4 pm 
 Sun 5th October
 (last opening this year)
Everyone Welcome

 **Home Farm Trust**
UGLEY Bike Ride
 9.30 am Sun 5th Oct
 10 to 60 mile circular rides.
 £10 per person, whichever ride
 you do. **KIDS GO FREE!**
 For an entry form tel 01223 306668
 email kath.austin@hft.org.uk
 Going round and round in circles can be fun!

VILLAGE EVENTS

October


1 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
2 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
4 Sat	Music@stansted	St John's Church 7.30 pm
5 Sun	Bike Ride St Mary's Church Open Windmill Open	Home Farm, Ugley 9.30 am 2 - 3.45 pm 2 - 6 pm
6 Mon	Shalom Group	Free Church Hall 8 pm
9 Thu	P C S O Surgery WI	Youth Centre 10 am - noon St John's Hall 7.45 pm
11 Sat	Garden Club Quiz	Free Church Hall 8 pm
11 Sat & 12 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
12 Sun	Village Harvest Supper	St John's Hall 6 - 8.30 pm
15 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
18 Sat	Music Quiz Lib Dem Quiz	Bentfield School 7.30 for 8 pm Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm
20 Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
25 Sat & 26 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

November

1 Sat	SSE Quiz	St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
2 Sun	Outreach Tea	Free Church 3.30 pm
5 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 8 pm
6 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8 Sat & 9 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
12 Wed	Shoebox Packing Evening	Free Church Hall 7 pm
13 Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm

Mountfitchet
Garden Club 
QUIZ NIGHT
 8 pm Sat 11th Oct
 Stansted Free Church Hall
 £6.50 including supper
 Bring your own drink & glass
 Tel Maralyn 07919 478144

 **Village Harvest**
Supper
 Hot Supper followed by Entertainment
6 - 8.30 pm Sun 12th Oct
St John's Church Hall
 Tickets: Adults £5 schoolchildren free from
 814059, 814865 or St John's Church Office
 Bring your own drink & glass
All Welcome
 Proceeds to Whitechapel Mission

 **Stansted & District**
Liberal Democrats
QUIZ EVENING
 7 for 7.30 pm Day Centre
 Saturday 18th October
 Tickets £7.50
 (incl ploughmans)
 Tel 814222 or 813432
 Bar ~ Raffle

 **Green Waste, Metal & Wood Skips**
Saturdays & Sundays 9 am - 3 pm
 11th & 12th October
 25th & 26th October
 8th & 9th November
 22nd & 23rd November

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

 **The Ghost**
Train
 Presented by the Windmill Players
 7.30 pm Fri 21st & 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
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Bentfield School PTA
MUSIC QUIZ 
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St Mary's CE Foundation Primary School

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Welcome back to a new school year! I hope all our pupils and their families had a happy and restful summer holiday before the challenges of the new term ahead. Our new Foundation Stage class has settled in quickly and happily. The transition programme we have in place has ensured the children were very familiar with their new school and teachers so the start to the new term has been very smooth and peaceful.

As you will see from the picture, the Year 5 and 6 pupils had a wonderful time on their residential visit to Norfolk. The wet weather did nothing to spoil the fun and we were lucky that the one day we needed it to be fine the sun did shine! They really were a super group to take away, making the most of all the challenges they met during the week. I am sure they will be very effective in their leadership role within the school.



The diary for the year is filling up rapidly – I have dates booked all the way to July already! Here are some dates of the main events for October:

Monday 6th October 9.30am-11.30am Open morning

Parents of children due to enter the Foundation Stage in 2009 and who are choosing a school for their child are invited to visit St Mary's.

Tuesday 21st October 2.00pm

Harvest Festival in St John's church

Everyone is welcome to join the school for the service.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher



SUPPER QUIZ

1st November 7.30pm for 8.00pm

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our new season started on 4th September and for once it was held, not at the Day Centre, but at St Mary's Church. We had originally arranged for the talk on 'What the Victorians did for St Mary's Church' to be given by Leah Palfrey of The Churches Conservation Trust, but as she was unable to attend, her task was undertaken by two of the Society's own members, Audrey Rodgers and Jean McBride, using much of Leah's research. The choice of subject obviously struck a chord as over 60 people turned up on a very damp and unpleasant evening - they were rewarded with a most interesting talk.

By 1881, it was realised that St Mary's Church was no longer big enough for the village and it was situated too far from the centre of population. Some indication of the size of the congregation was the report that 400 children attended the annual function in the Vicarage garden (at a cost of £17!). The Vicar, Canon Luard, proposed the provision of a new church (ultimately St John's) but by 1884, Stansted had fallen upon hard times. In 1887, it was decided that St Mary's should be restored, although the new church would also proceed with W D Caroe as architect. Francis Dollman was appointed architect for St Mary's. He decided that the whole church should be re-roofed, the external rendering replaced with knapped flint and the porches rebuilt. Internally, the galleries were removed (it was said they encouraged 'wandering thoughts'), the box pews replaced by open pine ones and the font re-sited at the western end of the building. The chancel was untouched other than for the

re-situating of a tomb and effigy. Audrey expressed the view that we should be grateful to Francis Dollman for his sympathetic work in preserving so much of the beauty of the Church. The work took from August 1887 to June 1888, and the Church was re-opened with a great celebration attended by many dignitaries.



Jean began by describing how, after many years, the keys of the parish chest were discovered, it having been given to the Church, it was believed, about 1690 by Stephen Middleton, who also rebuilt the Church tower. Unfortunately, no great treasure was unearthed but some interesting historical documents were. Among them were a pile of copies of the Parish Magazine for 1937 through to 1955 and many were displayed at the meeting; by their advertisements, it was able to be seen how well Stansted was served with the number of shops which existed. She described the history of the Church, which was built by William Gemon, a member of the Montfitchet family, in the 11th century. The de Veres built the Stansted Hall in the 1580s and they were followed by the Middletons. It occurred to Jean that the first three families supporting the Church lost their estates, at least for a time - notably Richard de Montfitchet, who was a signatory to the Magna Carta and fell foul of King John, while the Middletons became involved in the Civil War! The Hall and Church, also badly in need of repair, were rebuilt in the 1870s by the Fuller-Maitlands and in 1922, the Hall was sold to Mr Findlay. It was reported in the early 20th Century that the Parish Records were wonderfully detailed but Jean was very sorry indeed that they had subsequently been lost. We

know that the building was connected to electricity in 1939 but the onset of the War meant that it could not be used for six years! We were all most grateful to Audrey and Jean for stepping in at such short notice and for giving us such an interesting tale of a much loved part of the village's life.

On Thursday 2nd October we shall be back in the Day Centre and hearing from Stephen Ruff about 'The Buntingford - St Margaret's Railway, with local history, Part 2'. Those who heard Part 1 will not want to miss it. Hope to see you there.

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Stansted Tennis Club



Essex Small Clubs League One Day Tournament

This took place on 30th August at Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club. Eight local clubs put out a team, each consisting of a Men's Doubles pair, a Ladies' Doubles pair and a Mixed Doubles pair. Within each section, six games were played against the teams from all the other clubs. Joe Hollis and George Luther won the Men's Doubles section, winning all seven of their ties. Daphne Lunnon and Nikki Taplin came fifth in the Ladies' Doubles section and Chris and Sarah Hollis finished in fourth place in the Mixed Doubles section. This was enough to ensure victory for Stansted Tennis Club with the overall highest score.

Forthcoming Tournaments

5th October 12.45pm Clower Girls' Doubles Tournament
12th October at 12.30pm Senior Tournament

Coaching

There are a couple of free spaces at the adult coaching session on Fridays 2.00pm to 2.45pm. If you would like to come along and join in, please call Chris Hollis on 01279 319155. You don't have to be a member of the club. Junior coaching with Chris Hollis 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 (01279 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

Over the summer Rainbow play leaders have been busy preparing for the launch of the Government's new Early Years Foundation Stage initiative, which, we hope, will promote an even better partnership between parents and staff. One of our loyal volunteers also underwent surgery over the summer and we wish Edna a speedy recovery from her operation. We have had a busy start to the term welcoming lots of new children to Rainbow and making sure their start at Pre-School is a positive one. To help all the parents get to know each other a little better, the committee organised a lunch at Spangles Children's Centre two weeks into the new school year. This proved a great success as the facilities there proved a real hit with the children, allowing their parents a chance to socialise too.

The theme for this half term is Woods and the Harvest and, as part of this study, the older children will be visiting Hatfield Forest on their first trip of the year; more on that in the next issue of the 'Link'.

A date for your diary: On 7th February we will be holding a nearly new sale of children's clothes, toys and equipment. If you have items you wish to sell start putting them to one side and look out for further details in the coming months.

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



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2008

The collections this year start on 25th October. Please support this worthy cause. Iraq and Afghanistan are always in our thoughts, as well as 'less-remembered' conflicts. We always support all our ex-servicemen and women when needed.

John Segar
Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser
Tel: 813289

STANSTED POLICE STATION

Please note that due to building works to comply with DDA, the front office will be closed for at least the next seven weeks. During this period, members of the public wishing to contact the Police for non-emergencies should ring the mobile number – 07801 461666 or the central Essex number 0300 333 4444. Telephone calls to the station during Saturday opening hours will be answered as normal. It is hoped to make a temporary arrangement for a desk elsewhere in the village, so please check the Essex Police Website for updates (www.essex.police.uk).



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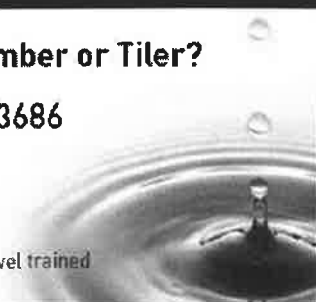
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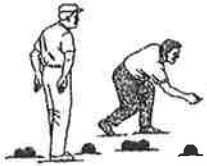


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STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Here we are again at the end of another outdoor bowling season - this year with the less than wonderful weather. Some games had to be cancelled and if it hadn't been for the hard work of our green keeper and helpers, more games would have suffered. We have had a very enjoyable season and I thank our new bowlers for turning out in the drab climate for many of the games. The men did not do very well in the League, coming bottom in the A Division; and our B Team had to pull out three weeks before the end due to lack of players. The Senior Citizens' League also had little success. The ladies, however, were triumphant in the Monday Evening League - well done to them. We won the Mayhew Cup against Bishop's Stortford, the Kent Cup against Havers Park and the friendly cup game against Clavering but lost the Cowan Cup against St Chad's and the Daniel Robinson Cup against Elsenham. We were unable to play the Cooper Cup and the Ro Turner Cup against Bishops Stortford.

On 30th August we held our very enjoyable Finals Day. The weather held and new names were brought to some of the results - well done to all the winners and finalists. The results are as follows:

Men's Championship (Fletcher)
 Winner - Rex Turner Finalist - John Hollis
 Ladies Championship (Eleanor Irwin)
 Winner - Ann Conroy Finalist - Ro Turner
 Men's Handicap (Brett)
 Winner - Rex Turner Finalist - Jim Rodgers
 Ladies Challenge
 Winner - Ann Conroy Finalist - Tina Prentice
 Men's 2 wood (Alcock)
 Winner - Derek Giffin Finalist - Rex Turner
 Men's Pairs (Buck)
 Winners - Derek Giffin and Keith Sutton
 Finalists - Dave Perry and Terry Francis
 Ladies Pairs (Dolly Thompson)
 Winners - Ro Turner and Suzanne Page
 Finalists - Ann Conroy and Tina Prentice
 Mixed Singles (Newman)
 Winner - Keith Sutton Finalist - Mike Thompson
 Novices
 Winner - Terry Francis Finalist - John Pullin
 Emerson Open
 Winner - Jim Ashton

The day ended with dinner at the Cock Pub - thanks to them for the short notice booking and an excellent meal.

In the North West Essex Bowling Association Open Singles Competition, with my band of supporters and despite the rain, I reached the final and managed to win 21 shots to 17 against Malcolm Stark of Braintree Bowls Club, an Essex County player and a twice previous winner - so a really great achievement for this underdog.

We need more players so, if you or your friends would like to know more about our club and the game of bowls, then why not call in at the club any Friday evening, give me a call on 647511, or email stanstedbc@tiscali.co.uk. I would also

like to set up a youth league within the club as a starter for younger players one evening a week; so why don't you have a go and see what you think!

Rex Turner
Hon Secretary

MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

September Meeting

Our speaker in September was Mr W Staines. He and his wife developed the beautiful garden Glen Chantry at Wickham Bishops. The three acre garden is now home to many thousands of different and unusual plants. It is truly a garden for all seasons. In spring, expect to see a wide variety of unusual bulbs, woodland plants and early flowering al-pines and trees. In summer, colour co-ordinated island beds are the dominant feature. By autumn, late flowering perennials, repeat flowering roses, seasonal bulbs and a wide variety of grasses provide movement and interest. Mr Staines showed the highlights of the garden with exquisite slides. Next year will be your last chance to visit the gardens as Mr and Mrs Staines are retiring. The gardens will be open from 15th May to 15th August 2009.

October Meeting

Our next meeting is in the Day Centre on Wednesday 1st October, 7.30 for 8.00pm, when Mr Sharman will be speaking on 'Autumn Flowers of the Peloponnese'.

Quiz Evening

We are again holding our very popular Quiz Evening at 8.00pm on Saturday 11th October in the Stansted Free Church Hall. Come along and make up a table. Tickets from Maralyn on 07919 478144, price £6.50 including supper - bring your own drink and glasses.

Chris Morris

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REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER ...

It's coming up to that time of year that some pets fear the most, Bonfire night. I know my dog Broccoli does; as soon as he hears the first bang he dashes out of the room and we then have to search the house for him and usually find him cowering in a corner trembling and panting. A couple of years ago we looked for him everywhere and were just about to give up when we spied two small brown hairy feet sticking out of the wine rack. We pulled him out and he gave us one terrified look and dived back in again! We've tried all the usual things - turning up the TV or radio, drawing the curtains, and trying to behave normally. A client once pointed out to me that this was quite difficult as her large German Shepherd dog liked to sit on her lap when it was scared! One of the worst things to do is to make a fuss of your pet when it is scared as this only reinforces their fear. I agree it can be quite hard *not* to do this as your natural instinct is to comfort your pet if it is in distress, but do your best to behave as if it's just a normal evening. If your pet likes to hide under the bed then leave it there, if it likes to creep under the table then again leave it where it feels secure.

Most vets tend not to prescribe sedatives for anxiety these days, as research has shown that sedatives don't make an animal any less scared, they just make it unable to move. This reinforces the fear for the next time and so a nervous dog may become gradually worse over time. There are lots of preparations on the market that are advertised as reducing anxiety. Some of them work better than others. We have found the best results with a combination of a herbal remedy, Skullcap and Valerian and a pheromone product. These canine and feline pheromone products are available in room diffusers or sprays, and they release the 'appeasing' pheromones that cats and dogs release when they are relaxed.

I also use homeopathic remedies and the particular remedy depends on the particular symptoms your pet displays. For example, if your pet goes into a complete panic and tries to run out of the room and is trembling and panting it may need the remedy aconite. If it panics at the sound of the bangs only then it may need borax. If it is a generally sweet natured animal that loves being stroked but is of a slightly nervous disposition and is also scared of thunderstorms, it may need the remedy phosphorus. We stock all these products at the surgery and also have a detailed information leaflet. The herbal remedy Skullcap and Valerian is best started a couple of weeks before Bonfire night so pop in and pick some up well in advance. Jo, our nurse, will be able to give you plenty of advice and will be able to refer you to one of us vets if she thinks it necessary.

Personally I love fireworks as long as they're not too loud, but I must remember to make space for Broccoli to hide in the wine rack!

Ilse Pedler
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music@stansted

A reminder that the first concert in the *music@stansted* new season is on Saturday 4th October at 7.30pm in St John's Church. The Barbirolli String Quartet - Katie Stillman (violin), Rakhi Singh (violin), Ella Brinch (viola) and Victoria Simonsen ('cello) - have a wonderful programme of music for our enjoyment:

Haydn Quartet Opus 64 No 3 in B flat major
Beethoven Quartet Opus 18 No 4 in C minor
Debussy Quartet Opus 10 in G minor
Joe Cutler Folk Music.

Tickets - Adults £12, Children £3 - are available from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill 815282; or on the door.

The next *music@stansted* concerts will be on Sunday 30th November at 3.00pm - Panoply (Bobby Chen and ensemble). Visit our web site www.musicatstansted.com for more information about our concerts, or for information on purchasing a discounted season ticket for all four concerts - adults £32, concessions £30.

Alan Corbishley



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The Stansted Windmill Fete

After a week of dull weather with frequent rain we were relieved to see the clouds lifting on the Bank Holiday afternoon. As in 2007 the sun brought the crowds to the Mill for the annual Fete and the usual attractions were there. The tombola attracted good custom, as did the teas, and again the cakes sold out before half-time. A lot of pent-up energy and suppressed frustrations were released at the china-smashing which was under new management, while the barbecue (a fresh venture) was well patronised. The bric-a-brac became the centre of much good humoured banter and bargaining and once again we assembled a collection of near-antiques which attracted the connoisseurs. The plant stall had its usual pitch, and we hosted stalls for Fairtrade, St John's Church (knitwear) and Huw Johnson Club (cards). The winner of bowling-for-bacon kindly donated his winnings to a forthcoming event where it will be auctioned. Most appreciated. A second year of parachuting teddy bears was good fun and produced no bandaged bears. Books, children's attractions, very miniature golf and fresh bread also contributed to the scene, while throughout the afternoon two talented young people delighted us with songs and musical entertainment.

This year the Scouts assisted the organisers and lightened the load for the helpers - particularly on the china breaking. We are most grateful. All in all a most enjoyable afternoon with something for everyone.

The fete raised over £2300 - a record. See pictures on pages 21 and 23.

Peggy Honour

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Stansted network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

PARISH PLAN

There have been further meetings of some of the working groups, and work has started on the preparation of the questionnaire which will be delivered to all homes and businesses in the village hopefully before the year end.

HOUSING

Many of you will recall the consultation by Uttlesford District Council on the Local Development Framework. The Government requires Uttlesford to accommodate 4,200 new homes in the district and the Council came up with four options – their preference being for 3,000 of those to be located Elsenham.

As a result of comments received from the public, a fifth option has been put to all of the parishes in Uttlesford by Sir Alan Haselhurst MP. This is a “dispersal” strategy and would mean that each settlement would have some additional housing – an increase of around 15% for each town or village.

For Stansted Mountfitchet it would mean a further 350 houses on top of those already being built at Foresthall Park. By the time you read this edition of the Link, the Council will have considered this option and reported back to the Joint Parish Councils Steering Group (made up of Elsenham, Henham, Ugley, Newport and Stansted).

However, your views would be welcome, particularly with regard to where those extra 350 homes could be accommodated if Option 5 was adopted. As a reminder, Option 1 of the Local Development Framework allocated 470 houses to Stansted Mountfitchet, and together with Birchanger we are in the process of incorporating 600 new homes at Foresthall Park.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Cllr Valerie Trundle is working with the District Co-ordinator to rekindle Neighbourhood Watch in the village. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Valerie or the Council Offices for further details.

PARISH CEMETERY

The Council has recently notified owners of, or those responsible for, graves in the parish cemetery that an inspection will be undertaken to check for compliance with the Rules and Regulations.

As a result of that letter, some representations have been received asking the Council to amend some of the rules pertaining to planting and the flowers which are permitted.

The Open Spaces Committee has discussed these requests, and is recommending a few minor alterations which would allow artificial flowers to be placed on graves, but with the proviso that the Council can remove them once they are past their best.

Similarly, it is possible that planting may be permitted on graves which have headstone and kerbs – there will be parameters within which this can happen. It is unlikely that the rules will be changed to allow planting beyond the boundaries of cremated remains plots as this area provides the only walkways through the cemetery. Also, as these graves are closer together, plants tend to encroach onto other graves and cause upset to families. For this reason, the Council will consider allowing pots to be placed on top of cremated remains memorials.

By the time you read this Link, the decisions will have been made and a further letter will be sent to all those on our records. If you are affected by matters at the Cemetery and have not recently received a letter from us, please let us know so that we can ensure we have up-to-date contact information.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Oct 1	-	Full Council
Oct 8	-	Open Spaces
Oct 22	-	Full Council
Oct 29	-	Finance

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.

VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

Following his recent move away from Stansted, Peter Deeks has resigned from the Council. We are very grateful to Peter for his work, in particular the professional handling of our firework display for many years. Uttlesford District Council has been informed and they will shortly send us official Notices to be put up on the boards. If no election is called, the vacancy will be filled by co-option. Further details available from the Clerk – 813214.

STANSTED IN BLOOM

We were delighted with the involvement by St Mary's Primary and the Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College and will be building on this interaction for next year.

You may recall that we did not run the usual householder competitions this year following the poor number of entries received in 2007.

We are keen to re-establish the event, although in a more up-to-date way. If you have any suggestions to make, please do contact the office, or Cllrs Freeman, Ellington or Trundle.

Suggestions received to date include a photographic competition, competition for a container garden, growing the tallest something-or-other!! **More suggestions required please!!**

BENTFIELD POND

You may remember that last autumn we undertook phase one of a project to enhance Bentfield Pond. The hard work has paid off, and it certainly looked better this summer. It has retained its water level – but that's hardly surprising!

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 10.30am. 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 waste removal.

BUS SHELTERS AT LAST

We have finally persuaded Essex County Council that replacement bus shelters should be funded from the money contributed by the developers of the Foresthall Park site (Section 106 money).

The shelters at Maitland Road, Cambridge Road (outside You're Furnished) and Chapel Hill (by Spencer Close) are all to be replaced with wooden shelters. Essex County Council is trying to ensure consistency in shelters around the county and has agreed on designs for rural and urban shelters. We have chosen the rural option and hope that the three shelters will be in place before the end of this year.

STANSTED AIRPORT G2

Our thanks go to Ray Woodcock for his presentation to the village on 11 September at the Free Church.

This is a final call for you to send your comments on the planning application for the

second runway as a matter of urgency – the deadline for receipt is **26 September**. For this reason, it would be preferable to send an e-mail if you can to planning@uttlesford.gov.uk or deliver to UDC, Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4ER. All comments received by Uttlesford by 26 September will automatically be forwarded to the Inspector for the Public Inquiry.

YOUTH CENTRE

The Centre will open on Friday evenings, 7-9.30pm, with effect from 26 September. It is hoped to start Duke of Edinburgh Award schemes after half term. The summer garden project has been a great success – the gazebo is up, and funding has just been secured to lay a chequer board patio for giant chess!

This Autumn it is hoped to refurbish the TV lounge, re-decorate and buy new furniture and carpets – the youngsters have so far raised £1,500 towards this themselves. We shall also be looking at all things Chinese – culture, religion, food, dress and education.

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		

NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT MEMBERS

From Cllr Alan Dean

The return of a 9 o'clock start time for bus passes now looks likely in October. The decision to do this was made by councillors back in June but was held up because of fears

that the change would be unaffordable at around £5000. It now seems the change can after all be covered by the existing budget and that the council will even receive a £60,000 refund from the bus companies for last year. Now that the first 301 bus to Bishop's Stortford after the present 0930 start has been retimed before 0930, the change to the scheme has become even more essential.

Whilst on the subject of finance, Geoffrey Sell and I met with the council's external advisors and I exchanged emails with one of them. It seems there was a degree of 'speculation' involved in last year's forecast budget overspend, which explains why the actual figure was only a fraction of the £1.5 million that hit the headlines.

Press reports that the council was no longer going to collect wheelie bins from homes in cul-de-sacs or other awkward places has led to a suspension of this cost saving initiative. So far as I am aware, no one in Stansted has been affected but I would welcome hearing from anyone who has, should I be misinformed.

From Cllr Geoffrey Sell

Stansted Airport- Second Runway

As reported previously the application by BAA for a second runway. will not be decided by the District Council as was full use of the runway, but has been called in by the Government.

The Planning Inspectorate originally proposed that the inquiry would open on 13 January 2009. The Council rejected this date as being unrealistic in view of the amount of material that BAA had submitted.. Following negotiations involving the Inspectorate, BAA and the Council, the Council's alternative timetable has been agreed and the inquiry will start on 15 April 2009. It is expected that the inquiry will last 12-18 months and therefore any decision will be made after the next general election. The Inspector will be Mr Andrew Phillipson and the Inspectorate will be setting up an inquiry website: www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/stanstedg2inquiry

The Council has already received a large number of representations. So far the Council has received 1,385 letters of objection and 66 letters of support. The closing date for representations was extended to 26 September. Objectors' main concerns are air noise and pollution, climate change, economic impact, landscape/heritage, loss of productive farmland, prematurity in advance of the G1 (full use of the runway); road/rail congestion and sustainability. Supporters are highlighting the benefits to the local and regional economy, convenience of the airport, investment in transport, job creation and security and the need for extra runways.

Concessionary Bus Fares

There has been some very welcome news. Uttlesford has signed up to an Essex wide agreement which will allow use of buses across the county from 9 am to midnight. I know that the ability to travel before 9.30 am to Bishop's Stortford or Saffron Walden will be very well received by concessionary bus fare holders. Residents of our sheltered housing at Mead Court and Norman Court have been in contact with me..

NEWS FROM ESSEX POLICE

Did you or your children take part in 2SMART Summer ? If so, fill in our quick questionnaire on our 2SMART Summer website letting us know what you liked and what you didn't. Just visit www.2smart.co.uk/summer You will be entered into a competition for the chance to win a trip to the Essex Police Air Support Unit.

Police Museum

Visitor numbers to the summer activity events held at Essex Police museum were up this year. Youngsters from all over Essex came along to the museum at police headquarters in Springfield to show off their creative side. Among the activity days were the 'make your own marine boat', 'make your own magnifying glass', 'make your own police car', 'make your own secret codes' and an Essex Police Jackanory event.

Six hundred young people attended the summer activities this year compared to 450

last year. General visitor numbers to the museum in August were 1,500 compared to 700 in 2007.

The next event, **Haunted Halloween Fun**, will be held on **Wednesday, October 29 between 11am - 4pm** where children can make their own **'Trick or Treat'** goodie bags and take part in the **Victorian Witchcraft Trail**. Fancy dress is welcome. The day is suitable for ages three onwards, admission is free. Suggested donation to the museum is £1 per child. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Further information is available at www.essex.police.uk/museum/

Nicola Bastendorff, Public Relations Officer
Tel: 01245 452395 Fax: 01245 457222
Email: nicola.bastendorff@essex.pnn.police.uk

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

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STANSTED CUBS

Harvest for Stansted

Harvest festival this year was a tastier affair than usual! The cubs grew all the vegetables for the harvest in the little strip of earth in front of the Scout Hut, which measures around one metre wide by ten metres long. We can only do this now that the Tortoises Group has built us a gate and Viridor has given us the money to replace the fencing. This should keep most of the vandals out which is wonderful. Some of the things the cubs have grown include garlic, beetroot, new and main crop potatoes, runner beans, sweetcorn, the strangest shape carrots, and fantastic pumpkins, the largest of which we gave as the prize in the 'guess the weight' competition. After digging up all the vegetables and sharing them out we made fantastic soup in our sixes, which even some of the parents enjoyed!!!



Roger's hot tip

Nine years ago when I started at Stansted, I bought one kilo of daffodils for £3. Over the years the cubs have planted each autumn and picked the flowers each Mothers' Day - excellent value. What's more we now have one and a half kilos at the hut and mine at home, which look a whole lot better as well. This autumn we have planted the bulbs in the sure knowledge that they won't be stolen in the spring. Thanks to all concerned from every one in cubs and especial thanks from Akela.

Roger Musgrove
Cub Leader



**STANSTED & DISTRICT
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

We will be holding a Quiz on Saturday 18th October, 7 for 7.30pm, in the Stansted Day Centre. Tickets are £7.50, to include a ploughman's supper, and the Quizmaster will be David Morson. There will also be a Bar and a Raffle. For tickets and/or further information please ring 814222 or 813432.

Ruth Rawlinson

The Autumn term is now well under way. We welcome all the children (and parents) who are new to us this year, both in our Reception and Nursery classes and also further up the school.

Messy Play has changed days!! This has moved to **Friday** afternoons, 1.45pm until 3.00pm in the **School Hall** (accessed through the main school entrance). No need to book, just turn up, have a great time, and leave the mess to us!! Sessions still cost £1.00. Children should be 18 months and over and must be accompanied.

At Bentfield we welcome visits from parents and children who might be thinking of coming to the school. We do not hold an official 'Open Day' so if you are interested in either the Main School or Nursery, and would like to visit the school, please give us a ring and we would be very pleased to arrange one specifically for you and your family to see the school on a normal school day. Our school also offers both a Breakfast Club (from 7.45am), and an After School Kids' Club (until 6.00pm).

PTA Events

We will be holding a number of fund raising events during the term, beginning on **Saturday, 18th October** with another fabulous **Music Quiz** hosted by Stansted's answer to Ann Robinson, the inimitable Rebecca Carter and her lovely assistant, Alan! Please arrive from 7.30pm for a prompt start at 8.00pm – latecomers will be subjected to ritual humiliation by the quiz mistress – you have been warned! Tickets cost £7.50 and include a delicious supper cooked by the one and only Olly Pocknell. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Please call 815765 for tickets or to find out more about the event.

Later in the term we are looking forward to the Sparkler Party on Friday 7th November and our traditional Christmas Fair in December. As always, your support at these events is warmly welcomed!

Alison Thompson,
Bentfield PTA Co-Chairman

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Wellbeing

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My new passion is 'The Dream Giver' by Bruce Wilkinson. Wow! So maybe believing in dreams is a path to wellbeing. The 'dream' word is my new mantra and I'm in a state of shock. I have always felt a bit uncomfortable around people who talk about following their dreams. I'm the practical one, planning and working. Real things happen for me because I'm not a dreamer.

I've never disillusioned friends and family. Training to be a professional singer, they were sure I'd been inspired by a beautiful piece of music; truthfully, it was the first thing that someone had said I was really good at. I was given a chance to go to college. The dream others saw me pursuing was actually a very safe and familiar decision, which had everything to do with working hard within a disciplined environment and little to do with dreaming.

Bruce Wilkinson's definition of a person's dream, which we all have but maybe haven't woken up to, is "*the thing that we do best and most love to do*". Everyone's bigger dream is giving that dream back to the Dream Giver as part of a much bigger universal dream. (The definition of the Dream Giver I will leave to your good selves but we are thinking God /a higher power or human altruism!)

We hear the parable of 'Ordinary' who lives in the Land of Familiar. Ordinary makes the decision to cross the border into the Land of Promise. He meets and is helped by Courage and Perseverance. Challenged by the Border Bullies and Giants (namely his family, friends and society) he chooses to remain faithful to his Dream and the Dream Giver. No-one wants Ordinary to become Somebody, the person he was born to be; that would threaten everyone's comfort zones. My decision to become a Wellbeing teacher unsettled a few; however I feel fulfilled and excited with new challenges regularly appearing. Being asked to write this column came out of the blue! Or was it Mike Dyer!

Searching for meanings of words and ideas leads you into new territory – Ordinary is asked to keep moving and growing. He is surprised, as he becomes a warrior, protecting his Dream from those who threaten it. Ordinary's Dream was a gift but he had to fight for it – to know its true value.

Are we discovering that our wellbeing is restless – looking towards the horizon - dreaming? A dreamer doesn't live with his head in the clouds but bravely asks the questions which lead to a true and authentic life. Time and again a dreamer will be called upon to believe in themselves and the power of the Dream Giver:

"Beware of unbelief, Ordinary. Unbelief is much more dangerous to your dream than any Giant".

It's a great book – go read!

isobel@stanstedlink.org.uk



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our August speaker, Mr John Newmeir gave us a very entertaining talk on his life as a paramedic, including stories of some of the more unusual reasons that people give for calling out an ambulance apart from illness. Unbelievably these can include that they have run out of aspirins and the shops are closed or they have missed the last bus/train home and need a lift! John worked in the North Essex and London area but explained how sometimes the nearest available ambulance to anyone's needs can be a hundred miles away. Now retired he decided to go around giving talks and has recently passed the WI audition to become one of our accredited speakers. Auditions for speakers are held by each county and members are invited to go and hear a potted talk to see if they think they will be found interesting by the majority. We are lucky in this county and have lots of applications from all sorts of people.

Recently in the Daily Telegraph there appeared an article about a new style WI Group in Hampshire which is purporting to be 'rewriting the rule books' with the message to forget 'Jam & Jerusalem' and bring on nude art classes, theatre trips, dancing and their very own saucy calendar. Funny - I thought we all did these things already (well all right then, not nude art classes, just art) and the notion that we all go around baking cakes singing Jerusalem is laughable. Yes, we can cook and aren't we lucky, our cake stalls are always popular and our families well fed! Yes, the WI has become an older group because younger women now work full time; but they come when they've retired and say "It's really good - why didn't I come sooner?" So if there is anyone out there still wondering - come along - we're planning a shopping trip to Norwich in November, a theatre trip to Harlow, and we also do regular ones to London shows. We're taking part in an Inter-Institute Quiz this month and having a stall at the Mountfitchet School on 27th September - see us there!



Judy Colliver, Hon. Sec
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812725

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Nature Notes

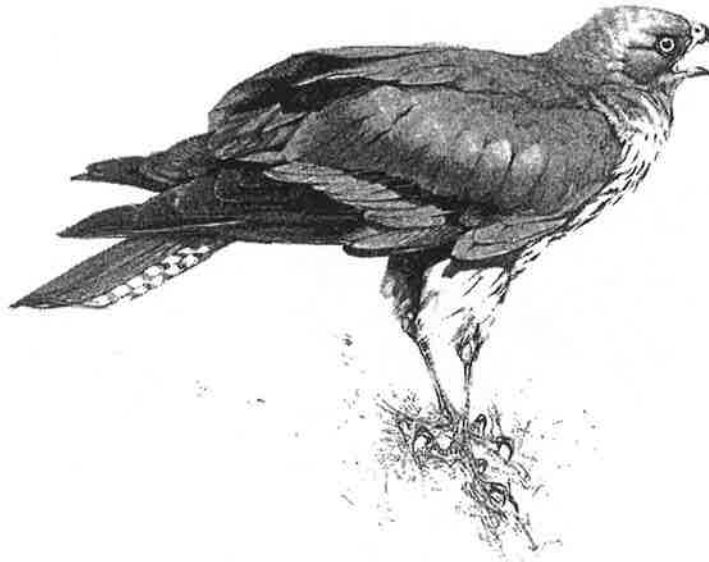
This month's contribution is a miscellany to which you as a reader may wish to respond. If so, please do.

There has been recent interest from the press in the widespread incidence of ragwort. This plant, described by Felix in last November's issue, is toxic to the livers of livestock, especially horses, and there is legislation requiring land-owners and farmers to remove it by cutting. It must be one of the least observed laws that we have. Our area seems less affected than many, but as a community we should be responsive as it could possibly affect our honey crop.

Audrey Rodgers showed me some severely disfigured acorns from a tree in St John's Road cul-de-sac which could have come from a misfired genetical experiment! In fact the damage is attributable to one of the 80 species of sawflies and mites which parasitise oak trees. I must have led a sheltered life, for this particularly grotesque type was not one I had previously met. In a regional context these parasites are common so there is no cause

for alarm - they are just a piece of nature's rich pattern.

Audrey also noted a poorly tick-infested swift in Cambridge Road. It is puzzling how a bird which is largely on the wing out of the nesting season could fall victim to ticks. On a more cheerful note, readers can take encouragement that a Barn Owl was seen in September near St Mary's Churchyard, especially as owls seem to be increasingly scarce in the area. Still on an ornithological theme, it was interesting to learn via the national press that a rare Montagues Harrier has spent the summer at Stansted Airport. The species comes in small numbers to East Anglia in most years, but to have a local bird is quite sensational. It is easily confused with the Hen Harrier (almost as rare in Essex) or even the Red Kite, but it is encouraging to know that the Airport has a team including two wildlife rangers to monitor our avian visitors. They wisely allowed the Harrier to remain undisturbed until its migration. Will it return next year? Watch this space.



Derek Honour



THE 1949 STANSTED GUIDE COMPANY

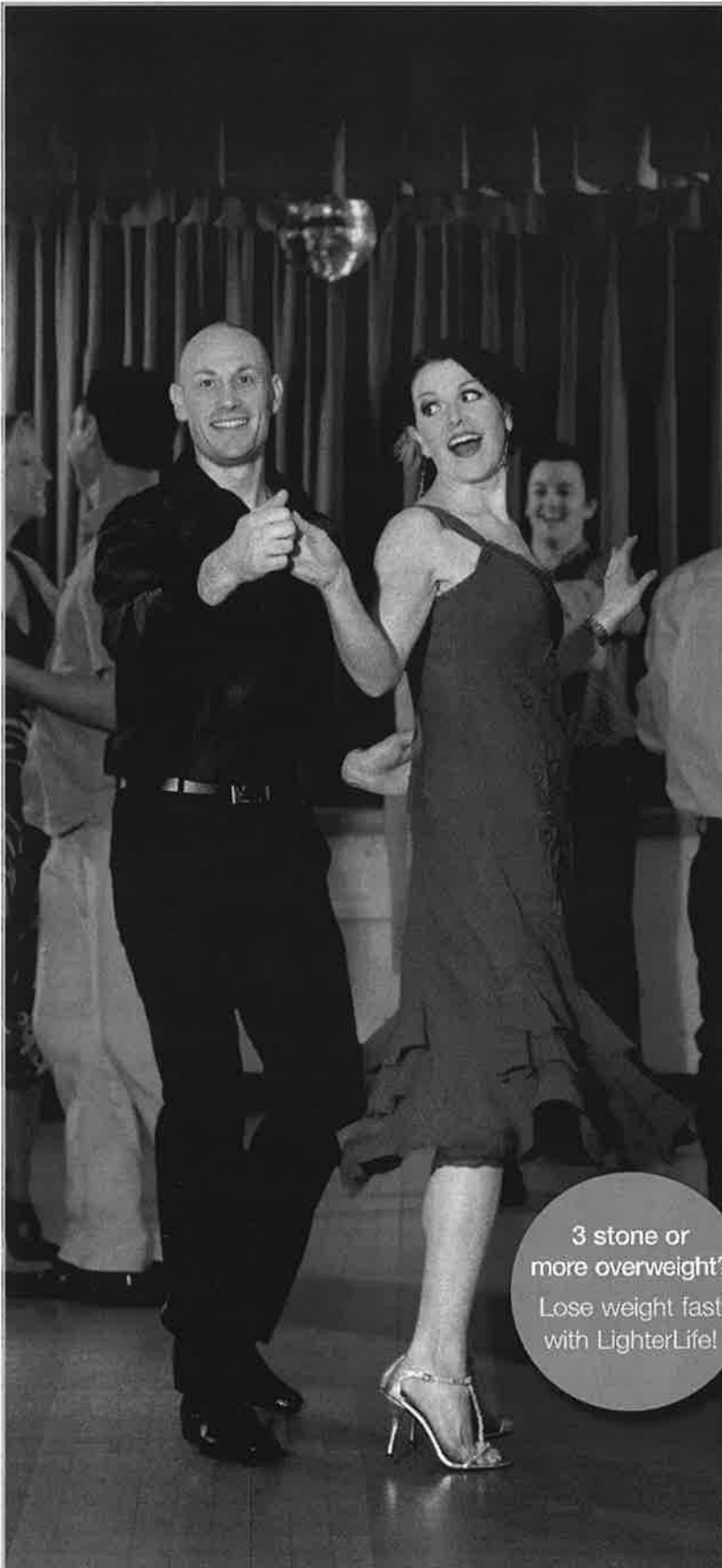
Thanks to further information being received, the names of the girls shown in our September issue are:

Back Row Janet Dimond Veda Roberts Shirley West Joyce Sandford - Sheila Jordan

Centre Row Jane Bonfield - - Rose Childs Joan Ridgewell - - - June Badman

Front Row Rita Cocks Mary Murray Paddy Tee Marjory Player Roma Williams Hilary Johnson

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494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

This month's column has been written by Cadet Sophie Stacey (14) who is one of the Squadron Media team.

We recently received the exciting news that our applications for both Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Capital Fund Grants had been accepted and that we would be receiving £16,500 to spend on new equipment for the cadets to use both on exercise and at the new Squadron Headquarters. We are really grateful to Cadet Alice Brooks, Sgt Mitch Adams and Cpl Samantha Webb for putting together the application.

The Squadron has been extremely busy over the summer with two cadets doing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Pyrenees, while other cadets attended Summer Camp at RAF Benson for a week, where they had the opportunity to fly in helicopters. Sgt Mitch Adams managed to get his Corps Marksman's badge firing the L98 while Sgt Rob Hume achieved a Wing Marksman.

494 had yet another sporting success with Inter Squadron swimming, winning senior girls, and coming third in junior girls, junior boys and senior boys, and then winning the overall trophy! We also won the last Cross Country and the Athletics so we are officially the best Squadron at sport in Essex Wing!



The Squadron is in high spirits at the moment; our new building is in its final stages and will hopefully be ready very soon. We are looking forward to moving in and using all our new equipment. We have eleven junior cadets that are doing their basic training and we will be having another intake in October so there is a lot going on at the Squadron!

If you are aged between 13 and 18 and interested in joining us we will be holding an Open Evening on Friday 26th September at St John's Hall; visit our website for more information - www.stanstedaircadets.org.uk

Cadet Sophie Stacey

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STANSTED BEAVERS

We said a sad goodbye to Alfie, Lloyd, Kieron, Jake, Harry, Jacob and Riku who all 'swam' up to Cubs during our last meeting before the summer holidays but we're quite sure they're having a ball already and looking forward to their very first Cub Camp. Beavers got off to a tremendous start this Autumn with an army of new and willing helpers (our thanks to Nav, Laurence and Fraser) as well as eight new Beavers. Existing and new Beavers are all enjoying exercising their vocal chords on a Saturday morning as well as their legs, with lots of games and running about. We are continuing to work through some of the Awards Badges as well as the Challenge Badges and always particularly enjoy the individual presentations which are generally prepared at home; no unusual pets to date for the Animal Friend Badge, and Scout HQ is still standing despite some very enthusiastic attempts at the Experiment Badge!

There has been some rather smart and effective fencing installed around the perimeter of the HQ and we are very grateful to local registered charity, Viridor, for their kind and generous donation. Like all community organisations, Stansted Beavers, Cubs and Scouts rely on the support of local businesses and individuals, financial or otherwise, so a big thank you to Viridor. The next date on the Beaver calendar is the Lodge 'Lympics'.

If you have a child who would like to join us or go on the waiting list, do please make contact (Beavers is open to boys and girls, from age 6-8 years).

David South (Beaver Leader) Tel: 814371
Claire Jonas (Helper) Tel: 816924
Dot Staunton (Helper) Tel: 812825



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

As the summer 'silly season' ended, the Ugley WI committee sat back to allow Ann Calver and 'volunteers' to arrange the hilarious meeting over a 'BEATLE!' match. BEATLE! always has an 'A' and an exclamation mark, and there were many exclamations as horns clashed over a third eye or seventh leg ... WI is not reduced to absurdity, rather, a rapid switch of partners resulted in a good time of anguish, laughter and camaraderie. Brenda Scarr, our hardworking secretary, gave us a chance to demolish her 80th birthday cake (she was allowed to take the basket of flowers home)!

When Peter Lawrence came to give his illustrated talk on Essex Churches, I waited in vain for the glories of Thaxted or perhaps little timbered Greensted; but the stories of the chosen six, starting with Waltham Abbey, were so absorbing that I forgot what I was missing! We are only a small village, but Ugley WI would like to add its accolade to this speaker, already so well known to the National Trust and countrywide societies.

Phyllis Harrison



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HUW JOHNSON BUNTING PARTY

The Queen's Silver Jubilee 1977

This month's nostalgia piece is a delightful look back at an almost forgotten event involving people, some still with us, who would be known to our readers. It isn't difficult to recapture the scene!

How could the Huw Johnson Club for handicapped children help with the Jubilee celebrations? One thing we were certain about, the members would love all the decorations, fireworks and festivities. We sent a committee member, Maggie Humble, along to the Jubilee preparation meeting and she returned with the shattering news that we were going to ensure that our members would enjoy the decorations because we were going to make the bunting. After our first gasps of horror, we decided to get on with the job. Ken Mullings chatted up his friends in the 'rag trade' and produced masses of 'off-cuts' of material, mainly red, white and blue but also multicoloured. He also produced 1,400 yards of tape (the kind used on the hems of skirts and trousers) and three miles of cotton.

We decided to turn the formidable task into a party. Invitations were sent out and people were invited to bring their favourite record and a pair of scissors. On 11th May 1977, Tom Johnson, Chairman of the club, collected six sewing machines from various parts of the village for the party which was to take place in the canteen of St Mary's Junior School. Marion Johnson prepared the canteen. In the middle, across the width of the canteen were placed two rows of tables on which the material and templates were placed. Here the triangles would be cut out. Three rows of tables were placed at right angles to these tables forming two letter E's. On these tables were placed pins, strips of cardboard, seven inches long and the tape. Here the triangle would be pinned on to the tape with seven inches between each triangle. The tape and the sewing machines were placed at each end of these six rows.

At about 7.00pm people began to arrive and the party commenced. The machinists were Beatrice Turner – retired teacher; Rosemary Minshull and Valerie Catton – who were both teachers; Maggie Humble who organised the Art and Craft group at the club; Bett Morris who was the club's drivers officer and Margaret Gibbs who was secretary to Mrs Davis at Stansted County Infant School. Harry Turner, Chris Davies (the Vicar's wife), and Miss Tunbridge took up their positions at the centre table and began cutting out triangles - the machinists helping them at first in order to produce an adequate supply for the 'pinners on'. During the evening over 40 people took part and it would be impossible to name them all. Joyce Vincent and Val Reavell, both active club helpers, aided by Joe Edgar and his son John who was a handicapped member of the club, pinned on the triangles. The music played during the evening was as varied as the people who took part. The youngest participant was school-girl Sarah Gibbs, and Miss Tunbridge, aged over 80 (former organist and Sunday school teacher at the United Reformed Church) was the eldest.

Twice during the evening a halt was called and refreshments served by Joyce Vincent, Val Reavell and Win Staff, who

was a midday assistant at St Mary's School. The atmosphere throughout the evening was happy and relaxed. Judith Richardson, whose twins were our youngest club members at the time, and Nigel Morris, our never tiring teenage club helper, had never spoken to each other before, but soon chatted away like old friends. People were quickly working out their own system for cutting corners and speeding up production. Mr Lightfoot, a very generous donor to the club, prepared the tape by measuring the seven inch spaces and marking them with chalk, while Miss Turner instructed us all in the art of having the pins all facing the same way.

Towards 11.00pm things began to get very hectic and although the bunting was now piling up into a multicoloured hill, it was obvious that we must stop for the night. At the request of many people it was decided to hold another Bunting Party on 1st June. Sufficient bunting was produced to decorate the entire length of Lower Street, halfway up Chapel Hill and the area around the fountain. Everyone enjoyed themselves and as the price of bunting was 90p for ten feet - the Huw Johnson Club saved Stansted about £400.

Marion Johnson



STANSTED DAY CENTRE

You may have noticed that we regularly advertise the need for more volunteers! For those of you who would find it difficult to commit to a regular shift but would like to try volunteering, why not put your name forward for our 'relief list'? This is a list of volunteers that are happy to be called if we have a sudden shortage. Duties include serving teas, coffees and lunches. If you think this is something you could consider and would like to find out more, please contact me on 815091 or 812144.

Kat Lupton
Manager



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SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect
of the night sky



Poor old Pluto! After Uranus had been discovered, careful measurements of its orbit showed slight perturbations (astronomy talk for deviations) in its journey round the Sun. This could only happen from the gravitational tug of an unknown object and led to astronomers looking for another planet. Their efforts were very fruitful when they discovered a new planet, given the name Neptune. Later, similar measurements of Neptune suggested yet another planet. It took a long time but that planet, christened Pluto, was discovered by an astronomer called Clyde Tombaugh in 1930 using the then five year old Mount Palomar telescope, then, by far, the biggest telescope ever.

Pluto was established as having an orbit of 248 years round the Sun. Yet from the start there were problems with Pluto. Its orbit was much more tilted compared with all the other planets and its orbit took it within Neptune's orbit, as it was between 1978 and 1999. It was so very distant that we could see nothing of its surface features and, far more problematic, Pluto is about 1,600 miles across, notably smaller than our Moon, and was, therefore, simply too small to noticeably disturb Neptune's 30,000 mile diameter. The problem of what does disturb Neptune is yet to be solved.

As telescope technology improved, we learned a little more of Pluto. In the '70s we discovered that Pluto had a moon of its own. The moon, named Chiron, was inferred when we could see that Pluto wobbled as the moon orbited the planet. We also saw that Pluto revolved as the Earth does because we could see regular changes in the brightness of the planet.

Martin West,
Mooncraft Productions



Statement in response to the report on BAA from the Competition Commission

SSE has long argued for a break-up of BAA and is therefore delighted by the recent provisional findings report from the Competition Commission concluding that BAA must sell two of its three London airports. We consider it inconceivable that BAA would willingly sell Heathrow which means that Stansted and Gatwick must both be sold.

This will not in itself remove the threat of a second runway at Stansted but we believe it moves us a step closer to the day when this idea will be abandoned. We look forward to working with the new owners of Stansted towards achieving this objective.

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

Spangles Children's Centre

Calling all Dads!

Why not get in your partner's good books by bringing your child down to Spangles for our **Dads' Club** – a chance to meet other dads, join in activities and make Christmas Cards with your child, do some Christmas shopping at our stalls - *and* at the same time giving Mum a break!

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



BIRTHSTONE OF THE MONTH

October- Opal

The dictionary definition is 'an amorphous form of hydrated silicon dioxide that can be of almost any colour'. As its makeup includes water, which can evaporate, cracks can often appear in the stone. Usually formed near volcanoes, where there is intense heat, opals are very sensitive to temperature. From this fact arose the belief during the Black Death in the 1300s that it would remain bright as long as its wearer was alive and turn pale when they died. Although the superstition is not as widespread as it once was, some people still believe wearing opals is unlucky, especially if not their birthstone. The best ones are found in Australia and are much admired for the range of colours which can be seen in them.

Peggy Honour

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