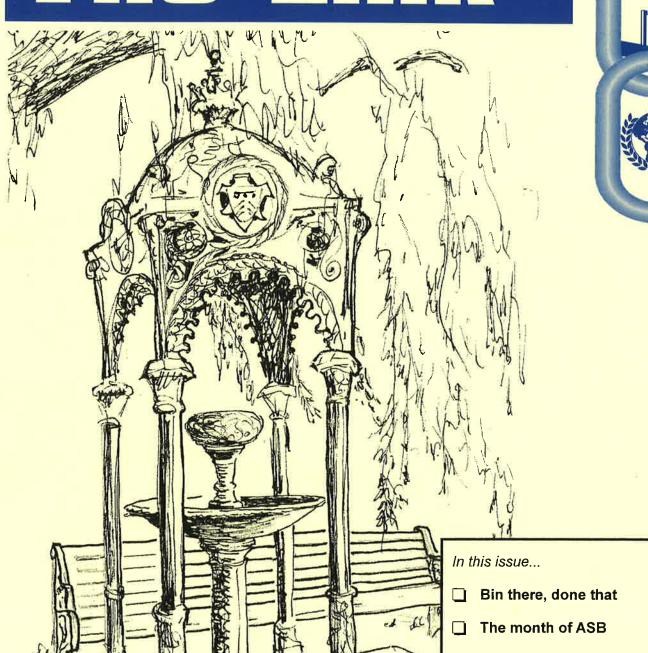
Stansted Mountfitchet





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Volume XXVI

Number 11

October 2006



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Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine The Link

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By 12th October for publication on 28th October By 9th November for publication on 25th November

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ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux High Lane

Priest

Father Joe White The Presbytery St Therese of Lisieux

High Lane Stansted Tel: 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

We have recently celebrated two Feast days of Our Lady - the Assumption on 15th August and Our Lady's Birthday on 8th September, so I felt it was apt to write about the Waltham Madonna I had not known of until I read an interesting article in one of our periodicals - and very close to home - in Waltham Abbey!

You will all be familiar with this grand, ancient Augustinian Abbey, where King Harold is reputed to be buried; it is famous for its beautiful Zodiac paintings on the ceiling, sculptures, rose gardens and the final resting place of the Waltham Madonna. In 1970 excavations were undertaken in the Abbey grounds and many historical features were discovered, including a 13th century forge and a moat. Apparently some local historians, who could not dig in the Abbey grounds as intended, were invited to excavate the garden of a restaurant nearby and it was here they unearthed the large statue.

It was a 13th century seated stone Madonna. Her head, hands and the Christ child she carried, were missing. She would have been wearing a loose veil over her flowing hair and her clothing, dated to around 1390, was of a close fitting garment with large round buttons. She is seated on a tasselled cushion with the Child Jesus standing on her lap, holding a chain of her cloak and probably turning to give a blessing. Only the fingers of his outstretched hand and part of His long flowing robe remain. Originally the statue would have been painted, but now it is a sober grey.

It is a mystery as to how the Waltham Madonna came to be buried in the back garden of this local eatery! Originally the surrounding land would have been part of the Abbey grounds, the churchyard. The mutilated statue, the Christ Child torn from His Mother's arms and disposed of somewhere, had been carefully buried as in a grave, lying east to west to indicate a Christian burial. Perhaps a devout person rescued the Madonna and secretly and reverently buried the statue, where it remained for over 400 years until discovered quite by accident.

The reclaimed statue was placed in an inner window of the Abbey's Lady Chapel, overlooking the huge 15th century 'Doom' painting which depicts Christ at the Last Judgement. This painting was plastered over some time after the Abbey was dissolved. In the past, the chapel was much desecrated; the windows were bricked up, the entrance from the church

itself boarded over and the crypt below used as a prison. The Doom painting, which was covered up, was rediscovered in 1876. A notable local, Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, spent a fortune restoring the chapel and it is now one of the Abbey's best attractions. From the design of the statue, it is assumed that it was meant to stand just above eye-level, though noone knows its original position in the Abbey church. No other fragments were ever found, neither was the Christ Child restored to His Mother's arms.

Sadly, the statue was moved from the Lady Chapel when a commemorative glass was installed in the window space it occupied and is now placed in the Crypt. There is speculation as to whether this position is suitable or not: in the quality of photographs taken in the Lady Chapel and Crypt. However, the present location is now a 'Unity Chapel' and weekly services are held in the Lady Chapel. It is an interesting story about the survival of the Waltham Madonna, in her broken state, and the heroism of certain individuals who saved it over 400 years ago. Maybe one day in the not too distant future the Christ Child will also be recovered - a heartening thought!

Wendy Moss

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk

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

Meeting

Sunday 10.30am

The death of somebody we know can trigger unexpected reflections on the nature of time. The finality of death can feel like a profound insult to all our loves, hopes and aspirations. We, too, will be gone one day and what will that mean for anything we ever said, felt or did. As we stare extinction in the face we can be filled with a cold dread of the waste and hopelessness of life. As we feel time trickle through our fingers, we want to grasp at an eternal thread to make sense of our being. And yet that thread eludes our grasp because we cannot escape the boundaries of time within which we understand our world.

However, as Enoch Powell once observed: "Man cannot be happy, nor can he be good, unless in some way he frees himself from the mastery of time and comes to see that there is a truth and a reality beyond its reach." In Quaker meetings I seek that truth and reality and sometimes sense it in a sharp awareness of the eternal in the instant and the instant in the eternal.

The television playwright Dennis Potter said the following just a few weeks before he died of cancer. "The only thing you know for sure is the present tense, and that nowness becomes so vivid that, almost in a perverse sort of way, I'm almost serene. You know, I can celebrate life." No dread or morbid fear for Dennis Potter as he celebrated the nowness of life in the face of death. Perhaps our salvation is here and now: in our love and concern for others and in our sense of the eternal in the present. Love freely given is love never lost. It needs no redemption. It simply is.

On the subject of time, Stansted Quaker meeting now meets half an hour earlier at 10.30am each Sunday.

Jonathan Morrell

STANSTED FREE CHURCH (Methodist / URC) Chapel Hill

Rev'd David Simpson Rev'd Keith Page
11 Church Manor 2 South Road
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And it's from the old I travel to the new ...

Tel: 504900

A great gift of the church to its ministers is a sabbatical once every seven years. It's a three-month break from 'ordinary' work to allow ministers to do something new. As I was away June-August this year, the Stansted I left had a fundamental change to the one I returned to. As readers will know, the Methodists have worshipped in the Quaker Meeting House for many years, and we have always felt very much at home there. In the past few years, however, we felt God leading us to renew our Christian journey. God led us 'down the hill' to the United Reformed Church. Both churches have always been 'close friends' (and all the churches in Stansted) – but we were being led together – to become a 'Local Ecumenical Partnership' in which the two churches are made one, but still remain with their parent denominations. Hence, on 1st September, Stansted Methodist and United Reformed Churches became one – 'Stansted Free Church'. We now have one congregation, one organisation and one mission – to serve God in and through our community. It was decided to have two ministers – one Methodist and one URC - to share the work. Our special opening service is still to come – see details below.

We live in a fast changing world. The Christian Church continues, holding fast the eternal truths of the gospel, yet living and serving in the place and generation God has placed us. In 1965 Sydney Carter wrote the now famous hymn, 'One more step along the world I go'. Like now, he was living in a time of change. Perhaps the greatest insight he gave us is that Christianity thrives in movement, change and stepping out in faith. ... keep me travelling along with you.

Rev'd Keith Page

Preachers for October

Other October activities taking place at the Church

1st	10.30am	Michael Dyer & Alan Wheeler lead A new form of all age worship	1st 3rd		Harvest Tea. For lifts tel 813977 or 812593 Deacons' Meeting
	2.30pm	Rev'd David Simpson	9th		
041-		-			Pilots for children 5-13 years. Tel 813433
8th	10.30am		10th	7.00pm	for 7.30pm Churches Together in Stansted AGM
15th		Rev'd David Simpson - Communion	16th		Monday Club. For information tel 815137
22nd	10.30am	Jean Hay	16th	8.00pm	Shalom Fun Quiz
29th	10.30am	Rev'd David Simpson	19th	8 .00m	Church Meeting
			22nd	1.30pm	Service with visitors from the Church of
					Cherubim & Seraphim, Birmingham (see CTS
					page)
			30th	6.00pm	Pilots for children 5-13 years. Tel 813433

Operation Christmas Child

Wednesday 8th November is now the date of the Shoe Box Packing Coffee Evening, and not 1st November as advertised in the last edition of 'Link'. Items to fill the boxes and empty shoe boxes can be left at 58 Chapel Hill any time but why not come and join in the fun of packing on 8th? The world-wide collection of shoe boxes was over seven million last year from 11 countries including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA and most of Europe. They were then distributed to more than 90 countries to children who speak 70 languages. The boxes are given regardless of nationality, political background or religious beliefs, requiring nothing from the children, their families or communities in return. In total 1,153,326 shoe boxes left the UK to 14 different countries - 266,890 going to Romania in 29 lorries alone - and as we have seen recently on our televisions, the need there is still very great. In every box we pack, we try to include pens and paper, a ball and a cuddly toy. The Samaritan's Purse website gives some useful information on contents of the boxes including two knitting patterns for glove puppets using oddments of wool. Playing with a glove puppet has been found to be very therapeutic for a child suffering from trauma or isolation, as the puppet becomes a little friend to talk to. For more information go to www.samaritanspurse.uk.com or ring Janet on 812593 and bring a smile to a child's face this Christmas.

Advance Dates for your diary

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

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

Janet Townsend



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

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

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Church Hall Bookings

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

Rector

Currently vacant (01279) 812203

rector@stansted.net

Assistant Curate Revd Dr Caroline Currer

(01279) 815243 curate@stansted.net

Director of Music

Currently vacant

website

www.stansted.net/stjohns

Raindrops and other gifts

Our eldest daughter was married in September. The wedding was in Sussex, where she lives with her fiancé, and she had organised everything beautifully down to the last detail. Then on the day, the meal at the reception failed to come up to expectations, it poured with rain, one layer of the cake broke when the driver delivering it had to brake suddenly, and a power cut meant that we had no lights or music all evening. So much for all her hard work. Yet the day was one full of magic moments, of which the most memorable was the bride and groom's first dance at the reception. Their friends were determined that the lack of electricity would not deprive them of this - so their first dance was in the car park, under umbrellas in the drizzle, lit by the headlights of a circle of cars, and to the sound of a car stereo system. Hardly surprising that the second song was 'raindrops keep falling on my head'! It was a truly romantic moment that none of us will ever forget.

All this set me thinking about the limits of planning, and the importance of special moments. I am a planner, like my daughter. Her new husband is more of a 'moments man'. He is observant, and quite often he will notice something

quirky or amusing that she has failed to see, because she is so busy rushing on and trying to sort things out. Sometimes the effort of planning, of seeing the overview and trying to make things run smoothly, can prevent you seeing the things that happen spontaneously.

On my wall at work, I have a poem called 'Instantes' by Jorge Luis Borges. It contains these lines:

'I was one of those people who lived each minute of his life sensibly, and fully;

Of course I had moments of happiness. But if I could go back, I would try to have only good moments.

Because if you don't know, life is made up of those, only of moments; don't lose this one now. I was one of those who never go anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, an umbrella and a parachute; if I could live again, I would travel more lightly.'

I am someone who needs to learn to travel more lightly. Unlike the writer of that poem, I am not sure you can 'try to have only good moments'. The way I see it, special moments are not things that you can plan for or which require effort – they are more like gifts. But cer-

St John's Diary

Sunday

9:30am Choral
Eucharist
11:00am Open Door
Service
(all age worship)
1st and 3rd Sundays
9:45pm Night Prayer
Wednesday
10:00am said Holy

Communion 7:30pm Ecumenical Prayer group There are services of Holy Communion on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the month in Norman Court, Hargrave House and Broome End Nursing Homes.
Junior Church meets each Sunday at 9:30am. (Children return to church halfway through the service.)
The Lazer youth group

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

All Souls Remembrance of the Departed

Anyone who would like us to remember a departed loved one by name at our All Souls service at 6.30pm on 29th October is invited to submit that name to the Church Office before Friday 27th October.

tainly there is a need to be open to seeing them and to enjoying them. Sometimes, as in the case of our wedding, they happen directly because something else hasn't gone as it was meant to. What a shame if we are so absorbed by the failure of what was **meant to** happen that we miss **what actually has been** given to us instead. That dance in the car park was sheer gift – a special moment that happened despite and in the midst of problems. It was the result of ingenuity and love – a wedding gift from their friends who cared enough to set it up.

October is the month for harvest thanksgivings – a time when we thank God for the many good gifts that we enjoy. My personal resolution is to travel a little more lightly, with eyes open to notice all that is freely given – including special moments to be remembered and treasured.

CMC

From the Registers

Baptisms:

I 6th July

Charles James Silvester Halle Olivia Diggins

Funerals:

6th July Jeanette Elizabeth Hyde, 57 - Parndon Wood Crematorium

10th July Eric Herbert Saunders, 81 - Parndon Wood Crematorium

13th July Irene Bellett, 74 - St Mary's

10th August John Watson, 71 - St John's

Two social events have recently raised funds for worthy causes. The Hill Chilli, which because of the weather was held at the home of Alison and David Mansfield, took on its usual convivial atmosphere and raised over £400 for the refurbishment of the Church Hall. Hearty congratulations to the hosts and to Sonia and her helpers. The Hall is more attractive for its August redecoration and the colour scheme has met with approving comments. The grounds have also had a clean up. The Hall committee's campaign is bringing real results. The other occasion was a Quiz which raised a similar sum for Christian Aid. Andrew and Clare Arnold managed the questions and scoring with their usual panache. The Harvest Fare was also notable for both quality and quantity. Well done!

CHURCHES TOGETHER in STANSTED

Please come along to the following two important CTS meetings:

Tuesday 10th October CTS AGM

This will take place in the hall of Stansted Free Church (formerly the United Reformed Church). Coffee will be served from 7.00pm, and our guest speaker, Celia Blackden, will begin her presentation at 7.30 pm. Celia is the Interfaith Officer for Churches Together in England, and will be speaking about the very interesting and relevant topic of the relationship between ecumenism and interfaith. She previously worked for the East of England Faith Council. The business of the AGM will begin at about 8.30pm Everyone is welcome - please join us.

Sunday 22nd October Visit of the Church of Cherubim and Seraphim

For the past 18 years we have kept up the fellowship with this 'black' church in Birmingham, visiting each other on alternate years. Great value has come from these visits and it is their turn to come to Stansted, appropriately at the start of One World Week. A service will take place at Stansted Free Church at 1.30pm followed by a meal in the Church Hall. We greatly welcome the support of all the churches in the village for this important event. If you are able to help with food, please contact Betty Francis on 813977. Look forward to seeing you all.

David Morson, Chair



On 2nd October, we meet at 7 Blythwood Gardens for a presentation by Monica Kapadia on Catholic Baptism.

On 16th October, Betty Francis will entertain us with a Quiz. This meeting will be at the Stansted Free Church (formerly the URC) Hall.

On 30th October, we will welcome representatives of CHASTE - Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking Across Europe, to hear about their work. This meeting will be at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

All meetings start at 8.00pm and we look forward to seeing old faces and new! Join us if you can.

Catherine Dean



Uttlesford Council for Voluntary Services has arranged a Drop-In session from 10am to 12 noon on Tuesday 10th October at The Stansted Day Centre. This is intended for anyone who feels that they would like to assist in the voluntary sector, but don't know what opportunities exist or what is involved. The UCVS is our link with available funding and staffing in most local voluntary organisations.

TRAIDCRAFT



Since our Diocese in Chelmsford has asked us to use Fairtrade products as much as possible we, at St John's Church, have decided to promote their goods with me becoming a fair trader with items for sale on most Sundays after the 9.30am service.

There is a wide range of goods - the usual coffees, teas, biscuits, sweets and chocolates - all delicious! - plus gifts ideal for birthdays and Christmas eg jewellery, stationery etc. Should any organisation like me to visit one of their events please contact me.

At the same time may I advise you that my daughter and I are Phoenix Traders selling a wide range of greetings cards and wrapping paper and we have just received our Christmas range of cards, paper, advent calendars and the like.

We have taken this initiative to raise funds for whatever organisation or charity wishes to book us - the profit margin is one third of all sales, which is quite a significant fundraising opportunity, even at one event (£40 was donated at the recent Windmill Fete).

Rosemary Thomson Tel: 815551

The Parish Council and The 'Link'

As readers will know, discussions are proceeding with a view to our magazine combining with Stansted Network (the Parish Council's news bulletin). If successful, the new 'Link' would be distributed free to all houses and businesses and it is now distinctly possible that something on these lines will happen next autumn. Other possibilities have arisen in recent months but we wish to assure you that all those who are concerned with both the 'Link' and the Parish Council are anxious to see the present 'villagey' nature of the 'Link' maintained and that it should become still more comprehensive and reader-friendly. Watch this space!

Quite independently of these discussions, the 'Link' Committee has decided that in the 2006-7 year beginning this November there should be separate issues in both August and September. However, the December and January ones will be combined in one issue published at the beginning of December. We have found that events in September and early October are often not arranged before our copy date in July, whereas January is a less active month all round — possibly because of the lingering effects of Christmas and the weather. We shall be monitoring the result and assessing the pattern for 2007-8 accordingly.

Editor



Summer, like all good things, must come to an end and we can begin to look forward to the new season's activities. Ours started on 7th September when a good number attended to hear the first talk of those that our Programme Organiser, David Harrison, had put together for us. For many years now, there has been discussion about the War Memorial and the need to research the names on it. This is now being done and we were pleased to welcome Glyn Warwick, who is undertaking this huge task.

For the last three years, Glyn has been gathering information on those from Stansted who fell in World War I and this has involved much hard work. This has included the interviewing of relatives and friends of those who died, attending the Records Office, visiting battlefields and cemeteries, and the Gates, such as Menin and Thiepval, which list those who fell with no known grave. The aim, when he has completed the task, is to publish his work privately - hopefully, next year on a non-profit basis. The names covered include those who were not recorded on any memorial that he has been able to discover. Also, he has recorded the awards that were received for particular examples of heroism.

Glyn gave us a large part of the information he had gathered on the men concerned, including pictures, where he had them. Most told a most poignant story of heroism and suffering which touched us all. One family of four brothers had three of them killed and the fourth was very severely wounded; others died of wounds inflicted in the fighting; many had no known grave. Some parts of the village were especially affected; there were occasions when, at different times, boys from neighbouring houses were killed. Occasionally, men were declared 'missing' never to be found, but two or three were later discovered to be prisoners of war. One man who was declared missing in May 1918 was not declared dead until after the end of the War. Our hearts went out, not only to the men, but to their families at home. Glyn's tale was a stark one but one that needed to be recorded - we are indeed indebted to him for doing so.

Our next meeting on 5th October will be on a much lighter subject. Our old friend, Robert Barltrop, will be telling us tales of the Circus. I believe that some of his family were involved in the business, so we should be getting some inside stories. In November, Derek Honour will be talking on 'Capability Brown in Herts and Essex - then and now'. I hope that you will be able to get along to one of our meetings, which are at 8.00pm in the Day Centre.

Ian Seavers

MANUDEN FUN RUN

Sun 1st October 11 am from the Yew Tree 10k, 5k & Children's 1k

Entry £7 or £9 (non-affiliated) Children's race £2 Tel 814646 www.manuden.org.uk

In aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association & Manuden Playing Fields Association



DROP IN SESSION

10 am - noon Tue 10th Oct **Stansted Day Centre**

Come and find out how YOU can become involved in the Voluntary Sector and what opportunities are available to help others

Yew Tree, Manuden 11 am

Free Church 3.30 - 5 pm

Day Centre 8 pm

Day Centre 8 pm

7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm

2 - 6 pm



AGM and Talk All welcome

Stansted Free Church Hall

(formerly URC) Tue 10th Oct

7.00 pm coffee 7.30 pm Celia Blackden on Ecumenism and Interfaith 8.30 pm AGM

VILLAGE EVENTS

October

7

Sun Manuden Fun Run Windmill Open Harvest Tea (after service)

2 Mon Shalom Group

4 Wed Mountfitchet Garden Club

5 Thu Local History Society

> Sat Conservative Harvest Supper

10 Tue Uttlesford CVS drop-in **Churches Together AGM** Rainbow AGM / Social

12 Thu College open evening

Sat 14 Lib Dem Ploughman's Music Quiz

14/15 Sat/Sun Skips

16 Mon Shalom Group

17 Tue **HEAL** coffee morning

18 Wed Save the Children coffee

20 Fri **RBL Fish & Chip supper**

21 Sat Lib Dem Quiz

22 Sun Cherubim & Seraphim visit

25 Wed Uttlesford Crossroads coffee

27 Fri Windmill 'Flog It' Sale

28 Sat Village Music Club Concert

28/29 Sat/Sun Skips

Sun 29 Holistic Fair in Broxted

Mon 30 Shalom Group

November

1 Wed Mountfitchet Garden Club

2 Thu Local History Society 5 Sun

Celebration Service 8 Wed Shoe box packing & coffee

9 Thu

11 Sat Lib Dem AGM & Ploughman's Day Centre 11.30 am - 2 pm

Day Centre 10 am - noon Free Church Hall 7 for 7.30 pm Quaker Meeting House 8 pm M & C College 6 pm - 9 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm Day Centre noon - 2 pm Bentfield School 7.30 for 8 pm Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm Free Church Hall 8 pm 49 St. John's Road 10 am - noon Day Centre 10am - noon Day Centre 7.30 pm Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm Free Church 1.30 pm Day Centre 10 am - noon St. John's Hall 7.30 for 8 pm St. John's Church 7,30 pm Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

Day Centre 8 pm Day Centre 8 pm Free Church 3.30 pm Free Church from 7 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm

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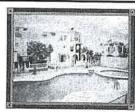
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There have been two main topics of conversation in the village over the last six weeks or so - the wheelie bins and antisocial behaviour. In the office, we have received many phone calls and visits from disgruntled and fed-up parishioners.

Wheelie bins

The main gripe is the cost of the kitchen waste bags - £6.99 for a roll of 52, or 14p per bag. There is no discount for pensioners as there is with the garden waste sacks, although I do know that one district councillor has raised this with Uttlesford District Council.

The second source of irritation is that garden waste cannot be placed in the wet waste bin - again, I know that negotiations are on-going and there may be progress on this in due course.

Please note that only bio-degradable bags can be used in the wet waste bin - they can be bought at the Parish Council Offices as well as other outlets such as Parkins Plants in Henham and Saggers at Newport. (The only supermarket selling acceptable bags is Sainsbury and they are more expensive than the ones available from Uttlesford.)



Anti-social behaviour

This has been the worst summer in many years for late-night activity on the Recreation Ground, and in other parts of the village. Judging by the rubbish collected by Gerard, our litter collector, vast amounts of alcohol are being consumed, and the resultant behaviour is unacceptable. Unfortunately, this has coincided with the introduction of the new community policing system, which appears to have suffered teething problems. We do appreciate that it is very frustrating when you cannot ring our local Police Station direct, or go in there to chat to an officer. However, if you do not persist and

report what you see, then it has not happened as far as the police are concerned.

Our Chairman, Geoffrey Sell, is in communication with our new Inspector as well as the Chief Inspector, and will have met with them both before this edition of the 'Link' is published. We are hoping for big changes locally in terms of police visibility and foot patrols. However, we cannot stress strongly enough the need for everyone to REPORT any antisocial activity. Ring the number for Stansted (812211) - you will probably end up at the main Essex Police switchboard, but ask to report your concerns and get an incident number. Please also let the Parish Council know as we can then build up a record of activity to discuss with the police at our meetings.

Outstanding business

There are some important areas of our work where we are waiting on decisions from other parties. We have applied for waiting restrictions in various areas, linking up in Lower Street with a Residents Parking Scheme. This has been with County Highways for some months, and we are awaiting a progress report.

We have applied for two large grants to enable us to complete Phase 2 of the Skatepark - decisions awaited.

Also beyond our control is the decision to be taken by Uttlesford on the increase in passenger throughput at the Airport. As we go to print, I understand that the decision has been put back from September to December.

Hopefully some positive news on these in the next edition.

Ruth Clifford, Parish Clerk



STANSTED SURGERY

Welcome back to The Stansted Surgery for my latest update.

The new regime of baby immunisations started on 4th September and we are fast approaching the 'flu vaccination season. This year, we are holding two Saturday clinics specifically for the purpose of providing our 'at risk' patients with protection against flu. These will be on 7th and 28th October. All patients aged 65 years and over and those with chronic health problems, ie diabetes, lung and heart problems, will automatically qualify for vaccination and should telephone the surgery for an appointment.

A subject I feel strongly about - helping smokers to quit the habit - needs to be mentioned. Many people do not know that we are now able to prescribe nicotine replacement therapy and Zyban medication to assist motivated people to 'kick the habit'. We also supply support, encouragement and education, which has proved to aid a successful quit attempt. With new legislation looming on the horizon to ban smoking from all public places, now might be the right time to seriously attempt to quit. Please remember we are here to help. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain!

Carole Dedman, Practice Nurse



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BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Autumn term is well under way. Everyone has returned rested and ready for the busy term ahead. We welcome all the children (and parents) who are new to us this year.

Every September our Year 6 attend the excellent Crucial Crew run by Uttlesford District Council at Thaxted. They learn about different areas of danger (for example fire, drugs, railways), how to be aware of threat and how to cope with it. This year's session was, as always, a very worthwhile and thought provoking morning.

We celebrated the harvest with our Harvest Festival and encouraged the children to bring gifts for the Whitechapel Mission to help the homeless. The whole school united in one voice to join other schools in a ""Song for Peace'. This unites the nation's children by asking them all to sing 'No wars will stop us singing' at the same time on the same day.

This year we are looking for additions to our band of lunchtime supervisors. If you like children and have a little time to spare, please contact us! The hours are 12 noon to 1.15pm. We await your call!

Our school offers both a Breakfast Club (from 7.45am), and an After School Kids Club (until 6pm). If you are interested in either a Nursery or Reception place in September 2007 and would like to visit the school, please give us a ring and we would be very pleased to arrange one for you. Our wonderful Messy Play started again on 18th September. This is great fun, and runs in the Nursery on Mondays from 1.45pm to 3pm. 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 is busy organising a number of events for Bentfield families and their friends. Our first event this year will be a Cheese and Wine evening with a (short!) AGM at the start. This will take place in school on Thursday 12th October at 8pm. All Bentfield parents are warmly invited to come along to this free event and meet us over a glass of wine — it is a really good way to find out more about the school's PTA, how we raised a bumper sum for the school last year and how we are planning on spending it! We are a sociable crowd and always very pleased to see new faces at meetings.

Music Quiz - Saturday 14th October

Please arrive from 7.30pm for a prompt start at 8pm – late-comers will be subject to public humiliation by the quiz mistress – you have been warned! NOBODY DOES IT BETTER! Bentfield School brings you the one and only Rebecca Carter with her very special take on quiz nights. If you think you know a lot about music or even if you know you know absolutely nothing, you are guaranteed a highly entertaining, often surprising evening! Tickets cost £7.50 including supper. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Please call 816188 for tickets or more information about the event.

Next Half Term we will be putting on two of our most popular family events. The first event will be our annual Sparkler Party, which will take place on Friday 3rd November, from 6.30-8pm. As well as sparklers for the children, there will be many of the old favourites including Apple Bobbing, Donut

Munching, Bat the Rat, Glowsticks and truly revolting Dare Boxes for the very brave! Not to mention hot dogs to keep us warm and a selection of soft drinks and sweets for the children.

Preparations are also underway for this year's Christmas Fair – and, looking way ahead to next Summer, Music in the Park has already been booked for Saturday 14th July 2007!

STOP PRESS!

We are very pleased to announce that work will commence on our Outdoor Classroom during the Half Term holiday.

Alison Thompson PTA Co-Chairman



EVERY PICTURE CAN TELL A STORY

From east Devon comes this amusing juxtaposition of notice and receptacle. Perhaps the smaller members of the clergy may feel uneasy - or could it be that long manuscripts for Victorian-style sermons have made a local comeback?

Editor

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Government concedes on night flights numbers cap

The Government has conceded defeat in its attempts to remove the limits on night flight numbers at Stansted, Heathrow and Gatwick which it had been seeking through the Civil Aviation Bill. The news came in a letter from Aviation Minister Gillian Merron to Conservative Shadow Transport Spokesman Chris Grayling in July. It follows intensive lobbying by groups including Stop Stansted Expansion, coupled with cross party opposition to the Government's proposals in the House of Lords where Lord Hanningfield, leader of Essex County Council, has spearheaded the fight to protect local residents by retaining the limit on the number of night flights.

The Government had been attempting to move towards a weighted 'noise quota' system alone to assess and limit the disturbance caused by night flights without the added check — as at present — of a limit on the actual number of aircraft flying between the hours of 11.30pm and 6.00am at the UK's three largest airports. The House of Lords defeated the proposal on three separate occasions and the Aviation Minister has now made clear that the Government will not try to reinstate the clause calling for powers to remove the movements cap when the Bill completes its passage through Parliament in the autumn.

Reliance on the noise quota count system would have disregarded the very substantial impacts which frequent overflying has in areas with low background noise. Virtually all night flights using Stansted disturb the peace over vast swathes of rural Essex, Herts and Suffolk; hence the importance of retaining limits on the number of night flights as well as the aggregate noise output.

Although the Government's acceptance of the need to retain overall limits on the number of night flights at Stansted is welcome news it doesn't solve the problem caused by the current number of night flights, nor does it address the prospect of vastly increased levels in the future as allowed even under current night flying limits. We must remain vigilant to the likelihood that the levels of permitted flights at Stansted could simply be raised in the next night flying restrictions period, from 2012. Stansted already suffers 8370 night flights annually during the 6½ hour restricted 'night' period (based on figures to 31st March 2006) – an average of 23 flights nightly – with the possibility of an increase of 43 percent within the currently permitted limits of 12,000 flights annually over the next six years.

BAA agrees to correct misleading Property Pack information

BAA has agreed to correct misleading information on the noise impacts that would result from expansion proposals for Stansted Airport issued in its Property Pack. The move comes after SSE's Norman Mead drew attention to a major error in its contents at the July Stansted Airport Consultative Committee meeting. The Plane Talk newsletter, produced by the airport developer and used in the pack, reproduces an error contained in several sections of BAA's application for expanding the use of Stansted's single runway.

SSE's concerns arose following bulk distribution of the pack by BAA to a network of over 1000 estate agents, banks, solicitors and similar organisations, who are now in danger of passing on inaccurate information concerning the effects of noise increases to home buyers who could easily be misled as a result. In addition, the Plane Talk newsletter has already been distributed to thousands of homes within the local community. The newsletter misinterprets a statement from official government planning guidance to support BAA's claim that the increased noise of 3 dBA Leq from a higher number of aircraft movements 'is imperceptible and not considered to be significant'. In fact, this is completely untrue. A 3 decibel Leq increase represents a doubling of the total sound energy which could, for instance, be occasioned by a doubling of the number of aircraft movements. This is the second time that the Property Pack has contained a major error - the first occasion being the inclusion of incorrect arrivals maps in the first edition which it took BAA a year to amend. Even now these are still in circulation and it is therefore incumbent on BAA to take rapid and responsible action to remedy this latest piece of misleading information.

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MORE ABOUT CARNIVALS PAST

Continuing our carnival theme, mention should be made of the people who, over the years, gave so much time and energy in organising it and the various events connected with the carnival. The village was very fortunate in having so many committed and able people involved over the years. I had the honour (if that's the word!) of dressing up as the jester and doing the PA for quite a few years. I wore various jester costumes which were hired from different sources.

One year it was obtained from Harlow Playhouse and I didn't get hold if it until the actual day of the carnival. When I tried it on I discovered that it had a very large cod piece which was an integral part of the costume. To put it mildly it looked very interesting! I thought I might have it on back to front but it looked just as bad the other way round. I decided that I had very little option but to grin and wear it and risk the ribald remarks. All afternoon I was the recipient of humorous quips on the same theme and was in danger of gaining the undeserved reputation as the Linford Christie of Stansted. Eventually I managed to purchase a costume from the fancy dress shop in Stortford which was closing down. It served me well, but over the years of wear and tear the tights developed a tendency to subside. Ah, the trials and tribulations of being a jester!

A feature of the carnival was, of course, the procession. As Akela of the cubs I used to enjoy planning and building (with lots of help) the cub floats. One year, when the Esso promotion of 'put a tiger in your tank' was running we had a float on the theme of 'Stansted cubs capture the Esso tiger'. As I recall we were the most popular float there, due in no small measure to the fact that through a good contact, I managed to obtain a garage pack of tiger goodies which were dished out to all and sundry on route.

Another float we did was when we transformed one of Mickey King's coal lorries into a showboat. I had terrific help from parents and friends and it was a fantastic float complete with smoking chimney and portable sound system, which was very advanced for those days, courtesy of Joe Childs, Stansted's electrical genius, a lovely man who was always willing to help out. Many village organisations entered floats. I recall being

involved in the Bentfield School float one year. After completing the work the magnificent float was driven to Bentfield Green. Unfortunately the driver took the Pennington Lane route and succeeded in wiping the top off the float on overhanging trees. Frantic repair work followed on the Green.

I am sure that many people got lots of fun over the years in planning and building floats. I was chatting to a good dog-walking friend only today and he was recalling with great pleasure the fun he had in being part of the teams which built the Mountfitchet School floats over the years.

In 1974 there was a concert by the Nettleswell Youth Band, famous musicians as seen on TV. Also a poetry and music for midsummer event styled on the Barrow Poets was held in the Cock Inn. Tickets 5 shillings including refreshments

(solid!). 1968 saw a concert of vocal and instrumental music held in the Quaker Meeting House. There is a newspaper clipping reporting the recital. It said 'the significance of the evening being the emergence on the local scene of a pianist and arranger, Alan Coggins' (one-time organist at St John's Church). It praises his 'superb rendering, without music, of the Maiden and the Nightingale, his sensitivity of touch and firm control bringing out the contrasting sympathy and joy of this moving piece'. Wow! What a write up. Also Mrs Betty Coggins, a pleasant soprano, sang three songs by Schubert. We sure did have our share of culture!

In 1976 there was a Bierkeller in St John's Hall; also a 20-over cricket match between Stansted CC and Stansted Hall CC. Perhaps somebody can remember who won? We had the 11th annual produce show on Carnival Day. The carnival was opened that year by Miss Jessie Matthews of 'Mrs Dale's Diary' fame. She was a true star who arrived a bit late; indeed my brother and Irving Saunders were thinking it would have to be opened without her. Suddenly this car drove up and she stepped out as cool as a cucumber, when most around her were hot and flustered, and proceeded to do a fantastic job.

Another feature was Greenways amusements. Rene tells a great tale of Irving ringing her up from his office in London to tell her that Greenways had left Cambridge and the gates at the entrance of the Sports Ground had not yet been removed so they would be unable to get the lorries into the ground. She had to get to the junction at High Lane and stop them so they could wait there. We didn't have mobile phones then.

The programme for 1968 had all the fun of the fair with Greenways, entertainment by the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment, Punch and Judy and piano breaking amongst other things.

I leave you with a quote from an advert in the magazine for Robert H Levy and Son and Filberts quality plants, which states 'In the district since the reign of Charles I' – crumbs, there's history for you.

Dick Pollard



A youthful Dick with his Tiger (and Cubs) in the Tank.



We have had a busy start to the term, having returned refreshed from the long summer holidays, which are now a distant memory! We would like to welcome all the new children that started at Rainbow this term and welcome back all the 'old' ones!

The new children have happily settled and have been learning about this term's topic of 'Autumn'. We have been talking about the different colours around us and counting and collecting different fruits on local walks. The children are looking forward to doing an 'Autumn Trail' on a visit to Hatfield Forest at the end of September and have already started talking about harvest and how it is celebrated. The children have also been visiting the local library.

Rainbow's AGM / social is taking place on Tuesday 10th October at 8.00pm in the Quaker Hall. Please do attend if you would like to find out more about Rainbow Pre-school and how it is run.

If you are interested in a place at 'Rainbow Tots' (age 18 months to two and a half years), please contact Tina South on 814371. If you are interested in a place at the pre-school, please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for further information.

Kate Maginn Rainbow Committee

The Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College

On Thursday 14th September, as a representative of the 'Link', I was invited to share in a historic development for the Mountfitchet High School. This was the official launch of the Mountfitchet Mathematics & Computing College. Around 150 guests enjoyed lively speeches by the Headteacher, Jo Mullis; the Deputy Headteacher, Paul Presland; and representatives of other local education centres. Some speakers had rehearsed the new name in advance, but others were more hesitant. Apparently one moniker finding favour is M²C², which would certainly look impressive on the CVs of aspiring students of relativity!

The new status of this 500-strong learning establishment was achieved after many hours of laborious form filling, but the rumour that Paul Presland spent 18 months locked in a cupboard was scotched when he pointed out that he only arrived 12 months ago. He did admit to using strong language at a certain stage in the appraisal process, when the vibes were distinctly gloomy, but we did not hear whether he earned CLUMJETS* for his delinquency. We were assured that children would not be missing out on other subjects as casualties of the Maths & Computing specialisation. Indeed, ICT and e-learning are now seen as tools that can be used across

the full curriculum to cater for learning styles that have been neglected in the past.

We were disappointed to hear about the earlier theft of a number of computer chips, but this did not dampen the atmosphere of excitement pervading the hall and restaurant area as we enjoyed a buffet meal worthy of Jamie Oliver (chips still missing!).

The staff and students of this college have every right to be proud of their achievements and deserve to go from strength to strength.

* If you wish to find out what CLUMJETS is, and hear about other exciting innovations, why not come along to the College open evening between 6.00pm and 9.00pm on Thursday 12th October? However, make sure that you first dispose of your chewing gum!

Mike Dyer



The Saffron Walden Constituency Conservative Association Annual Dinner at the Radisson Hotel, Stansted Airport on Tuesday 7th November is now sold out. However, because of the early timing of this event I would like to remind those attending that the Reception is at 6.30pm and we are required to be seated by 7.00pm. The guest speaker is The Rt Hon David Cameron MP, Leader of the Conservative Party.

Please join us at the Stansted Day Centre for a Harvest Supper on Saturday 7th October, 7.30 for 8.00pm. Our guest speaker will be Richard Priestley, former Head of Newport Free Grammar School and his subject will be 'The Trials and Tribulations of a Headmaster in Uttlesford'. There will be a raffle but please bring your own wine. Tickets - £10 from Joan Summers 814854 or Bridget Gott 814440.

We invite you to join us at the Stansted Day Centre for a **Christmas Evening** on **Saturday 2nd December**, 7.30 for 8.00pm with a musical quiz, carols and raffle - a relaxing evening amongst friends. Tickets - £12.50 available from Joan or Bridget as above.

Anthony J Barrett-Jolley, Chairman Tel: 814300

GARDEN TIPS FOR OCTOBER

Collect leaves of mint, basil and other tender herbs before the first frosts, place in an ice cube tray then freeze to use during the winter months.

Trim back lightly any spreading alpines such as aubrietia and phlox and spread grit around the base of any alpines prone to rot in wintry conditions.

Now is the ideal time to plant new shrubs and trees or move established ones. Plant prepared hyacinths and narcissi in pots and place in a cool dark place to be in flower for Christmas.

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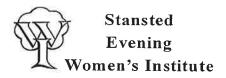
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Our news goes back to the end of July when a coach load of us visited Knole House in Kent, the home of the Sackville family now in the care of the National Trust. It turned out to be one of the hottest days of the summer - and you may recall that they really were hot.

Despite a late start due to the M11 being closed because of an accident, our coach driver weaved his way through back roads and we arrived at 10.30am as planned in time for coffee. We had booked a private tour of the house, and were split into three groups, each with a guide. We had a fascinating tour of this beautiful building, which was originally an archbishop's palace, then a royal house and from 1603, the Sackville family home. It is packed with Royal furniture, portraits by artists such as Reynolds, Van Dyck and Gainsborough and beautiful bed-hangings and textiles. Because of this unique collection of fragile textiles and carpets the rooms have a very low light; but with the brightness of the sun on our day this didn't present a problem. We were then free to roam the park which is the only remaining medieval deer park in Kent, where Sika and fallow deer still graze freely amongst the trees. Over 200,000 trees have been planted since 1987 after the great storm. Our visit included entrance to Lord Sackville's private gardens which are only open once a week during the season. From here you have a wonderful view of the house and plenty of places to sit and enjoy the atmosphere.

Our speaker for August was Ted Pretty - husband of our President Marion - who came along to tell of his work on the monuments of East Anglia, illustrated with his own slides. Ted is well known to our members and can be found on the night of our meetings helping to put the chairs and tables out - we let him off this month! Ted gave a really interesting talk and showed us some of the more unusual monuments to be found in our area. I was particualrly interested in the tiny 12th century chapel at Wicken Bonhunt, which we had come across when out walking years ago. Apparently when English Heritage took it over a skeleton was discovered during the restoration. Ted's great interest is in lead work and during his working life he was able to put this into practice in castles and abbeys all over East Anglia. It must be a great joy to know that some of your work is around for future years.

We rounded off that evening with the Minutes of the August Meetings of 1961 & 1962, when we were first formed in Stansted. It was discovered that several members mentioned are still with us today and take an active part in our meetings. Some members entered items in the Autumn County Show held at Marks Hall near Coggeshall. There were various classes such as still-life pencil drawing, handmade greeting cards, flower arrangements and baskets of fruit and vegetables all depicting an Autumn theme. They were staged in an old timbered barn and attracted quite a lot of visitors. We won no prizes but it is the taking part that matters isn't it?!

For our September meeting, in the newly painted Church Hall which looks very nice, we were pleased to welcome another local speaker, Margaret Silvester. Known to most of us, her talk was entitled 'Orford House and the Tennant Family'. In its early years it was known as The King's House, being a

halfway house for Charles the second on his way to Newmarket. William and Agnes Tennant moved there in 1908 when Nancy, their fourth child, was 11 years old. They seemingly had a charmed life for a few years, which was shattered at the outbreak of the 1914 war. Sadly one son, a son-in-law and cousins were all killed quite early on. Even Nancy did her bit during the war, sewing calico bags for soldiers and working as a land girl. Nancy was prone to ill health as a young girl - though she lived to the age of 105 so had to give up war work. In 1920 William Tennant had Ugley Village Hall built as a war memorial and it was then that she and her mother started the WI in the village - it was still in its early days then. Soon she was organising a choir and went on to become chief music adviser and helped to found our thriving Denman College in Oxfordshire. As a young woman she had travelled in Europe and gained an appreciation of art and music which never left her. Margaret's mother had been a cook with the Tennant family before her marriage and she had some interesting tales to tell of 'life below stairs'. Anyone who worked for them had lasting affection for the family.

We are again organising a shopping trip to Peterborough on Saturday 25th November, leaving Sworders at 8.45am. Cost £10 and non-members are welcome - to book a place ring 813790.

New members are always welcome to join us on the second Thursday of the month at 7.45pm so come along.

Judy Colliver



Our next meetings are at 7.30pm at The Day Centre as follows:

Wednesday 4th October
Ms V Neville Introduction to Herbal Medicine.

Wednesday 1st November
Ms M Easter My garden through the year.

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UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Post Office

September 4th came – and so did our new post office. I had the honour to make the first transaction at 9.00am. It was such a pleasure to be able to be greeted by Trudy and Yakub behind the counter. I think they were a little apprehensive, but everything seemed to be in place and working to plan. It's been a long wait – three years – but lots of people have told me what a relief it is to have the Post Office back at YZ Minimarket in Chapel Hill. Well done to everyone who helped to keep the project on the road. It should be possible to collect undelivered post from our post office rather than from Elsenham from October.

Airport

The airport planning application, meanwhile, has gone astray. What should have been a September decision by Uttlesford has slipped by perhaps a couple of months. This is because BAA has been reluctant to provide all the information required to make a well informed decision. They also pulled out of two days of public accountability meetings in August. And organisations like the Highways Agency and the rail industry haven't even provided their advice to the council on what 10 or more million extra passengers would mean for our roads and railway.

The cynical might think that BAA and these government bodies are in cahoots to give the airport operator an excuse to go to appeal because of non-determination by the Council. It may be that BAA prefers to get the application decided by a government inspector rather than by local councillors. The cynical could be correct! Only time will tell.

Councillor Alan Dean Tel: 813579 Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

A difficult summer

For many residents living in the centre of Stansted it has been a summer they will remember for the wrong reasons. The recreation ground and the railway station have acted as a magnet for anti-social behaviour by gangs of youths. As one resident told me, the recreation ground resembled an open-air pub at weekends. It was clear some of the youths were out of control and openly intimidated residents. It culminated in assaults and damage to property. This state of affairs cannot be tolerated. Many people realise that it is not just a policing problem, but also one that goes to the heart of what kind of society we are. Those under-age youths who roam around the village in the early hours of the morning are someone's daughters and sons. It is clear that some youths have come from outside Stansted to attend parties, get drunk and cause problems.

Policing

I was pleased that the main topic of the South West Area Panel held in September was policing. Residents from Chapel Hill, Recreation Ground, Sanders Place, Spencer Close and Woodfields were able to put their concerns directly to Cllr Robert Chambers, Chairman of Essex Police Authority, and Inspector Tom Boland. Having spoken to some of those who attended, they felt the meeting was helpful and the police were taking matters very seriously.

Inspector Boland has personally visited a number of people since the meeting. We have certainly seen an increase in visible policing and a number of arrests have been made.

Out of all the problems this summer, I hope it will lead to a better working relationship between the police, the local community and the District/Parish Council. I have had a long telephone conversation with Chief Inspector Stubbs, Uttlesford's Divisional Police Commander. As I write this article, I am about to have a meeting with him at the Parish Council Offices. I have also talked to Inspector Boland and Sergeant Enstone, who is responsible for Stansted Police Station. The police now serving Stansted are all new to the village. Inspector Boland has only been in post a few weeks. It is crucial that officers stay in post sufficiently long for them to get to know the area and to be held accountable for their actions. I have lost count of the number of police inspectors with responsibility for Stansted that I have dealt with over the years.

Skate park

It is important to realise that it is only a minority of youth who indulge in anti-social behaviour. I took the opportunity of visiting the SK8FEST held at the skate park and was able to see the pleasure that they took from this facility. I am pleased that the application for extra funding for the skate park was supported by the Council's Community Committee. This has to be approved by the Operations Committee and Full Council. We are over the first hurdle though.

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



HuwJohnson Club

When you read this our Autumn Term will be in full swing and we will already have started rehearsing for the Christmas Concert. We are, however, still looking for a new treasurer and escorts for our mini bus run. I'm sure everyone agrees that our Club is serving a need in the community and we do need these people to help us carry out the events we have planned. Mrs Val Reavell has done a great job as our treasurer and consequently our accounts are in good order. Val is quite prepared to give a helping hand to anyone who can step into her shoes.

The escorts are needed so that we can comply with Health and Safety Rules and the task is very simple. You will be asked to sit in the mini bus and be amused by our members as they travel from Saffron Walden to Stansted or from Stansted to Saffron Walden. In the case of an emergency our drivers are all very competent and your main job would be keeping the members calm. Please, please help us with this as the more escorts we have the less journeys you would have to make. Please think about it and contact me on 812284 for further information.

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SUMMER PROBLEMS, PARVOVIRUS, FIREWORKS AND A NEW **FACE IN THE SURGERY**

Well, what a busy summer we've had. First the very hot weather caused several cases of heat stroke, then we seemed to spend all of July removing grass seeds from dogs' paws and of course as soon as the schools broke up for the summer holidays it started to rain!

One worrying trend over the summer was an increased incidence of Parvovirus infection in dogs in East Anglia. Outbreaks were reported in Ely and Newmarket. While we have seen a higher than usual incidence of dogs with haemorrhagic gastro-enteritis, many of them extremely ill, none were diagnosed as Parvovirus itself. However it does give cause for concern.

Parvovirus first appeared in the UK in the 1970s. It was considered a new disease and caused great worry in the dog world. Affected dogs developed acute bloody diarrhoea and vomiting, and mortality was high, particularly in puppies. The virus can persist in the environment for long periods of time and is also excreted in the faeces of dogs for up to eight weeks after they have contracted the infection. Some infected puppies that do recover can go on to develop heart problems in later life. Luckily a vaccine was developed fairly quickly and the disease died out apart from the odd isolated outbreak. Parvovirus is one of the diseases that is covered in the yearly booster vaccinations that we give to dogs. It is worrying that there have been outbreaks in East Anglia this summer, and shows the importance of not becoming complacent about boosters.

As an incentive to encourage owners that have let their dog's vaccinations lapse, we are carrying out a special promotion in October and November. Normally if a dog has missed its yearly booster it will have to start the primary course again and this consists of two injections two weeks apart. In October and November we will be offering to do the primary course for just the price of a booster vaccination. This also includes a free general health check by one of our vets. If you are interested in taking up the offer, please contact the surgery. If you are concerned about vaccinations, or only want to have your animal vaccinated against certain diseases, again, please ring the surgery and we can discuss the most suitable option for your pet. The most important thing is NOT to do NOTHING.

The other thing to mention of course at this time of year is fireworks. This can be a time of misery and anxiety for some animals. We have a very good information leaflet about pets and fireworks at the surgery and there are several ways to help relieve fear and anxiety in cats, dogs and horses. Angela or one of the nurses will be only too happy to give you some advice or you could drop in and pick up one of our leaflets.

I would also like to welcome our new evening receptionist Caron, who is settling in really well and already doing a great job!

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STANSTED JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB

The club has gone from strength to strength this year. This has been due mainly to the work put in by the coaching staff - C McCullaugh, M Abbotson and S Carter, and the support of the parents

Stansted U15s completed their season by beating Newport U15s in the Hugh Craig Invitation Cup Final, hosted at Little Bardfield CC.



Back Row. N Abbotson. E Pronk. J Baker. D Makepeace. A Banks. B Rogers. C McCullaugh (Coach).

Front Row. C Kirby, S Carter, L McCullaugh (Capt), B Baker, P Bitten.

Not in photograph but played in games leading up to final:- T Berry, J Walker, H
Fisher, R Berry.

Winning the toss, Stansted elected to bat and put on a creditable 62 runs in difficult batting conditions before the fall of opener C Kirby (35), caught S Oakman. His opening partner, S Carter (18) followed soon afterwards caught at deep fine leg just as he was beginning to find the middle of the bat. Wickets started to fall at regular intervals as Stansted attempted to increase the run rate with J Baker (22) helping to steady the lower order before being run out - Stansted finishing on 117 for 9. Newport were put under pressure straight away, opener M McCarthy (0) being bowled by J Baker in the first over. Only D Herd (53 retired) put up dogged resistance with Newport never able to edge ahead of the required run rate. Tidy bowling from J Baker (1for17), P Bitten (1-25), L McCullaugh (1-16), S Carter (1-21), B Baker (0-9) and C Kirby (4-14) restricted Newport to 104 all out - the last four wickets falling in the 19th over for only one run. S Oakman (2) caught D Makepeace, M Baker (1) bowled Kirby, B McNally (1) run out and J Evans (1) caught J Baker. What a finish and what a magnificent fielding performance from the Stansted team. Thank you to Little Bardfield CC, Chairman Mick Kemp and colleagues for their hospitality on the day.

The U12 also had a successful season with M Carter being selected to play for Essex.

The club awards were as follows:-

Under 15s

Manager's Player

S Carter C Kirby

Best Batting Best Bowling

L McCullaugh

Players' Player Most Improved

Under 12s

Manager's Player H Kirby
Best Batting J Monk
Best Bowling M Carter
Most Improved J Pearce
Players' Player M Carter
Most Improved J Pearce

Next year we will start indoor nets in January.

Keith Ayres Head Coach



STANSTED BOWLING

As we come to the end of our Centenary Year we are now once again two weeks away from the end of the outdoor season. We have had a number of special Centenary Fixtures, which were arranged by Roy Barnes. The weather has been very kind to us helping to make these events very enjoyable and well supported by all members of the club.

C Kirby

E Pronk

Alongside our friendly games against other Clubs we have played a number of Cup games along with the Men's North West Essex League and the Ladies Monday evening league. The Ladies held their own invitation afternoon which was very enjoyable and raised funds for the Club. The Ladies also had an away fixture playing the Chelsea Pensioners on 6th September, when we were able to invite eight extra guests to take 'High Tea' in the 'Great Hall'. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and the weather was most kind. We now look forward to the return match at our Club next year.

Big thank you to everyone who has donated raffle prizes for our various special events - this is much appreciated. Also special thanks to Margaret and Tina for all their hard work with regard to catering.

We held the Club Competitions Finals Day on Saturday 2nd September. This was a fairly dry day and was enjoyed by all who took part and those who supported them.

The winners are as follows:-

Men's Championship – Rex Turner
Ladies' Championship – Ro Turner
Brett Cup (Men) – Rex Turner
Ladies' Challenge (2 wood) – Tina Prentice
Alcock (Men 2 wood) – John Scraggs
Newman Rose Bowl (mixed) – John Scraggs
Buck Cup (Men's pairs) – Derrick Giffin and Jim Ashton
Dolly Thompson (Ladies' pairs) – Doreen Scraggs and
Ann Perry
Novices – Phil Warner

Don't forget we are open each Friday evening and you can apply for Social membership.

Doreen Scraggs, Hon. Secretary Tel: 815036

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We met on 7th August at 2 Clarence Road to hear a very interesting talk by Peter Brown on the history of our part of Stansted. He told us that until the mid 1800s the land in our area consisted almost entirely of fields. These were all named, e.g. Middle Field, The Hoppitt, etc. There were no buildings to the south until you reached the Windmill and none to the north until Orford House. Lower Street was an open ditch and there was nothing on Chapel Hill except the Quaker Meeting House and possibly an old Fire Station. The fire service started about 1822 with horse-drawn fire engines which answered a fire-call only if there was a convenient pond near the scene of the fire!!

In the mid 1800s the coming of the railway changed Stansted completely, and Lower Street was culverted to allow access to the station. The Central Hall was built about 1854 together with the Social Club (originally known as the Liberal Club). Hargrave House was built in 1857 and cricket was played on Hargrave Park from the early 1860s. St John's Church was built in the 1880s with bricks brought mainly from Birchanger.

The Football Ground was on Green's Meadows and it was the mid 1930s before football was played on Hargrave Park. Bowls were originally played at the 'Brambles' but both bowls and tennis were at one time played on Green's Meadows. A Chapel made way for the Fountain and parts of that Chapel are incorporated in the little brick hermitage in the garden of the late Col. Austen Fynn.

There was a Post Office in the Central Hall from the late 1800s and St John's Road was also built around this time. Meanwhile, Green's Stores grew and flourished, and by the early 1900s the store sold nearly everything and boasted 71 varieties of biscuit and 12 different brands of tea!! In the remainder of the village shops sprang up of every variety—fishmonger, grocers, bakers, DIY, clothes, etc. Sadly, not so today!!! Back on our 'home patch' we learned that Clarence Road had remained a footpath until 1935 when a road was constructed and named after Clarence Villas.

The feedback from the visitors was impressive. Being elderly, many had knowledge and memories of bygone days. After our talk we all gathered in Gill Reeve's lovely garden for a happy get together with tea, a delicious cake and a raffle.

Pat Clower

BUFFY BUS

The Buffy Bus offers a service to the village of Stansted on a regular basis during term time. On Thursday 5th October we will be at Stoneyfield Drive, and the following Thursday we will visit Croasdaile Road. This arrangement will alternate (excluding half term w/c 23rd October) until we break up for Christmas on 20th December and will continue again in January 2007. If you have any further queries please contact me.

Rosie Juhl Tel: 01799 522310



In the Club's first concert of the 2006/7 Season, the Alberni String Quartet will be joined by Ian Scott, clarinet, in quintets by Mozart and Brahms. The concert will be held in St John's Church at 7.30pm on Saturday 28th October.

The Alberni have been one of the country's leading quartets since the 1960s. They perform worldwide as well as carrying out a wide programme of teaching work at the Royal Academy of Music and in many other countries under the auspices of the British Council. They have performed for the Stansted Village Music Club on several occasions. Meanwhile Ian, who is from Old Harlow, is principal clarinettist of the Royal Ballet Sinfonia as well as freelancing with many other orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Hallé.

Mozart wrote his Clarinet Quintet, as well as the much-loved Clarinet Concerto, for the famous virtuoso Anton Stadler when the instrument was still quite new to the classical repertoire. A hundred years later, Brahms was tempted out of retirement to write for another leading clarinettist, Richard Mühlfeld. Like Mozart, he realised that no other wind instrument was so perfectly suited to blend in with the texture of the string quartet, and his quintet is one of the most luscious of all chamber works.

Further concerts in our 2006/7 season are *O Duo* – exciting percussion, on 3rd December at 3.00pm; Anna Stephany – the Kathleen Ferrier award winning mezzo soprano, with Jonathan Beattie – piano, on 28th January at 3.00pm, and The London Concertante Chamber Ensemble on 17th March at 7.30pm.

Membership (full adult or concession) for the whole season is still available – becoming a member effectively means that you get one concert free! Individual tickets for each concert cost £10 and are available from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; and from Sonia Levy 815282.

Alan Corbishley

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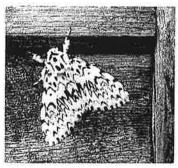
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Nature Notes

The leaves on some of our conker trees have turned brown very early this year. This is partly due to a fungus that produces a large brown blotch with a yellow border on the leaves, and also partly because of the activities of the leafminer moths. Apparently these have mostly come over from the Continent along with all the other butterflies and moths which arrive for the summer. Their little caterpillars eat away the flesh of the leaf between its outer skins, leaving a lighter patch. If an infected leaf had been held up to the light earlier in the summer the little creatures could have been seen wiggling about. Usually a dark brown, crusty blob is on the mined patch and if you scratch off the surface you will find the remains of a tiny cocoon.

On our garden shed I came across a large, whitish moth which was identified as a Black Arches moth. My old Butterfly and Moth Book says that the caterpillars of this moth are a real pest in Southern Europe, particularly on oak trees. I hope they do not arrive in the same quantities as the leafminers.



A robin in the garden has been singing lustily all year and is continuing to do so, although his song is hardly recognisable as a robin's. He seems to make it up as he goes. No doubt he will get back in tune by next spring.

A week or two after you receive this edition of the 'Link', the fallow deer will be well into their rutting season. The wardens in Hatfield Forest usually organise trips into the forest to see the rut, but if one is unable to join one of those it is always possible to go it alone. Anyone who is prepared to walk the four miles each way to the forest will surely have a map showing the footpaths. An easier way is to catch the Village Link No.7 bus which runs hourly from Bentfield Green through the centre of Stansted and will arrive at Takeley Street about 40 minutes later. Alight at either the Green Man to reach the forest via Bush End Road, or further along to enter via the track opposite Kearsley Airways, near Thremhall Priory. You will need to locate a rutting area. either by making enquiries beforehand or by exploring the woods for as long as it takes. You will also need patience. If anyone would like to join me on a visit give me a ring on 813614. There is no guarantee of seeing any action but once you have got some idea of what's what you can go off on your own at any time.

It is a wonderful autumn for fruits. If you have not yet been out picking blackberries, hurry up before the devil spits on them!

STANSTED WELCOMES ITS FIRST HOLISTIC FAIR

With the growing interest in complementary and holistic therapies, two enterprising local practitioners have responded to numerous enquiries from clients and friends and are presenting a one day holistic fair at the Whitehall Hotel in nearby Broxted.

On Sunday 29th October, Harmony for Life will bring together a host of therapists and healers for an event that is designed to appeal to the body, mind and spirit. There will be a chance to sample and discover more about therapies such as: Acupressure, Alexander Technique, Aromatherapy, Back Massage, Bowen, Colour Therapy, Electro Magnetic Field Balancing, Emotional Freedom Technique, Homeopathy, Hypnotherapy, Indian Head Massage, Metamorphic Technique, Quantum Touch, Reflexology, Reiki, Rejuvanessence, Spiritual Healing, Thermal Auricular Therapy (Hopi Ear Candles) and Zero Balancing.

There will also be Allergy Testing, Aura Photography and Clairvoyance to experience as well as Crystals, delicious home-made whole-foods and other items of interest to purchase.

During the Fair a number of workshops will be taking place, covering the following topics: Meditation and Relaxation Techniques, Yoga and Pranayama Breathing, Emotional Freedom Technique, Electro Magnetic Field Balancing, Reiki and Working with Universal Energy, and Art Therapy.

Whitehall Hotel provides a beautiful and tranquil setting for local people to take some time out of their increasingly busy and stressful schedule to experience peace and relaxation and to learn how to create more harmony in their lives.

The Fair is open from 10.00am to 5.00pm and admission will be £3 for adults and £1.50 for concessions. Workshops will cost £5 per person. Refreshments will be available throughout the event. Further information can be obtained by emailing: harmonyforlife@btinternet.com.

Sharon Watson

VOLUNTEERING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

According to statistics, volunteering for a charity will improve your job chances, help you make friends, and improve your sense of self worth. Have you thought of giving it a try?

Training courses are available for the Citizens Advice Bureau in East Hertfordshire, which has outlets in Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hertford and Ware. The course is free, and volunteer travel expenses are paid. There are opportunities to be an adviser, help with IT, do social policy or administrative work. What we ask from our volunteers is a willingness to learn and take part in our training, and the time to commit two half days or one whole day a week in the bureau after you have trained. If you are interested please ring the Volunteer line 08451 264 264, or call in at your local bureau.

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Stansted Tennis Club



Finals Day

The annual club finals day took place on Sunday 10th September. Blessed with a full day of glorious sunshine, the many spectators who supported on the day were entertained with some top class tennis. The trophies were presented by the Club Chairman, Richard Shervington, and a barbecue rounded off the day.

The results were:

Men's Singles - Richard Johnson beat Martyn Taplin 6-3 7-5 Ladies' Singles - Nikki Penderis beat Sandra Ayres 6-3 6-2 Men's Doubles - Richard Johnson & Kevin Hutchinson beat John Bitten & Martyn Taplin 7-6 (7-2) 6-3

Ladies' Doubles - Daphne Lunnon & Nikki Penderis beat Jenny Kirby & Fiona Pye 6-4 6-3

Mixed Doubles - George Luther & Sandra Ayres beat Martyn Taplin & Laura Andes 6-3 7-5

Fiona Pye was presented with the Roger Loveday Trophy for the most improved player of the year. This trophy is voted for by the Committee.

The Wilby Tournament

Sixteen players took part in this annual event. The shield was won by Ed Wombwell & Ben Taplin, who defeated Daphne Lunnon and Kevin Hutchinson in the final.

Forthcoming tournament

The Pearce/Frodo tournament will take place on Sunday 15th October at 1.30pm. Would all members who would like to play in this tournament, please sign up on the notice in the clubhouse.

Hospital Cup

Stansted Tennis Club won two trophies at this year's interclub event, the finals of which took place at Clavering Tennis Club. Sandra Ayres and Sue Sebley beat Daphne Lunnon & Nikki Penderis in an all Stansted final. Martyn Taplin & Daphne Lunnon won the Mixed trophy, defeating John Smith & Monica Sutherland from Henham Tennis Club.

Christmas Event

The committee are in the process of arranging this year's Christmas 'Do'. The place is still to be decided, but the date for your diaries will be Saturday 9th December.

Coaching

Chris Hollis (319155) and Martyn Taplin (816386) are available for coaching. Please give either of them a call if you would like to find out more.

Club Sessions

With the nights now drawing in, we are lucky to be able to use the new floodlights. Wednesday evening open club session will now continue throughout the winter months. All members, old and new, old and young are encouraged to come along.

If you would like further information, please contact Richard Mott (Secretary) 466348, Janet Hollis (Chairman) 812073 or Daphne Lunnon (Membership secretary) 817574.

Chris Hollis

STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

July Lunch

John Gearing, Chairman of Bishop's Stortford Chamber of Commerce, addressed some 50 members of the Stansted Lunch Club. With the aid of slides presented by Bob Lee of Business Kinetics, John talked about the redevelopment of the Bishop's Stortford town centre and its impact on the future of the town. It was an extremely interesting and informative talk, if somewhat alarming, from which it was evident that the character of the town will change markedly from that of a market town. It was also clear that the redevelopment would create significant traffic congestion and parking problems that would be difficult to resolve in the longer term and, apparently, had already led some businesses to relocate away from the town; light, interesting, hard-hitting and relevant. Members unable to attend the lunch may hear John give a longer presentation on the same subject at BSBC's Exhibition on 18th October (see below).

In July we were delighted to welcome 15 new members and guests. New members and guests always bring fresh blood and new perspectives that greatly enliven our meetings. They are very welcome and we hope to see them all again.

Bishop's Stortford Business Connections Exhibition 10.00am – 5.00pm, 18th October at The Rhodes Arts Complex

Do not forget the BSBC Exhibition - Bishop's Stortford Means Business - for the fourth time, but this time bigger and better than ever. An exhibition of local companies, showing the services and products they can provide to companies and people in the Bishop's Stortford area. A seminar programme of topics relevant to local citizens and businesses runs throughout the day. To receive more details email: exhibition@bsbc.org.uk.

Future Lunches - Wednesdays

29th November 2006 – NatWest Business Centre 31st January 2007 – Sponsorship under discussion

Items of news / interest

If you have any items of interest or news that you would like communicated to members, please contact me.

Alastair Richardson Tel: 07850 295109 Email: Alastair@abr-ltd.com



Our next ploughman's lunch will be on Saturday 14th October at the Stansted Day Centre, 12 noon to 2.00pm. All are welcome.

The Branch AGM will be held at 11.30am on Saturday 11th November at the Stansted Day Centre, followed by the usual ploughman's lunch, 12 noon to 2.00pm.

We are holding a quiz at the Stansted Day Centre on Saturday 21st October, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The quizmaster will be David Morson, and the cost of £7.50 includes a ploughman's supper. There will also be a bar and a raffle. Tables of up to six maximum. Please ring 814222 or 813432 for tickets and further information.

The Constituency Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 9th December at Elsenham Village Hall, 7.30 for 8.00pm. The cost is £29.50 and the speaker will be Chris Huhne (one of the candidates for the leadership election earlier this year). For further information and menu choices, please ring either of the above telephone numbers.

Ruth Rawlinson

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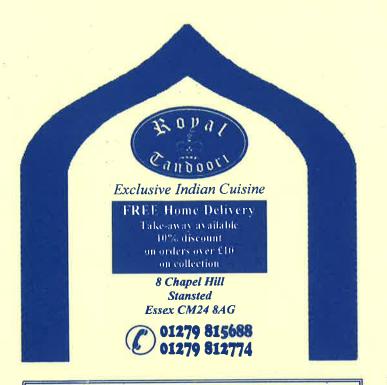




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