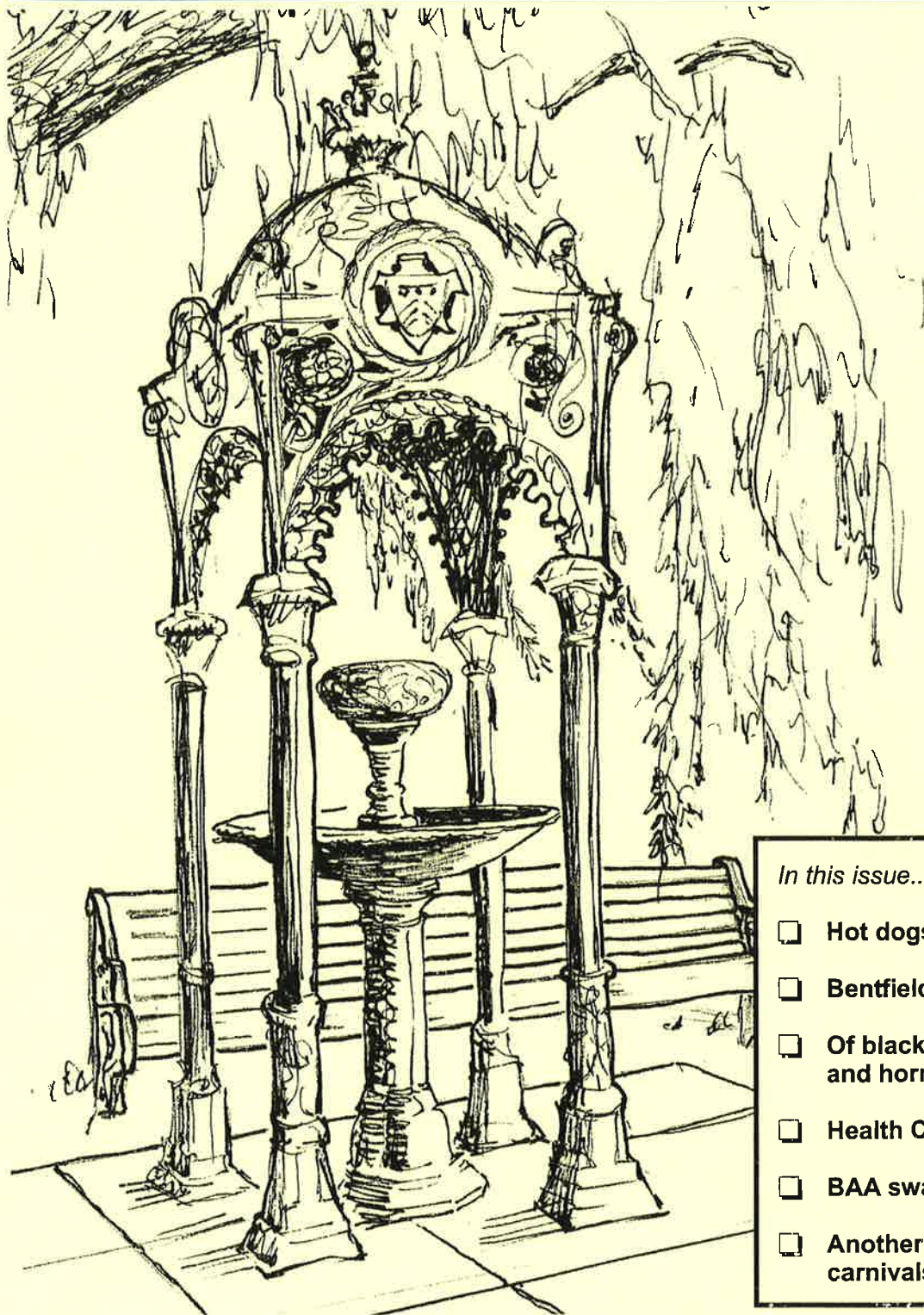


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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Rector's Diary

24th May

Cathedral Chapter House for a meeting about ministry among refugees with Nick Sagovsky from Westminster Abbey. I was there because I was trying to understand the issues surrounding the idea of a refugee centre near the airport. Much of the afternoon was spent listening to stories of families who struggled with their newly-acquired English telling stories which brought them to England. There were some mothers there, particularly from the Balkans.

Interestingly they had always told the authorities the truth about where they came from which is why they now waiting to have their status reviewed by the Home Office. If they had lied, they would be citizens by now.

I was struck by how hard-working they were, and how they were entirely free of resentment of malice, despite being shoved from pillar to post by government systems which have little idea what these people have had to deal with, and who have no idea what it does to a family to live under constant threat of deportation.

25th May—Ascension

My last Ascensiontide service with the Huw Johnson club. I'd prepared a sermon, rather half-heartedly because Ascension doesn't really resonate with me much.

But the Huw Johnson club have this way of being able to draw things out of you that you didn't know you knew; it's happened a couple of times before, so I just blathered from the lectern. Some emotional hugs and farewells, and then I went back to my study to write down what I'd said while I still remembered it.

6th June

All these years I've never been to the Chelmsford Cathedral Theological Society. I went tonight because my friend James talking about his new book. James is a former Dominican and one of the most creative theologians around today. Rowan Williams cited two of James' books in his top ten of contemporary theologians a few years ago.

About 10pm we piled into a curry house, four priests, a theological student and a nun. I quite warmed to the idea of keeping a nun out late.

We talked about Ratzinger. I was one of the people who groaned inwardly when Ratzinger was made Pope. As long as I've known James, he's always said I should take him seriously. In fact James recommends Ratzinger's introduction to Christianity from his radical phase in the sixties which, James reckons, 'has something of the Paris barricades about it'.

One of Ratzinger's chief qualities, according to James, is his ability to dialogue. When John Paul appointed a conservative successor to a left-wing bishop in Latin America, the new bishop shadowed the old one for a year and, through their work together among the poor, the new bishop was converted to a vision quite different from the one he had been appointed for. Word of this went back to Rome and he was hastily and summarily reassigned. When Ratzinger became Pope he made a point of embracing this very bishop at a Synod. James thinks Ratzinger will surprise us.

18th June

A quiet Sunday afternoon at the Henry Moore Foundation in Perry Green took me back to the heady days thirty years ago of Art 'A' level and many an evening life drawing in Bournville

St John's Diary

Sunday

8:00am said Holy Communion

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

Preaching Series in July

2nd 9:30am This big heavy thing

Sometimes to find God we have to lay down this big heavy thing called our religion. AS

9th 9:30am Time with God

Getting to know God through being fully present with him – something we call prayer. How this habit becomes the means by which we are gradually transformed and freed to trust God and his goodness and power. CMC

16th 9:30am This space is too big

What happens in prayer when you're stuck for conversation. AS

23rd Changing relationships, church and society

How the transformation wrought through a habit of prayer spreads outwards to change relationships, communities and society. Breaking cycles of sin and suffering through letting God's transforming action become available in the places where we are. CMC

Art School opposite the Cadbury factory. The Cadbury family were Puritans and so Bournville is entirely pub-free. We used to turn out at 9pm and blag our way into the Cadbury workers' social club, which was the only place to get a pint before lugging our portfolios onto the number 11 bus home.

You have to book in advance to go to the Moore museum now, as they're still smarting from one of the larger bronzes being lifted from under their noses.

The sculptures are massive and recall Cubist forms and there are echoes of primitive art in there too. I don't know enough about Moore to know what the influences were. Set in the gardens they say something different to the context for which they were intended. The impassive flat faced city blocks of the mid-twentieth century made a counterpoint to Moore's sensual, and even carnal forms as if nature was thumbing its nose at progress.

21st June

A mad dash to get William to school before tearing over to St Mary's to set up the PA for Steve Fischbacher and friends who were down from Edinburgh to spend the day there.

Steve is part of a group I was on the periphery of in the early 80's when we all lived in Edinburgh. It was a good time to be in the church and it was when being a Christian was cool. It produced people like David Heavener who went on to do religious drama with Riding Lights Theatre Company, Ricky Ross who fronted the band Deacon Blue, and Andy Thornton, and I've lost count of all the ways he has been a gift to the church over the years.

Steve and his team move into schools for the day and do workshops of self-esteem, bullying with lots of mime and mad, catchy music which you find yourself humming afterwards. (www.fischy.com) That evening they played in St John's and I don't think there was a child who did not venture down to the front to do the actions in the songs. I even saw a former church warden dancing with my wife playing air trumpet.

AS

From the Registers

Wedding

12th Katherine Smy to James Hayter

Funerals

9th Ada Mellin, age 91 - at Parndon Wood

10th Stanley Robert Clarke, age 90 - at St. John's

The Rector will be leaving here to become Vicar of two parishes: Evesham and Norton-with-Lenchwick in the Diocese of Worcester

The family moves on August 15th and his last service in Stansted will be the 9:30 communion service on August 13th

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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 Saturday 3rd June Catholics from St Theresa's, St Joseph's, Bishop's Stortford, and St Andrew's, Much Hadham, joined over 200 people of different faiths in the annual Westminster Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace. This year it took place in the north-east area of the diocese.

The Interfaith Pilgrimage was started 21 years ago by Catholics from the Arch Diocese of Westminster. In the introduction to this year's programme, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor wrote "The annual event expresses the commitment of the Catholic Church to the promotion of inter-religious dialogue. It is especially important to promote a dialogue of love in local situations, so that communities can reflect together on basic needs and aspirations and community cohesion."

This was certainly evident in the very crowded programme of the day: visiting a Buddhist Temple, two Sikh Gurdwaras, a Mosque, a shared Christian Church, a Coptic Cathedral in building progress and a Community Hall where we were greeted by both Hindus and Bahais. At each stop, we were given insights into the main tenets of the faiths involved and of their principles of worship. We were also treated to tremendous hospitality with food and drink at each stop!

Bishop James O'Brien, speaking to the pilgrims of all faiths at the Focolare Centre at Welwyn Garden City, said, "This day is one of my favourites of the year. It gladdens my heart to see so many people walking in a harmony which the world is so in need of. The hospitality we have received is overwhelming. Hans Kung wrote that there will never be world peace until there is peace between the world's religions." This wonderful day was a step towards this process. We were privileged to be part of it.

David Morson

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58 Chapel Hill
Tel: 01279 812593

Preachers for July

2nd 2.30pm Rev'd David Simpson
9th 10.30am Mrs K Brady
16th 10.30am Rev'd David Simpson
Communion with Methodists
23rd 10.30am Mr M Render with Methodists
30th 10.30am Mr G Doyle

Dates for your diary in July

2nd 3.30pm Afternoon Tea.
For lifts telephone 813977 or 812593
3rd 6.00pm Pilots for children 5-13 years.
For information telephone 813433
8th 0.00am Pilots Coffee Morning (see below)
10th 8.00pm Shalom in Lecture Hall. All welcome
17th 2.30pm Monday Club
For information telephone 815137
17th 6.00pm Pilots for children 5-13 years.
For information telephone 813433

Pilot News

Pilots, who meet on alternate Monday evenings, have enjoyed a number of activities connected with Water Aid and Guide Dogs for the Blind. They have painted pictures in oils and watercolours, made prayer and story books, watched videos about Water Aid and Elephant Pumps, and have seen how children in other parts of the world have to struggle for many of the basic necessities that children in this country take for granted.

The Pilots themselves are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 8th July from 10.00am to noon in the Lecture Hall, to help raise funds for the organisations mentioned above. Please support them in their efforts.

Valerie Trundle
Tel: 813433



Well done to everyone who helped raise £1,700 in Christian Aid Week. This was from the market stalls and the house to house envelope collection. This sum will be boosted by tax reclaimed from those donations where the donor made a tax declaration on the envelope.

Thank you to all who contributed to this success.

METHODIST

Meets in Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Minister Rev'd Keith Page
2 South Road
Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 01279 654475

Secretary Mrs Catherine Dean
49 Recreation Ground
Stansted
Tel: 01279 813579

Email methodists@stansted.net

All services start at 9.30am unless otherwise stated

Services and preachers for July

2nd 2.30pm Rev'd David Simpson at the URC (no service at the Meeting House)
9th 9.30am Jean Hay at the Meeting House
16th 10.30am Rev'd David Simpson
Communion at the URC
23rd 10.30am Michael Render at the URC
30th 10.30am Mr G Doyle at the URC

A reminder that our minister, Rev'd Keith Page, will be on sabbatical during July and August. If you need a minister during this time, please contact Rev'd David Simpson on 504900.

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579



SHALOM

On Monday 10th July at the United Reformed Church Hall, Ruth Rawlinson will introduce a recorded talk by Father Richard Rohr, entitled 'Everything is Gift'.

On Monday 24th July at 7 Blythwood Gardens, Yvonne Dyer will talk about her work training teachers in Rwanda.

All meetings start at 8.00pm. Why not join us?

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

Catherine Dean

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

Quakers were horrified by the Government's now-abandoned proposals called 'Preventing Extremism in Places of Worship'. To suggest creating new powers that would criminalise those responsible for a place of worship if they failed to prevent 'extremist' activity was against the very atmosphere of trust that is needed if we are to encourage dialogue between people of different faiths. Quakers want to encourage open discussion, not fear and censorship. Since 9/11 and 7/7 inter-faith understanding has been ever more necessary but ever more problematic. It's a delicate plant that will not thrive in the tension and fear of repressive legislation. It needs the fertile soil of mutual understanding, which starts with the desire to listen and learn.

It is possible that the Quaker approach of open dialogue could help to improve the relationship between faiths. We Quakers are an oddity in religious terms because we have no creed, no hierarchy of authority, and no external text. We read the Bible and other religious books for inspiration and instruction but not as scripture. Our book 'Quaker Faith and Practice' is a cross between a theological anthology and a spiritual DIY manual. It is revised every generation both to include more recent writings and to re-discover older writings that have acquired modern relevance. The crucial factor is that these pieces arise from the experience of Quakers. They are not the word of God but stories of our experience of God. This gives us the freedom to offer a space where other faiths can meet in safety- a vital role in these troubled times.

A book has recently been published called 'Patterns and Examples', in which a dozen Quakers describe their experiences of other faiths. One Quaker writes about Buddhist meditation, another about Hindu worship, others of Jewish family rituals, another about the current pagan revival, and a Muslim tells how he sometimes joins his wife at Quaker worship and offers his view on why the peaceful message of Islam has got buried under recent political upheavals.

The relatively neutral forum the Quakers can offer is backed by centuries of peace making. It is also supported by the advice to "seek the truth which other people's opinions may contain for you" and "think it possible that you may be mistaken".

In 1693 William Penn wrote:
"The humble, meek, merciful, pious and devout souls are everywhere of one religion; and when death has taken off the mask they will know one another, though the diverse liveries they wear here makes them strangers."

Anthea Lee
*(after an article by Alison Leonard,
a contributor to 'Patterns and Examples')*



During the first half of term the children were really busy reading and acting out the story of the 'Three Little Pigs'. They learned about the properties of different materials used in the building of the three pigs' houses and some of the children went for a walk around the village to collect items for their wall display. They have visited the local fire station to learn about fire safety and have been practising what to do in a fire drill. They talked about post-offices, played in the home corner which was transformed into one, and visited Elsenham post-office where they posted letters home. The current topic is the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff', and the children have already been for a walk around the village to look at bridges and how they are constructed. Those children starting primary school in September are also looking forward to visiting their new schools in the next few weeks.

All the children participated in a sponsored cake bake, which raised a fabulous £320. Our 'Chinese Auction' fundraiser was a great success, raising £745. Thanks to all those parents and staff who donated unwanted gifts, and a special mention must go to two local businesses, Qudos Photographic Studio and Barnet Fayre, for their very generous donations. The money raised will pay for a permanent sunshade that allows the children to use the outside space in the hot weather and also for a new playhouse frame for the home corner.

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.

Kate Maginn, Rainbow Committee

RED CROSS WEEK, MAY 2006

May I thank all those people who so kindly gave their time to collect for this very worthwhile cause and everyone in the village who contributed so generously. We raised the record sum of £1303.86.

In addition to that good news, once again Christine Stiles very kindly hosted a coffee morning during the week at which we raised £123.06. I would like to give special thanks to Christine for her kindness in organising the morning in her home and also to all those people who donated raffle prizes and cakes. It was a very happy occasion and has given us the grand total of £1426.92.

Diana Pelly

MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN ...

I'm writing this at the end of another hot sticky June day. I know that summer has really arrived when we get the first few baby birds brought in, the first dog with heat stroke and we remove the first grass seeds from some part of a dog's anatomy. Well this particular week I already felt like I'd hit the jackpot. On Monday morning there was not one but two baby pigeons waiting for me. On Tuesday I removed a grass seed from a Springer Spaniel's paw, and, yes, it's invariably Springers that seem to act like a magnet for grass seeds, just like it's Labradors that seem to eat things that get stuck in their intestines!

Wednesday however seemed to be more routine; I had finished morning surgery and the ops in good time and had turned the kettle on and was just reaching for the chocolate biscuits. However suddenly the peace was shattered: the front door burst open, there was a scream of "Help me!" and a young man staggered through the door carrying what at first glance appeared to be a small pony. Both young man and unidentified beast collapsed on the floor in the waiting room, where, once we had disentangled the various limbs and bodies, we could see that we had a young man in full England strip and a wheezing St Bernard dog with rather a blue tongue. "We was just playing football, and he came over funny" the young man said. I looked out of the waiting room window at the cloudless sky, the blazing sun, the tarmac melting quietly on the pavements and said "You were playing football, just now, in this heat?" "Yeah, he likes a game of football" the young man replied.

We managed to drag the St Bernard into the prep room, where we hosed him down with cool water, gave him oxygen, put a fan on him and covered him in cold wet towels. Hannah, one of our nurses, took his temperature twice just to be certain; she'd never seen the mercury go right to the end of the thermometer before! Once the dog was out of danger and his tongue was returning to a more normal shade of pink, I explained to the young man that St Bernards were great dogs and pretty amazing at rescuing climbers from snowy mountainsides in Switzerland; however they were not ideally suited to playing football in the midday sun in the middle of summer. Even David Beckham and the rest of the England squad had found it pretty hard going in their first match!

The good news is that the St Bernard survived; the bad news is that Hannah and I got soaking wet and never did get round to our cup of tea and more importantly the chocolate biscuits! However, I hope the young man got the message. In the summer take your dogs for a walk early in the morning or later in the evening. Make sure there is access to lots of drinking water and never ever, ever leave dogs in cars in the summer. If your dog pants excessively, becomes unsteady on its feet or its tongue looks a little blue, try to cool it down immediately by putting it in a cold bath or covering it with cold wet towels and putting a fan on it. Call the vet immediately for advice as the dog may well need to be seen at the surgery. Avoid the use of ice packs as they can freeze the skin; using ice can also cause the capillaries in the skin to constrict, and you want them to dilate for maximum heat exchange. And last but not least, leave playing football to the professionals!

Ilse Pedler,
Partner, Mercer & Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



Huw Johnson Club

I should be writing about the lovely time we all had on our holiday at Pontins but the death of one of our members – in fact one of our most popular members, Gavin Madge, in a road accident the day after we came home, has left us all grief-stricken and numb. It is so hard to believe that only 24 hours before he and Nick were pushing a trolley around Pontins collecting all our luggage and loading up the coach.

Gavin was the Club comedian and he frequently stole the show at our Club concerts. His most memorable was as Elvis in our production of 'Stars in their Eyes'. His brother Gary will sorely miss him as they lived together in Saffron Walden. Gary is also disabled and he relied a great deal on Gavin. Gavin was in love with another of our members, Stephanie, but I know that our members will all support Gary and Stephanie in the difficult days ahead. Gavin had a lovely time during the holiday and we are glad that his last week of life was so enjoyable. We will never forget him or his fun.

Rest in peace Gavin.

Marion G Johnson

GARDENING TIPS FOR JULY

If your tomato plants look pale and anaemic with yellow leaves, give them a drink of Epsom salts (2oz to a gallon of tepid water). Epsom salts are also good for irises; sprinkle the crystals around the rhizomes now and you will have a good display next year.



Dead head summer bedding every day to encourage more flowers and pinch out the top of plants that have become long and spindly; side shoots will quickly appear giving the plant a healthier more attractive shape.

Many accidents occur each year in the garden, some fatal. Many are related to shocks from hedge trimmers, mowers and other power tools. Always make sure you have a power breaker and wear goggles for strimming or shredding.

SNIPPETS

For some time the condition of Stansted's roads showed a marked improvement. However the present state of Stoney Common prompts me to reinstate The Great Stansted Pothole Contest, of which this road is the month's unchallenged winner. Perhaps it is part of a deeper plan to reduce traffic speeds. If so, it certainly succeeds.

Stansted is blessed by having pleasant approaches. Of particular note are the well-maintained grounds of Brooklands on the B1383. Congratulations. Attractive environs give the whole village a lift from which we all benefit.

Editor



Pilots Coffee Morning

Sat 8th July 10 am - noon
United Reformed Church Hall

All proceeds go towards
water pumps for the Third World
and Guide Dogs for the Blind

Please support the Pilots in their new venture



Stansted & District
National Childbirth Trust

Table Top Nearly New Sale

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2.30 - 4 pm Sat 8th July
St John's Church Hall

For more information tel 851187

UGLEY GARDEN FETE

2 - 4 pm Sat 8th July

New this year

'King Arthur' and 'Lady Guinevere'
with their history tent
Stansted Fire Engine
Dog Show ~ Ugley Beauty Parlour
Plus all the usual stalls and sideshows
**... in the lovely gardens at
The Cottage, Snakes Lane**

VILLAGE EVENTS

July

2 Sun	Fun Run Windmill Open Afternoon Tea (after service)	Bentfield Green 11 am 2 - 6 pm UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm Day Centre 8 pm
5 Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
8/9 Sat/Sun	Skips	URC Hall 10 am - noon Day Centre noon - 2 pm Cottage, Snakes La 2 - 4 pm St John's Hall 2.30 - 4 pm
8 Sat	Pilots Coffee Morning Lib Dem Ploughman's Ugley Garden Fête NCT Table Top Sale	2 - 6 pm URC Hall 8 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm Bentfield School 2 - 8 pm Chantry Hall, Henham 7.30 pm Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
9 Sun	Gardens Open	Wilford Hse 6 for 6.30pm 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm The Old Bell 1 for 1.30 pm
10 Mon	Shalom Group	
13 Thu	WI	
15 Sat	Music in the Park Lib Dem Summer Evening	
22/23 Sat/Sun	Skips	
23 Sun	Manuden Glyndebourne	
24 Mon	Shalom Group	
26 Wed	Stansted Lunch Club	

August

5/6 Sat/Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm 2 - 6 pm
6 Sun	Windmill Open Afternoon Tea (after service)	UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm Day Centre noon - 2 pm
12 Sat	Lib Dem Ploughman's	7 Blythwood Gdns from 3pm
13 Sun	Lib Dem Strawberry Tea	

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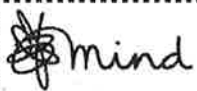
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BENTFIELD SCHOOL

The school year is, as always, running away with us. The better weather means that our children can be out and about enjoying their education in the sunshine.

We all had great fun in Mathematics Week. Each of the classes, from Nursery up to Year 6, went bowling in Bishop's Stortford. This meant they could experience mathematics in action. They travelled there and back by train, and had a special dinner cooked for them back at school. This was just one of the great range of activities put on during the week. Parents were not left out as a special evening activity was aimed at them – a fun maths challenge for all the family!

Many of the Year 6 children have been busy learning both the Highway Code and how to become proficient bike riders by taking their cycling proficiency tests. You may have seen them out and about in their bright fluorescent jackets!!

Dave Lowe from the rail company ONE tackled the question of railway safety with a visit to classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 to make them aware of potential dangers.

Classes 1 and 2 paid a very enjoyable visit to Aklowa in Takeley to learn more about African culture, and to have an opportunity to play the drums and dress in African costume. As always this was a lively and stimulating day.

Every year our choir, along with others in the area, attends the Music Festival at Newport Free Grammar School. It's lovely that the schools can get together in this way to put on a very professional production. Our sports teams have been busy too, taking advantage of the good weather, with Rounders, netball and cricket matches.

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. It's not too late 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

Outdoor Classroom Development

Earlier this year the PTA agreed to fund the development of an underused area next to the main playground. We established that the school's requirements were for a sheltered outdoor classroom/performance area which could be used throughout the year for work and play. The area will be versatile and accessible to all of our children, with ramps designed to give access to children using wheelchairs and standing frames. As well as being a useful practical addition to the school environment, this exciting new space will stimulate a whole range of creative activities – with so many

imaginative teachers and children around the sky's the limit! We sought quotes from companies specialising in the design and installation of timber structures for schools and look forward to announcing the completion of this development in a future edition of the 'Link'!

Music in the Park – Saturday 15th July Live music 2.00pm-8.00pm (Gates open at 1.30pm)

We are delighted to invite you to join us at our FIFTH annual Music in the Park! As in previous years, this year's musical extravaganza will take place in the school's lovely parkland setting against the stunning backdrop provided by our neighbours at Hargrave House.

We have booked an excellent line-up of local bands, including popular MITP veterans, the *Slow Time Mondays*. We are also very pleased to welcome back *Educated Dropouts*, the excellent young band who were a big hit last year. Their drummer, Stuart, will also be playing with his dad's band, *Bamboo Loud*, who join us for the first time. We are also delighted to have booked two more great bands to complete your afternoon's entertainment - *Reload* and *Reflex*. Sit back and chill, or kick off your shoes and dance – you know you want to!

One of our all-time favourites *All of a Sudden* will be taking part again, but this year they are joining forces with children from Class 6 for a very new look line-up! The school choir and musicians will also be performing, and Classes 5 and 6 will entertain us with numbers from this summer's production.

There will be not one, not two, not three, but FOUR barbecues to cater for every taste: vegetarian food, burgers, hot-dogs and lamb-filled pittas - remember them from last year? It's worth coming for them alone! Head for the bar for draught beer, lager or wine - and it just wouldn't be the same without a jug of Pimms to share with your friends.

Of course, you will also be able to buy bottles of water and soft drinks, as well as popcorn and ice cream for the young and young at heart. If you are wondering how you would keep your children entertained while you are soaking up the music and the atmosphere, we have thought of that too! Look out for the bouncy castle and a large play area dedicated to activities for our younger visitors, including giant Jenga, face painting, Connect 4, table tennis and the football shootout.

Please come and join in the fun and help us to make the fifth Music in the Park the biggest and best yet!! Tickets cost £7.50 in advance / £8.50 on the day and are available from the school office or by calling Alison Thompson on 01279 816188.

Alison Thompson PTA Co-Chairman



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Nature Notes

As many of you will have realised by now, I am not a botanist nor an ornithologist nor, indeed, an expert in any field. I am just someone who is fascinated by the variety and relationships in nature and I usually talk here about what I have seen in the garden or whilst out walking during the previous month. Hopefully this encourages others to take an interest and develop an understanding of what is going on all around us.

On a hot afternoon last week the sparrowhawk was on its routine patrol at treetop height when it came upon a thermal, probably started by the heat off the road. It circled in the rising air current and in less than a minute it soared to become a small speck high in the sky without using a single wing beat. From that vantage point it could survey the whole of its territory and reach any point in seconds with a long, fast glide. Two days later, some miles away, I watched two small birds harass a kestrel. At another time probably that same kestrel was harassing a buzzard, which had intruded on its space. In both instances the larger birds took avoiding action and moved on.

A pair of blackcaps nested and raised their young in the garden this year. They are secretive and insignificant little birds and difficult to identify unless one perches conveniently close by. I was not aware of the nest until the eggs hatched and the constant coming and going of feeding started. The blackcap will hang on flimsy branches like a bluetit to find small grubs and occasionally will fly off a perch and back again taking flies on the wing like a flycatcher. The flycatchers have not turned up this year.

With all the young birds growing up there are lots of squabbles and chases, which often result in one of them crashing into a window. Sometimes this proves fatal, but generally the birds are only stunned and recover after a while, perhaps a little wiser.

We have had visits from royalty. A queen wasp decided to have a change from our roof space and built her nest in the shed. An old queen bee arrived one afternoon with her swarm and settled under a big branch. What a commotion! Once they had settled down an enterprising blackbird darted up to pick bees off the bottom of the swarm. What I assumed to be a queen hornet came nosing around in the dark corners of the garage. There has been an ordinary-sized hornet around recently, but this one was most impressive. Having been stung by hornets I was glad when it decided that our accommodation was not up to scratch.

As dusk was falling the other evening two foxes sat on a grassy area by a small wood calmly watching me pass by about 50 yards away. This acceptance of my presence was unusual but more surprising was the fact that several rabbits were grazing only 20 yards from them. They must have been urban foxes from nearby Bishop's Stortford, which had come out for a quiet evening in the country!

Where the airport spur line divides and joins the main railway line along Stansted Brook there is a sizeable lake, which used to attract a lot of birds. When I visited recently it was very quiet with a few ducks and several of what I assumed to be large carp grovelling through the muddy shallows with their backs out of the water looking for worms. All the trees and shrubs planted when the lake was formed are now well established and it should be a pleasant place, but there is obviously pollution from somewhere. The area does seem to be a dumping ground for all sorts of stuff. However, by the path leading from the lake towards the motorway there is a Ragged Robin growing. At first glance this looks like a very scruffy Red Campion and is uncommon these days.

So there we are; it is all out there and this is a perfect time of the year to go and explore.

Felix.



Pl. 24. Ragged Robin. (p. 273)
Lychnis Fies-orealis. CARYOPHYLLACEAE.



Pl. 19. Red Campion. (p. 271)
Melandrium dioicum. CARYOPHYLLACEAE.

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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

I think we can safely say that 'June was busting out all over' on the evening of our meeting - very welcome after a disappointing month of May. If members weren't on holiday they came along to hear our speaker for the evening, Derek Treadgall, and to catch up with friends.

Firstly, it was reported that the five Institutes in our Group each received nearly £13 profit from our recent Spring Group Meeting, which was held in Elsenham. On that occasion our speaker was Michael Bentinck, an author and broadcaster who speaks on various topics relating to World War 2. War-time women was his theme, a group of people often overlooked when war is mentioned - nurses, factory workers and, of course, the Land Army girls. He had some amusing stories to tell which had been related to him by those doing 'their bit' during the war. His books of poetry and memories raise funds for several charities. It is always good to get together with our neighbouring Institutes and over 90 women gathered there. Next year it will be held in Berden, a fairly new Institute in our Group and we look forward to visiting them for the first time.

Derek Threadgall's talk was entitled 'Fun at the Flicks' and began with reminding us how the name 'flicks' came about - from the little flicker books that were produced in the 1920s which made things appear to move. The man who invented these went on to make a very large fortune and to own the land on which the Shepperton Studios were later built. He asked how many of us went to Saturday morning pictures, which had been set up initially by the J. Arthur Rank Organisation, when it was found that overcrowding at adult film shows had led to some dreadful accidents involving quite small children. Saturday morning pictures were for unaccompanied children and the cinema staff looked after them. At its peak there were over a million of them attending and clubs were formed. Many of us were among them, though sadly we couldn't remember the club songs. Some clubs had choirs and even performed at the Albert Hall. Most cinema shows consisted of cartoons, a feature film and, of course, a serial, so that you all came back the next week. It was a good nostalgic evening and he was thanked by Linda Gurr.

Members were asked to get out the knitting needles again to do some squares for the charity 'Feed the Children'. We have three blankets already completed and have decided to support them this year. They are mostly sent out to Africa.

In May two groups went at different times to the Queen's Theatre for a backstage tour and performance of 'Les Misérables'. This was an exciting trip and we had a fascinating insight into the cramped and dark conditions behind stage. We were given a very comprehensive talk and were allowed to walk about the stage and marvel at the scenery in use. We were also shown a lot of the costumes which are not used now; these proved to be incredibly heavy and beautifully made. After lunch we went back to see the show. I was one of the few who hadn't seen it before and I loved it; the sing-

ing is just beautiful. Sitting a few rows in front of us in the Dress Circle were Dawn French and Alison Moyet - they were appearing in a play called 'Smaller' just up the road - busman's holiday so to speak!

Next month, Canon John Howden is coming to talk on 'Life With Auntie', which may of course be his relative or the BBC - come along and find out.

Judy Colliver



Stansted Open Gardens

Once again, thanks to the generosity of Stansted's gardeners, 15 gardens will be open to the public between 2.00pm and 6.00pm on Sunday 9th July. This is the seventh year of this event, and as usual there is a wide range of gardens to be seen, large and small, from cottage to Mediterranean, providing ideas and inspiration - and all for £4.00 per person (accompanied children free).

As in previous years there is a mixture of old favourites and new - six which are opening for the first time. In some of the gardens refreshments will be available, and in others a variety of items will be on sale.

FIFA have kindly agreed to delay the kick off of the World Cup final until after the gardens have closed! Programmes will be on sale at Crafton Green on the day, can be purchased from the participating gardens, or may be obtained in advance from any HEAL committee member. Further information from 813710 or 813871. We look forward to seeing you!

Ian Neville

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The Council has identified four priorities for the period April 2006 to May 2007. These are:

- Implementing the Council's Recycling Strategy
- Dealing with the proposals for the expansion of Stansted Airport and other developments
- User Focus and Community Engagement
- Progressing the Council's Integrated Customer Management process

The Integrated Customer Management process represents a radical change in the way the Council operates. This will come on stream by the end of the year and should bring about significant improvements for the Council's customers together with a reduction in costs. The key feature is the establishment of a customer service centre, which will deal with 80% of all customer enquiries at first point of contact.

Next Area Panel meeting

This will be held at Clavering Village Hall on Thursday 7th September. It will commence at 7.00pm, and during the first half hour there will be an opportunity for members of the public to raise any issue they wish. Inspector Jim Shaw has agreed to talk about policing in Uttlesford. Other issues will be grants, local development framework and Stansted Airport. The meetings so far have been informative; but in order to be successful they need your participation. If you have views on what the Council should or should not be doing, come along and air them.

Cllr Alan Dean

Tel: 813579

cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Cllr Geoffrey Sell

Tel: 815925

cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

STOP PRESS! The new Uttlesford web site on what's happening at Stansted Airport will go live by the start of July at www.stanstedexplained.info

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If you care about housing, shops, jobs and transport you need to get involved in shaping the new development plan for the district by completing the questionnaire to be found in the latest issue of 'Uttlesford Life' distributed to households in the second half of June. Your views will help to shape the framework, which will determine the planning policies for Uttlesford.

As a thank you for your time and effort we are giving one lucky reader a £100 shopping voucher, to be used with any local retailer, in a prize draw after the consultation closing date. For further information phone the planning policy team on 01799 510454 or 510461 or visit the Council website on www.uttlesford.gov.uk.

Sarah Nicholas, Senior Planning Officer
Uttlesford District Council

Moving Forward

The needs of our growing community are being addressed. At our last Area Panel meeting in May the speaker from Uttlesford Primary Care Trust made it clear that a new surgery and clinic for Stansted was very much a priority for them. The PCT has been in active negotiation for a number of months in securing a site for these new facilities despite the local primary care trust being merged with the PCTs for Epping Forest and Harlow later this year. We must hope Uttlesford PCT's optimism, given at a recent meeting of Uttlesford's area panel, is borne out and not lost in attempts to make up for the major health service deficits we have read so much about in recent months.

Returning a post office to the village has always been high on many people's agendas. It seems that it should become reality by the autumn. Barring last minute hitches Y & Z minimarket in Chapel Hill should be our new post office.

Essex Police has reorganised policing in Uttlesford and created Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the district. Stansted has a Sergeant Tim Enstone, together with five police officers and two community support officers. The station covers all the smaller villages around Stansted. I hope that these improvements will make a real difference. The Chief Constable has pledged that the police station will be open to the public for longer than at present.

Recycling

The new three-bin system will bring about a steep change in recycling rates. For years Uttlesford has been achieving rates with the green and black box system of mid teens to low twenties as a percentage of what we chuck out each week. This system will never achieve recycling of 50% and higher. One of the main components that is still going to landfill and not being recycled from most homes is waste food. Over one-third of today's waste collected from homes in Uttlesford is raw fruit and vegetables and cooked and prepared food. A few people do compost this at home, but most don't. This 'wet waste' can no longer be buried in landfill tips if the damaging gases that it produces are to be eliminated. In fact, the extra materials that will be removed for composting by the new three-bin system should be a massive extra 45% of what the Council takes away! The amount of compostable waste per person is amazingly just short of a quarter of a tonne each year. That is the scale of the problem that has to be addressed.

The Council has freely accepted that there will be some properties that do not have a suitable place to accommodate three wheelie bins. That is why every household is being consulted by letter and questionnaire on their circumstances. If they have a genuine case, they will be able to stay with something like the existing scheme. Every property where the householder has a concern will be treated on its merits.

There will be an exhibition in Stansted on the new wheelie bin scheme on 6th July from 9.00am to 12.30pm at the Lower Street car park.



Members of the Local History Society at their June visit to Hatfield House

Photograph courtesy of Ken McDonald

Stansted Tennis Club



Tournaments

Twelve players competed for the Boyd Trophy, which took place on Sunday 11th June. After the round-robin and semi-finals, the final was won convincingly by John Bitten and Ben Taplin, who defeated Kevin Hutchinson and Charlie Kirby 6-2. It is good to see Ben and Charlie doing so well, as they are both still only 14 and are now competing competently with the adults.

The Clower Girls' singles tournament had to be cancelled due to poor weather. The new date will be Sunday 9th July, 12.45pm start.

More dates for your diary (forthcoming events)

Sunday 16th July - Junior Bristow Doubles Tournament
12.45pm start
Sunday 23rd July - Wilby Tournament 1.30pm for 2.00pm

Club Tournament and Hospital Cup

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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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ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

I write today with great concern as we hear the news of the brutal bombing of a bus in Sri Lanka where 60 people have been killed and many more injured; and this has been followed by the Government forces carrying out air strikes on areas in the north of the country held by Tamil separatist rebels. It seems clear that the tit for tat violence is set to bring this beautiful country once again to the brink of civil war. Who knows where the truth in all the claim and counter claim lies, the LTTE (Tamil Tigers) have denied involvement in the bus bombing, and how will the government gain by bombing innocent people living in the extremely deprived conditions which prevail in the north of the country? Whatever the answer, it is self evident that the recent events can only serve to push further towards the end of the fragile cease fire between the Sinhalese Government and the Tamil separatists, who want home rule for the North East of the country. That is a travesty for a country, which has already suffered more than 20 years of brutal civil war followed by the huge loss of life in the tsunami of December 2004.

You may ask what all this has to do with Essex County Council and the answer is a very great deal. Following the tsunami in early 2005 the UK Local Government Alliance for International Development established eight partnership programmes linking local authorities in the UK with badly affected areas in Sri Lanka; and Essex County Council was linked with Mullaitivu District.

Mullaitivu is a remote rural district in the north east of Sri Lanka and has a population of 148,000. On 26th December 2004 when the tsunami struck, nearly 3000 were killed, 2600 were seriously injured and 22,000 people were made homeless. Essex County Council is using its expertise to help rebuild the society in the most devastated areas. Several trips have been made which have identified that the following assistance is required:

- Master and town planning
- Restoration of livelihoods
- Skills development
- Housing
- Water supply and sanitation
- Developing local administration
- Environmental clean up

After his visit Lord Hanningfield said "Mullaitivu is a terribly deprived area where many people are living in pathetic camps with little food and no proper sanitation. If we don't do something, thousands of people will remain in camps for the rest of their lives."

Essex has been pushing forward with the rehabilitation programmes which are so evidently necessary, but as a result of the renewed hostilities much of the current work is being curtailed. We must hope that peace returns very quickly in order that the much needed assistance can continue to be provided.

Ray Gooding, County Councillor,
Stansted Division
Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk



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Our next ploughman's lunches will be on Saturday 8th July and Saturday 12th August, 12 noon to 2.00pm, at the Stansted Day Centre. All are welcome.

We will be holding a midsummer evening event on Saturday 15th July at Chantry Hall, Henham, and a Strawberry Tea on Sunday 13th August at 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted. For details and tickets please ring 814222 or 813432.

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Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) welcomes the news that BAA has agreed to accept a takeover bid. SSE regards the takeover as the inevitable fate for a monopolist, which has consistently failed to listen to its shareholders, its customers and the local communities around its airports and says that very few local people will shed a tear over BAA's passing.

Although privatised almost 20 years ago, BAA continued to behave like a government subsidiary and considered itself immune from any threat to its position. In relation to Stansted, BAA management seemed determined to do the government's bidding by investing up to £4bn of shareholders' money on a second runway despite massive local opposition, the lack of commercial logic and the fact that Stansted has never earned a commercially viable return for share-holders.

There is now an opportunity for a fresh start, particularly in view of the fact that the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is now almost certain to ask the Competition Commission to review BAA's ownership of Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports amounting to over 90% of the market in the South East.

The takeover of BAA - coupled with a Competition Commission inquiry - should lead to a re-think of the expansion plans for Stansted - plans that are politically inspired, lack commercial logic and would amount to an environmental catastrophe for the entire local area. But whatever the future holds for Stansted under new ownership, SSE is committed, on behalf of the local community, to maintaining its tooth and nail opposition to any major expansion of Stansted Airport.

Carol Barbone, Campaign Director
Tel: 07775 52 3091
Email: cbarbone@mxco.co.uk
Brian Ross, Economics Adviser,
Tel: 01279 814961 M 07850 937143

The proposals for the new night flying restrictions regime announced today by the Government are a scandalous betrayal of the its promise in the Air Transport White Paper to bear down on aircraft night noise. Stansted is to be allowed 12,000 night flights a year between the hours of 11.30pm and 6.00am - compared to 8,500 last year - an increase of 40 per cent. In addition, during the very busy night periods between 11.00pm and 11.30pm and between 6.00am and 7.00am - during which time sleep disturbance by aircraft noise is at its worst - the number of night flights will continue to be completely unrestricted. Worse still, in 2012, the Government intends to abolish all limits on the number of night flights at Stansted. This all amounts to an outrageous decision by Government and flies directly in the face of the night noise guidelines issued by the World Health Organisation, which recognise the importance of undisturbed sleep.

Once again, the Government is riding roughshod over local communities and pandering to the insatiable demands of the aviation industry. It has once again made a mockery of its entire consultation process by totally ignoring all representations made by the Stansted community and merely instituting the limits that it originally proposed. The Government should be thoroughly ashamed of its failure to enable local people to get a good night's sleep.

Today's decision by the Government will simply drive people to become even less tolerant of night flights and to argue for a total ban as already happens at many airports across Europe. Perhaps we need to relocate Chequers or Dorneywood to beneath a Stansted flight path in order to get government ministers to understand just what local people around Stansted are expected to put up with.

Carol Barbone, Campaign Director
Tel: 07775 52 3091
Email: cbarbone@mxco.co.uk

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STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

Lunch Wednesday 26th July

The fifty-fifth lunch, for which invitations will be going out shortly, will be held at The Old Bell, Pines Hill, 1.00pm for 1.30pm. I am delighted to say that John Gearing, Chairman of The Bishop's Stortford Chamber of Commerce, has agreed to talk to us with the aid of slides and Bob Lee, of Business Kinetics, about the redevelopment of the Bishop's Stortford town centre and its impact on the future of the town.

Our May lunch at the Radisson SAS Hotel, where we were given excellent fare in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere, was another notable success. With a pleasing symmetry, our fifty-second lunch attracted 52 bookings though, in the event, 54 members turned up. Unfortunately the renowned Radisson wine angels were not flying, so 54 imaginations set to work to produce some tantalising mental pictures. Good reason for returning one evening to witness the real thing. Many, many thanks to Radisson in the shapes of our two charming hostesses, Jo Calf and Gillian Polak, who entertained us so very well.

Introducing Guests and New Members

It is encouraging to observe that I received almost as many apologies as bookings for the May lunch, suggesting a continuing strong degree of support from some 200 members on my list. It was a pleasure on 31st May to welcome a number of new faces and some old faces in different guises. It was particularly pleasing to welcome back Kell Ryan, an old friend who had somehow fallen off the radar, and to meet Glen Ryan who came with him to grace us with her company. David Amos of Pitman Training of Bishop's Stortford came to test the water. Dipping his toe for the first time was Dave Bemment of Hills of Woodford. It was good to have our table graced with the presence of David Harrison's wife Dorothy. It is many years since we saw Stephen Mussard of the St James's Place Partnership and I hope that we shall see more of him in the future. It was good to see another old friend Anthony Robertson of PRG Shultz. And then there was Linda Sams of Price Bailey who was instrumental in, and to be congratulated on, the return of Kell to the fold. It was good to see Gary Willis of Millway Stationery. It was nice to welcome for the first time Rhonda Wills, and welcome back Janine Moore, both of the Reynolds Johns Partnership. Bill Woodward of Stansted Stort Valley Rotary Club hopes to maintain an active link between Rotary and the Lunch Club.

It was great to see so many new faces who all bring fresh perspectives with them and enrich our lunches. So thanks to you all for coming. I sincerely hope that you found us stimulating, interesting and enjoyable company in which you will want to be embraced again, maybe even on 26th July!

New Ventures

Curative Commercial Limited: Sheila Ledain has set up her own new business, Curative Commercial to provide bookkeeping and financial management services to small businesses. For further details tel 020 7193 0957; email: sledain@curativecommercial.co.uk.

Essex Bloodstock: Barry Root of Essex Bloodstock (outrageously mis-spelt on the May menu!!) hopes to encourage investment in those four-legged creatures that for centuries have strived, not always successfully, to earn their owners' keep.

Essex Bloodstock are bloodstock agents working within the horse racing and breeding industry, purchasing racehorses all over Europe, and act as manager of Essex Racing Club, which currently has two racehorses in training, including the TWICE WINNING 'Lady Taverner'. Membership of the club is £380 for the remainder of 2006 and this covers an interest in both racehorses and entitles you to a share of all prize money won. Trips to the races are arranged for members and guests, as well as visits to the stables, training gallops, studs, racing museum etc. as well as an Annual Dinner. Badges are obtained for members to attend all race meetings where the club's horses are running and lunches arranged when required.

The club will be ready for racing at the new Great Leighs racecourse, near Braintree, which is due to open for racing towards the end of 2006, and hopes to have members' and guests' entertainment facilities in the new grandstand once it is built. Membership makes an ideal present for someone special, so give Barry a call on 01371 831769 and he will give you all the information you require. Essex Bloodstock can also acquire individual racehorses for clients who want to splash out just that little bit extra!

Simplylawns: Another old friend in a new guise, was Andrew Blunderfield, who, from the lofty heights of the law, has set up Simplylawns, his own earthy business, offering lawn treatments. A considerable departure from his previous occupation but one that he hopes the members will be more inclined to use.

Items of News / Interest

If you have any items of interest or news that you would like communicated to members, please contact Alastair Richardson 07850 295109, email: Alastair@abr-ltd.com

Future Lunches - Wednesdays

26th July 2006 – Bishop's Stortford Chamber of Commerce

20th September 2006 – GE Sworder & Sons

29th November 2006 – NatWest Business Centre

Alastair Richardson





THE AGE OF THE CARNIVAL



There were many carnivals and village stalwarts over the years. One of the latter was Irving Sanders, a true 'Stansted' man who worked for the village in various capacities including being the first Chairman of the Carnival Committee.

Irving was well known as being the historian of Stansted and I am very indebted to his wife Rene for furnishing me with a wealth of details about early carnivals. It is indeed a blessing that Irving didn't throw much away. Looking through the various programmes stirred many memories. As someone mentioned to me, perhaps it shows what we are missing today.

There were many local adverts such as one for Dons Coaches in the 1964 issue which advertises four days in North Devon for £8 14s 6d. All prices included dinner, accommodation and breakfast in good hotels! Another I loved said 'Games and puzzles, books and toys. Everything for girls and boys, pens and pencils, writing pads. All the things for with it dads. Ornaments and knitting wools for woollies when the weather cools. Lulu might be Top of the Pops but ... Kitsons is Top of the Shops.'

In the 1966 issue it gives a good idea of the varied events over the carnival week; on Saturday there was the Grand Carnival Old Time Ball. MC's Olive and Reg Thurgood, featuring the Bohemian Old Time Orchestra (no stiletto heels).

Monday Carnival Whist Drive – First prize a turkey.

Tuesday Carnival Bingo arranged by Stansted Cricket Club.

Wednesday Come and see the entries in the Carnival Photographic Competition in the Central Hall.

Thursday A Folk Festival featuring The Folk Five, The Free Kind and Yours Faithfully in the marquee at Hargrave Sports Ground.

Friday Carnival Jumble Sale in the marquee and also Outdoor Wrestling at Hargrave Sports Ground.

The celebrity for that year was Georgina Ward, currently appearing as Celia Toms in the ITV series 'Weavers Green'. The two bands for Carnival Day were the Band of the 1st Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment who led the procession and the Bishop's Stortford and District Band.

In 1964 there was a symphony concert by the Uttlesforde Orchestra with the Stansted Secondary School Choir; also a Grand Carnival Country and Western Show and Dance - both 'never before in Stansted' events. The great attractions of Carnival Day, never seen before in Stansted were Del, Oro and Rikki, Europe's greatest low wire act, stars of circus, television and films; The Comedy Cyloones; and the Stevenage Pipe Band. The celebrity that year was Muriel Young.

The 1969 programme has a picture of the Carnival Queen, Susan Odell, and her two attendants, Honor Wilson and Sue Hutley. I married one of the attendants – that's really entering into the spirit of things!

In the 1965 issue the motor cycle act I mentioned in a previous article was advertised – Hampe and Lolita. My vision of Lolita is of a nubile young temptress but this Lolita was getting on a bit! They had appeared before the Queen, etc and the climax of their thrilling display was a frightening ride with death – a blindfold ride through a series of blazing obstacles. As I recall the actual display didn't quite live up to the blurb. The celebrity that year was Fenella Fielding whom I remember as being quite charming.

A feature of carnival weeks were the shows we used to put on, usually to packed houses. The 1969 issue advertises Carnival Capers – A light hearted review featuring the cream of local talent (and the milk) in a melange of mirth, music and movement.

We also put on over the years 'Old Tyme Music Halls'. Looking through the programme of one brought back some vivid memories. One of the acts was a male voice quartet. The billing said these gentlemen have worked together to bring a little culture to your evening's entertainment. At the piano Keith Turner, bass Fred Boyd, baritone Richard Pollard, also Irving Sanders.

As I remember we sang a Scaffold number – 'Lily the Pink' and it was hilarious. Various things happened as we sang such as my trousers slowly subsiding to the ground showing a pair of very unsexy long johns. Lots of the audience were literally in tears (of laughter) as we performed it. I am sure that a great part of its appeal was that it was performed by well known local characters.

There was a wealth of local talent. Amongst the performers were Pauline Cianciola, Maud Waterman, Jim Ward, Diana Pretty, Fanny Watson and Peter Thomson (now happily back with us), to name but a few.

In some respects you could really say – those were the days!

I'll leave you with a Carnival Competition as in the 1969 issue – How many words of three or more letters can you make from **STANSTED CARNIVAL**? There was a prize of £1.00. Entry fee 6d.

Dick Pollard

The map of the Carnival Route appeared in the Programme. It is perhaps interesting to see the presentation style of an enthusiastic amateur, as compared to the sophistication of the desk-top publishing with which we are familiar today. You need not necessarily be drawn to comment, but it does provide a good example of the changes we have seen in the past 40 years.

Editor

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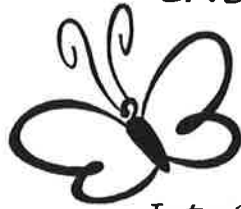
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One of the most striking changes within schools now compared with the past is the use of computers, or to use the correct, broader term, Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Visitors to our school often express surprise at some of the equipment they see in school and especially children's familiarity and expertise with it. As a Headteacher, my working day is heavily reliant on my computer: in a typical day I will use it to produce or edit presentations, documents and letters, communicate via email and carry out background research using the internet. As my staff would testify, my most efficient filing system is on my computer!

In the classroom, increasing access to ICT is transforming learning and teaching. Our interactive whiteboards are now central to much of the curriculum, enabling the whole class to see and actively participate using a large-scale computer screen. For example, one lesson can involve smoothly moving from an internet site to a video clip to an interactive maths game. We are continuing to discover the possibilities of using these tools. Recent national research stated that introducing interactive whiteboards into classrooms had not helped to raise standards, but acknowledged that they did have a good impact on motivation. It is my personal opinion - and one shared by many of my colleagues - that raising the standard a child reaches in a SAT test in Year 6 will never have the positive impact on lifelong learning that results from enjoying the learning process.

Our youngest children in school enjoy producing a review of their learning each week on computers, and demonstrate incredible mouse control with graphics even at four or five years old. (See Emma's example, which pictures her writing about the Great Fire of London!). Teaching staff have recently had great fun while participating in training to use small digital cameras and the related software. Our children are now starting to be roving reporters around the school, with some odd special effects added - such as flying saucers on the playground! We have also been experimenting with stop-motion animation - remember Morph on 'Take Hart'? Art Club children are currently working on animations involving their own plasticine characters, to great effect, including flame throwing monsters and daleks!



Emma (Year R) at work

Our older children have benefited from working at Mountfitchet High School on ICT, including animations similar to those described above, and also control technology, such as sequencing traffic lights. We welcome these opportunities to gain support from our secondary colleagues, because, as you can imagine, one of the greatest challenges is to keep staff's ICT knowledge ahead of that of children! I wonder, what will ICT in schools look like in 10 years' time?

Wendy Wood, Headteacher



MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL

On 13th May the PTA held their Millionaires' Night. Everyone who came had a really fun evening, and some people even won lots of 'money' (although most of them spent it just as quickly).

We are currently planning our next School Fête which is to be on 16th September from 1.00pm-4.00pm and are planning for it to be even better than last year if that's possible. We have some exciting new rides and attractions booked in addition to the well-loved village organisations. If you would like to book a stall, or have any ideas, or are able to help in any way at all we would love to hear from you.

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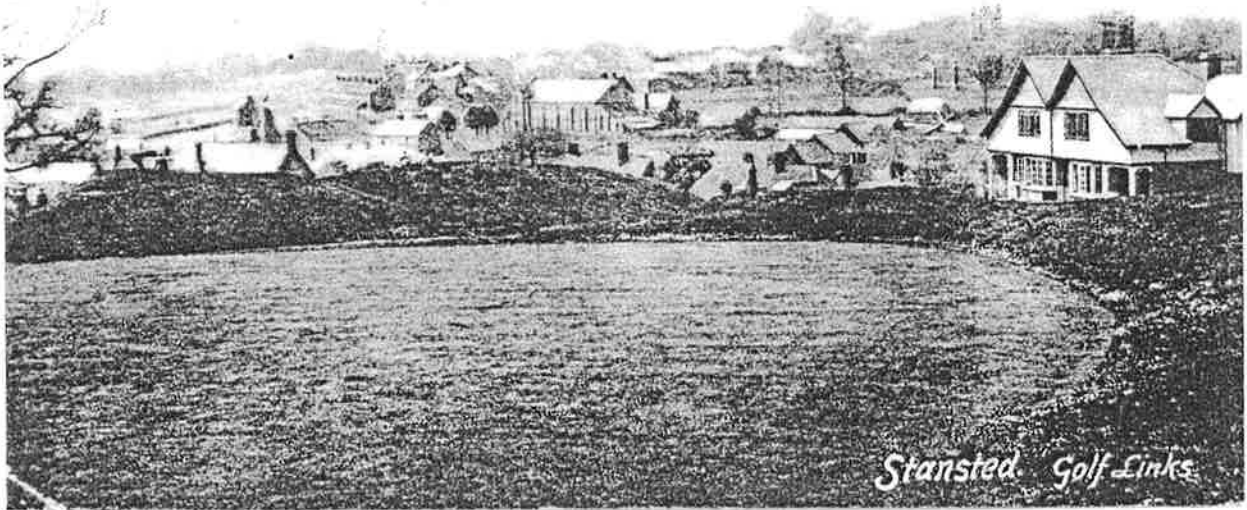
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Postcard courtesy of John Salmon

Did you know that Stansted once had a nine-hole golf course? This postcard, postmarked January 1906, shows the ambitious earthworks carried out on the castle motte (since, of course, removed) and the small extent of built-up Stansted. The clubhouse is now the Toy Museum. Most of the course extended along the railway and across it to where the present airport branch line leaves the main line. As evidence, Peter Brown recently found a well-weathered golf ball by the new lake. The windmill is just discernible on the horizon. We should remember that 100 years ago Stansted was still two communities - Cambridge Road and its offshoots and The Street (now Lower Street) which was the original village.

Editor

PARISH COUNCIL/LINK DISCUSSIONS

We are now entering a definitive stage in which the practicalities of printing methods, distribution and accommodation, are being worked on. We hope to give more information in September. Editor



STANSTED WINDMILL

Advance Notice. The August Bank Holiday Fete will again happen at 2.00pm on Monday 28th August. All the usual attractions plus live music and half-size model of a Garrett Traction Engine.

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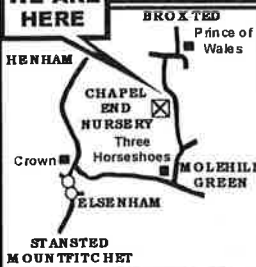
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