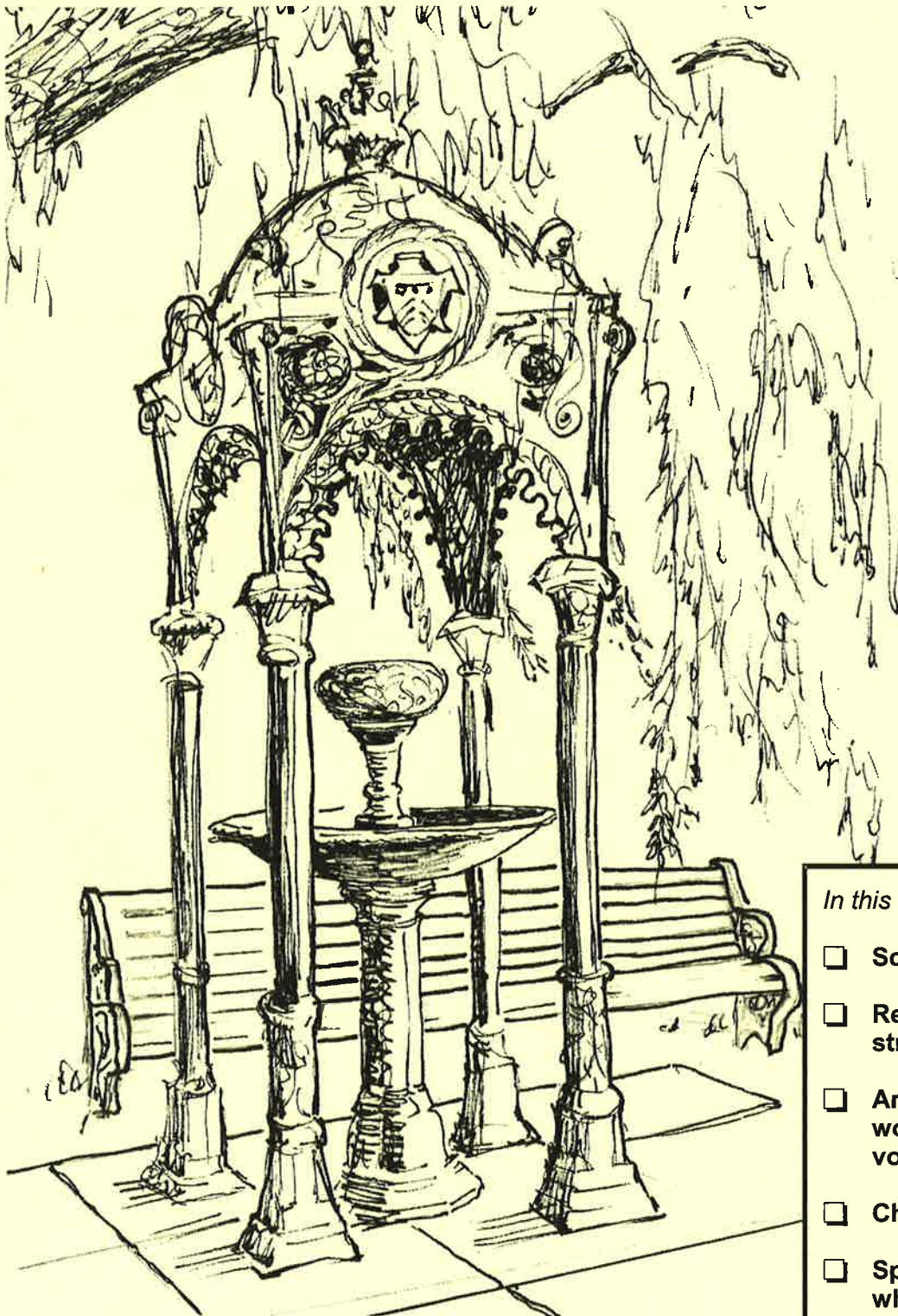


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



In this issue...

- Scout news p11
- Return of popular string quartet p14
- Area panels now working - the public's voice p17
- Changes at the vets p25
- Spring wild flowers - where are they? p31

ada

Reliable Painting and Decorating Services

Andrew Richardson**Tel: 01279 817282****Mob: 07980 439924**

- 20 years experience
- References available
- Fully qualified
- Competitive rates

*Customer satisfaction
guaranteed*

CHIMNEYS
Guest House

Exceptional standard of accommodation

ETB 4 Diamond Rating with Silver Award

All guest rooms have ensuite facilities

Open All Year including Christmas

Iain & Selina Rankin
Chimneys
44 Lower Street, Stansted,
Essex CM24 8LR

Tel/fax: 01279 813388
Email: info@chimneysguesthouse.co.uk
Web: www.chimneysguesthouse.co.uk

1893**Modern European Cuisine****Special Occasion?**

Excellent food, wine & service

2 Courses £22.95

3 Courses £26.95

Mon to Sat 6.30 onwards

Sunday Lunch 12 - 2pm

Lunchtime by reservation only

Outside catering quoted upon request

40 Lower Street, Stansted CM24 8LR

01279 817474

A.BETTER.AERIALwww.abetteraerial.co.uk

DIGITAL AERIALS

SKY TV

FM & DAB RADIO AERIALS

ANTI-GHOSTING AERIALS

EXTRA TV POINTS

AMPLIFIERS

COMMUNAL SYSTEMS

FREE ESTIMATES & ADVICE

YOUR LOCAL AERIAL MAN

Bishop's Stortford

01279 815948

07980 817251

Carters Hill Manuden

R D Ellis**FURNITURE RESTORATION**

Repair and traditional
polishing of antique and
not-so-antique furniture
by a local restorer

Tel 01371 879859

Mobile 07950 051577

Unit 4, Kerwyns
Gallows Green
Dunmow
CM6 3QS

BARNET FAYRE

**Invites you to
our friendly
unisex salon for
that extra
special style**

**... because YOU
are worth it!**

**32a Lower Street
Stansted
Tel 813087**

Greenways Financial Planning*Independent Financial Advisers*

- Free Consultations
- Confidential Home Visits
- No Fees Charged

Professional friendly advice on

Life Assurance • Pensions including Stakeholder
Mortgages • Investments including ISAs / PEPs
Critical Illness • Income Protection
Annuities • Long Term Care • Estate Planning

Greenways

Park Road, Elsenham CM22 6DF

Tel / Fax 01279 816622

A member of DBS Financial Management plc which is regulated by the
Financial Services Authority. DBS is part of the MYSIS group of companies.
The FSA does not regulate mortgages nor all forms of critical illness income
protection & long term care

**MCM Computer
Services**A Reliable and Friendly Service for
Homes and Businesses

Computer Systems • Upgrades & Repairs • Parts & Peripherals

- **FREE Telephone Advice**
- **No Call-Out Charge**
- **No Fix, No Fee on all home user systems**
- **Fixed Price + FREE collection and
return for workshop repairs**
- **On-Site Repairs, £30 1st hr,
£20 per hour thereafter**

Tel: 01279 813227 / 07815 011925

9 am - 9 pm Mon - Sat

www.mcmcomputerservices.co.uk

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of CTS, its member churches, village organisations or advertisers.

<i>Editor</i>	Derek Honour	☎ 647213
<i>Distribution</i>	Janet Townsend	☎ 812593
<i>Advertising</i>	Wendy Moss	☎ 812797

Copy to reach 58 Chapel Hill or email to stanstedlink@aol.com

By 16th March for publication on 1st April

By 13th April for publication on 29th April

Index to Advertisers

	<i>Page</i>	<i>Page</i>
Animal Care	Mercer & Hughes (vets) 8	Do-It-4U 32
Community & Care	Alzheimer's Society 24	Foster Plumbing & Heating 20
	Hearing Help 18	JDW Gas Heating Specialist 20
	Helpline 18	Knights Windows 12
	MIND 8	Mark Robinson (handyman) 20
	Stansted Day Centre 18	Mountfixit DIY 8
	Uttlesford Carers 10, 28	R D Ellis (furniture restorer) FC
Computing and Office Services	Alan Horsley 24	Ray Morton (painter/decorator) 28
	Gina's Business Services 28	Tim's Tiles 20
	MCM Computer Services FC	2DiVE4 BC
	Shadowfax 24	Elsenham Golf Centre 24
Education	Adult Community Learning 23	Graham School of Dance 32
	Birchanger Nursery Unit 18	Mitchell School of Dance 12
	Montessori Day Nurseries 16	Broadcastle Motor Contracts BC
	Rainbow Pre-School 24	D Bonney & Sons 32
Electrical	Corbett Electrical BC	David Nunn's Garage 20
	Zelta Batteries 20	Onward Driver Training 16
Financial & Legal	Davidson Oakley & Co 12	Rowland Ridgwell (van hire) 8
	Greenways Financial Planning FC	Sterling Chauffeur Services 17
	Pothecary & Barratt BC	Alexander Technique 24
	Vickers 20	Barnet Fayre (hairdressers) FC
Food & Lodging	Chimneys Guest House FC	CK Men's Room 18
	Eddie Ho Fish & Chips 18	Fancy Fingers BC
	Restaurant 1893 FC	Glynis Cheers (hypnotherapist) 18
	Royal Tandoori BC	Grave Concern 12
	Star of India 28	Jools International 20
Funeral Services	D C Poulton & Sons BC	Lower Street Clinic 16, 32
	Daniel Robinson & Sons BC	Newwin-E Ltd 25
	J Day & Son 10	NLP Solutions 24
Furniture & Furnishings	Fabrications 10	Samantha Jane's Beauty Studio 32
	Kate Harrison 8	Slimming World 10
	New Look (upholsterers) 10	Sue Leech (chiroprapist) 8
	Stansted's Painting Ladies 24	The Park Clinic (weight loss) 12
	Stansted Carpets 20	Touch 24
	Valley Carpets 32	H C Williams (osteopath) 16
	You're Furnished 8	Copyzone 8
Garden Supplies, Services & Floral	Flowers for every Occasion BC	Millway Stationery 16
	D Honour & Son 8	Property Services & Auctioneers
	Garden Design 12	Aldwych Construction 16
	Green Thumb 10	Bareham Overy Partnership 29
	J R Johnston 18	Inter County BC
	Perry's Garden Centre 28	Mullucks Wells BC
	Selina Rankin 24	PHD Associates (architects) 24
	Steve Hall Garden Services 10	Sworders BC
	The Mower Shop 28	The Kenneth Mark Practice Ltd 13
Holidays	Let's Go To France BC	Retailers
	Holiday in Spain? 8	Family News 12
Household Services	A Better Aerial FC	King's Family Butchers 18
	ADA Decorating FC	R & K News 10
	A&M Collins Roofing BC	Other
	Bubbles Bathrooms BC	Stansted All-Steel(gates,railings) 28
		Ugley Village Hall (for hire) 10

UNITED REFORMED

Chapel Hill

Minister Rev'd David Simpson
11 Church Manor
Bishop's Stortford
CM23 5AF
Tel: 01279 504900

Contact Mrs Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill
Tel: 01279 812593

Preachers and Services for March

5th 2.30pm Rev'd David Simpson
12th 10.30am Mrs G Taylor
19th 10.30am Rev'd David Simpson - Communion
Joint with Methodists
26th 10.30am Rev'd Keith Page
Joint with Methodists

Dates for your diary:

4th 10.00am URC/Methodist meeting in the
Lecture Hall
5th 3.30pm Afternoon Tea.
For lifts telephone 813977 or 812593
6th 6.00pm Pilots for children 5-13 years.
For information telephone 813433
13th 8.00pm Shalom in the Lecture Hall
20th 2.30pm Monday Club, AGM and Social
For information telephone 815137
20th 6.00pm Pilots for children 5-13 years.
For information telephone 813433
22nd 8.00pm Annual Parish Meeting
30th 8.00pm URC/Methodist meeting in the
Lecture Hall

Janet Townsend

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

Preachers and Services for March

5th 9.30am At the Friends Meeting House
Kenneth Mark
12th 9.30am At the Friends Meeting House
Rev'd Keith Page
10th 10.30am At the URC
Rev'd David Simpson - Holy Communion
26th 10.30am At the URC
Rev'd Keith Page

There will be a Fellowship meeting at 8.00pm on Thursday
9th March at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

There will be a meeting in the United Reformed Church Hall
on Saturday 4th March at 10.00am to continue discussions
on our joining together as one church.

Catherine Dean 813579

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

It's that time of year again when I am looking for more volunteers to take part in the door to door envelope collection in **Christian Aid Week** 14th-20th May. If you can spare a few hours, which will make a huge difference to the lives of those less fortunate than us, please let me know.

Christian Aid has a new logo. More about that next month.

If you would like to know more about the work of Christian Aid, one of the partners from Sri Lanka will be talking at the Chapter House, Chelmsford Cathedral on Wednesday 8th March at 7.30p.m. Ajantha Perera works with the rag pickers community in Colombo.

Gap year? Just a reminder that Christian Aid has a scheme for students who wish to work for a charity in their gap year. Please let me know if you are interested.

Catherine Dean 813579



SHALOM

Our last Shalom Meeting in January took us far away on a pilgrimage – called 'The Hajj' - which all Moslems are required to undertake at least once in their lifetime. We travelled (metaphorically speaking) by plane, train, car, motorbike and on foot accompanying one of the largest gatherings that take place in the world today.

Mecca is the seat of the Holy Shrine of the Ka'aba, a cubical stone structure otherwise known as the House of God. According to legend the famous Black Stone fell from the heaven during the time of Adam and Eve. On God's command the Prophet Abraham and his son Ishmael built the Ka'aba around it. The Black Stone is said to be the only feature of the original Ka'aba that still remains.

We were ably led by Alan Wheeler and Marion Dyer and learned that the Moslem faith believes that God ordained Abraham to build a dedicated place of worship for Him and to call all believers on an annual pilgrimage there. On Mohammad's Farewell Hajj in 632CE (AD) 200,000 followers assembled to hear his vision of an all-encompassing political, social, economic and spiritual Islam. Delivering his sermon on Mount Arafat, Mohammad espoused a belief in one God, the equality of all Muslim believers, the sanctity of life, property and honour, women's rights and the notion of the Ummah (God's one people worshipping one God).

The pilgrimage season comes with the twelfth month of the lunar calendar, which is called the month of the Hajj (Dhul Hijja). This year more than 2.5 million pilgrims are expected to take part in the ritual which takes five days in all. However there are other rites to perform and it is usually the 12th or 13th day before the pilgrims return to their homes and families.

Hajj is one of the best forms of worship and could be considered the sublime fulfilment of the five pillars of Islam. There is a special Ministry of the Hajj. Months of planning and an army of administrative staff help everything run smoothly and the Saudi government have spent millions on improving safety for the pilgrims but still there are disasters because of the sheer volume of people taking part. Many good and faithful Moslems never are able to make this special pilgrimage but it can be made by a member of the family on their behalf and this is undertaken with great dedication and love.

This was a most interesting evening for us. There was so much that we did not know or were very badly informed on, but having listened and watched the Channel 4 video which followed several pilgrims we felt very affected by their great faith and common purpose.

Future meetings

Our first Shalom Meeting in March takes place in the United Reformed Church Hall. This will be a video and discussion

on 'God and our Changing Climate'. Why not find out more by joining us on Monday 13th at 8.00pm? You will be assured of a very warm welcome, an interesting evening and of course a cup of coffee/tea and a biscuit!!

Our second meeting is a Lenten meditation, and is on Monday 27th March at 8.00pm. This will be at 7 Blythwood Gardens, and again all are most welcome. Please join us!

Eileen Quinn



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in STANSTED

Lent Groups

We are very pleased that Rev'd Andrew Spurr has agreed to facilitate what promises to be a most exciting Lent Group series this year. The topics for each session have been taken from the very successful 'Living the Questions' programme. There will be two sessions each week: Tuesdays 1.30–3.00pm at 49 Recreation Ground and Wednesdays 8.00–9.30pm at the United Reformed Church Hall (apart from 22nd March which will be at the Rectory). There will be five meetings, dealing with both Old and New Testament themes as follows:

Tuesday 7th/Wednesday 8th March
Social Justice and the Prophets - linking concepts of bringing the people back to God with issues of social justice.

Tuesday 14th/Wednesday 15th March
Lives of Jesus - investigating different emphases on the way Jesus is presented in the Gospels and how and why this happened.

Tuesday 21st/Wednesday 22nd March
Compassion, the heart of Jesus' Ministry - exploring why compassion is a fundamental Christian virtue and underpins the ministry of Jesus.

Tuesday 28th/Wednesday 29th March
A passion for Christ; Paul the Apostle - how Paul delivered his ministry from his own encounter with Jesus and the fervent desire to share this with others.

Tuesday 4th/ Wednesday 5th April
Out into the World - poses the challenge for us to respond!

Each session will include a DVD presentation and opportunity for discussion. Everyone is very welcome to attend. Please try to come along to as many as you can. There is no obligation or expectation to attend every Meeting.

On Sunday 9th April at 6.30pm there will be an Agape at the Quaker Meeting House followed by a Bring and Share supper.

Hope to see you!

David Morson, Chair



No present like time

I don't get into London very often, but when I do I'm reminded of how much the regular order of things hangs by a slender thread. It only takes one thing to go wrong, and, it doesn't matter what it is, for the knock-on effect to last for hours.

I was on a train recently which had been delayed. Not so long ago, a carriage full of comparative strangers would have stood or sat quietly seething as they did the mental calculations of what being late would cost them at the other end of the journey. These days, because we don't teach school classes in mobile phone etiquette, we find ourselves being unwilling participants as our fellow travellers air their frustrations to colleagues, while trying and smooth over their mangled schedules, and restore some of the fragile order to their lives.

This is what has changed for a lot of us over the past ten years. Our lives' order has become unpredictable. The commuter's vulnerability to turmoil has become a metaphor for all of our lives. Try and schedule a church meeting and organisers appear, thudding like bricks onto the table, while PDA's blink into life as we try and do a slalom between school runs, quiz nights, sports fixtures to find a time for our next meeting.

After redundancies at work, survivors may be expected to fulfil more requirements than we are originally hired to do. What we've lost is buffer-time, the time we used to have for reflection, and time which occasionally could absorb that extra surprise in our schedule, so that we weren't still catching up days later.

Less time for reflection and rest means that we do more things on-the-hoof. Worse, new technology makes us more efficient and so conspires to increase our capacity for busyness, rather than using them to make more time.

This carries all the way up to government. A barrister friend of mine told of a meeting he'd had with colleagues, where a senior lawyer pronounced some recent government legislation as being an unworkable piece of law; it had been hastily drafted and its implications had not been thought through for those who would have to work with it.

At one time I used to take six months to digest something new I'd learned. It gave me time to see whether it worked, and time for me to make it my own. Recently I've caught myself stating a truth I'd apprehended with my head, but which hadn't had time to get down into my soul. People instinctively know when

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

Adminstrator

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 Curren
(01279) 815243
curate@stansted.net

Director of Music

Currently vacant

website

www.stansted.net/stjohns

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

Churches Together Lent Course

This year taking sessions from the 'Living the Questions' series. Tuesdays at 1.30pm and Wednesdays at 8.00pm beginning March 8th. For details of venues see CTS article on page 3.

- 1 Social Justice and the Prophets
- 2 Lives of Jesus
- 3 Compassion:
The heart of Jesus' ministry
- 4 A Passion for Christ:
Paul the Apostle
- 5 Out into the World.

what you say does not connect with what you really confidently know to be true.

The Bible has a programme for life-work balance: it is called Sabbath. We tend to associate it with shops not being open on Sundays and, if we're old enough to remember, with high tea in a front room which then remained unused on other days of the week. Its original intention was as a way of looking after ourselves and looking after each other.

Sabbath time is about being able to consider the parts of the world which are beyond the particular field, or even furrow, that you're occupied with. It is about seeing yourself as part of something bigger, and about how we connect to each other, and the need for this is greater than ever.

Once upon a time, in this part of the world, the connections were obvious, as agricultural workers were engaged in the same economy, often working for a mere handful of employers. These days, we each go off to work in many different enterprises. These no longer depend on our relationship with our neighbours in order to work properly, so we end up being in danger of living in a community of strangers. Above all Sabbath time is a time to stop, reflect and see ourselves in relationship to God, about remembering that the person who irritated us this week, just a few months ago we were seeing as a gift. It is about life-work balance, but mainly about being alive, and being fully human and connected.

AS

From the Registers

There were no baptisms or weddings at St John's in January.

Funerals:

3rd January Kathleen Mary Turner, 94 -
Parndon Wood Crematorium

11th January Elizabeth Margaret Evans, 85 -
St Mary's

13th January John Morgan, 90 - St Mary's

31st January Bernard Spensley-Smith, 93 -
Cambridge Crematorium

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

SALVATION

Not a word that comes into the conversation often, but rather a beautiful one that gives the heart a lift. The dictionary definition is 'the art of saving someone from harm' and 'the liberation or saving of man from the influence of sin and its consequences for his soul'. It seems to me that the Salvation Army is very aptly named as that is exactly what they do and try to do. There is a story of General Booth's son coming to his father and saying how dreadful it was to see the homeless and destitute on London streets. The General apparently replied "Well, do something about it then"; and he did. That was the beginning of the nightly soup runs and the hostels for the homeless.

Watching Jeremy Paxman in the programme 'Who do you think you are?' you were made aware that the Salvation Army saved his great grandmother and her eight children from starvation and homelessness in the slums of Glasgow. Her husband had died and initially she had a grant from a charity but when she had two children 'out of wedlock' as it was then called, all the money was stopped. (You could have *one* out of wedlock but no more.) The Salvation Army gave her food, saw that the family was housed and the children educated. Two of the family (one was Jeremy's grandmother) later became officers and were sent to different parts of the British Isles.

In Thomas à Kempis' 'Imitation of Christ' when talking about charity and peacemaking he says "Everyone likes those who agree with him. But to be able to live peaceably with the perverse, or disorderly, or those who cross us, is a great gift and manfully done". It can't have been easy for a girl from Glasgow slums to evangelise in pubs in South West England. Their lives are lived in simplicity and dedication to others.

Quakers have a resistance to the military titles so I was intrigued to find in 'Quaker Faith and Practice' a passage referring to 'Christ, the Captain of our salvation'. No-one can quarrel with that.

Katharine Hurford

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

I have been grumpy, frustrated and close to tears because the second-hand computer I purchased in good faith in the New Year is duff! I can't help wondering how a device that is meant to be helpful and save time can create such havoc. It affected my inner life and left me hovering on the edge of a nervous collapse! Why did I allow myself to get so frustrated? I expect it is all part of the woes many of us face these days. Perhaps we have too much nowadays, while others, ie, in the developing world, have so little. Yet they seem more joyful than we are!

Joy is defined by Leo Buscaglia in his book 'Living, Loving and Learning' as something that 'keeps you songful and laughing and dancing.' I like that. Many people who have few comforts in life beyond a roof over their heads and food on the table are joyful: they know how to sing and laugh and dance in a way we sometimes do not. There is room in their lives for gratitude to God and devotion to him. They have peace and harmony in their lives.

Since not having a working computer, I certainly experienced neither harmony nor peace at first. I was thrown off course but, strangely, I did not feel 'under pressure' and began savouring life and praising God for all His blessings. Looking back now, I realise that I have been neglecting to spend time in solitude with the Lord each day. That is why I felt so overwhelmed when *that computer* refused to connect. I see now that without regular communion with God a sense of harmony and joy ceases to exist and life feels so complex.

I think you might like the following by the late Mother Teresa:

Live the Life

Life is an opportunity, try to take it
Life is beauty, admire it
Life is bliss, savour it
Life is a dream, make it real
Life is challenge, try to confront it
Life is a duty, complete it
Life is a game, play it

Life is precious, protect it
Life is richness, make a treasure of it
Life is love, enjoy it
Life is a mystery, try to reveal it
Life is sadness, try to get over it
Life is a hymn, sing it
Life is a fight, accept it
Life is an adventure, run the risk
Life is felicity, try to deserve it
Life is life, defend it.

God bless. Wendy



Hello again – but, sadly, for the last time. ☹️
It is with great sadness that we have decided to close Sideways Pre-School Nursery at the end of this half term.

There are fewer children around to fill our spaces at the moment and with no further offers of help or another qualified teacher taking the vacancy, we have decided that we have to close. It is always a sad moment when a village institution ceases to function; Sideways has been a popular village amenity for over 35 years. Many of the children in the village will have been through the hands of Auntie Helen, Auntie Sally, Auntie Carole and many other Aunties since it began. Sideways helped to shape their futures, preparing them all to cope with the great step of moving on to big school.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped us over the years, those who came in to help out each week, even when their children were no longer at pre-school, and indeed when some of them had even left home! Thanks especially to Auntie Joyce, piano player extraordinaire who has brought music to the children over many years.

Finally of course, a huge thank you to Auntie Helen; without her dedication Sideways could not have survived this long. Every morning Helen came in early to prepare the Hall for the day's activities and then cleared up at midday; dedication to the job that you do not readily find today. So Auntie Helen, we know you won't retire completely, but enjoy a few lazy mornings!

With best wishes to all our past and present children, families and our supporters, thank you for all the help and time given over the years.

The Sideways Team

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



2 pm Friday 3rd March
St Theresa's Church
'Signs of the Times'
by the women of South Africa

Do come and join this
worldwide act of prayer & praise
All welcome - Men & Women



Stansted & District
Liberal Democrats

QUIZ EVENING

7 for 7.30 pm Day Centre
Saturday 11th March

Tickets £5
(incl light refreshments)
Tel 814222 or 813432
Bar ~ Raffle



STANSTED MILLERS

Annual General Meeting
followed by a presentation from
Geoff Wood, Essex County Mills Officer

8 pm Tues 14th March
Day Centre

Refreshments ~ All welcome

VILLAGE EVENTS

March

- 1 Wed Mountfitchet Seniors
Mountfitchet Garden Club
- 2 Thu Local History Society
- 3 Fri Women's World Day of Prayer
- 4 Sat 80s & 90s Night
- 4 Sat / 5 Sun Skips
- 5 Sun Afternoon Tea (after service)
- 7 Tue Lent Groups begin
- 8 Wed Lent Groups begin
- 9 Thu WI
- 11 Sat Lib Dem Ploughman's
Lib Dem Quiz
Quiz Night
- 13 Mon Shalom Group
- 14 Tue Millers' AGM & Talk
- 15 Wed Mountfitchet Seniors
Ugley WI
- 18 Sat Rainbow Chinese Auction
Tennis Club Music Quiz
- 18 Sat / 19 Sun Skips
- 22 Wed Annual Parish Meeting
- 25 Sat Village Music Club
- 27 Mon Shalom Group
- 29 Wed Stansted Lunch Club
- 31 Fri Pete Baker's Crusty Jazzers

Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 8 pm
Day Centre 8 pm
St Theresa's Church 2 pm
Bentfield Sch 8 pm - midnight
Lower St car park 9 am - 3 pm
UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm
49 Recreation Ground 1.30 pm
URC Hall 8 - 9.30 pm
St John's Hall 7.45 pm
Day Centre noon - 2 pm
Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm
Mountfitchet Sch 7.30 pm
United Reformed Hall 8 pm
Day Centre 8 pm
Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Ugley Village Hall 2.30 pm
St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
Bowls Club 7 for 7.30 pm
Lower St car park 9 am - 3 pm
United Reformed Church 8 pm
St John's Church 7.30 pm
7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
Venue tbc 1.30 pm
St John's Church 8 - 11 pm

April

- 1 Sat / 2 Sun Skips
- 2 Sun Afternoon Tea (after service)
- 5 Wed Mountfitchet Garden Club
- 6 Thu Local History Society
- 12 Wed Charity Coffee Morning
- 13 Thu WI
- 16 Sun / 17 Mon Windmill Open

Lower St car park 9 am - 3 pm
UR Church 3.30 - 5 pm
Day Centre 8 pm
Day Centre 8 pm
Day Centre 10 am - noon
St John's Hall 7.45 pm
2 - 6 pm



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in STANSTED

LENT GROUPS

'Living the Question'

Tuesdays at 1.30 pm
49 Recreation Ground
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March, 4th April

Wednesdays at 8 pm
8th, 15th March in URC Hall
22nd March at the Rectory
29th March, 5th April in URC Hall

Agape Sun 9th April 6.30 pm
Quaker Meeting House

All welcome - please join us
No need to attend all sessions

Annual Parish Meeting



8 pm Wed 22nd March
United Reformed Church
Come, listen & speak!
All welcome

PETE BAKER'S CRUSTY JAZZERS

8 - 11 pm

Friday 31st March
St John's Church

Tickets £10
incl supper & a drink

Tel Joy 817937, Susie 816407
or Sonia 815282

In aid of Church Hall Refurbishment



THE COULL
STRING QUARTET

plays

Haydn, Shostakovich
and Beethoven

7.30 pm Sat 25th March
St John's Church

Tickets £10 adults £3 children from
Stansted Carpets, Nockolds B.S.
Options Hairdressers Elsenham,
Sonia Levy tel 815282
or at the door

Stansted Tennis Club



MUSIC QUIZ



7 for 7.30 pm
Saturday 18th March
Stansted Bowls Club

Tickets £7
(incl ploughmans)
Tel Michaela 815796
Tables of 6 preferred

Licensed Bar





23-25 Lower Street, Stansted

We offer a range of paints, adhesives, hand tools and associated accessories. Timber can be ordered and cut to size

Open: Tue - Fri 8.00 - 18.00 Sat 9.00 - 14.00

Specialist items can be ordered in store

Tel: 01279 816611 www.mountfixit.co.uk

D HONOUR & SON (LANDSCAPE)

GARDEN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

- Ground Preparation • Paving • Planting
- Brickwork • Lawns • Fencing



PHONE OR FAX

01279 813160



59 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted

Kate Harrison

Made-to-measure curtains, pelmets, blinds, loose covers, cushions, bed covers and valances,

I can supply fabrics, trimmings, tracks and other accessories.

Please call for free advice and measuring service.

Tel / Fax 01279 777452

email: kateharrison_1@yahoo.co.uk



MERCER & HUGHES

Veterinary Surgeons

80 Cambridge Rd, Stansted. Tel 01279 813780

Surgery Hours

Mon - Fri 8.30 am - 10.30 am

4.30 pm - 7 pm

Sat 8.30 am - 10 am

Also surgeries at Saffron Walden & Dunmow



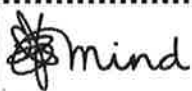
Sue Leech MSSCh MBChA
 HPC Registration No: CH 17977
Chiropodist
 9, Mill Road, Henham
Appointments 07881 942836
Surgery and Home Visits



A Holiday in Spain?

FOR RENT ☎ 01279 647591

3 bedroom house, in complex with own pool on the Costa Blanca (Sleeps 6)
 6 minute walk through park to Blue Flag Beach
 Shops and Restaurants nearby
 Stansted - Alicante / Murcia Airports (only 30 mins from house)



For better mental health

Uttlesford Mind

Information & support for people with mental health problems

Advocacy ~ Befriending ~ Drop-in centres ~ Counselling

Weekly Drop-Ins: Saffron Walden, Thaxted, Stansted & Dunmow

Volunteers are always welcome

Tel: 01371 876641

Charity No: 1023708

VAN HIRE

Rowland Ridgwell Ltd

Woodview Garage, Stansted Rd, Birchanger

Tel 01279 654408

- ◆ £44 + vat per day
- ◆ £80 + vat per weekend (Fri night to Mon am)
- ◆ £240 + vat per week

Fully Insured ~ Unlimited Mileage

YOU'RE..... FURNISHED
Famous Branded Furniture at

HALF PRICE

NEW STOCK IN EVERY WEEK

Rear of 14 Cambridge Road, Stansted 01279 815028

Mon - Sat 10 am - 5 pm Sunday 11 am - 4 pm

Also new warehouse at Takeley



Copyzone LIMITED

...for bright ideas!

Specialist in Digital Printing & Copying

T: 01279 657769 F: 01279 503151

E: info@copyzone.co.uk

W: www.copyzone.co.uk

Unit 3, Southmill Trading Centre, Southmill Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. CM23 3DY

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL NEWS

Auction of Promises

An Auction of Items and Promises will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday 22nd April. This is being organised to raise funds for the day-to-day organisation of the Parishes of Birchanger, Farnham and Stansted.

If you have something which you might wish to donate in the way of a gift or a promise please contact the Church Office on 815243, Cheryl on 812739 or Rosemary on 834053.

We already have, for example, four promises of flights in a private plane and a clay pigeon shooting lesson - so please also make a note in your diary - a St George's Day supper is also on offer - details of tickets next month.

Rosemary Thompson

Committee changes

Since the last report, the Committee has lost its lead fundraiser, Susie Ball, who found that her commitment to the Hall's affairs was impinging too much upon her family life; surprises me not a lot when I consider how much commitment she put at our disposal. Whilst it is sad to say farewell, Susie will still lend herself to our efforts when she can. She left with the Committee's heartfelt thanks. It has taken two new Committee members to replace Susie: Lynn Manek and Ray Smith, both experienced events organisers, have graciously agreed to join the Committee.

Fundraising

As readers will be aware, last year saw some vintage fundraising events that provided much needed resources for maintenance of the Hall's fabric. Lynn and Ray have since shown their mettle by organising and running a magnificent Christmas Party in the Hall in December last year. Not only did the party make a tidy surplus of £680, but also it brought together many villagers of all ages, both as participants and as guests. The heart of the village's spirit of community beats strongly and healthily! The funds raised will be put towards the next phase of refurbishment of the Hall. More events will be held during the course of this year with this specific purpose in mind, though, as discussed below, decisions have yet to be made in regard to what will be done in this next phase.

What we have done

Successful fundraising has enabled works such as creation of the Committee Room, insulation of the Benefice Office ceiling, replacement of external windowsills, and improved security through replacement of external lighting sensors. Further security improvement has resulted from the opening up of the Memorial Gardens, exposing the Hall entrance to a wider view. In terms of equipment, fire extinguishers have been brought up to scratch; crockery and an urn have been renewed, the old crockery going to St Mary's School; a programme of continuing replacement and renewal has been put in place which, for example, will see the tables replaced over

a five to six year period. Finally it has helped hold the line on increased charges. However the Hall is looking a little wan and weary and there remains much to be done, particularly in regard to decoration.

Future maintenance

Talk of redecoration immediately raises the question of the ceiling height and lighting, which were originally designed to accommodate the late lamented Badminton Club. The ceiling is too high, it consumes too much heat and it destroys any sense of intimacy. Any change of ceiling height or overhead lighting involves scaffolding and material expense, which, in turn, begs the questions of whether anything can be done with the space and whether there are any other issues that can be addressed at the same time. Such issues require extensive consultation and measured consideration, which take time. We are therefore working to a two-pronged strategy that involves on the one hand an early facelift (essentially a cheerful lick of paint) and, on the other, a consultation with users and potential users on what they would like to see by way of refurbishment.

Refurbishment

We want ideas of how we might refurbish and improve the Hall and its facilities, so, through the pages of 'The Link' we invited those with architectural skills and a generous spirit, to visit the Hall and make suggestions as to what might be feasible. The silence has been deafening!

So we now ask our users what would be useful and helpful to you? Please let rip and make your suggestions, however unlikely or unreasonable you believe them to be. We need to know what the *consumer* wants. Whilst you may not be given all that you desire, some of it may happen. If you do not put forward ideas, your desires have little chance of fulfilment. Thoughts to me please 07850 295109 or to Anthony Minshull 01279 812230

Hall charges

Charges have not been increased for some time and the point has been reached where fundraising, rather than charges, is subsidising day-to-day running and repair/renewal costs; so in effect users are being subsidised. In addition, energy prices are soaring and there is the very real prospect that inflation is on the move again and will extend across the Hall's whole cost base. It is therefore imperative that charges are increased with effect from 1st April 2006 to:

	£ per hr
Weekdays	7.00
Weekdays business rate	8.00
Weekends	8.00
Saturdays after 6.00pm	10.00
Storage space	negotiable

In a few cases individual non-standard rates have been agreed to reflect individual circumstances and the Committee will be speaking to these users individually.

Alastair Richardson
Chairman

Slimming
WORLD

Join a warm and friendly group near you

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

WEDNESDAYS 7.00 pm

PAM ☎ 01279 842774

BISHOP'S STORTFORD

WEDNESDAYS 9.30 am, 5.30 & 7.30 pm

KIM ☎ 01992 584286

SAFFRON WALDEN

THURSDAYS 6.30 pm

JANE ☎ 01440 709822

NEW!
mix2
max

NEW!
success
express

HURRY!
great
offers
end soon

The UK's No1 Lawn Treatment Service

4 annual treatments to create a
healthy, lush, green
lawn.

Costs less than DIY

For your **FREE** no obligation
lawn analysis report and quotation
call your local GreenThumb on

01440 713838

GreenThumb
LAWN TREATMENT SERVICE

www.greenthumb.co.uk



STEVE HALL
GARDEN SERVICES

CALL FOR HELP IN YOUR GARDEN

Tel 01279 817739
Mobile 0777 8049063

HIRE THE NEWLY REFURBISHED

Ugley Village Hall

With two halls, ample parking, facilities for the disabled and competitive rates, the refurbished Ugley Village Hall on Cambridge Road is ideal for clubs, classes, functions, children's parties and social meetings.

Bookings or further information please call Susan Bone 01279 814052

CARERS UK
Uttlesford District Branch

"Caring about the Carer"
Support group for carers held in
Stansted Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill
on 2nd Thursday in each month from 2 pm to 4 pm

For further information call us on
01371 875810
Registered Charity No. 246329

Fabrications

*is the local company for all soft furnishings,
made from our fabrics or your own.
Wallpapers, tracks and blinds also supplied.*

For free advice and measuring service call
Sue 01279 777465 or Carol 01279 777480

J DAY & SON
MONUMENTAL MASONS

Stone Works, Station Road,
Bishop's Stortford

Tel 01279 654555 or 653450

R & K NEWS
Newsagent & Tobacconist
Home Delivery Service
Newspapers & Magazines

5 Lower St, Stansted
Tel: 01279 647280

NEW LOOK
UPHOLSTERERS
Antique & Modern Furniture
Upholstery Specialists

Domestic / Commercial
Hotel & Contract Work
Full Repair Service.
Wide range of fabrics & accessories
French Polishing

*Free quotes - Collection & Delivery
Professional Workmanship
Excellent Prices*
01279 816222
34 Stoneyfield Drive, Stansted CM24 8PA



As the nights begin to shorten we feel that Spring is on its way. In school we have hosted a Gifted and Talented Art workshop for nine schools within Uttlesford sending four children each. Two of our children went to Music workshops and two went to a Dance workshop. All the workshops were organised by the Saffron Walden-Stansted Mountfitchet Federation of Schools and had the theme of Samba and Carnival. They were very enjoyable and produced some very interesting work.

Again this year we entered a team of two boys and two girls in the Annual Public Speaking Competition at Mountfitchet High School. The team gave a very polished performance watched by their classmates who had walked up to MHS for the event.

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. 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

Meanwhile, the PTA has been busy spending the money raised by families and friends of the school. We are delighted that we have been able to provide the school with a wide variety of valuable equipment. Thanks to the generosity of Bentfield's parents and supporters and the hard work of last year's committee, two new interactive white boards have been put up in Key Stage 2. Key Stage 1 have received their own television/DVD, a second video camera has been purchased and every class has been given money to spend on new educational games and resources. The next phase of the wonderful outdoor play equipment for Reception has been ordered - this will be a large sandpit and suspension bridge and we are sure these will prove as popular as the first phase has been with all the younger children! We now have our sights set on commissioning an 'outdoor classroom' for the muddy corral area by the playground and are currently researching possible ways of developing this part of the school's environment.

Our calendar of fundraising events is looking pretty busy. The half term holidays kicked off to a great start with the children's Spring Disco, which took place on 10th February. Our **70s and 80s Night** is coming up fast! On **Saturday 4th March** from 8.00pm until midnight we are giving you a chance to relive your misspent youth! We'll start with a mini quiz to get us in the mood and then party to the sounds of the time, provided by the FAB Garry King! For those who turn up dressed in the fashions of the 70s or 80s there will be the chance to win a prize. So whether you were a Bay City Roller fan, an ABBA groupie, a new romantic or a punk - dust off those platform shoes or white stilettos and join us. Tickets are just £5 including your first drink from the bar and the PTA will provide some nibbles.

For the children we are planning an **Easter Egg Trail** on **Friday 31st March**. There will be an egg-citing (sorry!) treasure hunt around the school grounds to celebrate the start of the Easter holidays, followed by hot cross buns and games in the playground. What a lovely way to end the term!

Looking ahead to next term we are working hard getting ready for our 'Around the World' **May Fair** on **Saturday 20th May** - and last but by no means least, the fifth annual **Music In The Park** will take place on **Saturday 15th July**. We do hope you will join us.

Alison Thompson PTA Member

1st STANSTED SCOUT GROUP



At 1st Stansted Scout Group we provide a structured, safe and enjoyable environment in which the youngsters can try exciting new experiences, develop and learn life-skills. This approach is proving so popular that we have increased our membership to 15 Scouts, 23 Cubs and 16 Beavers, all due to the hard work and dedication of our leaders. With more volunteer leaders we could expand even further.

To an extent we are victims of our own success in that our Scout Hut premises are now used more fully, and additionally are used by the Brownies and Tortoises (disabled Scouts). This is where we have a challenge, in that the Hut has seen better days. It has been in operation at its current location in Water Lane since the 1960s, when it was donated and transferred from Rochford Nurseries. Whilst we have continued to look after it over the years it has come to the point where the roof now needs replacing. Also we need to cater more fully for the disabled members, with an access slope to the front door. We have been granted planning permission and received several quotations for the work. We are now raising the necessary funds to start the work, so please support us where you see us fundraising.

To support the leaders and allow them to get on with the leading we have a committee to run the Group. We have a Secretary, I am the Chairman, but we need a Treasurer. This would ideally suit a numerate individual who is able to spare a few hours a month to help us manage the Group. If you can help, or would like to find out more please call me.

The year 2007 will be an important one in Scouting, marking the 100th anniversary of the formation of the movement in 1907. There are lots of events and activities being planned to celebrate this milestone. Next year is also an important milestone for the Stansted Scout Group in that we will become co-educational in line with the Scouting Association directive. This will mean that all young people will be given the opportunity to understand the opposite sex and to empathise with them as part of a mixed group.

In the meantime 2006 will be an exciting year with lots already planned and no doubt more besides.

Roger Armorgie
Chairman 815320

Mitchell School of Dance

Mrs Mitchell LISTD Dip AISTD AES Dip
Fully qualified and registered teacher.

*Dancing Displays Examinations
Choreography National Competitions*

Classes at:

St. John's Church Hall, Stansted
St. Mary's Church Hall, Birchanger

Tel: 01992 81 2781



Relax... Re-energise... Rebalance...

with one of our health-enhancing,
stress-reducing treatments

Indian Head Massage Reflexology Kinesiology

(integrated, non-invasive healthcare.
detects and rectifies physical and emotional
imbalances, detects food sensitivities
and accurately determines best nutrition)

...or ask about our weight loss/detox
programmes

Call Judy on **01279 321726** to book

www.parkclinic.org.uk
info@parkclinic.org.uk

ARE YOU UNABLE TO
ATTEND TO A LOVED ONE'S
GRAVE OR MEMORIAL?

GRAVE CONCERN

family business

OFFER CARE,
MAINTENANCE
AND UPKEEP OF
FAMILY MEMORIALS
AND GRAVES

BROCHURE WITHOUT OBLIGATION
01371 870 685



GARDEN DESIGN

Liz Elfick-Wood (Dip GD)



Professional design service
from single consultations
to landscape design and
planting plans

Tel: 01279 815425

M COLLINS Family News

NEWSAGENT TOBACCONIST

CONFECTIONERS

AGENTS FOR DRY CLEANERS

Chapel Hill, Stansted

Tel 01279 812049

Chartered Accountants Davidson Oakley & Co

We provide a friendly and efficient professional
accountancy and taxation service for local
businesses and individuals including:

*Self Assessment Tax Returns
Accountancy and Audit
Management Accounts
Business Tax*

Free Initial Consultation

Please tel 01279 813294

Forge House, 39-41 Cambridge Rd, Stansted CM24 8BX

Protect and
preserve with
Knights Windows **No more repairing
or painting...**



Buy quality by
**KNIGHTS
WINDOWS**

PVC-U
replacement
fascias, soffits, guttering, bargeboards
and cladding

Knights Windows:

- ✓ Completely maintenance free
- ✓ Will not warp, crack, discolour or blister
- ✓ Resistant to weather and other pollutants
- ✓ Enduring quality
- ✓ Choice of finishes
- ✓ All work guaranteed

*We'll be pleased to provide you
with a professional, free quotation,
no matter how large
or small the job.*

John Newman
Managing Director

**Call us now,
FREE, on
0800 294 0652
and make
painting a thing
of the past!**

The Courtyard
Forest Hall Road
Stansted Essex
CM24 8TS
01279 647999



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

NOT SUCH JOLLY ESSEX MILLERS 1

Millers were an important part of the community, but often regarded with suspicion, sometimes with reason, although no doubt they were not all rogues. People obviously thought they were on the fiddle when there wasn't the amount of flour they expected for the quantity of grain supplied. Of course, some was lost in the milling process but unless the miller was seen to be taking more than his due share it could be difficult to prove. As Chaucer wrote - in modern English translation - "His was a master hand at stealing grain, he felt it with his thumb and so he knew its quality and took three times his due". Sometimes they were caught out for taking an excessive toll, which was the agreed amount that they could have for themselves. This toll, or tax, or multure, or mill mail, as it was variously called, was often one-sixteenth of the quantity brought for grinding, although it did vary from place to place and depended on the conditions under which the miller held the rights. Over the centuries there were changes from manorial and monastic mills to privately owned ones but nearly always there were some payments in cash instead of kind. Our present mill in Stansted was a private mill from the time it was built in 1787.

Although penalties for cheating could be severe, nevertheless, Fitzherbert writing in the 1500s said "but doubt ye not the millers will be no losers". One thing they could do if taking their toll in measure, not weight, was to heap up the measure instead of levelling it off as they should have done. Adding chalk to the flour to bulk it up was done by some traders who handled and sold flour. Essex millers were no exception in their behaviour. The miller at Stock was fined for taking too much toll in 1554 and another miller at Stock was fined for the same offence in 1602, so someone was keeping an eye on goings on at that mill. An 'Act of Better Regulations of Millers' in 1795 practically abolished the toll and all millers were required to possess a balance and weights on which to weigh the corn before and after grinding. The weights at Stansted mill bear the date 1896 but the scales look as though they could be older.

Milling on a Sunday was looked on with disapproval. One miller in Norton, Essex, in 1598 was let off with "an admonition" for working instead of going to Church but in 1586 the Pitsea miller had been fined 12 old pence. At Radwinter in 1588 William Browne it was said "doth suffer his men to get in work on the sabbath day especially on St Mark's day". Again in Stock (what a wicked village that was!) John Gates "usually grindeth in service and sermon when the wind serveth". Work on Sundays was allowed in exceptional circumstances, for instance if there had been long periods of calm weather so the windmills could not work or prolonged drought so that watermills could not function, causing supplies of flour to be low. The millers were caught for other things too. At Fobbing, Essex, in 1620 for "laying of dung on the road" and at Barking in 1647 "the spreading of sedition" - what could he have been saying?

STANSTED'S JOLLY MILLERS and ESSEX MILLS TODAY

If you would like to know more about Essex Mills in this century, then come to the Millers AGM on Tuesday 14th March at the Day Centre at 8.00pm, when Geoff Wood, County Mills Officer, will give an illustrated talk on the Mills for which he is responsible. There will be a concise annual meeting and refreshments before Geoff speaks.

Peggy Honour

NEWS FROM THE DAY CENTRE

For the first time we are able to give our splendid volunteers a treat and they have been invited to a lunch on Wednesday 8th March at the Day Centre - if anyone has been unwittingly left out please let me know on 01279 813080.

Our thanks to Melvin Morton who donated a beautiful Christmas cake for our party in December which was thoroughly enjoyed.

A date for your diary. We are having a Charity Coffee Morning on Wednesday 12th April, 10.00am-12 noon. There will be various stalls in aid of local charities. Final details will be in next month's 'Link'. We are repeating last year's event which was a great success.

By the time this is published we hope to have our own Internet site up and running. The prime purpose of this site is to provide a bookings calendar so that the hirers of the Day Centre may readily establish when the Day Centre is free to be booked; but it will also contain other relevant information: www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk. You will book with Jane Sell on 01279 812406 as before.

Brenda Scarr

THE KENNETH MARK PRACTICE LTD CHARTERED ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS, PLANNING SUPERVISORS

A SMALL FRIENDLY COMPANY OFFERING A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES

INITIAL CONSULTATION FREE



Winstanley House
4 Market Hill
Saffron Walden
CB10 1HQ

Tel: 01799 521734 / 506011
Email: Kenneth.Mark@btconnect.com

PLAN PRINTING SERVICE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC / BUSINESSES

Good quality black and white photocopies from your
originals A4 to A0 size
CAD plotted drawings also available up to A1 size



www.villagemusicclub.co.uk

One of Britain's most respected and imaginative ensembles, the Coull Quartet will be performing in Stansted on Saturday 25th March in the final concert of The Village Music Club's current season.

Having celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2004, the Coull has a wide repertoire and has performed and broadcast throughout the UK, the USA and Western Europe, and has toured India, the Far East, Middle East, South America and Australia. The quartet is a

great favourite with Music Societies and Festivals and they have also performed for P&O Cruises in many 'Music Festivals at Sea'



'The Coull' comprises:-

Roger Coull (violin) - above
Philip Gallaway (violin) - left
Gustav Clarkson (viola) - opposite, above and
Nicholas Roberts (Cello) - opposite, below.

Their programme will be:-

Beethoven's String Quartet in E flat major Op.74 (known as 'The Harp' on account of some arpeggiando pizzicato passages in the first movement)



Shostakovich's String Quartet No 8 Op 110 (written after a visit to Dresden in 1960. The work, with five interlinked movements, is a very cohesive whole)

Haydn's Quartet in C major, Op.74 No.1



Tickets for the concert, which takes place at 7.30pm on Saturday 25th March in St John's Church, Stansted, are £10, Children £3, and children of members £1 - available from: Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill, Stansted, Nockolds Solicitors, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford, Sonia Levy,

31 Chapel Hill, Stansted (01279 815282) or at the door.

Alan Corbishley

LINK UP PROJECT – Adult Community Learning

About 5.8 million adults in England have poor literacy and numeracy skills, but to attend a *Skills for Life* class takes a great amount of courage, especially if you had a bad learning experience in the past. However, if there is someone you know and trust, who is easily accessible, to help you through the learning process, it is less daunting.

This is where **LINK UP** comes in – this project provides **FREE** training to anyone who wants to help support and signpost people (either in or outside of the workplace) to develop and improve their literacy and numeracy skills. The training involves a 12 hour course leading to Unit 1 of the City & Guilds 9295 Adult Learner Support qualification, with an option to complete the full qualification at a later stage. To be eligible, no qualifications are required, but you must live or work in Essex. Details are below, although other dates and venues will be available, including delivery 'on-site' (minimum 12 people).

▪ 10am – 1pm Saturday 18th March Northbrooks House, Harlow

This **FREE** training is ideal for all frontline workers who interact with the community, colleagues (even friends and family) at any level, and it is a wonderful opportunity to develop your skills and have a major impact on other people's lives.

Please telephone Judy Lilley on 436230 or email Judith.Lilley@essexcc.gov.uk



Essex County Council



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

Andrew Tokely, Horticultural Manager of Thompson and Morgan, a firm started in Ipswich in 1855, told us of its activities. Although neither of the original owners are represented in the firm, it is still in Ipswich and it is there that all their seeds start life. Truly international, they have catalogues for 50 countries and in several languages.

They breed all their own plants, carrying out botanic trials to see how the seed works in each country. Only about 10% of trials over many years end up with seed in a packet. Most of their seed varieties are distributed by mail order – 1200 as against 300 varieties through garden centres. Seeds are harvested by some unusual means - by combine harvester or vacuum machine but they are all cleaned, separated and stored at the right temperature for each variety, then packed in foil where they remain at that temperature until the packet is opened. Each packet is numbered so that any failure or wrong seed can be identified and T & M welcome being told of any failure. We were told that when sowing seed at home, some seeds do not need covering whilst the others should not be covered by potting compost but by fine grade vermiculate which reduces risk of dampening off and improved germination.

For 2006 T & M have two flowers of the year – *Eschscholtzia* (Californian Poppy) 'Summer Sorbet' and *Papaver* (Poppy) 'Fruit Punch'. A new introduction of *Petunia Hybrid* 'Purple Velvet' is claimed as the best ever seed, out-performing cuttings from *Surfina*. T & M encourages its customers to send in anything they find which is unusual for trial at Ipswich.

For the vegetable grower, 2006 will bring a 'Vegetable of the Year' – a new tomato 'Harlequin' with a juicy plum shape and old fashioned taste, best grown under glass. For peppers we were recommended to try the Chilli Hot Pepper. There is a new trial by the public in 2006 of Niche Oriental Salad Leaves at 69p a packet. They can be sown from March to September outdoors and October to February under glass for all year round harvest. There are also mini veg which can be sown on the patio so we can all have fresh vegetables even from the smaller garden. This was a talk for everyone!

On 1st March Andrew Stewart will talk about 'Colour all Summer'. The competition will be 'A Bunch of Spring Flowers'.

Sally Stockman

Jobs in the Garden for March

Cut down any remaining herbaceous plants, eg grasses and hang up as nesting material for the birds.

Prune late flowering (July onwards) Clematis.

Start to sow summer bedding seeds indoors on a window sill or in the greenhouse.

Prepare the lawn mower for the start of the cutting season.

St Mary's Primary School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association



As many 'Link' readers will already know, St Mary's will be losing its head teacher, Mrs Wendy Wood, at the end of the Summer Term. After three years at our helm, Mrs Wood has decided that she will return to classroom teaching so that she will be able to spend more time with her family. As many of you can imagine, the life of a head can be a very tough one, with mountains of paperwork, new directives, staff issues and of course keeping the school on track as far as OFSTED issues are concerned. So we of course thank Mrs Wood for her efforts in turning St Mary's from an under achieving school into a vibrant caring community with a passion for learning at its heart.

Wendy Wood will be a hard act to replace. The Governing Body are tasked with this; as a Church of England School, we are looking not only for a head with excellent interpersonal and professional skills but also one with a strong Christian commitment who will uphold the school's Christian ethos and develop its religious character. We're not asking for much are we! But the right candidate will be out there to lead our school forward. We will of course keep you posted as soon as we can, but please be assured that the Governors will be looking to appoint a forward looking head who will continue to develop the caring sharing community that Mrs Wood has moulded.

Sandra Wood, Chair of Governors

PFTA News

After a very successful Christmas Fayre raising over £1000, held on a Friday afternoon for the first time, many parents commented on how much easier it was to attend at that time. A big thank you to Father Christmas for making a seasonal appearance – much appreciated by many children who were able to whisper last minute requests!

This has been followed by a Music Quiz with a tasty chilli supper. Again we raised over £1000 for funds. Many thanks go to Rebecca Carter, our quiz master, and her husband Alan for all his help. Thanks also to Pen Hopkinson for giving up her time to make 100 portions of the chilli! In addition, Barclays very generously supported both events with their £4£ fundraising scheme.

The monies raised are going towards a new state of the art sound system costing around £2500. So out with the antiquated system and in with new super boxes, cables and speakers that will eliminate the howl around and feedback - so the children's performances will be relayed crystal clear right to the back of the audience!

A date for your diary - this year will see our first St Mary's Summer Ball taking place on 8th July. So dust off your dancing shoes, throw on your posh frock or DJ and join us for 'the party of the year'! We look forward to seeing you all there! Look out for posters around the village nearer the time or right here in the 'Link'.

Claire Jonas for the PTFA

HIGH HOUSE

Montessori Day Nursery

(opposite Stansted Airport Terminal)

Accepts children from 3 months to 5 years

Excellent Ofsted Report

Nursery & Baby sections, small class ratio with qualified staff

Approved for Government funding for children 3+

Flexible hours and days according to needs of child and parent

Full day care available 8 am to 6 pm

Open 51 weeks a year

For further information please ring 01279 870898

MEADOW

Montessori Day Nursery

Saffron Walden

Accepts children from 2 to 5 years

Traditional values of Montessori teaching with structured reading, language and number. Children accepted full or part time, flexible hours, excellent ratio. Excellent Ofsted Report.

Open 51 weeks a year

For further information please ring 01799 513858

BABY MASSAGE

HOMEOPATHY

AROMATHERAPY

FLOWER REMEDIES

The natural path to healing

For more information contact

Jan Rickwood

Lower Street Clinic

36 Lower Street, Stansted CM24 8LP

07889 375200 or 01279 815907



NOW OPEN!

OUR FANTASTIC NEW CRAFT DEPARTMENT IS NOW OPEN!

ACRYLIC PAINT, GOUACHE, SILK PAINTING, STENCILLING, OIL PAINT, GLASS PAINTING, SCRAPERFOIL, GOLD LEAF, BRUSHES, POSTER PAINTS, MOUNTING BOARD, MARQUETRY, ETC.

NEW STOCK ARRIVING DAILY!

WE NOW HAVE PARKING FOR OVER 30 CARS PLUS AN ALL NEW OFFICE FURNITURE BUILDING, CALL IN AND SEE!

Millway Stationery

Chapel Hill, Stansted. Tel: 01279 812009



ALDWYCH CONSTRUCTION

23/25 Lower Street, Stansted CM24 8LN

Building and Decorating Contractors

All needs provided throughout

North West Essex,

East Herts & South Cambs

FOR ESTIMATES

Tel 01279 816701

Mobile 07976 050802

Fax 01279 812656



'PROPER WORK AT PROPER PRICES'
BOTH PERIOD AND MODERN

ONWARD DRIVER TRAINING

'Safe driving for life'

Driving Standards Agency Approved Instructor and Assessor

- Learner Tuition: Manual & Automatic dual-controlled Fiat Puntos - friendly non-smoking environment with in-car laptop & video for Theory & Hazard Perception Training
- 'Pass Plus' Registered Instructor
- Advanced & Defensive Driver Training
- Company & Fleet Driver Training and Assessment (for compliance with HSE requirements)
- Motorway Tuition and incident management
- Refresher and Confidence-Building Courses (Parking, Manoeuvring, Economy & Winter driving)
- 4x4 and 6x6 Off-Road Tuition (including winching, self-recovery, commercial and leisure)
- Driver Instructor Training

Philip Hastings Dip.DI, ADI

19 Cawkell Close, Stansted CM24 8JF

Tel: 01279 815571 email: DrivingOnward@aol.com

osteopathy

Cranial, spinal, joint and muscle treatment including sports injuries.

Effective results for back pain, neck pain, trapped nerve, headaches, migraine, sleeplessness and digestive problems.

Suitable for **adults, children and babies.**

Registered Osteopath

BSc.(Ost)D.O.

Hazel Williams

61 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted

01279 813371 or 07973 409675

osteopathy@hazel-williams.co.uk



Report Back of first Area Panel Meeting

This was held at the Mountfitchet School on 31st January and was well attended. I was elected as its first Chairman. Area Panels have been introduced under the new constitution adopted by the Council in December 2005. The format of the panel is unlike traditional council meetings. It is designed to enhance public participation. Meetings start at 7.00pm and there is an opportunity for 30 minutes before the start of the formal meeting for members of the public to raise any matter they wish. Additionally, questions can be put as each agenda item is discussed. There is no requirement to give prior notice of questions. However, if you wish to ask a detailed technical question it would be helpful to contact either Victoria Harvey, the Committee Officer at UDC or myself in advance.

Issues discussed included airport expansion and a resident from Burton End spoke of the threat to this part of Stansted. Mark Evan and Mark Phillips from One Railways also attended and gave a presentation. They highlighted the capacity issues on the Stansted to Liverpool Street line exacerbated by increased traffic from the airport and the new housing developments in the area. Thanks to concerted pressure put on One by commuters led by Sarah Davies and Simon Clifford, improvements to the timetable were announced: from 6th February new fast trains to London from Stansted Mountfitchet at 0649, 0749, 0850 and 0950, with evening return trips at 1655, 1755 and 1825. These are all Stansted Express services and have certainly made a difference to myself and many others, who are regular commuters. It is a clear case that pressure can pay off and that apathy is not the solution.

Car parking in Lower Street/Grove Hill was also discussed. The panel listened to residents and decided unanimously to recommend to the Council's Environment Committee that: "A scheme, which prohibits anyone but residents of Lower Street and Grove Hill from parking on these streets for one hour during the working day be introduced." Residents in a Parish Council survey carried out last year clearly asked for some action to be taken to assist them with on-street parking.

The next meeting of the Area Panel will be on Thursday, 2nd March. The venue has not been determined yet but notices will be put up nearer the date. Alternatively, please contact me for further information. The main item for discussion will be the Council's new policy on waste management.

Budget 2006-07

At our full Council meeting on 16th February councillors will be asked to approve a 4.5% increase in council tax for the next financial year. Faced with spending pressures the Council has been able to find savings of nearly £600,000. We wish to be prudent with council taxpayers' money and are trying to make the Council as efficient as possible. To this end we will be introducing a new customer services centre at the end of the year. Telephone enquiries will be largely dealt with here. We believe that this should result in savings of over £200,000 a year.

Councillor Geoffrey Sell Tel: 01279 815925
Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

Post Office

Plans for a new Post Office still seem to be heading for a spring opening. As I write this on 10th February, it is hoped that a postmistress designate will be able to sign a lease for premises by the end of the month. Of course, one can never be certain about shop premises in Stansted until the ink is dry.

Atmospheric Pollution

Thirty million tonnes is a significant number. It's the annual weight of household rubbish in England. It also equals the amount of carbon dioxide created by the energy consumed in our region's homes and cars. But the planes using an expanded local airport each year would also create the same amount of pollution. We need to cut them all. The problem is that you can't cart aviation emissions away in a wheelie bin!

Trains

Our railway operator is targeted by the Government on how many trains reach their destination within five minutes of the timetable. So perhaps it should have been no surprise at the end of January when I was ejected from a train that arrived late at Bishop's Stortford from London. They had decided to miss out Stansted Mountfitchet and other intermediate stations so the train could race to Cambridge and catch up on lost time. I hadn't realised that the Government's punctuality targets are about empty trains rather than delivering passengers to their expected destination. So whilst Geoffrey Sell has reported on some good progress, all is not yet well with our train service.

Water Lane Development

A small victory for common sense was achieved in Water Lane with the refusal of a planning application on the old gasworks site. Not enough regard seemed to have been paid to traffic access problems that would be inevitable, or to the many pedestrians who walk the lane each day from the Stoneyfield area. I expect there will be a new proposal before too long. Let's hope that existing residents are given a bit more consideration.

Councillor Alan Dean

Tel: 01279 813 579 Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

**STERLING
CHAUFFEUR SERVICES**



Our luxury, air-conditioned Mercedes people mover comfortably seats eight passengers and has the advantage of a cavernous luggage compartment. Executive Saloons also available.

Please contact Ray Barry for further details:
Telephone: 07779259489
e-mail: millview.sterling@btinternet.com

We are fully licensed by Uttlesford District Council

Professional
Self - Employed Barbers



5 Station Rd, Stansted
Tel 01279 817788

Opening Hours:
Mon, Tue & Fri 8 am - 6 pm
Wed & Thu 8 am - 8 pm
Sat 7 am - 4 pm
www.the-mensroom.co.uk



Over 55 or Retired?

Then a warm welcome awaits
at
Stansted Day Centre

Home cooked or frozen lunches
Snacks and social activities

Open Tuesday, Thursday
& Friday 10 am to 4 pm
Crafton Green, top of Chapel Hill
Tel. 01279 815091

HEARING HELP UTTLESFORD

(Formerly CamTAD)

Free hearing help
sessions at
Stansted Day Centre
10 am and noon on
the last Tuesday
of each month

For information ring
HELPLINE 07704 553727
(9 am - 4 pm)

or
01799 522915
or 01371 873310

Registered Charity No. 289280

EDDIE HO



Fish & Chips
BBQ Chicken
Southern Fried Chicken
Pukka Pies
Beef Burgers

Station Road, Stansted
01279 817307

HELPLINE

07704 553727

If you have a PROBLEM
or are in need of
ASSISTANCE

Monday - Friday
9.00 am - 4.00 pm

Stansted's voluntary community care service

J R JOHNSTON C&G RFS

Qualified Tree Surgeon

Fully Insured



Pruning
Dismantling
Hedge Trimming

Trees/Shrubs supplied & planted
Contract Maintenance

Tel 01920 821595



Ages 2½ - 5 years
morning & afternoon

Own building in beautiful
village school grounds

Excellent facilities
& outdoor play areas

Well qualified staff

Outstanding OFSTED
Report (January 2004)

Come & visit - you will be
made very welcome

For further
information tel 01279 3730754
814037 or 0777 3730754



NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR
FREE RANGE:

SUFFOLK PORK
BLACK / BRONZE TURKEYS
GEESE & DUCKS
SUFFOLK PORK SAUSAGES
(Homemade)

DRY ENGLISH CHICKENS

PRIME SCOTCH BEEF

QUALITY:
ENGLISH & WELSH LAMB

16 LOWER STREET, STANSTED
TEL 01279 812219

GET THE MOST OUT OF LIFE

Hypnotherapy

& other brief therapies

One session
smoking therapy &
weight loss

also

Confidence ~ Eating
Stress & Anxiety
Phobias
IBS & Depression
Study & Exams
and much more...

Please ring **GLYNIS CHEERS**
MA, BA, BSCM,
Dip. Clinical Hypnotherapy
01279 812165



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

The hall was packed for our February Meeting all eager to hear our speaker the Rev'd Deborah Snowball, whose talk was entitled 'if I had £5 for every time ...' and to find out - for every time what? When she came in some of us guessed at once - the seemingly original remark so often made to her "you look just like the Vicar of Dibley!" Well she does, though in Dawn French's slimmer days I would say. To stress the likeness she passed around a box of chocolates for everyone to have one - what an original way to start a talk, especially when you have never before addressed a WI meeting!

Deborah has been the curate of Great St Mary's Church in Sawbridgeworth for the last 18 months. She is a friend of one of our members who asked her to come along and tell us some of the highlights of her life. Aided by pictures and personal objects that have been important to her, she proved to be an amusing and gifted speaker with an interesting story to tell. Her father was in the medical corps, so she moved about a bit when she was growing up, but eventually joined the church in NW London where her parents were involved with the cub scouts. She herself became a Queen's Guide and sang in the church choir, and was on the church council, so her life was very involved around the church. When she was in her teens the curate of that church took them to the Taize Community in France, which is run by over 100 Catholic and Protestant Brothers from many Nations. Young adults gather here every year from spring to late autumn joining together in discussions, singing (her great love) and prayers for a week at a time, and it was this that changed her whole life. Back home she felt the need to serve and began to lead services, but felt she had to get out into the world so became a primary teacher, where she taught music amongst other things.

At the age of around 30 she decided to join the Benedictine Community in Burford, Oxfordshire and became a nun. This is a small mixed community and the days were long, rising at 6am with services, prayers and various jobs needed for running the Abbey with only a brief recreational time each day. She was happy there; but after three years it was felt by them all that her talents would be better served in the outside world again. She did some special needs teaching for a couple of years before going to theological college in 2002 and becoming a deacon in 2004. She was ordained by the Bishop of St Albans and now has a very busy life in Sawbridgeworth. Amongst her talents are being able to ride a motor bike, singing, sign language and designing her own church stoles.

After that we got back to WI business. A Resolution was sent to us for the County Annual Meeting in March. This concerned asking members to support the families and children of prisoners by establishing links with local prison visitors' centres and also asking the Government to provide long term funding for such centres. A discussion on this followed but it was felt that this was not really a WI matter and that going into visitor centres, however well-intentioned,

was something that would need training. We asked our delegate to vote against this.

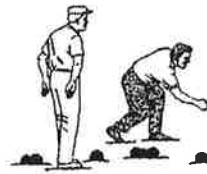
We are having a Make & Bake Stall at the Charity Coffee Morning on 12th April and have yet to choose a charity to support.

A coach trip to Knowle House in Kent is planned for July, which is proving very popular and is almost full already. We look forward to being taken around as a group on our own and also to being able to explore Lord Sackville's garden.

Line dancing classes began on the 8th and have proved to be a great success already. Nineteen people signed up and the instructor seemed most impressed and kept saying "are you sure you haven't done this before?" She'd obviously not come across the WI before - there's no knowing what we can do.

What *you* can do is come and join us if you can; next month is a humorous talk by Peter Webb entitled 'The Good Life'. Visitors are always welcome if you don't want to join. We meet at 7.45pm on Thursday 9th March in St John's Hall.

Judy Colliver 812470



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

As I write this newsletter we are two months away from the start of the season. The green opens on Saturday 22nd April and we hope to see everyone at our pre-season social evening on Friday 21st April.

We held our Presentation Dinner in November, which was well attended, and wish to extend our thanks to the caterers 'Small but Perfect'. There was a good turnout of members at our AGM in December. On behalf of all the members I would like to thank Margaret Hill (our now past President) for all her sterling work throughout the past two years and also to wish our new President, John Hollis and Vice President, Mike Gates well during this our 'Centenary Year' and beyond.

Building and refurbishment work is continuing to make good progress. Once again we would ask if there are any companies or individuals who can offer any building materials etc to please get in touch.

Our Bowling for Beginners will be held on Sunday 28th May. We will be holding two sessions, at 10.00am and 2.00pm. Please come along and have a go; it is very friendly and informal and all we ask is that you wear flat shoes. These sessions will be advertised around the village in due course and we look forward to welcoming you all. Don't forget we are open each Friday evening and you can apply for Social Membership.

Doreen Scraggs, Secretary. Tel 815036
Email: doreenscraggs@tiscali.co.uk

JOOLS

INTERNATIONAL
LIMITED

**Retailer of
Massage Machines
to trade and public**

PRO-SHIATSU

PLUS



Based in
Stansted Mountfitchet

 0870 411 1145

Tim's Tiles & INTERIORS

Quality interior decoration,
including tiles, wood
flooring, Amtico & carpet.

Now in spacious
Period Barn

Stockists of
Farrow & Ball Paints

Pilgrim's Barn, Gypsy Lane
BISHOP'S STORTFORD
CM23 1HA
Tel / fax 01279 813333

www.tile-store.co.uk

J.D.W.

GAS HEATING SPECIALIST

Boiler Servicing
Fast response to breakdowns
of Central Heating
& all gas appliances

Carbon Monoxide Testing
Boiler Replacements
General Plumbing
Cooker Installations

24 Hour Call Out
CORGI Registered
Ex. British Gas

Contact Julian
25 Bentfield Causeway
Tel 01279 816083
or 07967 366585

VICKERS SOLICITORS

Friendly & personal service
Fixed fee Conveyancing
Litigation

Free initial consultation

Advice & assistance at
reasonable cost
Prompt attention

Please contact Julian Vickers
16 Lower Street,
Stansted CM24 8LP
Tel: 01279 817871
Fax: 01279 817877

Email:
julian@vickerslaw.demon.co.uk

AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERS

David Nunn's Garage



SERVICING

REPAIRS

Bentfield Road Stansted
TEL: 01279 812686

Battery Distributors

SERVICE & REPAIRS POWER TOOLS
ALSO BATTERY PACKS TO FIT
MOST MODELS LEISURE MARINE
GOLFING MOBILITY

TEL. 01279 657040



Unit 13, The Links Business Centre,
Raynham Rd
Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 5NX
www.zelta.co.uk email: @zelta.co.uk

STANSTED CARPETS

EST. 1969

42 CHAPEL HILL, STANSTED

CARPETS & VINYL

CARPET TILES - SAFETY FLOORING
DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL

CURTAINS

AND FABRICS • RAILS AND POLES
HAND MADE CURTAINS

FREE LOAN OF SAMPLES
HUGE SELECTION
FREE QUOTATIONS

WALLPAPER

BORROW THE BOOK - CHOOSE AT HOME

01279
812019

Mark Robinson Handyman

All jobs considered
'No Job too Small'



For information
and a competitive quote
please call Mark on

Home
01279 813730
Mobile
07766 761084

Joinery, Gardening, Plumbing,
Painting, Patios, Fencing, Guttering,
Brickwork and Tiling

FOSTER

PLUMBING & HEATING



Reg no 110708

CORGI registered gas installer
Replacement gas/oil boilers
and heating upgrades
Gas fire & surrounds

Boiler servicing

Landlord's gas safety
inspections

Tel 01787 279146
Mobile 07774 654378

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN MORGAN SNR

Like so many of our men John did his fair share during the war in the army; he was involved in two of the landings, was wounded once and received six medals. He was one of our many unsung heroes.



Some afternoons I would go and spend time listening to his very interesting tales. Thanks John. Although he had his awkward moments, as we all do, he was mainly fun to be with and I for one was very glad to have known him and will miss him.

Sadly in December 2005 he had a stroke and spent his 90th birthday in Harlow hospital where a month later he died of pneumonia.

John and I had a lot in common as both lost our loved ones within a month of each other. John was latterly the bingo caller at the Seniors Club and the Over 60 Club in the Day Centre.

Rest in peace John. We will remember you.

Joy Bell



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

The Branch will be holding a Charity Concert in St John's Church on Saturday 3rd June at 3.00pm. We have been lucky to obtain the services of the Braintree and District Scout and Guide Band who proved so popular at our D Day Commemoration Service in June 2004. Tickets, at £5 per head, including light refreshments, will be available from members of the Branch nearer the time.

Welfare

I know some people think that The Royal British Legion is all about helping the elderly so it will probably surprise you that a high percentage of our welfare work these days concerns much younger folk; for example, members of the Forces who have recently been discharged or deserted wives and families of servicemen, who have found themselves unable to cope, mostly, but not always, financially.

We help anyone of any age who is either ex-service or are the dependents of ex-service personnel, but we can only help if the persons concerned approach us themselves. So if anyone knows of people who could do with our help, tell them to contact one of our members in the assurance of strict confidentiality, even it is only for advice or a friendly chat.

David Challis
Chairman, Stansted & District Branch

ELIZABETH EVANS

A Stansted resident since 1923, Elizabeth died in January. For much of this time her home and that of husband Joe was Five Pennies in High Lane where she made a delightful garden and developed her painting skills.

Elizabeth was a sides'man' at St John's Church for many years and latterly attended St Peter's Church at Ugley. She was largely responsible for the Flower Festival at St. Mary's Church in 1999.

Most people will remember her as receptionist and later Practice Manager at Redlands where she worked for 34 years. Her knowledge of, and care for, the patients was legendary. It was work which she did not see as a job - it was an integral part of her life. As Dr Hazzard put it "I never needed a computer, I had Mrs Evans". Few could have earned such an epitaph.



Derek Honour



UGLEY WOMENS' INSTITUTE

An enjoyable lunch at 'The Chequers' Ugley, was the venue for our first meeting of the new year, followed by some excellent musical entertainment provided by Mr Martyn Harris. He serenaded us with his beautiful voice and selection of songs from the pen of Andrew Lloyd Webber. The 35 members who attended (plus one or two husbands) all agreed it was the perfect way to begin our new year programme, as well as making a dull wet January afternoon, most pleasurable.

At our February meeting, we heard about the Tennant family of Orford House.

At our next meeting on 15th March we look at ideas for hanging baskets and containers with Mrs Valerie Day. Why not join us? A warm welcome awaits. We meet in Ugley Village Hall on the third Wednesday in every month at 2.30pm. We would love to see you there. We have an interesting and varied programme to look forward to. Details of our programme for the year can be found on <http://fp.essexwi.plus.com/ugley.html> or for further information ring 812263 or 8502135.

Audrey Fry



Exposed – Cynical Charade by BAA and its Consultants

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has called for the dismissal of environmental consultants, RPS, appointed by BAA to carry out a vital environmental study of its airport expansion proposals because of evidence that has come to light showing that RPS has promised to give BAA the result that it wants. BAA's consultants have promised to do "all in their power" to ensure that the airport operator can meet its objective of building a second Stansted runway and have described their role, in acting for BAA, as being focused on "when and how to deliver the planning consent rather than if".

The row is about the 'Sustainability Appraisal' which BAA must produce in order to obtain planning consent for its expansion plans. A condition for planning consent is that BAA must demonstrate that expanding Stansted beyond the current annual limit of 25 million passengers would be environmentally sustainable as well as meeting social and economic sustainability criteria. RPS have, in effect, promised to provide BAA with a Sustainability Appraisal endorsing the airport expansion plans – and this is even before starting the job. The astonishing pre-judgement is contained in a statement by the Divisional Chairman of RPS, an Abingdon-based environmental consultancy, issued when RPS was appointed by BAA to carry out the Stansted study 18 months ago. The matter has just come to a head as a result of RPS inviting local 'stakeholders' to participate in a workshop which is supposedly aimed at helping to decide the criteria to be used in the Sustainability Appraisal.

Norman Mead, Deputy Chairman of SSE, commented: "What is the point of BAA's consultants asking stakeholders for their views on how to carry out the Sustainability Appraisal, when they have already guaranteed BAA that they will deliver a favourable report? This makes a mockery of the statutory requirement for a Sustainability Appraisal. It is nothing more than a cynical charade. The 'Sustainability Appraisal' is an important document in relation to any BAA planning application and it should consist of a thorough assessment of the environmental and other impacts of the proposed development. What confidence can anyone have that RPS will carry out the task objectively? The local planning authority, Uttlesford District Council, must now notify BAA that it regards RPS as tainted for having pre-judged the outcome of the Sustainability Appraisal. The statement by the RPS is nothing short of astonishing and makes it patently obvious that RPS has no intention of conducting an impartial or objective appraisal. I, for one, will not be attending any RPS workshop in view of the fact that RPS has already decided the outcome."

The Inspector at the last Stansted Airport public inquiry concluded that 25 million passengers a year was the maximum capacity that could be contemplated on environmental grounds. BAA now wants to prove otherwise and is prepared to compromise on standards of integrity and professionalism by appointing consultants who promise to deliver the result that BAA wants. This latest example of consultants promising to dance to BAA's tune follows the 'whistleblower revelation' in July 2005 showing that BAA's consultants were intent upon playing down the environmental impacts of the airport expansion proposals. As well as writing directly to BAA and RPS to condemn this attempt to rig the Sustainability Appraisal in

BAA's favour, SSE has written to Uttlesford District Council and to Environment Minister, Elliot Morley, to press for independent appraisal of the environmental impacts of BAA's expansion proposals.

Carol Barbone, Campaign Director Tel: 0777 552 3091
www.stopstanstedexpansion.com



ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

The Airport

I reported last month about the Consultation Document produced by BAA and by now I am sure that even those who have not had an opportunity to wade their way through it will certainly know the details that it contains.

In order to outline their thoughts to Essex County Council, BAA recently attended a meeting at County Hall at which they presented the background behind their conclusions. They have based the need for a second runway on the recommendations included within the Government White Paper of 2003 and to them the only question is the final site of that second runway with no further question of its necessity. They outlined the economic and environmental impact of the various options and explained the reasoning behind their preferred options, which were Option A to the East of the existing runway and D to the North West. They did however concede that their choice was based only on the economic parameters and that the environmental impact was a secondary consideration. They also conceded the following: -

- That Option D with the new runway to the North West is planned to be the same length as the existing. It should be noted, although it was not mentioned at the meeting, the 2003 White Paper indicated a shorter runway to the North West and therefore their proposal is in excess of that detailed in the White Paper.
- That the noise contours indicated in their document are based on noise emanating only from aircraft which are in the air and that no calculation has yet been carried out to include the noise from aircraft on the ground or the increased noise from road traffic as a result of the additional traffic caused by the expansion. It should be remembered that all noise is accumulative therefore the noise contours they have indicated are inaccurate and those contours will be considerably widened. Indeed the numbers of people they claim will be adversely affected by airport noise are similarly based on aircraft in the air and therefore the numbers actually affected by noise from all airport sources will be considerably greater than their published assessment.
- They have taken no account of surface access within their document and, apart from assuming that an additional junction from the M11 would be incorporated at some point within their plan (this to be located between Parsonage Farm and Duck End), no consideration has been given to this matter.

Essex County Council will include all of these matters in their response to the Consultation Document. However, at this time ECC's opinion is unchanged – *an additional runway is unacceptable in any circumstances.*

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

EVENTS IN SAFFRON WALDEN

ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL at the LIBRARY

Kate Long - best selling author of *The Bad Mother's Handbook* at the Library 1st March 1 - 2.30 pm. Tickets £3.50/£2.50. Tel 01206 573948

MUSEUM Tel 01799 510333

Thurs 2nd March 1 - 2.30 pm. Children free, adults £1, concessions 50p.
Pirates - activities, games and stories for children 2-5 years.

Sat 11th March 1.45 - 4 pm - *The Human and the animal'*

Illustration workshop for adults and young people aged 15 plus.

Led by Lizzie Sanders illustrator of the latest Brambly Hedge stories for children. Tickets £7. Limited numbers. Booking essential.

Sat 11th March - Sun 14th May - *A Return to Brambly Hedge*

An exhibition on the artwork and stories in these much loved children's books. Usual opening times. Children free, adults £1, concessions 50p.

AUDLEY END

Falconry Experience Days (adults)
25th - 26th March 10.30 am - 4 pm

Book on 0870 333 1183

Cost £60

BEST WISHES ...

.. to Jan and John, who have retired as licensees of the Rose and Crown after 21 years ... and welcome to Barbara and son, Richard who have taken over

Fiddlers Brook
Mixed Morris Side
Morris Dancers and
Musicians wanted

No experience required
Tuesdays 8.15 pm FREE!
Allens Green Village Hall
Tel 01279 730197

More activities to try

Painting Day
Easton Lodge Gardens
Wed 15th Mar 10am - 5pm
£85 incl lunch
Tel 01438 318398

Timber-Framed
Buildings Day School
Clavering Village Hall
Sat 25th Mar 10am - 4pm
£10 incl refreshments
Tel 01799 550462

NEED THE DISTRICT NURSE?

The nurses serving the
Stansted area are now
based in Dunmow

Telephone
01371 874034



Registered charity number 10049801

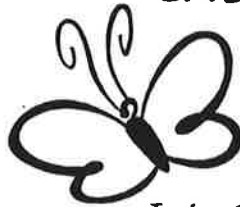
St John's Road
Stansted

For children aged
2½ to rising 5

For details please contact
Terrie Stockwell on
07966 506997 or
Gill Pursglove on
01279 814701

Stansted's

PAINTING LADIES



Interior
Decoration & Design

Free initial consultation
Decorating & Colour Advice
Bespoke Soft Furnishings

Gail 07818 093992
Michaela 07723 087333



9 Hole Golf Course
Pay and Play
Health & Fitness Suite
Memberships Available
Driving Range
Open 7 Days a week
☎ **01279 812865**

Computer Users! Mac & PC Repairs

software & hardware upgrades
computer repairs

call:

Alan Horsley

Tel: 01279 835475

Mobile: 07952 970324

No call out fee ~ Viruses eradicated
Low cost antivirus ~ No job too small

Selina Rankin Garden Design



Offering a comprehensive
garden design service
to meet all your needs

Friendly, professional service.

No job too big or small

One off consultations through
to complete garden re-designs

For further information please contact:

Selina Rankin
Chimneys, 44 Lower Street, Stansted
Tel: 01279 813388
Email: info@srgardendesign.co.uk
Web: www.srgardendesign.co.uk

Shadowfax

IT solutions for your business

- Consulting and Support
- Custom-built PCs and Servers
- Network Installations
- Broadband Internet
- Antivirus software
- Advice from qualified staff

Microsoft
CERTIFIED
Partner

2a Bentfield Road
Stansted CM24 8HN
Tel: 01279 813076
E-mail: info@sfx.co.uk

The Alexander Technique

Helps with back & neck pain
and many stress related disorders

Private sessions

'Now available at Fancy Fingers'
Silver Street, Stansted
with Pippa Bondy MSTAT

For details please contact Pippa on
01766 590685 or 07814 959613
info@ancienthealingways.co.uk

patrick
howard
design
associates



BRAEMAR HOUSE, WATER LANE
STANSTED CM24 8BJ

Tel: 01279 817342 Fax: 01279 647086
email: info@phdassociates.co.uk

Alzheimer's Society

Dementia care and research

Uttlesford Branch

Our Outreach Workers are
happy to offer help, advice
and support to people with
dementia and their carers.

Home visits possible.

Please contact us
on

☎ **01371 872519**

or email:

alzheimers@uttlesford.freereserve.co.uk

Registered Charity No 296645
Company Reg No 2115499

NLP Solutions - for today's problems!

Stress, Anxiety, Depression,
Smoking, Weight Loss,
Anger, Allergies, Phobias,
Unhelpful mental blocks,
Bad memories or habits

Why let them run your future?
Resolve them with Brief Therapy

Call today: 01279 817976
or email Link@NLPsolutions.com

Sian Lloyd MBA
Certified NLP Trainer &
Master Practitioner
Registered Timeline ® Practitioner
Member of ANLP & NLPICA
Neuro-Linguistic Counselling,
Therapy, Coaching and Training

touch™

mobile beauty treatments

Experienced and fully
qualified Beauty
Therapist.
Full range of Beauty
treatments available.

Wedding, holiday packages.

Call Gemma on 07770766420

BOB, PETER AND THE FUTURE

This month sees a very significant event in the history of Mercer and Hughes. On 31st March Bob Mercer and Peter Hughes retire. Bob and Peter both qualified from Cambridge vet school, Bob in 1968 and Peter in 1972. They worked together as assistant veterinary surgeons in Devon, and in 1974 bought a practice from Mr and Mrs Bowen in Thaxted. The surgery in Thaxted was on the ground floor and Bob and Peter lived with their wives and small children in five rooms over the surgery. The early days involved a lot of hard work and it was not until 1976 that they managed their first week-end off together to play golf.

In 1977 they bought out two practices in Saffron Walden and opened up at the present site, having altered the original building and adding a modern hospital block extension on the back. This is still the headquarters of the practice today. A branch surgery was opened in Great Dunmow a few years later and Stephen Flood and I became partners in 1992. In 1994 the Stansted practice was bought from Captain Davies and extensive renovations carried out.

Veterinary life has changed enormously in the years that Bob and Peter have been practising. In the 1970s the practice was truly rural with many dairy cows and most farms having some pigs and sheep. Nowadays the practice is predominantly small animal and horses. The expectations of the general public are much higher, and the practice has invested in new equipment and training in order to continue to provide a high standard of veterinary care. We are now a six vet practice and are also a veterinary nurse training centre and last year we became an RCVS accredited practice.

One of the reasons I think that has contributed towards the success and growth of the practice is Bob and Peter's ability to embrace new ideas. Peter had his own Koi carp pond when Koi first became popular in this country and rapidly became the practice fish expert. Bob is never happier than when repairing complicated orthopaedic fractures and has even developed his own method of repairing a certain type of fracture which he keeps threatening to publish! Peter recognised the importance of new technology and computerised the practice in the 1990s and their enthusiasm for learning has rubbed off on generations of vet students and nurses over the years.

I saw practice with Mercer and Hughes in the 1980s when I was a vet student at Cambridge, and I was offered a job as an assistant vet in 1989 when I qualified. It has only been in the last few years, as I have been teaching vet students myself, that I have fully realised their patience with me as a new graduate. I'll never forget the morning I had to wake Peter up to help with my first calving, which turned out to be a caesarean and he came out promptly to my rescue. Imagine my horror when two weeks later I had another difficult calving and couldn't believe the bad luck that I might have to do another caesarean. I called Peter again with much trepidation. The phone conversation was a little more terse this time but the help was given willingly and I then gained enough confidence to do the next one on my own! In the last few years I have found myself repeating phrases to vet students that Bob used with me when I first started, just as you find yourself repeating phrases from your parents when you have children

of your own. I know it's given them much satisfaction to see the students they've taught over the years go on to qualify and to set up practices of their own.

They both have lots of plans for their retirement; Peter will have more time to spend on his boat and to find his perfect house in France. Bob will have more time for fishing and diving and will doubtless be run ragged by his grandchildren. Mercer and Hughes will continue in the capable hands of Steve and myself. We intend to make no major changes at the moment and hopefully clients will not notice any difference. We will continue to grow and develop and change according to the needs of veterinary medicine in the 21st century, building on the firm foundations that Bob and Peter have left us.

Ilse Pedler, Partner
Mercer and Hughes, Veterinary Surgeons

NEWWIN-E LTD
Private Occupational Therapy Services
newwin-e@ntlworld.com
LOOKING FOR A PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST?

We can assess your child for the following:

	Current Functional Level	
	Dyspraxia	
	ADHD	
	Visual Perception Problems	
	Sensory Integration Difficulties	

Are you concerned about any of the following issues?

	Lack of concentration	
	Difficulty to sit still in class	
	Problems with reading or writing	
	Co-ordination difficulties	

LOOK NO FURTHER
CONTACT WYNITA DAVIES ON 07931 341365
TO SCHEDULE YOUR ASSESSMENT



**STANSTED & DISTRICT
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

Our next ploughman's lunches will be on Saturday 11th March, and Saturday 8th April, 12 noon to 2.00pm, at the Stansted Day Centre. All are welcome.

We will be holding a Quiz on Saturday 11th March, 7.00pm for 7.30pm, at the Stansted Day Centre. Tickets £5 to include light refreshments. There will also be a bar and a raffle.

Our annual Supper Club will take place on Friday 28th April at the Stansted Day Centre, 7.30pm for 8.00pm. The speaker will be Justine McGuinness. For further information, please ring 814222 or 813432.

Ruth Rawlinson



The first half term seemed to fly by and staff and children returned from the half term break refreshed and ready to work hard! Our new topic is 'healthy eating' and the children have been learning all about which food is good for us. A visit to a garden centre is planned so the children can buy seeds with which to grow yet more healthy foods for snack time! The children have also used what they have learned about healthy foods to design their own pizza toppings for the pizzas they made.

Rainbow pupils and staff, both past and present, joined Ann Conroy at her official retirement party at the beginning of February. Cakes were eaten, children played and Ann enjoyed catching up and reminiscing with a few 'old' faces! The photographer from the Observer was there to record this end of an era for Ann, who, luckily for us, will still be a volunteer at Rainbow.

A date for your diaries ... our yearly fun fundraiser, the 'Chinese Auction' is back on Saturday 18th March. Keep an eye out for further details!

There are a few afternoon sessions still available at 'Rainbow Tots' (ages 18 months to two and a half years). For further information 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



Some of Ann's children

Photographer: Mandy Honour

LOOKING BACK part 3

My thanks to all the people who have shown such interest in my reminiscences of Stansted in years gone by and those who have reminded me of things I should have put in.

Mention has been made of another barber who operated in Silver Street, namely Ernie Ramsey, known as the demon barber. A good friend of mine assures me that this is a true story. It seems Ernie got one of the new fangled electric razors. The first time he used it he lathered the customer's face as you would with the cut throat razor. This, I am told, blew a fuse which was probably fortunate for the customer!

Another shop in Silver Street was Deamers, the newsagents. They eventually moved to Cambridge Road where the shop was run by Robert, the son, for quite a while.

In my youth I used to run errands on a Saturday morning for Miss Sloane who, together with her brother Duggie, ran the Barley Mow public house in Chapel Hill. Duggie was a real character. He had both his legs amputated and I vividly remember him showing me his 'new legs'. The image stays with me to this day! Duggie had a fine singing voice and used to sing at the top of his voice when taking a delivery from the brewery. I am sure that there are those who can remember his dulcet tones when we were playing in the school fields overlooking Chapel Hill. He used to have an advert in such publications as the football programme which read something like 'Let Duggie be your doctor, visit the Barley Mow for our fine spirits and ales, etc.' One of my 'tasks' on Saturday morning was to take the pub takings to Barclays Bank in a shopping bag - can you imagine that happening now? He was succeeded by the last landlord, Mr Venables when the pub became the first venue for what is now the Hatfield Forest Scout Fellowship.

With the money I earned I used to go in the afternoon to the pictures in Bishop's Stortford, usually to the Phoenix cinema - rather unjustly known as the fleapit, I recall. The film very often used to break and the audience would sing "why are we waiting" as the projection staff were frantically splicing the film. The other cinema was the Regent which was a bit upmarket. In those days films starring such entertainers as 'Old Mother Riley' and 'Mr Pastry' were very popular. At the end of the performance the National Anthem was played and the audience always stood up respectfully whilst it was played. They were different times!!

For many years Stansted had a soft drinks company called Normans. Their slogan was Normans 'Conquerors' drinks. I believe stone bottles from Normans were unearthed years after they stopped trading.

Another subject which merits an article on its own was Stansted Carnival which used to be held in Water Lane, then moved up to the sports ground in Cambridge Road. As I mentioned previously, it was quite a big affair. We used to have celebrities such as Nicholas Parsons, Kenneth Moore and Fenella Fielding to open the carnival. These were engaged through Aubrey Buxton from Norman House who was, I believe, Chairman of Anglia Television.

There used to be a combined Carnival Queen Competition and a Fashion Show at Mountfitchet School Hall. As compère of the Carnival Queen competition I was privileged to be backstage when the models for the fashion show were busy changing their costumes. I can recall saying to the audience that I had just seen an atomic bra, so called because I was waiting for the fall out. Ah, happy times!!

If readers of the 'Link' have other memories of Stansted in bygone days I would love to share them with you. It is a very big subject and does bring back many happy memories.

Dick Pollard

Dick is one among many who have a rich fund of memories. Please let him - or the Editor - know of any personalities or anecdotes known to you so that they may be shared.

STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

Local landmarks on the silver screen

Fifty-six members congregated at the Old Bell in Stansted for the Lunch Club's first meeting of 2006 sponsored by City & Country Group.

Peter Willsher, a Director of City & Country Group, gave an entertaining insight into the uses to which the Group put its properties during the often lengthy process of sympathetically planning, redesigning and obtaining planning consent for its conversion and refurbishment of its properties. He illustrated his talk with slides of several local properties used as film-sets for major television and film productions including the BBC's 'Bleak House' and 'Casualty', as well as ITV's 'Foyle's War', all of which would have been familiar to those present. At the end of the lunch, Peter handed out copies of his book 'Live with History in your own home', an interesting study of how to help preserve the nation's architectural heritage. To find out more about City & Country Group, please telephone 01279 817882 or visit www.cityandcountry.co.uk.

The next lunch

The Lunch Club next meets at 1.30pm on Wednesday 29th March and will be sponsored by Peter Wells of KUA Consulting, a local firm of consultants which will be featuring Mountfitchet High School's bid to achieve Specialist School Status. For those interested in attending the lunch on 29th March or who would like to join the Stansted Lunch Club, please contact me.

Alastair Richardson Tel: 07850 295109
Email: alastair@abr-ltd.com or visit www.abr-ltd.com

CARERS UK

Uttlesford District Branch

"Caring about the Carer"

Carers are the biggest provider of health and social care in the UK. We offer help, support and advice

If you would like to know more about us, call us now on:

01371 875810

Uttlesford Carers

46 High Street, Dunmow CM6 1AN

Registered Charity No. 246329

Ray Morton

PAINTER & DECORATOR
GENERAL HANDYMAN

**No Job Too Small!
Free Estimates**

Tel 01279 812792

8 Mill Close, Elsenham

Gina's Business Services

Office support for the smaller business



Bookkeeping, IT Tuition
Transcription :-
Tape (Philips) or Digital
Special projects or
Regular contracts

Telephone: 01279 812105

Mobile: 07703 509606

www.ginab.co.uk

The Mower Shop ELSENHAM



**Mowers
Strimmers
Chain Saws
Garden Tractors
Tools & Accessories**

Fieldings engineers

FULL REPAIR SERVICE

Tel 01279 813381

All major credit & debit cards now accepted

STANSTED ALL-STEEL

Custom Manufacture

Security Grills
Railings
Gates etc.



Residential
&
Commercial

All Styles

All Sizes

Tel: 01279 817801 Fax: 01279 815704 Mobile: 07785 772341

Corner Buildings, Parsonage Estate, Stansted, CM24 8TY

www.stanstedallsteel.co.uk



Indian Cuisine at its very best

Quality is the Result of Care

Fine Indian Cuisine and
Traditional Fish & Chips

Take Away and Delivery Service

STAR OF INDIA

Opening times: 12 noon to 2pm & 5pm to 10pm
(except Sundays and Bank Holidays)

Tel 0800 007 6768 or 01279 810810
or order on line at

www.starofindia.co.uk

3 Ambrose Corner, Robin Hood Rd, Elsenham

20% OFF

SPECIAL OFFER

20% OFF orders over £15

Monday - Saturday

on production of this voucher (collection only)



S. PERRY CHAPEL END NURSERY



**HUGE RANGE OF SHRUBS AND TREES
INCLUDING MANY UNUSUAL VARIETIES**

PLANTS AND BULBS FOR ALL SEASONS
TUB & BASKET PLANTS PLANTED HANGING BASKETS
HERBS VEGETABLE PLANTS FRUIT BUSHES
ROSES HEDGING

GODWIN'S
MULTIPURPOSE COMPOST
75 LITRE BAG
£3.65 EACH
3 FOR £9

LEVINGTON MULTIPURPOSE
75 LITRE + 33% FREE
= 100 LITRE BAG
£4.95

WE ARE
HERE



**EXCELLENT
PRICES
IT PAYS
TO VISIT
US FIRST**

SUTTONS SEEDS
5 PACKS OR MORE
SAVE 10p PER PACK

CONIFERS
BEDDING
ALPINES
HERBACEOUS
COMPOST
STONE
PAVING

GRITS & GRAVEL
SUNDRIES
WILD BIRD FOOD
XMAS TREES

OPEN: 9 am TO 6 pm EVERY DAY
MOLEHILL GREEN ROAD
BROXTED DUNMOW ESSEX
01279 850771



**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

At our February meeting we welcomed once again Peter Lawrence, who had fascinated us last year with little known facts concerning the history of Whitehall. Peter had served with the police for 32 years, 15 of which were with the Royal and Diplomatic Protection Service, and this had brought him into many places not normally visited by the general public. Not only did he tell of the background history of these areas but he was able to illustrate them from his excellent collection of slides.

In his last talk he had concentrated on the Downing Street end of Whitehall but this time he started at Trafalgar Square. This was the site of the ancient village of Charing, the old Royal Mews and with its proximity to the seat of Government, a centre of inns and later hotels for those visiting to do business. Looking down Whitehall is a statue of Charles I, which was erected at the Restoration on the true site of Eleanor's Cross (the one on the forecourt of the nearby station is a Victorian design) and it has not been moved from this position in over 400 years. Peter gave much interesting information about the neighbourhood and its history – how the site of the Royal Mews became home to the National Gallery and how the last palace on the Strand, Northumberland House, was demolished in the 1850s because of the development of London's railways, the new drainage system and to make way for Northumberland Avenue. With the building of Trafalgar Square in honour of Nelson, the last remains of Charing village disappeared.

The nearby Admiralty was known as the "ugliest pile in London" when it was built in the eighteenth century and a screen was erected in front of it so that Georgian feelings would not be offended! Next to it, however, is Admiralty House, once the house of the First Lord of the Admiralty, which Peter described as 'grandeur in miniature' - and his supporting slides showed he was not exaggerating. He even had pictures of the original Admiralty Boardroom, with its Nelson memorabilia. There is also a semaphore repeater by which their Lordships could see messages as they were sent to Portsmouth Dockyard for the Fleet – they would take seven minutes to travel from London! The Admiralty Arch, by the way, was erected in the twentieth century to improve the approaches to the Mall and to provide additional office accommodation for the Admiralty itself – it now contains not one sailor!

Peter ended with some photographs of the Horse Guards and the Foreign Office, the India Office which had been built with funds obtained when the East India Company was wound up. In recent years it has been beautifully renovated and can be viewed, as can many Government buildings, on Open House Weekends, which take place on the third weekend in September. We were grateful to Peter for his most interesting talk and were pleased to know he has one or two more available.

Our next meeting will be learning about a totally different part of London altogether when Derek Morris tells us of 'Mile End Old Town' on 2nd March. See you then.

Ian Seavers

A NEW WEBSITE FOR WALKERS IN ESSEX

Walking is great exercise – it is recommended that we take at least 10,000 steps a day. For keen walkers, a local website provides a wealth of information on walks in the area.

www.walkinginessex.co.uk gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the county.

Guided walks: 80 walks detailed every month. The website tells you how long the walk is, which group is running it, when and where it starts and a contact number in case of questions.

Books of walks: There are more than 40 books of walks for the county. All the details are here.

Leaflets of walks: More than 50 leaflets are produced around the county, many of them difficult to find. Not any more! www.walkinginessex.co.uk lists them all.

Walking groups: Every walking group in the county is listed (17 of them!).

There are also links so that you can check: the weather for your walk, links to other useful sites, how to get to your walk by public transport – and more is being added all the time.

So check out the website and get walking!

John Harris,
www.walkinginessex.co.uk
Tel: 01920 822887

Bareham Overy Partnership

RIBA Chartered Architects

Turn ideas into reality

- Residential
- Commercial
- Leisure
- Industrial
- Planning & Building
Regulation Applications
- Project Management
- Space Planning
- Interior Design



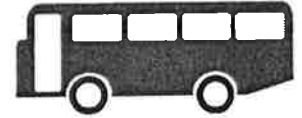
**Tel: 01279 816040 Fax: 01279 814414
1 Station Road, Stansted CM24 8BE**



Huw Johnson Club

Once again we have enjoyed a bowling evening in Bishop's Stortford and next week we shall all be line dancing. All this exercise should get a bit of weight off hopefully.

We are looking for some kind people to act as escorts on the minibus. We now use the Community Travel minibus to transport some of our members every week. If you think that you would enjoy a trip to Saffron Walden once a month please volunteer. We have four very friendly drivers who would love to welcome you on board. Our members would also be delighted to have someone to chat to on the journey. Please think about this and have a talk with me if you want more details.



Marion Johnson Tel: 812284



MOUNTFITCHET HIGH SCHOOL

The PTA have lots of fun events planned for 2006. We are kicking off with a Quiz Night on 11th March - tables of up to eight - tickets are £6.00 each to include a hot supper and there will be a licensed bar. To book your tickets call Yvonne on 815707, Stella on 815813 or School on 815813.

Another event to look forward to is our Pampered Chef evening, also in March, which will have a chocolate theme - definitely an evening to forget about calories and have some fun. Easter Saturday and Sunday will see our first VW Owners event - a joint venture organised by school with the PTA providing food and the bar as well as some additional attractions. And so into May with our very popular 'Millionaires Night' where you can dress to kill (if you wish) and make a killing on the tables (we provide the 'money').

Watch this space ...

TWICHEL

In Mark Gerber's recollections of life in Stoney Common when he was younger (February 'Link') he talks of people gathering in the 'twichels' and has also remarked that he has not heard the word used outside this area. This prompted some research.

The meaning is a small lane between hedges or houses and comes from an old word which was once widespread. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, other forms were twychel, twachylle, twichene (late Old English) and twycene (Old English). In mediaeval Oxford twychen survived. Twitchell was heard across the Midlands and in Lancashire and Yorkshire the reduced form twitch was used. Another variation twitten appeared in Sussex, particularly in the Brighton area.

Twitchell as a not uncommon surname (however spelt) and probably derives from someone who lived in such a lane and can also sometimes be found as a boy's name.

Due to 'incomers', and perhaps the influence of TV and radio, knowledge of this and other dialect words is being lost although one still hears twichel used in Stansted. For example the alley between Lower Street and Burnells Way, from Cambridge Road through to Bentfield and Recreation Ground to Millside.

Can some of our 'old' inhabitants remember other words not heard much nowadays?

Peggy Honour



STANSTED FUN RUN PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING PROJECT

STANSTED *Yes - we are still collecting!!*

A big **THANK YOU** to all those who have donated cartridges. Please keep them coming - 20% of the money raised will go to the Link, the remainder towards the Fun Run administrative expenses. We can take both laser and deskjet/inkjet, but **unfortunately we cannot accept Epson cartridges, or own brand, such as Viking, or cartridges which have already been recycled.**

Please telephone Marion Dyer on 814059 or email info@stansted10k.org.uk to arrange collection, or leave in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Thank you!





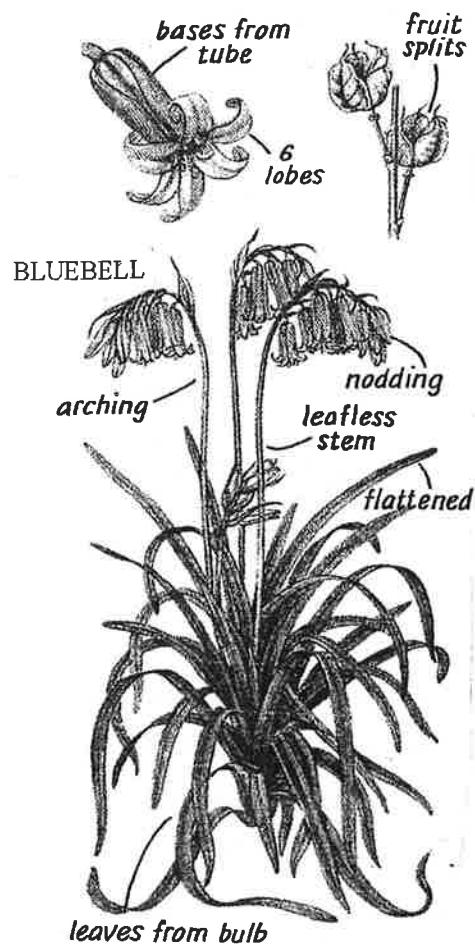
Nature Notes

For, lo, the winter is past ...
The flowers appear on the earth.

Song of Solomon, 2: 11-12.

I am writing this in early February when the bluebell plants are starting to poke through the dead leaves. From early April and through May our local woods will be carpeted with blue. All that you have to do to enjoy this great natural spectacle is to get out on the footpaths. For those of us unable to walk very far it is possible to park within 300 yards of bluebell woods which are skirted by footpaths: from Pennington Lane the bridleway leading to Bollington Hall goes past Houghtey Wood; from Hazel End pond a footpath goes round the side of Home Farm towards Hazel End Wood; there is a parking spot at the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve and across the road a footpath takes you round behind a hedge to the edge of Alsa Wood. A bit further afield at Rickling Green, the footpath signposted off the Green across from the school starts up a driveway and soon takes you right into the middle of the bluebells in Coney Acre. On a mild day their scent is wonderful. Possibly the most spectacular bluebell walk in this district is through Sidehill Wood at Much Hadham. If you find the ford at Much Hadham, you will see a footpath heading south-east across a pasture towards the wooded hillside. A good path runs through the wood along the bottom of the slope and once the bluebells are in full bloom I promise you that you will be awestruck by the spectacle, particularly on a sunny day.

There are plenty of other wild spring flowers apart from the bluebell and no doubt most of you will be familiar with these and see them on your walks. A flower that is a little unusual round here is the wild daffodil which is much smaller than those in the garden, and one would expect to flower from the end of February and through March. If you wish to see some, I suggest that you get an Ordnance Survey map covering the area to the west of Stansted. Find the bridleway which starts at the road junction beyond Bentfield Green and follow this westwards for about three and a half miles, through Oozes Wood, Savenend, Chatter End, Farnham Green and round Shaw Wood. You have now crossed the county boundary into Hertfordshire. This is an open, empty area which was once the no-man's land between the Icenis on our side and whoever they did not get on with over there. Then down the slope, the path skirts Bogs Wood where the wild daffodils are still growing. I say still growing because when I was a lad the woods and meadows in that area were smothered in daffodils. Grasslands have since been improved and most of the daffodils have gone. If you don't fancy the eight mile hike, then you can park at Clapgate or Patmore Heath and walk back this way. In a 'good' year, when the daffodils flower late and the bluebells early, they can be seen yellow and blue together in Bogs Wood.



leaves from bulb

Felix

SNIPPETS

It is sad when an established institution closes its doors. We must now say Goodbye and Thank-you to Sidesways Pre-School through which many of Stansted's young people have passed. We hope that Sidesways teams past and present know that they played their part in attaining the recognition that Pre-Schools now enjoy.

Readers may have seen in a recent issue of the Herts & Essex Observer that the Link and Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council are discussing joint publication. At present the Link is received monthly by over 900 subscribers (but probably read by twice that number), while the Parish Council's Newsletter is published 3 or 4 times a year and goes to all houses and businesses. The Link is funded by subscriptions and advertisers, whereas the Parish Newsletter is publicly financed. Both are distributed by volunteers. The villages that we know of in this and neighbouring counties have a single magazine which is a comprehensive village voice, so we hope that this desirable objective can be achieved here. Contrary to the inference in the newspaper that the Council is concerned about loss of identity, there is a clear majority view that a single publication is preferable. Cordial discussions are proceeding. When we know more, we shall ensure that you do.

Editor

LOWER STREET CLINIC
36 Lower Street, Stansted

REGISTERED OSTEOPATHS

Jacolin Sheaf DO & Associates

Specialists in treatment of spinal, joint & muscle pain,
headaches, trapped nerves & sports injuries

Treatment suitable for all ages, including children

Tel: 01279 815907

STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

Richard Handford BSc, SRCh, MChs

Specialising in routine chiropody, sports injuries,
ultrasound, biomechanics, orthotics,
nail surgery & verrucae

Tel: 01279 647337

Do-It-4U

General Handyman

Home & Garden Repair, Care & Maintenance

- ◆ Plumbing, Electrical & Carpentry Services
- ◆ Drain Blockages Cleared
- ◆ Gutters Cleaned, Repaired or Replaced
- ◆ Fences Erected & Repaired
- ◆ Gardens Tidied & Maintained
- ◆ Hedges & Topiary Trimmed & Re-shaped

Telephone / Fax 01279 814411

Mobile 07774 877320

D BONNEY & SONS (Manuden)

MOT Testing ~ Diesel & Catalyst

Selection of New & Used Cars
Accident Recovery Work
Welding & Chassis Repairs
Borg & Beck Clutch Point Centre
Calor Gas Stockist

We help YOU the motorist by

- cheaper labour rate
- guaranteed workmanship
- free collection & delivery in local area

**Familiar with most makes of vehicles
including four wheel drives**

Please ring Malc or Neil on 01279 813315 or 815946



**THE GRAHAM SCHOOL
OF DANCE**

Highest standard dance classes are held at
the QUAKER HALL, STANSTED in BALLET, TAP
and MODERN dance for children from 3 yrs.
Classes also held in Bishop's Stortford
(including for adults) & at Takeley.

Our pupils ...

- *keep fit & have fun*
- *gain excellent exam results*
- *win places with national dance companies
such as the National Youth Ballet*
- *dance in professional pantomimes*
- *successfully audition for full time vocational
dance school places such as the Royal Ballet School*

FOR FURTHER DETAILS & A FREE PROSPECTUS

Tel: 654423 email: enquiries@grahamdance.co.uk

VALLEY CARPETS

The Carpet Specialist for
Quality Carpets and Fitting for all
Domestic & Contract Floorcoverings

For an appointment please contact:

Stuart & Sue Timms

25 Cambridge Rd, Stansted

Tel: 01279 817757

www.valley-carpets.co.uk

info@valley-carpets.co.uk



Samantha Jane's Beauty Studio
Specialising in Waxing & Beauty Treatments
- established 1985 -

Stockists of St Tropez Bronzing Mist
- £28 for 270 ml

Australian Bodycare - Solar Nail Oil
Gift Vouchers for all occasions

4 Late Nights by Appointment

Tel: Jane Charo on 654219 or 0793 276 9677
3 Bridge Street (1st Floor), Bishop's Stortford
above Lednor Estate Agent opposite Tobacconist

10% off next appointment
& 50p parking refund

CORBETT ELECTRICAL

Electrical Contractor

Rewires ~ Extra Sockets & Lights
Inspection & Testing ~ Repairs

31 Rainsford Road, Stansted Tel: 01279 816577

Relax and Enjoy

a weekend break
or holiday with
family & friends
or just for two
in a superb
location



Let's Go To France
www.selectgites.com
Alison Barr
01799 530136

Fancy Fingers

Beauty Treatments

Stansted Holistic Centre

Facials

Reflexology

Waxing

Counselling

Manicure & Pedicure

Hypnotherapy

Eyelash Tint/Perm

Herbal Medicine

Slimming ... & much more

Alexander Technique

Healthcare Commission certified: Permanent Hair Removal Centre

52a Silver Street, Stansted

Open Mon-Sat plus one evening

www.fancyfingers.co.uk

Tel 01279 647646

Always Happy to HelpPop In & See Us

INTERCOUNTRY

The area's leading Independent Estate Agents

Tel 01279 814400

8 Cambridge Road, Stansted CM24 8BZ

also at Bishop's Stortford, Saffron Walden,
Great Dunmow and Braintree

www.intercountry.co.uk

Flowers for Every Occasion

from

Diane & David Newland

Weddings, Anniversaries,
Floral Tributes or just a bunch
in fresh or silk flowers

Fresh Flowers Always Available,
No Order Too LARGE or SMALL



(Business Centres) Ltd Business Partner of the Year 2005

Call at "Cedarwood", Station Road, Elsenham or Tel: 01279 812110

D. C. POULTON & SONS

Funeral Directors

Day and Night
Personal Service



2 Chapel Hill 01279
Stansted CM24 8AG 813219

Pre-payment Plans Available

Also at CLARKS LANE 01992 572609
EPPING CM16 4NJ



POTHECARY & BARRATT
SOLICITORS & NOTARY PUBLIC

Providing Legal Services for
People & Businesses

For Professional Advice You Can Trust

Call Us

☎ 01279 506421

email: mail@pothecary.co.uk
or visit

www.pothecary.co.uk

White Horse Court, North Street
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 2LD

Clients' parking and Disabled Access

Also in the City of London

Wills, Probate & Trusts - Commercial & Residential Conveyancing
Charities and Ecclesiastical Law - Corporate & Commercial Matters
Litigation & Matrimonial - Landlord & Tenant - Notarial Services

Members of the Lawyers Christian Fellowship



35 Gilbey Crescent
Stansted Essex
CM24 8DT

Tel/Fax: 01279 816491
Mobile: 07956 873230
www.roofer-essex.com

A & M COLLINS ROOFING

Guaranteed Workmanship



- SLATING • TILING • LEADWORK •
- ZINCWORK • GUTTERING • FLAT ROOFS •
- REPAIRS • UPVC FACIAS & GUTTERS •




Exclusive Indian Cuisine

FREE Home Delivery

Take-away available
10% discount
on orders over £10
on collection

**8 Chapel Hill
Stansted**

Essex CM24 8AG

 **01279 815688
01279 812774**

Daniel Robinson & Sons

*Independent Family Funeral Directors
& Monumental Masons*

A personal caring service from a family business
day or night

Our trained staff will be pleased to give free confidential
advice on any matter

79/81 South Street
Bishop's Stortford
01279 655477

3 Bullfields
Sawbridgeworth
01279 722476

146 High Street
Epping
Tel 01992 560890

Wych Elm
Harlow
01279 426990



Haslers Lane
Great Dunmow
Tel 01371 874518



24 hour family careline * Golden Charter Pre-Payment Plans

SCUBA DIVE

with

2DIVE4

SCUBA DIVING CENTER

10 Chapel Hill, Stansted

08700 502254

www.2dive4.co.uk

**ONE ON ONE SUPERVISION BEGINNER COURSES TRY DIVES
FULLY STOCKED SHOP AIR FILLS DIVE TRIPS SERVICING**

sensational!

But who can I trust to install it?

Buy your bathroom from an IBSA
showroom and you'll receive :

Free six year warranty on installation

Free deposit protection

Fabulous choice of select products

Professional advice

Expert installers



Bubbles Bathrooms Ltd

27 - 29 High Street

Saffron Walden

Essex CB10 1AT

T: 01799 522488

F: 01799 522477



BATHROOMS • TILES • ACCESSORIES

BUBBLES

www.bubbles-bathrooms.co.uk info@bubbles-bathrooms.co.uk



**BROADCASTLE
MOTOR CONTRACTS
LIMITED**

Cost effective Contract Hire
on new and used cars.

To discuss your requirements
or obtain a quotation please
call Julian Wood on

01279 813608

or visit www.anewcar.co.uk
for a complete online
quotation

10 Cambridge Rd, Stansted CM24 8BZ

Concord Motor Contracts is part
of the banking and
financial group Broadcastle plc



SWORDERS

FINE ART AUCTIONEERS

**G E Sworder & Sons
14 Cambridge Road
Stansted CM24 8BZ**

Tel 01279 817778

**Email:
auctions@sworder.co.uk**

www.sworder.co.uk



MullucksWells

**FOR A
PROFESSIONAL APPROACH
AND EXPERT ADVICE
ON ALL YOUR
PROPERTY MATTERS**

Country Properties
Town Houses
Residential Lettings
Commercial Sales, Management
and Letting
Surveys and Valuations

**6 GREENS BUILDINGS
CAMBRIDGE ROAD
STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
TEL: 01279 816816**

web: www.mullucks.co.uk
email: stansted@mullucks.co.uk