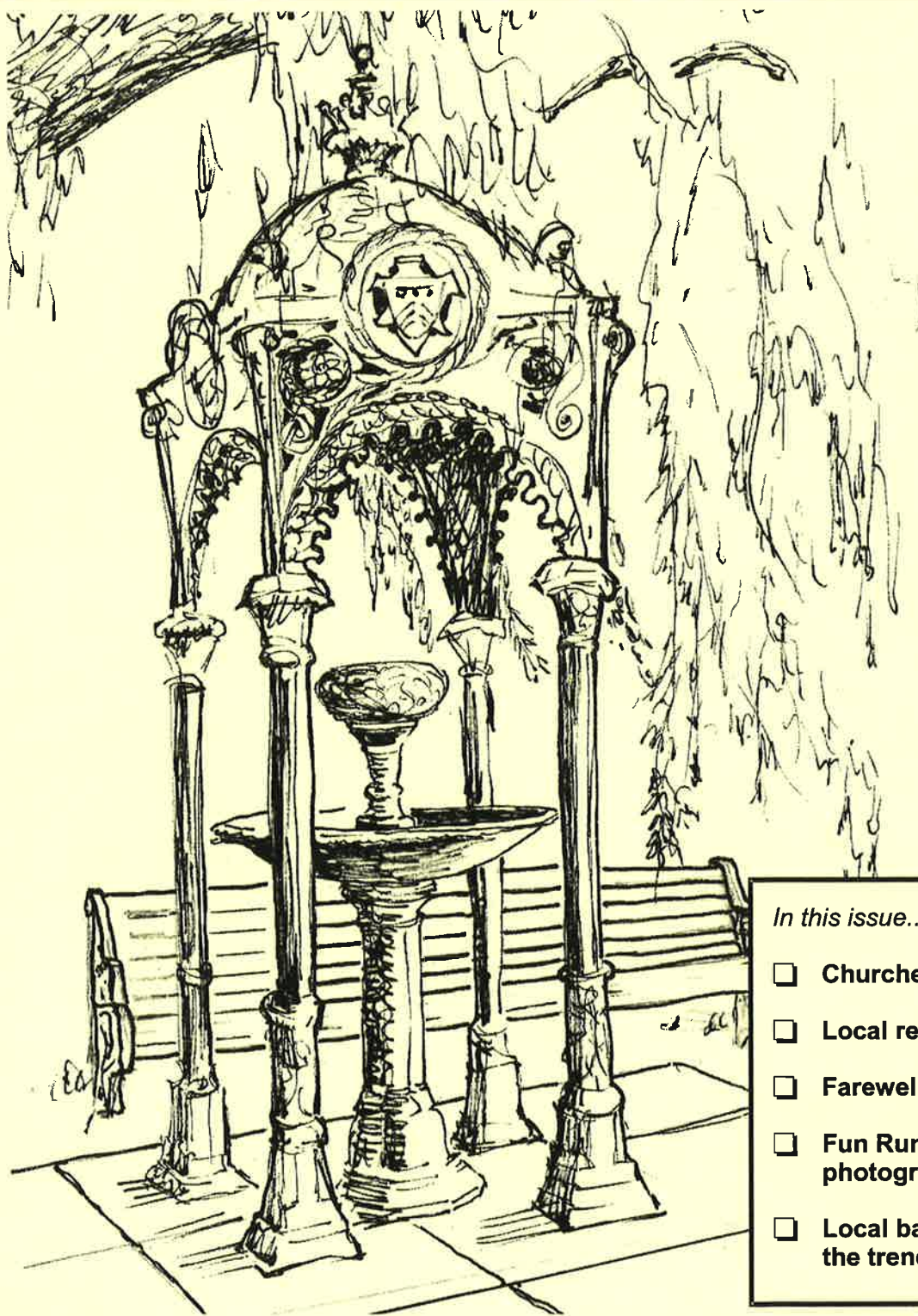
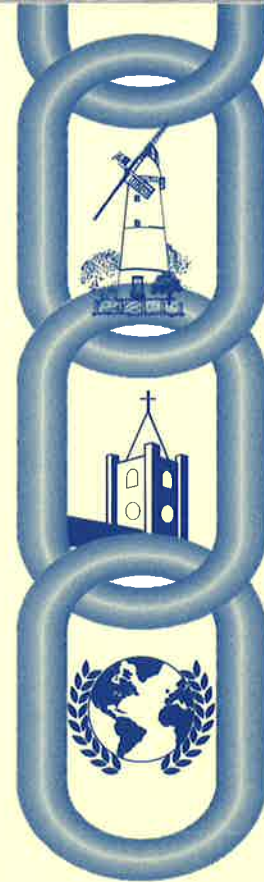


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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ada

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SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk Mrs Anthea Lee
24 Lea Close
Bishop's Stortford
Tel : 01279 656707

Meeting Sunday, 11.00am (August only)

Please note that from Sunday 3rd September,
the time of the meeting for worship will be 10.00am.

'Refrain from making prejudiced judgements about the life journey of others. Remember that each one of us is unique, precious, a child of God.' This extract from one of the Advices in Quaker Faith & Practice is on the same lines as the Biblical instruction to deal with the beam in our own eye before worrying about the mote in someone else's.

Nevertheless, we are all guilty to a greater or lesser extent. Encouraged as we are by the media to build up public figures, stars and workers for good causes into sort of icons, then – surprise, surprise – some investigative journalist finds that they are not perfect after all and because they turn out to have feet of clay all the good and interesting things they have done are forgotten and wiped off the slate.

There are two interesting, and now famous, examples which have worked the other way round. The book 'Schindler's Ark' told the story of a German involved with the Nazis and running businesses that used slave labour. But, because of his relationship with the regime, he was able secretly to save hundreds and hundreds of Jews from the gas chambers and to improve the conditions of his workers.

The other example, much more recent, and perhaps even braver, was Paul Rusesabagina, the manager of a luxury Government-used hotel in Kigali, Rwanda. He was used to smoothing the way of important visitors, arranging for deals to take place, bribing the right people, etc. Yet, when the Government-sponsored Rwandan massacres took place, he managed to hide away and save well over a thousand people at great risk to himself and his family. His story is told in the book 'An Ordinary Man' or the film 'Hotel Rwanda'. As George Fox famously wrote: 'There is that of God in every man.' I reckon – if there are pearly gates – they will be wide open and welcoming for Paul Rusesabagina.

Katharine Hurford



SHALOM

Our first meeting of the Autumn Term is on Monday 18th September which will be an evening entitled 'Happy Days'. Everyone is invited to bring along their memories of happy times to share - not just recalling events, but also thoughts, poems, pictures, songs, pieces of music etc etc. This should make for a very interesting evening!

On 2nd October the evening will be led by Monica, one of our own members. Both meetings start at 8.00pm and are at 7 Blythwood Gardens. Why not join us – you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

Minister Rev'd David Simpson
11 Church Manor
Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 504900

Contact Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Stansted
Tel: 812593

Preachers for August

6th	2.30pm	Rev'd David Simpson
13th	10.30am	Alan Wheeler
20th	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson – Communion Joint with Methodists
27th	10.30am	Rev'd John Buxton Joint with Methodists

Dates for your diary

6th	3.30pm	Afternoon Tea For lifts telephone 813977 or 812593
21st	2.30pm	Monday Club For information telephone 815137
26th	10.00am	Methodist/URC meeting in the Hall

No Pilots during August.

METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Minister Rev'd Keith Page
Keith is currently on sabbatical. For ministerial support please contact:

Rev'd David Simpson
11 Church Manor
Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 504900

Secretary Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Recreation Ground
Stansted
Tel: 812593

Preachers for August

Methodist (at Quaker Meeting House)

6th	9.30am	Nigel Courtman
13th	9.30am	Michael Dyer

Joint Methodist & URC (at URC church)

20th	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson Communion
27th	10.30am	Rev'd John Buxton

Date for your diary

26th	10.00am	Methodist/URC meeting in the Hall
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STANSTED FREE CHURCH (Methodist / URC) Chapel Hill

Joint Ministers
Rev'd David Simpson
11 Church Manor
Bishop's Stortford
CM23 5AF
Tel: 504900

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

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

Secretary
Betty Francis
Tel: 813977

For many years now the members of the congregations of Stansted Methodist Church and Stansted United Reformed Church have passed each other on Chapel Hill on their way to their separate church services. Two years ago the two churches began exploratory meetings to discuss the possibility of the two congregations worshipping together. Over a year ago more formal meetings were set up with the purpose of transforming the vision of unity into a working reality and the two congregations began to share worship together twice a month. In October 2005 there was an announcement in 'The Link' to the effect that the members of both congregations had voted unanimously to become one church and would be working together on a Joint Constitution.

In September this year the two churches will begin to realise this vision when they begin to worship together every Sunday. On 5th November the coming together will be formalised at a special service to mark the occasion at our shared church on Chapel Hill, to which the churches and all the people of Stansted are all warmly invited. It is hoped you will come along and celebrate this special and historic occasion with us (more details below).

The people of the two churches feel that this is much more than simply two churches coming together to worship. They feel that by uniting in this way they are following God's will for the churches and that a new church is being created in our midst with shared gifts, talents, skills and resources; a church looking forward to the future that awaits it and ready to meet the new opportunities God may offer us. We trust you will rejoice with us and hold us in your thoughts and prayers as we move forward on our journey together.

David and Keith (joint ministers)

Preachers for September

3rd	2.30pm	Rev'd Keith Page
10th	10.30am	Dr Pamela Cressey
17th	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson - Communion
24th	10.30am	Rev'd Keith Page

Other activities

3rd	3.30pm	Afternoon Tea. For lifts tel 813977 or 812593
7th	8.00 pm	Church Meeting
11th	6.00pm	Pilots for children 5-13 years. Tel 813433
18th	2.30pm	Monday Club. For information tel 815137
25th	6.00pm	Pilots for children 5-13 years. Tel 813433

Advance dates for your diary

As the next edition of 'The Link' is not published until 30th September, these three events have to be included in this month's edition, but seem a very long way off. They are all very important so please put them in your diaries now, and there will be more details in the October 'Link'.

5th November is the **Celebration Service** of the joining together of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Stansted. Taking part will be Rev'd Elizabeth Caswell, Moderator of the United Reformed Church, and Rev'd Anne Brown, Chairman of the Methodist District, as well as Rev'ds David Simpson and Keith Page. The service will be at 3.30pm followed by tea.

1st November is the night for packing shoe boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**. Please start collecting items to be included as well as empty shoe boxes. Leaflets will be available soon but please don't forget - no glass, books with reading, bubble bath, talcum powder or foodstuffs. Empty shoe boxes or any items you may already have collected can be left at 58 Chapel Hill at any time.

On 15th November the **Stort Valley Schools Trust** are holding a prayer evening in the Church at 7.30pm. There will be an opportunity to hear about the work of the trust from the three people who visit the secondary schools in the area, chat with them over a cup of tea, before joining together for prayer.

Pilots

Many thanks to all those who supported the coffee morning in July. Members of the Pilot Group were involved in manning the various stalls, making cakes for the refreshments and providing articles for sale. A happy time was had by all and £160 was raised on behalf of Guide Dogs for the Blind and Water Aid.

Next term begins on 11th September. All children aged 5-13 are very welcome. Please ring Valerie on 813433 for details.

Janet Townsend



Departure Lounge

Whether you take a holiday at this time of year or not, August is definitely the holiday season. For me, this is a legacy from childhood, when August was synonymous with six weeks off school - a word that conjured up buckets, spades and ice cream cornets. I remember resenting fiercely the signs that went up in some shops before the month was even halfway through, saying 'back to school'. I did not want thoughts of buying new books, pens or uniform to intrude on this sacred space, this special 'time out'. I knew it would come, but please, not yet. Knowing that the holidays would end gave the time a frame, making it precious because it was limited.

In the departure lounge in any airport, you will see many thousands going on holiday. At this time of year, departures from airports soar like the planes themselves, and staff are busier than ever. On the other side of the same building, travellers return, with suntans, silly hats and odd shaped parcels - the picture or urn from that market that won't fit in the case.

Yet Departure and Arrivals halls also tell other stories - of those who leave for longer periods, to make their home elsewhere, to leave for an indefinite period. There are those who come having broken off ties with all that is familiar, fearful yet also hoping for a new start. Holidays are not the same as longer term comings and goings. Their appeal lies at least partly in knowing (or assuming) that we will return - to our own beds, to the friends and even the work we left. Refreshed, we hope, but safely back.

Inevitably, those other kinds of departure are in

my mind this month. In most parishes, there is a kind of lull in the summer. Committees and other groups don't meet, magazines do double issues. And then it picks up again - the holiday period is over. This year is different for us, because when it picks up again, we will be going on without Andrew, the Rector. Most of you have travelled with Andrew for longer than I have, and we each have our own version of what this has meant. For me personally, Andrew's leaving is a great sadness. It has been a privilege to have started my ordained ministry in his company and under his tutelage, and I will miss him. So this particular summer is one of change, not just a temporary cessation of activities. Departures may be times of sadness, but they also offer a chance to be grateful for shared experience and growth. Go well, Andrew, and thank you.

I have been in and around the Church of England long enough to know that rectors come and go. The Church goes on, and the time of journeying together becomes part of shared history, just as it does when friends move away. One chapter ends, we look to the next. And so, no doubt, it will be for us. The Church of England has two words for the time when a church is between incumbents - 'interregnum' and 'vacancy'. Both are pretty inappropriate. For the next few months, it will be the rectory, yes, but not the Church that is 'vacant'. One of the things I enjoy about being in this place is that the Anglican Church here has a life of its own that does not depend on the clergy. And so it should be. Yet we do need to consider how we view this coming period of waiting for a new incumbent. Is it a sort of

contact us

all enquiries

The Church Office

St John's Hall
St John's Road
Stansted CM24 8JP

(01279) 815243
church.office@stansted.net

Office hours

9:00am-12:00noon
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Administrator

Mrs Elizabeth Jennings

Church Hall Bookings

Mrs Joy Lambe
(01279) 817937
joy@stansted.net

Rector

Revd Andrew Spurr

(01279) 812203
rector@stansted.net

Assistant Curate

Revd Dr Caroline Currer

(01279) 815243
curate@stansted.net

Director of Music

Currently vacant

website

www.stansted.net/stjohns

St John's Diary

Sunday

9:30am Choral Eucharist
11:00am Open Door Service
(all age worship)
1st and 3rd Sundays
9:45pm Night Prayer

Wednesday

10:00am said Holy Communion
7:30pm Ecumenical Prayer group

There are services of Holy Communion on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the month in Norman Court, Hargrave House and Broome End Nursing Homes.

Junior Church meets each Sunday at 9:30am.
(Children return to church halfway through the service.)

The Lazer youth group meets on Sunday evenings at 7:30pm

Rector's Departure

We are making a collection for a gift to mark the end of Andrew's ministry among us. Please give all contributions to the Church Office or to the Churchwardens, and we will be very grateful.

There will be a party on Andrew's last Sunday (13th August) at lunchtime on the lawns outside St John's, weather permitting. All are invited, but please sign the sheet in church to give us an idea of numbers.

During August and until we have a new incumbent, there will be no 8.00am Communion Service on Sundays.

Alastair Bone
Gary West

negative holiday, after which we hope to settle back down to familiar ways? To see things this way seems to me to lose the opportunities that change can bring. Like significant departures, times of change – and even of waiting - can be times of growth, and so, I hope, it will be for us. Grateful for all that has been shared and learned, we move on – not looking to return to familiar patterns, but together forging new ones through God's grace and in his strength.

CMC

From the Registers

Baptisms

4th June Chloe Eleanor Nash
James Alexander Richard Tabor
Jacqueline Frances Whitehorn

Funerals

7th June Dorothy Mary Scraggs, age 86 -
at St Mary's
Albert Edward Peachey, age 94 -
at St Mary's

Diary date

QUIZ NIGHT AND HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 23rd September, funds for which will go to the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal.

St John's Hall

Committee Changes

Unfortunately, I have to report that Lynn Manek and Ray Smith have had to resign from the Committee following changes in their professional lives that no longer allow them the time to devote to the Committee's activities. During their all too short an involvement in the Committee's affairs, they have been responsible for some seriously successful fundraising for which we are most grateful. The only addition is likely to be a young Heald expected towards the end of August. We send Judith and her husband Robert our best wishes

Sideways Pre-Nursery School

Earlier this year the unthinkable happened and Helen Pawsey, 'Auntie Helen' to many generations of village schoolchildren, retired. It is with considerable sadness that we learnt that the Committee of Sideways had concluded that without Helen's inspiration and experience, Sideways was not a viable concern. Accordingly the Committee had decided to close the school. For the Hall the closure of Sideways, one of our oldest tenants, had particular sorrow because of the loss of such an old friend.

There will be no successor to Sideways and therefore all its toys and equipment are to be disposed of in the very near future.

Fundraising

The Jazz Evening in March raised over £700, which was a very healthy outcome particularly given that we unwisely held the evening in Lent when at least two renowned partygoers had foresworn alcohol for Lent!

What we have been doing recently

At the beginning of June we tidied up the storage areas in the Hall, disposed of various items, catalogued the rest and generally tidied up. We are currently in the process of identifying the owners of the catalogued items so that we can discuss long-term arrangements for their storage.

Redecoration

We have arranged for the Hall to be redecorated in August so that we have a cheerful and pleasant facility to offer for hire whilst we consider the next stage of refurbishment.

Refurbishment

We launched two unsuccessful initiatives earlier this year. First we asked the village, via 'The Link', whether there were any generous architects who might be prepared to give us the benefit of their thoughts on how we might refurbish the Hall. The result was a deafening silence.

Next we asked our users, through the pages of our Newsletter, what improvements they would like to see. This time the silence was broken by one thoughtful response.

Disappointing though the response was, it did at least provide us with the perfect answer to complaints about any changes we make to the facilities: "You were asked, but declined the opportunity to say your piece." The irritating thing is that we have lost four or five months whilst we waited for these initiatives to bear fruit. We are now planning to commission an architect to give us ideas of what we might do with the hall to improve the facilities and to maximise the use that we can make of the space. Once we have completed this process and reached some preliminary conclusions on the best way forward, we shall publish our ideas and seek opinions on them. If this form of consultation does not produce a response, then we will have to consider simply imposing our ideas.

Village Summer Play Scheme

The Village Play Scheme is due to run from Monday 31st July to Friday 18th August. The Hall is booked from 9.30am to 4.00pm each day. Rachel Butterworth is running the Play Scheme for the Parish Council. Further details may be obtained from Ruth Clifford, the Parish Clerk, on 813214.

Website

The long-awaited website is beginning to take shape and will be launched on 1st October 2006.

Alastair Richardson
Chairman

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

On Sunday 18th June, Arthur Douglas of Bentfield Road was presented with a Special Papal Blessing. It was also Arthur's 85th birthday. Arthur is a very much loved member of the parish family at St Theresa's Church, who although not being in the best of health is a dedicated member of the Church and is unfailingly cheerful and helpful to all who come through our doors. After receiving the blessing, Arthur wrote this piece for our Newsletter. For us it sums up everything about Arthur, which has made him the great, though humble, loving man that he is.

Eileen Quinn

At a very early age my parents died and I was adopted into a non-catholic family. This came about like this. On the day they buried my dear mother, the Catholic priest offered his sympathy to a family who were burying their six month old son. The priest said to the family: "On this sad day you are burying a six month old son, and I am looking for a home for a four year old boy who has been orphaned." That family became my foster family and they supported me in the practice of my Catholic faith even though some of it seemed a bit strange to them. I was also helped in my personal development and faith instruction by the local Catholic school and Miss Delaney.

At the age of 18, this lad from the industrial area of Lancashire found himself in the snow capped peaks of the Arctic Circle in Norway, land of the midnight sun. When the shooting started there were many silent prayers in the trenches and some unusual expressions of faith, but also lots of good humour too. When I was 21, I enjoyed the warm sunshine of India and Burma, and felt the hostility of the Japanese as well. My mind returns there occasionally (especially at Mass), and I think of the time I helped dig a trench for a fallen comrade in a remote jungle, said some prayers, and bade "Farewell mate". I was part of a Gurkha Division and only saw a Catholic padre occasionally when Mass was celebrated in the jungle. Yet, all the time, my Catholic faith was a part of me.

In later life I called on this faith again and again during my wife's long Alzheimer's illness over ten years. And I am not afraid to say that when things got very bad indoors, my back

garden became my Garden of Gethsemane. There I'd pray for the strength to return indoors and sort out whatever confronted me. My prayer was: "Lord, help me get through this day. I will deal with tomorrow when it comes." My wife died on Christmas Eve 1995 aged 78 years, bless her.

When Fr Joe started the parish Care Group, I helped as best I could and enjoyed visiting people in their homes or in the local Nursing Homes. Now it is my turn to be on the receiving end of medical treatment. I spend four and a half hours on a dialysis machine in Broomfield Hospice two to three times a week, and I will do so for the rest of my life. In the hospital there is plenty of time to reflect, and pray. There is much common sharing with the sick and the nursing staff. Life has indeed come full circle. After I laid my foster parents and beloved wife to rest, I went to Knock in Co Mayo where my grandparents and father came from. With the help of Mgr Grealey, then in charge of Knock Shrine, I found the church in the village of Bekan, where my grandparents were married.

On Sunday 18th June, my 85th birthday, Fr Joe and the parishioners of St Theresa honoured me with special celebrations and a Papal Blessing. I was so moved by everything that I felt lost for words but deeply grateful to everyone. I thank the Lord each night for my Catholic faith, for the parish of St Theresa and the very youthful St Therese herself.
Yours sincerely,

Arthur Douglas

Renewing the Spiritual and Community Life of a Parish

During the holiday months of July, August and September people try to take a break from the normal routine of life. These breaks give an opportunity to give us new visions, be it new experiences, different cultures, changing our outlook on things and to generally improve our feeling of well-being from the usual day to day pattern of living.

In parish life we also need to stop and take a break, a spiritual holiday from the familiar routine of parish activities. This spiritual holiday can take many forms, such as day, or longer, parish retreats, parish activity or renewal days, formal talks or discussions on Bible readings or some aspect of Christ's life, or a parish mission.

At St Theresa's this year, at the end of September and the beginning of October, we will be taking part in a fortnight's Parish Mission. During this period we will be helped to reflect on our spiritual life by two visiting priests. Because so many people today find it difficult to fit anything extra into their busy lifestyles, it will be an opportunity to stop and reflect, to think about our prayer life, and what it means to be immersed in the life of Christ.

The Parish Mission will also help many of us to link our everyday lives with the experience of the liturgy, and our own individual spirituality with the celebration of the Sacraments, and it will be an experience for all of us to understand more profoundly the mysteries of our Faith and the meaning of life. As the Mission activities will be taking place at different times during the day it should be possible to fit some sessions into one's other daily commitments.

Francis Mercer



Stansted Windmill
ANNUAL FÊTE

2 - 5 pm 28th August
(Bank Holiday Monday)

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Live Music by *CHARITY*
and a half-size model of a
Garrett Traction Engine

A truly village occasion



Stansted & District
National Childbirth Trust

NCTea Party

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2 - 4 pm Sun 3rd Sept

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£2 per child or £3 per family
For information tel Vanessa 851187



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BBQ and Refreshments!

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VILLAGE EVENTS

August

5/6 Sat/Sun Skips

6 Sun Windmill Open
Afternoon Tea (after service)
Nature Walk with Felix

7 Mon RBL Women

10 Thu WI

12 Sat Lib Dem Ploughman's

13 Sun Lib Dem Strawberry Tea

19/20 Sat/Sun Skips

27 Sun Windmill Open

28 Mon Windmill Open & Fête

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
2 - 6 pm

UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm

Memorial Gardens 3.30 pm

3 St John's Lane 2.15 pm

St John's Hall 7.45 pm

Day Centre noon - 2 pm

7 Blythwood Gardens 4 pm

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

2 - 6 pm

2 - 5 pm

September

2/3 Sat/Sun Skips

3 Sun SK8Fest
NCTea
Afternoon Tea (after service)

7 Thu Local History Society

9 Sat Lib Dem Ploughman's
Lib Dem Sausage & Mash

14 Thu WI

16/17 Sat/Sun Skips

18 Mon Shalom Group

22 Fri Hill Chili

23 Sat Quiz & Harvest Supper

25 Mon RBL Women Harvest Sale
WEA starts

30/1 Oct Sat/Sun Skips

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

Lower St Car Park 11 am - 5 pm

Mount House, Henham 2 - 4 pm

Stansted Free Church 3.30 pm

Day Centre 8 pm

Day Centre noon - 2 pm

Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm

St John's Hall 7.45 pm

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

31 Chapel Hill 7 - 10 pm

St John's Hall 8 pm

2 Clarence Road 2.15 pm

Day Centre 7.30 pm

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

October

1 Sun Manuden Run Run

Yew Tree 11 am

St John's, Stansted II

Hill Chili

7 - 10 pm Fri 22nd Sept

'Sonia's Place'

31 Chapel Hill

(in church hall if wet)

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Stansted Branch

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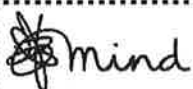
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UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Post Office

Anyone who has patronised Y&Z Minimarket will have seen that construction work is well under way for the new post office. It is scheduled to open on 4th September. Security work is an important part. Staff training is planned for August. Disabled access is something still under discussion. So in little over a month's time we will once again be able to carry out full postal transactions again in the village and will no longer have to traipse miles to collect an undelivered letter or package.

Airport Expansion

Have you browsed the new website:
www.stanstedexplained.info

That's where you can find out what is going on about the airport and the latest planning application to grow beyond 25 million passengers. You can look in on a whole week of public meetings held in early July and more on what's known as a webcast. The meetings were viewable live at the time and are now archived. If you can look in, you will see that well over a 100 people came along and made their views known. Concerns about noise, traffic, air pollution, water use, global warming, community breakdown in some villages, hopes for more employment and BAA giving their reasons for further growth.

I gave a spiel mainly on global warming and the cost of the airport to local taxpayers. You can read what I said on the blog on the website and can even listen to me being interviewed on what's known as a podcast. This is all very innovative stuff for Uttlesford. It is a sign of a real determination to demystify the planning process by making it much more open to the public. As to the outcome of the planning application, which may come as early as September, I feel that it's far less a foregone conclusion than it was three years ago that permission will be granted by Uttlesford District Council. It's far more certain that we will get our post office back!

Councillor Alan Dean
Tel: 813579

Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Recycling

The rollout of the wheeled bins will take place in the week beginning 14th August. The first collection will be the week beginning 21st August. Stansted is in phase IV of the programme. Dunmow and Felsted, which were in phase I, have reported big increases in recycling. What we are trying to do with our recycling strategy is:

- Improve the district's recycling performance
- Reduce waste to landfill
- Maximise recycling credits and minimise landfill taxes and penalties
- Raise the understanding in households of the environmental and economic benefits of reuse and recycling.

Naturally, there are legitimate concerns about the changes to recycling. That is why officers have been visiting residents who have either applied for exemptions or for assisted collections. The Council has a recycling hotline on 01799 510344 to deal with any questions that people may have.

Policing in Stansted

Together with Parish Councillors Ruth Rawlinson and Valerie Trundle I met Sergeant Tim Enstone who heads up the neighbourhood police team at Stansted Station. He believes that the changes made will be positive for the village. He doesn't believe we have a huge crime problem but we do have a nuisance youth problem. There is 24 hour policing cover from the station. The designated neighbourhood community officers for Stansted are PC Clive Meakins and PC Joanne Jeggo. Currently the station is not open to the public, despite the Chief Constable's assurances. Unlike Dunmow and Saffron Walden police stations, we currently do not have any civilian assistance. This is something I will be taking up at the next South West Area Panel, where Inspector Shaw will be the main speaker.

Airport postscript

As Alan has mentioned, the public engagement week was a successful innovation for the Council. It gave objectors and supporters of full use of the runway to make their case to members of the Development Control Committee. I took the opportunity of speaking in the slot reserved for District Council members. As a regular commuter to London I questioned whether the infrastructure could cope with such a significant expansion. I also drew attention to the problem Stansted has with fly parking. I quoted one of our MEPs, Andrew Duff, who had written to me stating "With Luton and Stansted, our region risks becoming one of the biggest polluters in Europe ... Airports can only expand if carbon dioxide emissions are not increased and other EU environmental controls, such as those on noise, are strictly met."

Councillor Geoffrey Sell
Tel: 815925

Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

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AN APOLOGY

We sincerely apologise that the front cover of the July issue was incorrectly dated July/August. It is the two months of August and September that are combined and we are sorry for any confusion that has arisen. The next issue will appear in October.

St Mary's CE Foundation Primary School



Caring, sharing, preparing for life

Firstly a final word from Wendy Wood ...

Now that we have reached the end of the school year, I have asked our Year 6 children to write this month's article for 'The Link'. As I also move onto a new position, I would like to thank the many people in the Stansted community who I have enjoyed working with over the last three years. Thank you for your many and varied contributions to St Mary's, which have helped to enrich the children's experiences of learning and to prepare them for their futures. I'm sure that the village will continue their support of the school under the leadership of the new headteacher, Mrs Christine Tonkins.

... and a final word from Year 6

It's time for the Year 6 of St Mary's to move on to face bigger and harder challenges. Matthew Ellis, a Year 6 pupil, said that he would terribly miss all his friends that are not transferring to Mountfitchet High School. Michael South said that he will really miss St Mary's and would like to keep everything the same, but he knows we all have to move on. Year 6 has got many good memories of their time in school. Here are just a few of them:

- Doing the Year 6 production where everyone had a speaking part and which we all really enjoyed
- Going to Aylmerton Study Centre in Norfolk and learning team building skills and really having so much fun, it was wicked
- The trip to Crucial Crew and learning so much about how to keep ourselves safe
- Taking the team talk groups and being responsible for our groups
- Sports day and getting cheered on
- Jessica Roler remembers all the work she has done and the trips she has enjoyed and all the teachers who have taught her
- Bradley Searle says he has learnt so much, especially how to be a good friend and how to listen to one another
- Rory McGurk says he is pleased with his learning and proud of his SAT results
- Emma Taylor will always remember running the 400m in the district sports and that she felt so proud when she crossed the finishing line first

- Eloise Pye learnt that teamwork is a good way to get things done and it's fun
- All year 6 will take a little of St Mary's with them.

In conclusion, Year 6 have had a great time at St Mary's and will all be upset to leave. We will take with us the confidence to move on and to meet new challenges. Mrs Wood our head teacher said that this year's Year 6 have really proved themselves as being capable and mature and that we should be proud of ourselves.

Wendy Wood and Year 6

On behalf of the governors of St Mary's Primary School I am very pleased to have this opportunity to thank Wendy Wood for all her hard work and commitment to the school for the last three years. She has been a wonderful Headteacher leading the school through some difficult times but always remaining calm and cheerful. She has particularly strengthened our links with the community by making sure that the school's activities have been regularly reported here in 'The Link' and by inviting many visitors into school. Lots of changes have taken place but never without plenty of thought and consultation - a successful Breakfast Club has been introduced, work with other local schools, more IT in the classrooms - the list is endless.

We have so much to thank Wendy for and we are very sorry to see her go but we wish her well in her new job.

Unfortunately we also have to say goodbye to our Chairman of Governors, Sandra Wood, who is going to live in Norfolk. Sandra has worked hard for the school as a parent and as a governor. She and her children will be greatly missed.

Rosemary Minshull
Vice-Chairman of St Mary's Governors



Stansted Open Gardens

Once again the weather was kind on the day and warm sunshine, accompanied by pleasant breezes welcomed the seventh open gardens event.

Fourteen gardens were open, five for the first time, and over £1100 was raised for the charity.

Thanks go to the garden owners who refused to let minor irritations such as hosepipe bans and scorching sunshine interfere with their preparations, and also to you, the paying public for continuing to support us.

Ian Neville

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IN MEMORIAM

Ken Sell 1918-2006

My father represented part of a vanishing generation, a world we will not see again. He was born in Newport, one of a family of four. His father worked at the railway station as a signaller. As a child walking down the High Street he would be expected to doff his cap if he met the squire from Shortgrove Hall. The Sell family had long been resident in Newport. He used to mention his great grandfather 'Stoney' Sell born in the reign of King William IV who was still alive when he was a child. It was a standing joke in the family that he would always remind his daughters-in-law that the leper stone on the B1383 was built by the Sell family. His was a country upbringing; pheasant and rabbit would supplement the family larder.

His could have been a simple life, but he was destined to live through extraordinary times. He had joined the Territorial Army before the outbreak of the war. Called up to serve in the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers when war was declared, the British Expeditionary Force, of which he was a member was sent to France in 1939. We have a copy of a photograph of a picture which appeared in Picture Post of Ken marching with his regiment up the Maginot Line. He was wounded on the beaches at Dunkirk in 1940 and was evacuated on a fishing smack. He regained consciousness at Dover; he hadn't had his boots off for three weeks. Subsequently he served with the 8th Army in North Africa. The family still have a German army officer's field glasses. The end of the war found him in France, Belgium and Germany. He was there at the liberation of Belsen concentration camp and was also present at the subsequent war crimes trial. He was also a patient in the same ward as William Joyce, 'Lord Haw-Haw'. It had been a difficult war for my father. Like many others, he was always reluctant to talk about what he had witnessed, but there is no doubt that they left their mark.

After the war he returned to Civvy Street. It was through Newport that he met Jane Suckling. Although Jane lived in Haverhill, she spent a lot of time at her aunt's in Newport. They married in 1949. Early married life was spent at Chertsey; this was followed by a move to Bishop's Stortford. In 1958 now with two young children Geoffrey and Christopher, Jane and Ken moved to a new bungalow in Millfields, Stansted.

Ken spent much of his working life at the Fire Service Training School at Stansted Airport. He was responsible for the maintenance of the fire engines. Always a very practical man, this suited him. Work was important to him. In the winter of 1963, with snow deep on the ground, he walked six miles to work. In 1976 he was the proud recipient of the Imperial Service Medal awarded by Her Majesty The Queen.

In his spare time he developed a keen interest in bowls. He was a long-standing member of both Thaxted and Stansted Clubs. Another interest was wine making. Every year he would make gallons of wine. Friends and family consumed much of it. He would scour the countryside for nettles and other ingredients. His wine featured on an Anglia television programme. In retirement he was a volunteer driver at the

Day Centre and also a guide at the Windmill. He was always on hand to do jobs at his sons' flats.

He was a devoted family man, and was pleased to welcome the arrival of his daughters-in-law Sophie and Marife. He enjoyed the company of his two eldest grandchildren, Fides and Voltaire. Although he took pleasure in the births of his two youngest grandchildren Edward and Billy, his health had begun to decline. He spent his twilight years being very well looked after at Stanley Wilson Lodge, in Saffron Walden.

Geoffrey Sell

STANSTED DAY CENTRE

As our home cooked meals have proved so popular, we are thinking about opening on Mondays for lunches between 12 and 2.00pm (in addition to Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday).

To do this we need more VOLUNTEERS both to SERVE THE MEALS and TO DRIVE the diners from home to the Day Centre and return them home.

If you can help in either way between 11.30am and 1.30pm, perhaps once a fortnight, please contact Veronica, the Day Centre Organiser on 815091.

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Christine Stiles

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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our speaker this month, Canon John Howden, may be known to some of you as it transpired during his talk that he was for nine years the Warden at the Retreat House at Pleshey. His title of 'Life with Auntie' did of course refer to the BBC and so it was quite surprising to learn of all the other things he has done. Born in Iran of missionary parents he came back to England after the war at the age of five years and initially after school trained in architecture in London. From there he went into theatre work, doing scenic design as well as a few 'bit parts'. He met his wife to be in a summer season at Newquay, but they didn't marry until they met again two years later. After marriage and the birth of two children he became ordained at Salisbury and had a parish in Kent.

His introduction to broadcasting came via Radio Medway, where he did 'Thought for the Day'; a two minute long spot. On moving to Banbury he did a Sunday programme which lasted for an hour. Gradually the radio work took over and he spent eight years as Sports & Arts producer for Radio Humberside, where he met Kate Adie, Michael Buerk and Desmond Lyneham amongst others. On going down to London to work for the BBC, he moved to Essex, living in Stock. We were pleased to hear that the famous 'Woman's Hour' programme is considered to be one of the best to work on.

He conducted a small survey on our habits of radio listening - it showed that about 80% of us listen to radio and the majority of our group to Radio 4, though quite a few listen to local radio stations. He played examples of the many amusing errors that happen in live radio broadcasting and particularly in interviews. The art of interviewing is to allow the other person to get a word in! Phone-in radio was in fact instigated by local radio and could be very embarrassing when interviews are carried on late at night, and people will say almost anything. There were some amusing examples of radio announcers 'corpsing', being unable to get the words out because of giggling - often John said they didn't know themselves why they laughed.

During this time he had been a non-stipendiary priest and then decided after several years to go back into the church full time, which is when he became Warden at Pleshey. Now retired he lives in Writtle, but remains very active giving talks and still preaching.

Members were asked if they would like a theatre trip to Harlow to see Bishop's Stortford Musical Theatre Company's production of '42nd Street' in November. It is hoped to arrange a coach as well. Plans are also afoot to go to the Newmarket Races next year on 'Ladies Day'.

We have signed a petition drawn up by our National Federation to support Farmers For Action Groups to ask the Government to make farming a priority for Britain to ensure that we do not have to depend entirely on other nations to supply our food. We are also concerned about the low prices

paid to farmers for milk and the threat this gives to doorstep deliveries. We have sent a card to the Prime Minister to support this view, and hope that he will take note of the WI!

Next month Ted Pretty is coming along to talk about the monuments he has worked on. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

August Bank Holiday Monday has been the day of the Windmill Fete for nearly 20 years and has always been well supported by people from Stansted and beyond. We hope that this year will be no exception and that we will see many of you there between 2.00pm and 5.00pm.

Any contributions will be gratefully received towards the Tombolas (adults' and children's), Bric-à-Brac (no jumble or electrical goods, please) and cakes (large and small).

Derek & Peggy Honour, 59 Blythwood Gardens.	647213
Linda & Tony Gurr, 52 Gilbey Crescent	816250
Molly Clark, Millside	816768
Rosemary Minshull, Bentfield Road	812230
Ted Pretty, Stoneyfield Drive	814433



St Clare Hospice

Forthcoming Events

Monday 7th August

Garden Party and Lunch at Feltimeores, Churchgate Street Harlow. Ring Phyl Crane on 424760.

Saturday 27th August

'A Midsummer Nights Dream' at Feltimeores, Churchgate Street, Harlow. Picnics from 2.30pm. Performance starts at 4.30pm. Tickets £11 (8-15s £8). Ring Ria Tomlin 433644.

Sunday 3rd September

Hydro Active Women's Challenge 5km Run or Walk in London's Hyde Park for all ages and fitness. Raise money for St Clare Hospice. Contact Julie North on 773753 or log on to www.stclare-hospice.co.uk.

STANSTED FUN RUN 2nd JULY 2006

A VERY hot day!



Putting up all the gazebos on Bentfield Green early in the morning is a marathon in itself!



Over 130 people registered on the day, so our registration helpers were kept busy



Jester Dick Pollard thinks the warm-up is great fun and encourages everyone to join in



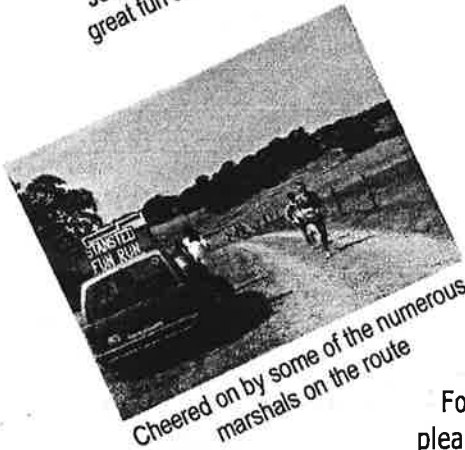
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This year's event was a great success with 384 entries and raising over £3,600 for our three charities:

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Saffron Sight



Cheered on by some of the numerous marshals on the route



One of the 5 water points - no time to stop, must keep going!

Photos by Alan Wheeler
For more photos and feedback about the run please visit our website www.stansted10k.org.uk

There were sooo many hills, but we still had a great time. We're definitely planning on coming back if we're in the area in two years

Just three words sum my feelings up about this brilliant little local bash..... make it annual

Even though it was hot and I did a rubbish time, I really enjoyed it. Thanks to all for the organisation, it was staged beautifully



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At last it's time for the prizegiving



And finally the raffle

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Nature Notes

The wild flowers have been going through a purple patch this month, particularly on some of Stansted's waste ground, with fine displays of willow herbs, mallows, orchids, centaury, knapweed and thistles. Even the sinister deadly nightshade is doing its bit with its dark purple trumpet-like flowers. Conditions seem to have suited the plant life this year and there are already signs that there will be an abundance of berries, nuts and seeds this autumn.

Nowadays, roadside verges are havens for wild flowers, and walks along our local country lanes can be a real joy at this time of year. If you happen to be a passenger in a car queuing at the roundabout just before the motorway where Birchanger Lane and Dunmow Road from Stortford join the A120, you could see masses of orchids and the intensely pink flowers of centaury on the gravelly verges. On the road to Widdington, two to three hundred yards after leaving the main Newport road, there are several broomrape plants growing. Broomrape is parasitic, feeding on the roots of other plants. It is a brown, spiky plant which looks a bit like a dead orchid and is easily overlooked.

The other night a bat made frequent passes just above my head, presumably picking off some of the flies that would have been circling in the little thermal of warm air rising from my body. All our bats are protected species and one sometimes hears laments about the loss of their traditional roosts in barns and hollow trees. I am not sure that they are that choosy about their accommodation, provided that there is a good supply of flying insects in the vicinity to feed on. From time to time a pair of bats have taken up residence behind the UPVC soffits under the eaves of our house, and I know of several other such instances in fairly modern houses. I have had an interesting report of a house that has had two or more bats living under the eaves over recent years. This year the numbers have increased dramatically and one evening over 50 bats were counted flying out before it got too dark to see properly. They leave the roost over a period of several minutes during the late evening and return in a long line before dawn, as in the nature films. One wonders why and how they have gathered like this. There must be a food supply not too far away, which has possibly only recently appeared. Perhaps some of our readers have views on this?

I am constantly learning something new, either from observation or from the experiences of others, and with this in mind I suggest that anyone interested in natural or local history might like to join in a walk of three to four miles just to see what we see, and share any specialised knowledge. If it is found to be worthwhile we can arrange further walks or outings throughout the changing seasons of the year. You are invited to turn up, suitably attired, to set off from the Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill, at 3.30pm on Sunday 6th August.

Felix

Stansted Tennis Club



Tournaments

Due to bad weather earlier in the year, there has been a recent rush of junior tournaments at the club. The Primary Boys' Singles was won by Thomas Taplin, who beat Henry Kirby in the final. The Clower Secondary Boys' Singles was won by Joe Hollis who beat Alex Lupton in the final. The Clower Girls' Singles was won for the second year running by Ruby Hollis. She defeated Rachel Hogg in the final. The Adult Club Tournament has reached the quarter final stage and all members still involved should try to arrange their matches as soon as possible as opponents may well be going on holiday over the next few weeks.

Court repainting

The courts were repainted in June, causing minor inconvenience for three days. However, the result is that we now have brightly coloured courts with clear white lines and the surface is no longer slippery after it has been raining.

Coaching

Junior and adult coaching take place at the club throughout the week and at weekends. Should you require further information, please contact one of our coaches, either Chris Hollis on 319155 or Martyn Taplin on 816386.

Open club sessions

These sessions are open to all club members. Please come along and join in. The sessions are on Wednesday morning and evening, Friday morning and Sunday morning.

Contacts

If you have any questions about membership of the club, please contact Daphne Lunn on 817574. All other enquiries should be made to either Richard Mott (Club Secretary) on 466348 or Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 812073.

Chris Hollis

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The National Childbirth Trust
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We had a fantastic turnout for our latest Children's Table Top Nearly New Sale held on Saturday 8th July. It was a great success with tea and cake taken under the trees in the garden of St John's Hall after some serious shopping had been done. Our next sale is Saturday October 14th so don't miss out!

The NCT turns 50 this year, so we at the Stansted and District branch are having an NCTea Party in Henham on 3rd September to celebrate. An afternoon filled with games, competitions and face painting. Make sure you come along with the children for a great afternoon (see 'What's On' page for more details).

In addition to our regular events of two separate coffee mornings per week, one for Bumps and Babes and one for Toddlers plus Tea and Toy mornings for all ages and Girls Nights Out for the mums, we also have a trip to Millpond Garden Centre and a Cream Tea Afternoon coming up, just to mention a few. We also offer antenatal classes, breastfeeding support and pump hire. So if you are a mum-to-be or a new mum looking for some entertainment for the kids or just some entertainment for yourself, make sure you look us up.

The National Childbirth Trust (or NCT) is a charity offering information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood. If you would like to view a free listing of events being held or if you want any further information about the NCT or our branch, please see our website www.stansted-nct.freemove.co.uk or phone the branch enquiry line on 0870 4211508. If you would like to book for our popular antenatal classes, call Sandra (early in your pregnancy) on 0870 7656284.

Donna Maxine



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

Our next social event is a Cream Tea at 4.00pm on Sunday 13th August at 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted. Tickets £5, family ticket £12. We will also be holding a 'sausage and mash' evening at 7.30 for 8.00pm on Saturday 9th September at the Stansted Day Centre. For more details and tickets for these events please ring 814222 or 813432

Ruth Rawlinson



BENTFIELD SCHOOL

The last few weeks of the academic year are always some of the very busiest – and the most fun. We have had various exciting trips. Years 5 and 6 had a wonderful musical experience when they took the train into London and spent the day listening to and creating music at the Barbican! This was a real treat and inspired them to great things in their end of year production 'The Lemonade Kid', a fun packed musical western, which was enjoyed by their families as well as the rest of the school.

Classes One and Two spent a fantastic sunny day at the seaside when they visited Walton and Reception went to see the animals at Linton Zoo. Classes Three and Four journeyed back in time when they all donned Tudor costume for a very informative and exciting day at Kentwell Hall to see and experience living history. With World Cup fever gripping the country (for a while at least) our brilliant cooks produced a special World Cup Picnic which was enjoyed by many of the children, including our Nursery and a few of their mums! Finally we say "Farewell" and "Good luck" to our Year 6, who have now departed to start their various senior schools in September. They enjoyed a wonderful fun filled day at Wicksteed Park followed by a Leavers' Ball in the evening.

As always we welcome parents interested in either a Nursery or Reception place to come and see the school in action, please give us a ring and we would be very pleased to arrange for you to visit. We still have a few vacancies for this September. Our school offers both a Breakfast Club (from 7.45am), and an After School Kids Club (until 6.00pm). We also have our wonderful Messy Play. This is great fun, and runs in the Nursery on Mondays from 1.45pm to 3.00pm. It is open to children 18 months and older. If you are interested contact the school or just turn up!

PTA News

Here we are again, at the start of a new school year! I hope that you had a lovely summer with an opportunity to relax, reflect, and recharge the batteries.

Our first event this term is a Cheese & Wine evening, preceded by a short AGM, which will be held in school on Monday 2nd October 2006. This is a really good opportunity for new Nursery and Reception parents to come along and meet us and find out more about what the PTA does. We are always on the lookout for enthusiastic new parents to join the committee and prevent us becoming stale!

Looking slightly further ahead, we are delighted to announce that there will be another Bentfield Music Quiz on Saturday 14th October. Hosted by the fabulous Rebecca Carter, this is always a hugely popular evening and one of the term's main fund raisers. Other events this term include the Sparkler Party in November, discos for the children and the traditional Christmas Fair in December. For more information about our events please check the parish notice boards.

Alison Thompson
Bentfield PTA Co-Chairman

Music in the Park 2006

"I felt so much younger afterwards!" - this was the lovely comment made by one of our charming neighbours who had thoroughly enjoyed our event from her prime position in the gardens of Hargrave House!

Last term finished with a flourish in the form of Bentfield's fifth Music in the Park. This year we had sold a record number of tickets in advance and the weather forecast was perfect. The sun shone for us. The bands, old and new, were fantastic! The audience was pretty special too, and created a wonderful atmosphere.

MITP débutants Reload and J-Treole were the first two bands of the day and set the tempo and the mood for a self-indulgent afternoon of soaking up good music, sunshine and the occasional panda pop.

At some point during the first hour or so you recognise that you will be drawn to the dance floor sooner or later, but inevitably. For some of us, it is always sooner!

Two bands who are MITP veterans of several years' standing appeared with rather altered line-ups. All of a Sudden had been rehearsing in school with the children of Class 6 and together they treated us to a very special performance of popular numbers such as "I'm a believer", "I predict a riot!" and the theme song from "Friends"! Now we were singing along and definitely ready for a bit of a boogie! A big thank you to Richard Smith and Rachel Croucher for all their work with the children.



Class 6 take centre stage

Another of our all-time favourite bands, Slow Time Mondays, played an excellent set with two guest artistes on lead guitar and drums. Their set list included several new numbers rehearsed especially for MITP and got a huge crowd up and dancing. You just can't help yourself, a couple of glasses of Pimms and a little sunshine, great live music - at some point you just have to kick off your shoes and join in!

The next band, Reflex, were appearing at MITP for the first time and, judging by the fantastic response they received, it

will probably not be their last appearance. They sounded and looked great and had a very distinctive style - and not just in the lead singer's shirt department! We look forward to seeing a lot more of this band at future events.



Jo Halladey brings glamour to Slow Time Mondays

The final band, Bamboo Loud, were also making their MITP debut. They clearly already have a strong local following and we were delighted to see a number of new faces in the audience as a result. Another excellent set had us all on our feet ready to dance the night away!



An unusual foreground for Hargrave House!

We would like to thank everyone who supported this event in any way; our local sponsors; our neighbours for their forbearance; Dick Pollard for being Dick Pollard; and the hundreds who came and joined in the fun!

Last, but absolutely not least, we want to thank the many volunteers who helped to make sure the day ran smoothly, whether by setting up on Friday or Saturday, by manning a stall or by clearing up the aftermath (always a fairly scary prospect!). We are delighted to report that we raised close to £4,000 towards the development of an outdoor classroom.

Alison Thompson
Co-Chair, Bentfield School PTA

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LARGER FLEAS HAVE SMALLER FLEAS UPON THEIR BACKS TO BITE THEM!



Well it seems like I've hardly finished removing grass seeds from dogs' paws than the other scourge of the summer is back. Fleas! I was happily stroking a rather nice Springer the other day, congratulating the owner on going a whole week without having to remove a grass seed from one paw or another when I felt a curious tickle on my hand. I looked down to see a small brown flea, and I could have sworn it smiled at me before 'pinging' off somewhere, which of course set me off itching for the rest of the day!

Fleas are a common problem in many species of animal and there are many species of flea. Dog fleas can live on cats and hedgehogs and other animals, cat fleas can live on dogs and rabbits and birds and so on and until recently I used to tell owners "Don't worry, fleas can't live on us, we haven't got the right sort of blood to enable them to reproduce". However, I was reading an article in a veterinary journal the other day and it seems I now have to change my advice. New research has shown that the flea species *pulex irritans*, which can infest dogs, cat and humans alike has been found in the UK. It was known to exist in other parts of the world but was not thought to be common in the UK; however a recent survey has found it to be present in increasingly larger numbers. Although the human flea is still not common, it can carry some pathogens, which may cause disease in humans and we should therefore be more thorough with our flea control.

So, the golden rules for flea control:

1. Get your flea control preparations from a vet. We can sell products that are more effective than supermarket and pet shop products
2. Treat all the animals in the house on the same day

3. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and repeat the treatment at the correct intervals
4. Treat the environment as well as the animals
5. Don't panic!

Other points to remember are that washing your pet or its bedding does not kill fleas it just makes them clean fleas! You will need a proper flea preparation to actually kill them. Flea powders, sprays and shampoos are all rather outdated now. The most effective products are the 'spot-on' products where you just apply the product to the skin on the back of the animal's neck.

If you need any advice about flea treatment, pop into the surgery or give Angela a ring. She or one of the nurses can talk you through what is most appropriate for your pet. We've stocked up on all the most effective flea products so we won't run out over the summer. There are even some preparations that are combined flea and worm 'spot-ons' so you can do two jobs in one. If you are still worried, book in to see one of the nurses and she will even apply the treatment to your pet for you. So, there are really no excuses now.

Happy scratching!

Ilse Pedler
Partner
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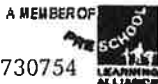
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Women's Section

The end of term was as busy as ever with the annual outing, this year to Linton Zoo, a trip to Elsenham Park, visits by the older children to their new schools and culminating in a teddy bears picnic.

The children moving up to primary school in September all seemed to enjoy their 'taster sessions' and we wish them all well as they move on. We also said goodbye to a member of staff, Mandy Honour, who worked at our extra Rainbow sessions at the Quaker Hall and wish her luck in her new job.

The extra Rainbow session team were surprised by a visit from OFSTED a few weeks ago and congratulations are in order as the care and experiences provided were classed as 'good' (which is praise indeed from OFSTED!).

The money raised this year has now been used to purchase a sunshade and a home corner house, which have both had a lot of use already. New committee members are now being sought. If you are interested please let someone at Rainbow know. 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 Purglove on 814701 for further information.

Kate Maginn (Rainbow Committee)

On 12th June we met at 105 Cambridge Road and enjoyed a river journey in the form of slides shown by Frances Spalding. About six years ago Frances and her sister flew to Moscow and took a two week river trip from Moscow to St Petersburg. We saw shots of all the well-known landmarks. In Moscow - St Basil's Cathedral, Red Square, the Kremlin Wall, Lenin's tomb, the Olympic Stadium and the Bolshoi Theatre etc etc. Many of the buildings were magnificent with their ornate architecture and beautiful minarets. On the Volga the ship passed through many locks and the passengers landed at Uglich, looked round the stalls and enjoyed a traditional Russian tea.

Many places had buildings made entirely of wood as, with so many trees in Russia, it is almost the only building material they have. In St Petersburg they saw St Isaac's Cathedral, the hermitage, the Pushkin Palace and the memorial to Nicolas II.

An enjoyable tea and a generous raffle with everybody winning a prize completed the afternoon.

Our next meeting will be at 3 St John's Lane on Monday 7th August at 2.15pm when Peter Brown will give us one of his interesting talks and on 25th September we meet at 2.15pm at 2 Clarence Road for our Annual Harvest Sale.

Pat Clower



**WORKERS'
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Save the Children

The Save the Children fund raising week comes in April, together with the Red Cross and Christian Aid weeks, and this year, due to lack of publicity, was largely ignored in Stansted, though some money was raised at the Carers Coffee Morning.

However, the needs of children worldwide are still acute. Ever since Eglantyne Jebb (founder of SCF) conceived the declaration on the rights of the child, now enshrined in the UN convention, SCF has campaigned tirelessly for all children everywhere. Where there is poverty and hunger, every three seconds, somewhere, a child dies. The problems don't go away - in droughts and conflicts, tsunamis and earthquakes, the SCF is in the forefront bringing relief for children and their families.

To help support this work a Coffee Morning will be held at the Day Centre on 18th October - all the usual attractions plus a selection from the SCF's own marketing supplies.

Our course for the autumn this year will be led by Paula Armstrong and is entitled 'How to look at paintings'. It is about reflecting, wondering and responding to paintings throughout the history of European Art. We will take examples from the Old Masters of the Italian, French, Dutch and English schools, the Impressionists and Twentieth Century Art. The course is aimed at learning to know what to look for in a painting, learning to feel confident when talking about a painting and how to enjoy a Gallery Art Exhibition.

The course will be held at 8.00pm in the Day Centre on Monday evenings starting on 25th September. Enrolment on the first evening is at 7.30pm. The full fee for the ten week course is £40, concessions £28. Please contact me for any further information.

Harold Thistle
Tel: 813250

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THE NOSTALGIA PAGE

We are giving Dick Pollard's entertaining reminiscences of Stansted's carnivals a miss in this issue in favour of an abridged account from the Herts and Essex Observer of 11th May 1935 in which the Jubilee festivities are described. We are grateful to Mrs Foster of Bentfield Bower for the loan of her copy.

STANSTED JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The whole day's programme went with a swing, the organisation being such that there was practically no hitch throughout. The proceedings starting fittingly with the merry ringing of the Church bells from 9 to 10 am followed by the ceremony of the planting of the oak tree on the Recreation Ground by Mr Arthur Findlay, Chairman of the Jubilee Committee, assisted by Mr James Friend. A large crowd, among which were many members of the committee, watched the planting and when Mr Findlay had declared the tree well and truly planted in commemoration of the King's Jubilee, three cheers were called for by Mr Findlay and were heartily given.

The Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's was relayed in St John's Church, the Memorial Ground and the Congregational Church, the reception in each place, where there were large attendances, being exceptionally clear.

At 1 pm the Carnival procession assembled in Lower Street and Stansted surpassed itself in an array of colour and original decoration and costumes of every description. There was a large number of entrants in all classes, the children especially having availed themselves with great delight of the chance of 'dressing up'. The procession made its way to Hargrave Park along the gaily decorated route, via Chapel Hill followed by a crowd larger than any seen in Stansted for many a long day - all entering with abandon into the spirit of the day's festivities. The ground having been eventually reached, the judging was completed.

The sports were an attractive feature and there were many entrants in the varied programme of children's races. The judges of the children's races were Mrs E Cawkell, Miss Harper, Messrs R Vercoe, C G Mason, W Gold and H Caton and the Starter was Mr A Johnson. Their part in the races being practically over, the children trooped off eagerly for their teas which were provided for the boys at the Assembly Room, Working Men's Club and for the girls at the Silver Street Schoolroom. Members of the committee and other volunteers helped with the serving of the refreshments.

In the evening various races for adults were run and an exciting tug-of-war resulted in a win for the Fire Brigade. There was also a boxing display, the combatants being
1) W Worton v K Florey, 2) Leslie Treacher v J Turner
3) H Turner v B Turner 4) W Rush v W Ratcliff (in fancy dress). The Fire Brigade's skilful display of various drills was an interesting feature.

After the presentation of the prizes in the evening for the various classes of fancy costume and the sports by Mrs Arthur

Findlay, Mr Findlay spoke a few words remarking that this was the end of a perfect day and he wished before separating to ask everyone to recognise the work which had been put in by the Jubilee Committee. It was impossible to mention all the names of the helpers, there were about 50, but two names stood out: they were those of Miss Molly Gold and their Secretary Mr C F Wells. To Miss Gold was due their thanks for the idea of the procession and the sports and also the dance which was being held and she had been principally responsible for their organisation. Mr Wells throughout the organisation of the whole thing had put in splendid work for weeks past. Mr Wells had been a most industrious secretary. The Vicar deserved a special word of thanks for the fine way he had acted as announcer. Thanks were also due to Mr P H Newbound for the use of the Park.

Miss Molly Gold presented Mrs Findlay with a bouquet of irises and carnations expressing thanks for her help in presenting the prizes. Mrs Findlay replied and called for a specially loud cheer for the work Miss Molly Gold had put in and also for Mr Wells for all that he had done to help to give them this memorable day. "We must be thankful" said Mrs Findlay "that we have such people in Stansted to organise and carry out such a programme."



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Up until this moment I have been sitting watching Wimbledon on the television and trying to stay cool. Then I realised I have things to do - namely remind you that there will not be another 'Link' before October and I must, therefore, tell you now what the History Society has in store for you when our new programme starts on Thursday 7th September at 8.00pm.

We are looking forward on that evening to hear Glyn Warwick tell us of the Stansted War Memorial and the men who fought in World War 1. We have been commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme this year and there will be a lot of interest in this subject. At the following meeting on 5th October our old friend, Robert Barltrop, will be talking about the Circus. He has many relatives in the circus profession so that we should be hearing the 'inside story'. The remainder of the year's programme will be available on the Membership Card at our first meeting.

In the meantime, I hope that you will be enjoying the summer and a bit of a break and we all look forward to seeing you in the new autumn season.

Ian Seavers

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SSE Endorses Call For Aviation Policy Rethink

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has given its endorsement to a national campaign calling for the Government's aviation policy to be scrapped which was launched on 27th June by AirportWatch – the alliance of national environmental campaign organisations and airport campaign groups.

The Rethink! campaign highlights the fact that the Government's drive to triple air transport activity by 2030 will accelerate climate change, damage the countryside and inflict traffic and noise misery on communities near to airports.

At Stansted, for example, BAA has recently applied for permission to increase the number of permitted flights on the airport's single runway and for the removal of any limit on passenger numbers. Such a move could see the current 22 million passengers a year more than double in the future if the application is approved by planning authority Uttlesford District Council. This would significantly worsen the pain already experienced by people across Herts, Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire as a result of the airport's operation. However, it is not just these counties, which are threatened as a result of the Government's expansion policy, but communities across the UK.

The timing of the campaign is significant since the Government is set to review its 2003 Air Transport White Paper this autumn. Rethink! aims to pile on the pressure by stimulating members of the public to raise their concerns through a simple online letter to Transport Minister Douglas Alexander, accessible at www.rethink.airportwatch.org.uk.

Said SSE's Campaign Director, Carol Barbone: "The Government's aviation policy is out of date and out of touch and the sooner the Transport Minister recognises that only a thorough rethink will do, the better. The more pressure that can be applied by people taking part in the letter writing initiative, the more the Government will have to take on board the need for a whole new approach to airport expansion."

The ten demands of the Rethink! campaign are as follows:

1. Rein back expansion so it is consistent with climate change targets. Aviation emissions must be reduced in line with national carbon quotas.
2. Revise demand forecasts. The review must recognise that rising oil prices will limit demand for air travel and growth forecasts should be revised accordingly.
3. Remove the tax-breaks the aviation industry enjoys. The aviation industry currently enjoys effective subsidies worth £9 billion in the form of annual UK tax exemptions through *not* paying fuel tax or VAT. These tax exemptions are likely to be removed by 2030 and growth forecasts should be adjusted accordingly.

4. Reassess air freight. Air is the most environmentally-damaging way of transporting goods, yet substantial tax breaks artificially inflate demand. The concept of Air Passenger Duty should be extended to freight to correct this.
5. Reduce the noise suffered by local communities. Almost half a million people suffer noise at or above recognised annoyance thresholds, and under White Paper proposals that number would rise to almost three quarters of a million. The review should commit to reducing both noise levels and the number of people exposed.
6. Respect the country's heritage, biodiversity and ancient woodlands. The review must abandon proposals that will destroy irreplaceable habitats and buildings.
7. Revisit rail. The review should examine rail as a substitute for short haul flights.
8. Revise the economic assessment of the aviation industry. The review should be based on an independent, factual assessment of aviation's contribution to the economy.
9. Review the big expansion plans for the UK airports. A mere progress report is not enough – the review needs to be a fundamental rethink of aviation policy.
10. Rethink! the approach. Aviation policy must change – business as usual is not an option.

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