

Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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The Link

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Editorial

The much-publicised recession is getting into its stride, exacerbated by the coldest winter for several years. Stansted people have a long-standing tradition of compassion towards the elderly and disadvantaged but this year our resources, both personal and material, are likely to be stretched. So can the 'Link' appeal to its readers to be sensitive to the needs of their neighbours, many of whom are reluctant to complain about the little things that can make life difficult - from leaking taps, malfunctioning kitchenware, sticking doors or windows, through to shopping. The friendly interest can be as cheering as any attempted remedy.

At the January meeting of the Local History Society, Tony Wellings gave an insight into the changes which have occurred over the past 40 or so years along Stansted's boundaries. Several slides illustrated how new building had altered rural aspects into urban, but perhaps surprisingly the most noticeable changes are in the untamed growth of hedges and 'scrub'. This is particularly seen near the airport rail link and on the Farnham/Manuden borders. What was once arable or grazing land has become untended and reverted. Whilst wildlife may temporarily benefit, an absence of enlightened management can and does lead to rubbish accumulation and an aura of neglect. As a community we should be aware of this and perhaps will the means to restore a climate of care. With private land this may not easily be achieved, but it would be good to see a beginning. If February produces snow we shall miss the tobogganing which Grippers once provided!

CIRCULATION:

The Link is delivered free to 2700 homes and businesses in Stansted Mountfitchet. Further copies may be purchased for 50p each or £5.00 for the year.

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by **noon** on
 11th February
 for publication on
 23rd February

by **noon** on 11th March
 for publication on
 23rd March

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DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of the editorial committee

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

New Year usually brings a feeling of hope and interest after the celebrations of Christmas and the symbolism of renewal at Christ's birth. This year a great number of people face considerable challenges as the nation faces recession, and possibly extreme climate change. Christians need to search within themselves to find a way forward and New Year resolutions may need to focus on simplifying our lifestyles.

Most generations have had to face challenges - wars on a global scale, nuclear arms (for or against), extreme poverty and mass migrations. Our challenges focus on a future threatened with increased living costs, lack of work, weather changes (extent not clearly known), and an uneasy feeling of insecurity - intensified by the media. Quakers have what we call a 'testimony' on simplicity, but this is not merely about austerity when resources are tight, and it's not a rejection of the material world, or of worldly concerns; but it is a concern to search out how best we can live our lives positively whatever the surrounding problems are, hoping that we can find the core of what is really important.

The Lent Groups, organised by Churches Together in Stansted, start next month and I am sure will lead to very interesting discussions and will shed light on present difficulties. One of the early Quakers - William Penn - wrote "True godliness does not turn men out of the world but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavours to mend it." Something to aim at, even if we only achieve a tiny bit!

Warm good wishes for 2009.



Katharine Hurford
Society of Friends



ST MARY'S CHURCH

Christmas Events

As usual, the Carol Concert at St Mary's was well attended and all the schools participated. £322 was raised, which has been divided between the Churches Conservation Trust and Uttlesford Community Travel. The carol singing around the streets was great fun and we were joined by some very welcome 'newcomers'. £201 was raised, and this, together with the collection from St Theresa's carol service, has been sent to Uttlesford Community Travel. Thanks to all who supported these community events.

Mike Dyer

Future Events

Last year's Lent groups were very well supported, so it has been agreed to follow the same format for this year. Each session will begin with a short act of worship in the style of the host church; this will then be followed by tapes and discussion, using material specially prepared for Lent. Please join us - you will be most welcome. Dates are as follows - all start at 7.30pm:

- Thursday 5th March - Free Church
- Wednesday 11th March - St John's
- Friday 20th March - Friends Meeting House
- Wednesday 25th March - Free Church (hosted by RC)
- Tuesday 31st March - St John's followed by Agape

We are planning a Songs of Praise to be held in the Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill, at 6.00pm on Sunday 28th June. We are inviting suggestions for hymns, so please let me or your church CTS contact know if you would like any particular hymn to be considered for inclusion. Courtesy of the money raised from *The Ghost Train*, we are hoping to have the services of a band for the occasion. More details in future editions of the 'Link'.

Francine Cope

On Saturday 21st February at 2.00pm, the bells of St Mary's will be rung in a quarter peal, lasting approximately 50 minutes. This special event will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Churches Conservation Trust, to whom we are indebted for the care and preservation of our ancient church. The oldest bell is dated 1671 - older than the tower in which it now hangs, and the youngest, to mark the Coronation of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, in 1902. The oak frame on which the bells hang was installed when the tower was built in 1692. The total weight of the bells is thought to be 55½ cwt! We look forward to seeing you at this event. Tea will be served in the church, which will be open until 5 o'clock.

Audrey Rodgers

On behalf of the Churches Conservation Trust



SHALOM

On 2nd February, Edna Goring will be leading us in an evening of music and poetry. Catherine Dean will be leading a discussion about forgiveness on 16th February. The basis for the discussion is a tape of an interview with an Anglican priest whose daughter was killed by bombers; she subsequently resigned from the ministry, as she felt unable to completely forgive the bombers. On 2nd March, Alan Wheeler will be giving a talk (with PowerPoint illustrations) on 'Church East - Church West'. All three meetings are at 7 Blythwood Gardens and begin at 8.00pm. Please join us - you will be warmly welcomed!

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



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Preachers for February

1st 10.30am Nigel Courtman and The Worship Team
8th 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins
15th 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton
Holy Communion
22nd 10.30am Andrew Brown

Members and friends of the church were delighted to witness the recent marriage of Helen Gould (our youngest member) and Darren Chopping. This was the first wedding to take place in our joint church. We wish them every happiness.



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Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

Confessions
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and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
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St John's Diary

Sunday

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

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

Monday-Wednesday

8.30am Morning Prayer
5.00pm Evening Prayer

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

Wednesday

10.30am Holy Communion

Thursday

8.30am Morning Prayer

From the Registers

November

Baptism

23rd Amelia Lynne Holden

Wedding

15th Fiona Binder to Simon Hewson

There were no entries for December

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting: Sunday, 10.30am

IN MEMORIAM

DOROTHY CLARA PALMER FRANCIS

(nee Odden) 1917 – 2008

What can we say about Claire and the full life she led? She was born of Victorian parents who were both only children. She had no surviving siblings and became very self-reliant at an early age due to an ailing mother and father who would have preferred a son. Public school educated, she chose as her career nursing, which she loved. She nursed in London during the Blitz and it was a sad day when she had to give up this career due to injuring her back. From nursing she went into office work dealing with accounts. It was whilst working at Norman Frizzells in London that Claire met my mother and they became firm friends. At this point I was 12 years old and Auntie Claire has been a part of our family ever since. Before retiring due to ill health Claire worked at Stansted Airport for the Civil Aviation Authority. It was through ill health that Claire came into Spiritualism when she received prolonged healing which the allopathic system had failed to cure.

Claire's interests were many and varied, and she never lost her sense of wonder and had a great enthusiasm for life. Her interests and hobbies reflected this. These included a great love for animals, which was reflected in the many animal charities she supported; visiting museums of all varieties; reading; music ... especially Gilbert and Sullivan; natural history; botany; astronomy; ancient history; and travel - a great love of her life. When times were hard Claire saved her pennies and travelled on package tours. Later when money was more readily available she travelled to Australia by ship, New Zealand, and South America (just as the Falklands War was about to begin). America was also on her itinerary later on. Claire was very proud of herself for managing to get to the top of Vesuvius when she was well into her 70s. She loved all of her visits but Egypt was outstanding and she visited it twice with the WI.

The WI played a large part in Claire's life, not only local meetings but Denman College in particular and the wonderful courses she enjoyed for over 30 years. In latter years I joined her as her guest so that she could continue to attend the College. Our interests are similar so it was a great pleasure for me too. Our courses ranged from ancient history, archaeology, courses on music, literature, dowsing, textiles, hieroglyphics and the last course Claire attended late last year was on Peru.

In local life Claire was active with the Ancient Order of For-esters, helping out at jumble sales, and an ardent supporter of the Liberal Party, particularly at election times. Meals on wheels, hospital visiting and calling on the elderly with whom she had great rapport, all came under her spotlight, as well as the expansion of Stansted Airport. Claire was a good friend to many, many people, a person of strong views, interesting to be with, who spoke her truth as she saw it. Claire will be much missed by many who knew her in years gone by ... Some she will meet again as she follows them into her future life. God Bless you Claire, may you always live in the light.



Whilst going through her belongings my wife found a piece of paper that Claire wrote nine years ago and asked that it be read out during her funeral:

Please, don't feel sad just because you can't see or hear me! I shan't be far away, indeed, I may very well be watching you! There is no such thing as death, only a change of wave length!

Over the last couple of years, social services, home support, Welfare State, meals on wheels have all come in for stick and criticism. My wife, Ursula, and I would like to publicly acknowledge all the help and assistance that Social Services and Community Nursing gave to Auntie Claire between her many visits in and out of hospital. It could not be faulted. They allowed Claire to continue living in her cottage. From all her family ... Thank You, especially to Olga and her staff in Social Services and Chris from Community Health.

James Easey



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Sat 21st February



Bell Ringing at 2 pm
Teas 3 - 5 pm

Celebrating 40th anniversary of
The Churches Conservation Trust
who maintain the church

Everyone Welcome

VILLAGE EVENTS

February

2	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
4	Wed	Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Fri	Pete Baker's Crusty Jazzers	St John's Church 7.30 for 8 pm
7	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
		Rainbow Nearly New Sale	St John's Hall 12 - 1.30 pm
12	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
16	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
21	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
		Bell Ringing and Tea	St Mary's Church 2 - 5 pm
28	Sat	Lib Dem Quiz	Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm

March

2	Mon	Shalom Group	7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
4	Wed	Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Thu	Lent Group	Free Church 7.30 pm
		Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
7 Sat & 8 Sun		Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
9	Mon	American History Lecture	Day Centre 8 pm
11	Wed	Lent Group	St John's Church 7.30 pm
12	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14	Sat	Music@stansted	St John's Church 7.30 pm
21 Sat & 22 Sun		Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

To advertise your March or April event on this page
please email events@stanstedlink.org.uk or tel 814059
before 11th February

Inclusion is subject to the editor's decision



Stansted & District Liberal Democrats

QUIZ EVENING

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LENT GROUPS

A short act of worship led
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Wed 11 March	St John's
Fri 20 March	Meeting House
Wed 25 March	Free Church (hosted by Roman Catholics)
Tue 31 March	St John's followed by Agape

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A TALE OF A PLAQUE

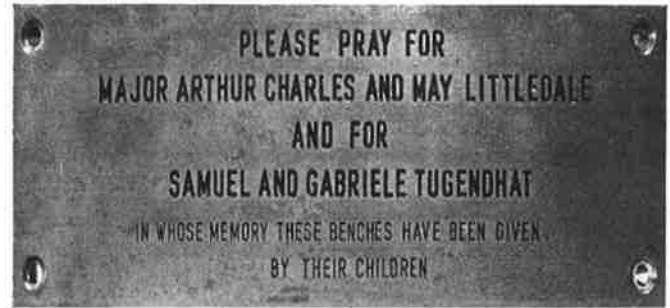
Anyone familiar with St Mary's churchyard in Widdington may have noticed two headstones in the south-west corner which, through a curious set of events have given rise to a small local mystery. The first stone is that of Samuel Tugendhat, born in 1856 in Bielitz in Silesia which, in those days was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Samuel came to England in 1921 and died in Widdington on 11th October 1940. His wife, Gabriele, who was of the same descent, died in July 1956 and is buried with him. The second stone is that of Mary Littledale, born in 1883 and who died in January 1946. It also commemorates her husband, Major Arthur Charles Littledale, a Royal Field Artillery officer who died in May 1915 of wounds received during the First World War. Poor Mary was therefore a widow for over 30 years – sadly not an uncommon event as a result of the Great War.

So what is the story behind these two graves? Well, Samuel Tugendhat had three children including a son, Georg, who married Maire Littledale, the daughter of Mary and Arthur Littledale. Georg was born in Vienna in February 1898 and emigrated to England with his parents, settling firstly in London and then, around 1937, in Widdington where he established Weft House in Cornells Lane as the family home. By this time there were three children, but the family was still growing and, as Weft House could not be extended due to postwar building restrictions, the family moved to a larger house in Ongar in 1948. It was, however, by dint of their association with Widdington that the parents of Georg and Maire Tugendhat, and indeed Georg and Maire themselves, came to be buried in St Mary's churchyard. Georg died in 1973 and Maire in 1994, after their departure from the village, but their four children, three of whom had spent their early years here, obtained permission for their parents to be buried in the churchyard.

Of the four children of Georg and Maire, the eldest was Christopher, who was firstly elected an MP, then appointed a member of the European Commission from 1977 to 1981. Thereafter he became Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, then of Abbey National and, most recently, the European Advisory Board of Lehman Brothers. He was knighted in 1990 and created a life peer in 1993, adopting the style of Baron Tugendhat of Widdington. The family now lives in London. The Tugendhats were and are Catholics, and when the family lived in Widdington they actually worshipped in the old-established Roman Catholic Church in Saffron Walden [an option would have been St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Henham, which had been built in 1933]. In 1958, some ten years after their departure from the village, an additional site was purchased in order to establish a third Catholic Church at Millside, Stansted. The same year, Mill House at Millside was bought and converted into a House-Church, but eventually even the two churches at Stansted and Henham proved inadequate for a growing parish community and, in October 2003, a new, much larger Catholic church – St Theresa's – was built in High Lane, Stansted.

So much for the history. Now the mystery. When the Millside House-Church was closed, there were a few old bench-type pews which could not be accommodated in the new St Theresa's, which had its own custom-built furniture. A few parishioners were invited to give these benches

homes, and we were among the fortunates. 'Our' pew carried a brass plaque:



*Please pray for Major Arthur Charles and May Littledale
and for Samuel and Gabriele Tugendhat
In whose memory these benches have been given
by their children*

It took a little time to register, but thanks to regular walks past St Mary's church in Widdington, we realised that the Littledales and the Tugendhats remembered on the brass plaque from St Theresa's Millside, and then in our possession, were those buried in the south-west corner of the churchyard. Quite how the plaque, placed by 'their children' of whom Georg Tugendhat was one, came to be in the Millside church when the family never worshipped there is a mystery yet to be solved, notwithstanding searches through the records of St Mary's Widdington and St Theresa's Stansted, which at the time was part of the parish of Saffron Walden.

It is known that in 1963 the priest in Saffron Walden sought Diocesan permission to purchase some 'new benches to replace old chairs', but that is the only reference to benches in the parish during the period of review. It is possible that in the process of this refurbishing, some parishioners were asked for donations and the Tugendhats, who, as we know had left the area in 1948, might have been one such family. Were that the case, it is equally possible that they may have used the opportunity to commemorate their forebears buried in Widdington by placement of the plaque on a bench whose ultimate resting place was destined to be Millside, Stansted. All this, however, is pure speculation. If any reader can shed any further light on this plaque's history we would be pleased to hear from them. It seemed to us that this family plaque should be returned to the family, so we contacted Christopher Tugendhat – now Lord Tugendhat of Widdington – and met one glorious October day last year at our home in Wood End and did just that.

It is pleasing that this story had a happy ending, given the sadness surrounding the commissioning of the plaque in the first place, but strangely, over the period of this tale, my wife and I realised that we had become quite fond of the plaque. That's probably because for most of the ten years we worshipped at Millside we were part of the church cleaning roster and must have polished it countless times!

Malcolm Deakin

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Christmas celebrations went very well at Rainbow despite a high level of sickness. The nativity play was as charming as ever and all the parents and grandparents enjoyed the performance. The children's performing skills were also put to the test at Norman Court and Broome End where the children sang out all their carols and songs beautifully. The singing was such a success at Broome End that the children may well go back to entertain the elderly residents more often.

The theme for this half term is hot and cold. We have had no problem in exploring the issues of cold thanks to the recent frosty weather and as part of the topic the older children have conducted an experiment in making their own ice lollies.

On 7th February from 12-1.30pm, we will be holding a nearly new sale of maternity wear, children's clothes, toys and equipment in St John's Church Hall. Please do come along to grab yourself a bargain.

Thanks to previous fundraising efforts and a generous grant from the Observer Newspapers, we have been able to order a new construction set for the children, together with some new tables and chairs for the classroom.

Rainbow Tots is pleased to announce that, with the support of Sure Start, it will be reinstating the afternoon session on Wednesdays, so will have more places available. If you are interested in a place for your child (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 we are now taking names for September entry. Please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for further information.

*****STOP PRESS***** *Rainbow is missing its Father Christmas outfit! We believe someone may have borrowed it last year and it may be sitting in a loft somewhere. If anyone knows of the outfit's whereabouts please contact a member of staff.*



Isabelle Page
Rainbow Committee



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our year ended on a festive note when 40 of us enjoyed a Christmas dinner at the Old Bell in Stansted. It was a really good evening, good company, good food and delightful surroundings.



At our meeting the week before, we had been entertained by June Wells, a member of the Society for Storytelling. I wonder how many of you know that such a society exists - I certainly didn't before this. June tells her stories to groups of all ages and there is something magical about sitting listening to stories being told rather than read. Her stories come from all over the world and all have a message whether religious, social or moral. Before she begins she taps the 'singing bowl' from Nepal which makes a wonderful ringing sound and when it stops she begins. We heard of the downfall of Adam and Eve; why the swallow has a forked tail; and the story of the blind man who could hear with his ears. I think we all agreed it took us back to our childhood, what better place to be at Christmastime!

January brought more entertainment in the guise of Andy Caven and his guitar. Andy, one of four brothers, has been playing a guitar and singing since he was a lad, when I gather they used to drive his mother mad. He writes his own songs as well as singing some of the best of Buddy Holly, Elvis, Tommy Steele, Bob Dylan etc. etc. He interspersed his singing and playing with tales of his life which included touring Europe with various groups. He says he really enjoys coming to WI groups because we are such a relaxed audience and join in! So if you need a recommendation to come along, there you are - not that we can offer an Andy Caven every month!

We are having a Quiz Eve on Saturday 4th April in the Stansted Free Church Hall, Chapel Hill. Tables of eight, £6 per person includes a light supper, bring your own drink and glasses - Quizmaster Martin West. To book a table ring either number given below.

We were very sad to hear the news of Maisie Bunting's death as she was a founder member of our Institute and kept in touch after her move to Cornwall.

On 12th February, we have Doug Killick as our speaker 'Defender of London' - a light-hearted look at Essex at war, so if you think this sounds interesting do come along, visitors and new members are always welcome. We meet at 7.45pm in St John's Hall.



Judy Colliver 812470
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Stansted Tennis Club



At the time of writing this first report of 2009, the courts have been covered in black ice for the past week, so there has not been much in the way of tennis played. Once the weather improves, we hope that members will come out in force to exercise after the Christmas and New Year festivities. There will be the chance to come along to the coaching sessions for adults and juniors. The club runs six teams in the local Essex Small Clubs League and we are always looking for new members who may be keen to play for the club. We are also planning social club tournaments at the moment, so please watch this space for further details.

Dates for your Diary

Pearce Senior Tournament - Sunday 22nd February 12.30pm start - Please see the noticeboard in the clubhouse if you would like to enter.

Stansted Tennis Club Annual General Meeting

Monday 9th March 8.00pm at 105, Cambridge Road, Stansted. All members are welcome and indeed encouraged to attend. Please contact Richard Mott if you would like to serve on the committee.

Coaching

There are a couple of free spaces at the adult coaching session on Fridays 2.00pm-2.45pm. If you would like to come along and join in, please call Chris Hollis on 319155. You don't have to be a member of the club. Junior coaching with Chris Hollis continues. If you would like to find out more and get your name on the waiting list, please call Chris on the above number. Martyn Taplin, 816386, continues to coach adults on Saturday afternoons at the club.

Used Tennis Balls

These are available for sale £1 per tin of 4 balls. Please contact Jan Hollis on 812073 or call at 105 Cambridge Road.

Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions:

Wednesday from 10.00am and 6.00pm
Fridays from 9.30am; Sundays from 10.00am

Contacts

For further information, please contact Richard Mott (Secretary) on 466348, Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 812073 or Daphne Lunnun (Membership Secretary) on 817574.

Chris Hollis

NFSH ACCREDITED CLINIC

Further to last month's article, I would like to clarify that we have a large room available for treatments at the Quaker Meeting House on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm-9.30pm. If there are any complementary therapists who would like to work alongside us on an independent basis, please call me or visit www.saffronaccreditedclinic.co.uk.

Chris Langford
Tel: 01799 550094

SWORDERS FIRST CHRISTMAS SALE

Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers held their first ever Christmas sale on the evening of Thursday 11th December to mark the culmination of, perhaps, the most momentous year in their 226 year history. Twelve months ago, Sworders were based in the centre of Stansted Mountfitchet in cramped and unsuitable premises. They are now to be found on the northern edge of the village in purpose-built, environmentally-friendly premises. Indeed, the auction room is the largest building in Europe to be constructed from straw bales. The Christmas sale began with a reception, where guests were treated to mulled wine, festive canapés and carols sung by the choir of St John's. This was very much a thank you from Sworders to their loyal friends and clients. The auction was preceded by a short welcome from partner Guy Schooling and an introduction from the Rt Rev Christopher Morgan, The Bishop of Colchester.



Included in the auction were donated lots to be sold on behalf of The Church Urban Fund. Bishop Christopher explained the aims of the fund, namely assisting the

disadvantaged in the inner cities, whether they be the homeless, abused children or the lonely and isolated elderly.

The auction itself commenced at 6.00pm and included a varied selection of unusual and imaginative Christmas gifts, including a Wurlitzer 'Bubbler' juke box which realised £3000, jewellery, silver, wine, port and toys, including a deluxe version of the Monopoly game which sold for £150. The evening raised in excess of £1300 for The Church Urban Fund, and the auction itself grossed approx £50k. Sworders hope that this auction and their association with the Fund will become an annual event.

Guy Schooling

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Comment on Stansted runway closure

The closure of Stansted Airport on the morning of 8th December by climate action group Plane Stupid has highlighted significant concerns that the Government is failing to fulfil its commitment to deliver meaningful action on climate change by supporting the expansion of Stansted and other airports across the UK. Over 50 protesters from Plane Stupid camped out on the runway and surrounded themselves with fortified security fencing, preventing flights to and from the airport during the early part of the morning. No-one can condemn this action without also condemning the recklessness of the Government's policy on airport expansion and the major contribution which the resulting emissions would make to global warming. Our own campaign has always been waged strictly within the law and we are pledged to continue to use all legal means to overturn the Stansted expansion plans.

Appeal to the High Court over Stansted decision

SSE has lodged an Appeal with the High Court challenging the decision by the Government to sanction an additional 10 million passengers a year on Stansted's existing runway. This action came within days of it being confirmed that a Public Inquiry to consider BAA's plans for a second runway at Stansted is to start in April 2009 and would derail these plans if the legal challenge succeeds. SSE's legal action challenges three aspects of the Government's decision to approve the extra ten million passengers a year and the related extra flights:

- 1 That the increase in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, however substantial, can be disregarded in the decision to approve the extra flights
- 2 That the economic impact on the UK trade deficit, however adverse, can be disregarded
- 3 That the adverse noise impacts upon local residents and people living further afield cannot amount to a reason for refusal because to do so would frustrate Government policy.

Having taken Counsel's advice, SSE considers the Government's reasoning on the above three points to be wrong in law and in breach of clear assurances previously provided. If allowed to go unchallenged the Government's decision could have national repercussions as well as impacts on the case against a second runway at Stansted. For this reason, major national environmental groups are supporting SSE's decision to mount this High Court challenge and in some cases have even promised some financial support.

We have no choice but to mount a legal challenge to this decision. When it reaches the stage where the Government is prepared to disregard the climate change impacts, the noise impacts and even the interests of the UK economy in order to satisfy its obsession for airport expansion, then it is time to ask the High Court to intervene. The issues at stake here go far wider than Stansted. We are therefore appealing to the public for their support. Donations and pledges to SSE for the High Court Appeal Fighting Fund should be sent to SSE at PO Box 311, Takeley, Bishop's Stortford CM22 6Y.

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

This month's newsletter is mainly about food! We have a pupil-sized kitchen at St Mary's and it is well used, especially by the younger children. I always look forward to the samples of their cooking that arrive in the office! The older children have been working with Mrs Davies and Mrs Phillips, our cooks, in the school kitchen. They have been helping with preparations for the midday meal, whilst learning about healthy ingredients, food hygiene and how an industrial kitchen works compared with the kitchen at home.



Willow Class in the pupils' kitchen

There has been plenty of maths involved too – calculating quantities to cater for larger numbers, measuring and reading scales to weigh ingredients and check temperatures. And the standard of food has been as good as ever!

The school kitchen and lunchtime staff also joined in with the Key Stage 2 project on the Second World War when they dressed as ladies from a Naafi canteen to serve a 'Dig for Victory' school lunch made with recipes from the time of rationing.



Maple Class - the Queen of Hearts at the Banquet

And from war time rations to royal banquets! The younger children have performed 'Cinderella' at Christmas this year. The theme of traditional tales and pantomime inspired much of their work for the half term including creating their own firm of party organisers, writing invitations, planning menus, preparing the food, designing and making decorations. The guest of honour at their banquet was the Queen of Hearts, who had a wonderful afternoon!

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher

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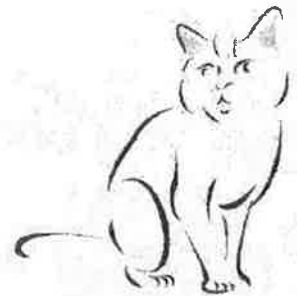
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WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Stansted has for a long time been involved with the Workers' Educational Association. Perhaps a reader could tell me when the connection started but obviously it was going strong in 1951 when the branch took part in the Festival of Britain celebrations. What were they studying to put on a one-act thriller and get involved in 'Wild Doings at the Windmill'?

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Daytime classes were run in the '60s and '70s and several of us took local history subjects to investigate; this was before the Stansted Local History Society was formed. Our findings were taken away by the tutor who said she would collate and copy our papers and let us have them back but that was the last we saw of them. After a time enquiries were made but she had moved and no-one at the WEA knew where.

There was then a break and the branch re-formed in 1981. Although the numbers wishing to take part have remained at a viable level, over the last few years it has become increasingly difficult for tutors to be found for the subjects requested. Last year fees went up and concessions banned, which impacted on the Stansted Branch, as most members were OAPs. At the AGM on 1st December a committee could not be formed and it was declared that the branch would close. It has had several reincarnations so who knows what might happen in the future?

Peggy Honour



STANSTED & DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Our next social event is a Quiz, to be held on Saturday 28th February at the Stansted Day Centre, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tables of six, tickets £8 to include a ploughman's supper. There will also be a bar and raffle. Tickets and further information from 814222 or 813432.

Ruth Rawlinson

MOUNTFITCHET CLUB

Formerly Mountfitchet Seniors

At our recent AGM it was decided that in future our club will be called **The Mountfitchet Club**. We have reduced the age to 55 years and now we will only meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 2.00pm-4.00pm in the Day Centre. Our next meeting will be on 4th February which will be our Annual Quiz in memory of Bessie Blyth.

The new committee is:

President	Jenny Gardener
Chairman/Treasurer	John Robinson
Secretary	Cath Whall
Outings Organiser	Daphne Smith
Committee	Mrs C Bullock, Mrs L Suckling Mrs S Butterworth, Mrs M Howe

Our outings organiser will be arranging day outings, guest groups and speakers at various times of the year. We are still looking for new members, guest speakers and entertainment groups. If anyone would like more information, please contact me or any committee member.

John W Robinson

Tel: 812755



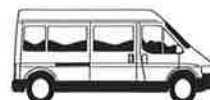
Huw Johnson Club

By the time you read this, Christmas will be long forgotten and our concert a thing of the past. However I must say a big thank you to all who came to see us perform. Our members love acting and an appreciative audience made the evening very enjoyable. On 16th January we will all enjoy dinner at the Chequers where we are always made very welcome by all the staff.

We will commence our Thursday evening Club programme on 26th February, so we have a chance to think up new ideas to entertain our members. My request for an escort to travel in the Uttlesford Community Minibus has once again fallen on deaf ears. Please think about it and if you chat about this with me, I promise not to put too much pressure on you to accept. Most of our escorts find travelling in the bus very entertaining as there is never a dull moment with our members.

Everyone at the Club wishes you all a belated 'Happy New Year'.

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

WATCH OUT FOR PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRES

About the end of January or early February every household should receive two copies of a questionnaire, the information from which will be fundamental in preparing a plan for the future of Stansted Mountfitchet. Separate questionnaires have been prepared for our young people between 11-18 years and locally based businesses.

The success in creating a well thought out plan will depend to a significant extent on receiving your views, ideas and factual information from the completed questionnaires. Although the main questionnaire is long, do not let this put you off – complete it all, or only the sections in which you may have a particular view or expertise. The greater the number of returns, the stronger is our position in persuading other authorities and agencies to take the actions we want. During winter days or evenings, it may be easier to find half an hour or an hour to answer the questions.

The return of the forms will be made as easy as possible, probably by post as well as at a number of collection points, the location of which will be prominently displayed on the questionnaire. Please help to ensure that all parts of the village and all ages are represented. We are receiving offers of support from local businesses at the current time – these will be acknowledged by name in the next edition. **Make returning the questionnaire a priority and thank you for your help.**

QUALITY COUNCIL ... AGAIN!

It is four years since the Parish Council gained its Quality Status from the National Association of Local Councils, so December was renewal time. We are pleased to announce that we were successfully re-accredited.

PARISH BUDGET FOR 2009/10 TO RISE BY 5%

Although it had been hoped to have no increase, the longer term needs of the parish suggest otherwise. To put the rise into some sort of context, it represents about £3 per dwelling for the year.

It would have been possible to have produced a close to flat budget even allowing for a six-month cost for the new PCSO position and higher gardening costs (assumed following re-tendering), but the decision has been taken to undertake a bulk clean and bulb change on all the parish owned lighting at a cost of around

£5,000. The benefits of this spending are more effective lighting and lower maintenance costs which provide a good return to the parish.

A number of small improvements will be made including a new field gate for the Cemetery, new goalposts on the Recreation Ground, a flower bed at the entrance to Blythwood Gardens and the creation of a new footpath map which will be included in a booklet showing some 42 walks around the parish.

The reserves remain sound but will be reduced by the cost of the Parish Plan questionnaire and a donation of £5,000 to SSE as it gears up to contest yet another Public Inquiry - this time relating to a second runway.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Wednesday 11 February 2009 sees the next meeting of Neighbourhood Watch in the Stansted Day Centre, Craffton Green at 7.30pm. We discuss problems within our village and put forward ideas on how to deal with them. Our last three meetings have been very successful and Neighbourhood Watch in Stansted is growing at quite a pace. If you want to know more about NhW in this area, then come along to the meeting and have your say.

We have two PCSO's in the village – Kelly and Stuart – who can be contacted on 07801 461666 whenever you have a problem and they will do their best to help you. If they are not on duty, leave a message – they will come back to you.

PROPOSED HEALTH FACILITIES

Michelle Bassett from the PCT attended the multi-agency meeting at the MMCC on 8 January and announced that a site in Silver Street is their preferred option for the new facility. Negotiations with the landowner are on-going and they have undertaken to keep us informed of progress.

LIGHTING – WAITING ON ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL DECISION

By the time this items is read, or perhaps shortly afterwards, Essex County Council should announce its conclusions on the experiment of turning off street-lights at night. All the public pronouncements so far point to the scheme being declared a success at which point the policy will be extended to the rest of the County. Neither the level of crime nor the accident rate support overturning this policy.

Once the policy of ECC is clarified then the Parish will renew its efforts to bring control of all lighting in the village under its control (remember only about 20% of lights pre-Forest Hall Park are owned by ECC). At the same time, it is hoped to develop a rolling programme to ensure that all the lights in the parish are efficient, economic and friendly to the environment. Concurrently, ways of tackling the issue of night-time lighting will be explored so that, hopefully, there will be consistency across the village.

During the course of this year there should be a bulk clean and change of all bulbs which is necessary for effective and economic maintenance.

EMERGENCY PLAN – HELP REQUIRED

Each year the Council updates its Emergency Plan which would be implemented in the event of a local or national emergency. This document contains, amongst other information, details of first aiders and interpreters. If you have a qualification in the former, and/or an ability in the latter, please do make yourself known to the Clerk or to Cllr John Salmon as this information could prove vital in the future.

SKATEPARK LIGHTING

We were delighted to learn, just prior to Christmas, that we had secured planning consent to have lighting at the skatepark. When the facility was first constructed, the Council decided not to light it. However, several years on, and with the park completed in terms of equipment, the area is well used by youngsters. They themselves requested the lighting so that they can use it after school through the winter time, and the request was supported by our local Police who consider that lighting will help them in their evening patrols.

The lights will be timed to go off at 9pm at the latest, and will only come on if a sensor detects movement, so it will be environmentally friendly also!

The youngsters who use the park regularly have secured some funding for the lighting scheme, and we are now applying to another source for the remainder.

ELMS FARM

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of James Gemmill following his long illness. James, together with his brother, had recently completed the purchase of Elms Farm from the Trustees.

James was a supporter of the Parish Council and its work. He kindly allowed the Firework Event to transfer to one of his fields when it was no longer possible at the School, and had discussed other projects with us for the benefit of the community. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

CCTV

Our grant application for funding to update the village CCTV system was unsuccessful, but this was mainly due to the Council not having yet decided which of two

schemes it wished to go ahead with. It is a little chicken and egg as we did not know how much money we might have available.

The working group will now meet again to make a recommendation to the Council, after which we shall apply elsewhere for the funding.

YOUTH CENTRE

Linda Barnes has sent us the following report for inclusion this month:

"Just to say things are looking very good here on the members side. We now have 167 registered young people and we average between 40 and 50 on all three evenings.

Staffing continues to be a problem – our new lady who started in September 2008 left at Christmas as she found it too much with running her family and studying for a degree. We have recruited someone else but are still awaiting his clearance.

We are hoping to begin our Duke of Edinburgh Open Centre group in the next couple of weeks, but again staff shortage is going to prove a problem. I am trying to persuade some of my Dunmow staff to help out at Stansted."

Clearly, there is a problem with staffing at the Youth Centre. If you have a few hours per week to spare and would like to get involved with this thriving village organisation, please contact Linda Barnes direct on 07920 466923 or linda.barnes@essex.gov.uk – thank you.

SUMMER PLAYScheme

We are very keen to re-establish the Summer holiday playscheme for five to fourteen year olds this year. However, much like Linda at the Youth Centre, we are reliant on finding the right people to staff the scheme. In order to apply for Ofsted Registration, we need to employ a "Responsible Person" (RP), ie the main member of staff who will have ultimate responsibility for the day-to-day running of the scheme.

This person does not need to be a teacher, as the scheme is all about fun, but a background in looking after children, either as a parent or paid (!) would be helpful. The position is paid, and the RP would work with the Parish Council to put together the programme of activities. The scheme will run, hopefully, at the Youth Centre in Lower Street, for three or four weeks in August.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Ruth Clifford at the Council Offices.

GARDENING

Contracts for gardening, hanging baskets, hedge cutting and maintenance of the shrub borders at the Memorial Gardens are now out to tender.

We are somewhat disappointed with the colour of the winter planting – we had hoped for bright red to make us

all feel more cheerful! If there are any parishioners out there who feel able to advise us on planting choices for the future, please do contact the Clerk, without obligation, for a chat.

THE FOUNTAIN AND ITS SURROUNDS

The Open Spaces committee is examining options to improve the appearance of this prominent site. Once a final scheme is agreed and costed, external funding will be sought.

AND NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS

We are delighted to welcome Cllr Dan Scott who was co-opted to replace Peter Deeks on the Parish Council. Even better news is that Dan and his wife Helen are now proud parents to Alexander who was born around Christmas time – congratulations to you both.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Catherine Dean	813579
Gaye Ellington	813933
Jo Freeman	812524
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489
Peter Jones	813252
Janice Loughlin	812346
Tudor Owen	812825
Ruth Rawlinson**	814222
Jonathan Rich	813112
John Salmon	814789
Dan Scott	815098
Geoffrey Sell *	815925
Bill Stiles	813172
Valerie Trundle	813433
* Chairman	
** Vice Chairman	

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Jan 28 -	Full Council
Feb 4 -	F&GP
Feb 18 -	Full Council
Feb 25 -	Open Spaces

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings, and may address the Council on any relevant issue at the start of Full Council meetings. These comments are noted but no discussion is entered into. Meetings are held in Crafton Green House at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated on the agenda. Agendas are posted on the Parish Council's website www.stansted.net under Publications.

STANSTED IN BLOOM

This year members have decided to judge Spring flowers in gardens for a change! If you would like to nominate your own garden, or that of a friend or neighbour, please contact the office so that the address can be added to the judging list. Judging will take place around Easter time.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

From Cllr Geoffrey Sell

I attended the recent meeting of the South Community Forum held at the Mountfitchet Mathematics and Community College. The Community Forums unlike the Area Panels which they replaced are not part of the decision making process of the district council. They do however have a role of bringing together under one roof the various agencies such as the County Council, West Essex Primary Care Trust, Essex Police and the Council for Voluntary Services.

John Mitchell, District Council Chief Executive stated that the forthcoming budget for 2009/10 was likely to see a rise of about 5% in the council tax. This equates to about 13 pence a week for a Band D householder. The Council is forecasting that the 2009/10 budget will be balanced but that use of reserves will be needed. The council hopes to reduce its costs through partnership working with other local authorities.

As previously reported the Council had £2.2 million deposited in Icelandic banks. Negotiations are ongoing between the UK and Icelandic governments over their return of the deposits placed by local councils. The Council has a consequence of the economic down turn is facing increasing pressures on some of its services. For example, we have seen a significant increase in the number of people on the housing waiting list.

Inspector Glenn Pavelin gave a presentation on behalf of Essex Police. He stated that reported crime was falling but that the police were not getting enough community intelligence from residents. I made the point that a number of residents had told me that they wanted to see more visible policing. I took the opportunity to talk to our new Sergeant Chris Sharp and to PC Jo Jeggo. I relayed to them the concerns of Stansted residents who had spoken to me. Currently the local priorities of the police are youth nuisance and speed/driving issues.

Cllr Alan Dean and myself brought to the attention of the forum the plight of Bishop's Stortford Citizens Advice Bureau. As a result of cuts in funding from East Herts District Council two staff have been made redundant (including the manageress of 20 years standing) and opening hours have been cut back. Uttlesford District Council also makes a financial contribution to the work of the bureau. Our grant is unchanged.

As a former director of the Uttlesford CAB I know the valuable work that they perform. At a time of economic downturn it is even more important. However, grants to the voluntary sector of which CABs are a part are discretionary not mandatory for councils. I will be pursuing this issue through the Community Committee as I believe we should be making representations. A reduced service at Bishop's Stortford CAB is not good news for Stansted residents who wish to make use of their knowledge and expertise.

From Cllr Alan Dean

The meeting with the government's 'second runway' inspector in November was a rocky event. It ended with the inspector conceding he needed to think again about running parallel sessions to cut down the time the inquiry lasts. Regrettably, he still left the large audience resenting that he seemed more concerned about his personal interests than this community's future when he said he had 'another life to live' beyond conducting a thorough inquiry. The inquiry is due to start in April.

I recently conducted a residents' survey that showed 90-95% of people agreeing or strongly agreeing with the council's recycling system. The council is to experiment with some caddies for food waste collections. These may allow those residents who currently can't use wheelie bins to join the kitchen waste collection scheme. This could further improve our local exemplary recycling rate.

Notwithstanding the worrying economic situation and the effect that is having on the housing market, uncertainty is also likely to continue beyond the autumn of this year about future housing plans for the district. The council has now conceded that the local development process – about which there was public consultation just over a year ago – has effectively ground to a halt for several more months whilst the outcome of central government plans for an eco-town at Elsenham is decided. The continuing uncertainty will be unsettling for some people. Sadly it adds to the uncertainty created by the airport runway plans.

I had been given hope last year that Essex Highways had improved its management of road diversions. However, I am pursuing them again after diversion signs were erected in Stansted and Burton End in early January for a supposed road closure at Tye Green that had not been started over a week after it was due and the closure and diversion signs had gone up. It's not much fun for people who are sent on 3 or 4-mile diversions for no reason!

From Cty Cllr Ray Gooding

Highways and the management of speeding traffic are always an issue that concerns people and whether it is the control of major roads or preventing cars from speeding through our towns and villages this is a very important issue. With this in mind Essex County Council has reviewed the Speed Management Strategy and Policy for Essex, which was last published in 2003.

The strategy sets out the tools by which speed will be managed and you will have a chance to have your say on the details during a consultation that will last until 13th February 2008 so I trust you will receive this in time to make your comments. The draft Strategy is available on www.essex.gov.uk on the Roads page and comments can be emailed to traffic.management@essex.gov.uk.

On another subject, Essex have published the details of the 2009 Essex Book Festival which is now celebrating its 10th anniversary. The Festival takes place across the

County and top authors such as Louis de Bernieres, Joan Bakewell, Melvyn Bragg, Roy Hattersley together with a number of up and coming writers will be hosting presentations. If anyone would like copies of the Festival Programme they can be obtained from Lisa-Jayne Cant at ECC or let me know and I will get them on your behalf.

NEWS FROM ESSEX POLICE

MINI MOTOS – parents thinking about buying a mini-motorbike or a go-ped for the kids have been urged to have a word with the Police before parting with their money or the present could end up costing more than they expect.

There are strict limitations on who can ride these machines, and on where they can be ridden. Some of the consequences of making a mistake include fixed penalties, seizure of bikes by Police and liability for damage or injury caused. Parents are responsible for fines and costs if a vehicle is seized from their child. These vehicles can only be ridden on private land, with the landowner's consent. If they are ridden on the highway prosecutions can follow for no tax or insurance and possibly careless or dangerous driving.

Email: - Joanne.jeggo@essex.police.pnn.uk

CONTACT US!

Clerk – Ruth Clifford
Admin Assistant – Anne Court
Phone/Fax: 01279 813214 10am – 1pm
E-mail: parishcouncil@stansted.net

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members

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Email: cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Hudson Tel: 01279 814489
Email: cllrhudson@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Salmon Tel: 01279 814789
Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell Tel: 01279 815925
Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cldr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 5214
Fax: 020 7219 5600
Email: haselhursta@parliament.uk

Police

Stansted Police Station, Hargrave Close
Tel: 812211
Essex Police non-emergency number
0300 333 4444
Mobile phone carried by PCSO
07801 461666



PTA activities

December as always has been a very busy month in school. This started with our Christmas Fair, which as usual was a very successful event. We had lots of things to buy and games to play as well as the chance to visit Santa. The cake stall was as popular as ever, as was Present Planet - where for just £1 the children could choose a present for Mum and Dad and get help to wrap it and write the tag, so parents can have at least one surprise on Christmas Day. We managed to raise over £1,000 and would like to thank all those who donated, helped to set up and clear away, ran one of the stalls or just turned up and spent their money. At the end of term all the children went on a trip to the pantomime to see Cinderella at the Rhodes Theatre and the PTA were pleased to be able to provide the coaches for the trip making it more affordable for all parents. The children also had parties and a teachers' production of Jack and the Beanstalk, which they all enjoyed, and we would like to thank all the staff for all the extra hard work they put in with the children at this time of that year.

But now it is the New Year and the children are back hard at work. January is a quiet month activity wise for the PTA; however, we are busy planning for the Summer Fair on 6th June and Music in the Park on 11th July, details to follow as we get closer to these events.

Janet Shepherd and Susan Scott
Co-chairs,
Bentfield School PTA



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'Writers in the Wings Conference'

Each year Essex schools' advisory service organise a 'Writers in the Wings' conference. It is a chance for talented writers from the county's secondary schools to meet together for an exciting day of activities to develop their abilities together. This year the conference was held at the Wickford Centre. A group of Year 7 students from MMCC attended the conference. They were very excited at the chance to work with other students from schools across the whole of Essex, particularly as this was the first time they had been invited. They were even happier this week to discover their entry in the 'Scoop' competition, 'Broken Bell Causes Devastation' (an imaginary tale involving the church tower in Stansted), had been chosen by the Secondary English Consultants as the winning article by younger secondary school students. The achievement was even more pleasing for the College as the judges wrote "The standard of the competition was, as always, very high and we were impressed by your ability to produce high quality work when working to a tight deadline." The winning team members were: Hannah Coop, Zak Coppock, Ellise Headley, Daniella Hudson, Oliver Ross and Nikki Stanley.

Dr Peter Duncombe
Head of English

The day is Sunday 23rd November and the performance of 'The Ghost Train' by The Windmill Players is being shown at Ugley Village Hall - a play by Arnold Ridley, a deceased member of the 'Dad's Army' cast. Though a tiny stage, The Windmill Players seem to make the best of it, and thanks to excellent directing from David Morson and Fran Richards and a set that has had so much effort put in, the cast not only allow their performance to be highly realistic, they also manage to do what I thought would be the impossible and actually not fall off the tiny stage. Also added to their performance are a wide range of costumes which provide specific and tiny detail to make the play that little bit more realistic; for instance, the badge the station master is wearing to signify his job status.



The actors are clear, realistic and humorous; they do forget quite a few lines throughout the whole performance, but the audience aren't paying for a star cast and it's probably better they're not, because though many lines are clearly forgotten, the actors are able to turn the flow of things around by providing a comic embarrassment that sets the audience off in endless peals of laughter. The reason it seems that The Windmill Players can forget many of their lines and still put on an amazing performance would be on account of the fact that 'The Ghost Train' is a very personal play, performed on a small stage directly in front of the audience. Without a star cast and giant set, The Windmill Players prove that a certain lack of perfection is what the audience really want and are able to get the utmost best out of what they have.



Due to generous donations, expenses were kept to a minimum, and £200 was raised for CTS funds.

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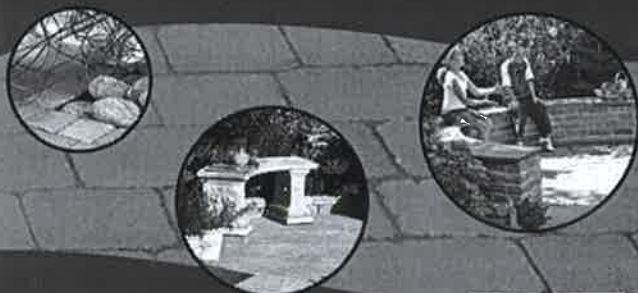
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AFTER CHRISTMAS IT'S COLD WEATHER

Well that's Christmas gone for another year, but I expect by the time you're reading this it will probably be a distant memory. We had all the usual ailments, as you can imagine. I can confirm that feeding your dog on a complete dry food for 364 days a year and then feeding it turkey, roast potatoes and all the trimmings on the three hundredth and sixty-fifth will not be a treat and it will involve you clearing up considerable amounts of diarrhoea from your carpet. The chocolate thieves appeared to have gone up market this year, leaving the usual brands of chocolate aside and going instead for the home-made dark chocolate truffles and the very expensive selection box from Hotel Chocolate! Finally there was the dog that we can only presume tried to take itself for a walk. It chewed and swallowed its entire lead which we then had to remove from its intestine. It certainly made for an interesting x-ray, with one metal loop visible in the small intestine and the other metal part visible in the large!

As I am writing this we are going through one of the coldest spells we have seen for many years and of course this impacts on many different types of animals. I'm sure you've all seen horses wrapped up warmly in their rugs, but they also need the ice on their water breaking every day; and trying to graze on frosty grass can sometimes trigger an episode of colic. People often ask if rabbits and guinea pigs can withstand such cold weather. The answer is usually 'yes', as long as they are used to being housed outside. Many people will bring rabbit hutches inside a shed or garage for the winter for extra protection; however, if you are keeping them outside it is important to make sure they are adequately insulated. I usually advise a couple of layers of old carpet over the top of the hutch, with suitable flaps that can be brought down over the front for added protection overnight. Obviously a large amount of extra bedding for added warmth is also important. Animals will rely on this and often bury themselves right underneath. I've visited pig farms on many occasions in the cold weather and it's always amazing to creep up to a sow yard which looks deserted, then to make a noise and see 200 sows poke their noses up from the straw where they've buried themselves!

Even dogs are affected by the cold and there is a huge range of coats and jumpers for those that feel the effects of the weather. We bought my dog Broccoli a coat once but he was too scared to move in it, so it was quickly abandoned! He was out for a walk the other day and we stopped to talk to a friend. After a while they said "Oh dear, is he lame?" and I looked down to see him holding up one of his front feet. I examined it thoroughly but couldn't find a problem so we carried on talking; my friend then started to laugh and pointed at him - he was holding the other front foot up. As we watched he was alternating one front foot after the other and we realised he had cold feet! So I hope you and all your animals have managed to stay warm, but I expect by the time you'll be reading this, it will be raining again.

Ilse Pedler
Partner, Mercer & Hughes,
Veterinary Surgeons



ST MARY'S SCHOOL NOSTALGIA



These photographs have recently come to light. They were taken about 43 years ago by Rosemary Minshull and show children from St Mary's School, when the school was on the Peter Kirk site. The Church Hall had not been built then, or the present St Mary's School. One photograph shows my son Huw with his foam hat on to protect his head when he fell. I recognise all the faces in these photographs but cannot put names to them all. Please let me know if you are in these pictures, or know someone who was. I would also like to know what the occasion was, and why no-one was in school uniform!



Marion Johnson
Tel: 812284

A BIT MORE NOSTALGIA

Regular and long-term readers will, I hope, forgive me if I repeat some old tales, but as our new-look 'Link' now reaches a far greater readership, I feel it might be justified.

We used to have a splendid carnival with events covering a whole week. What a different world we now live in; Health and Safety Regulations and insurances dictate that to put a float in the procession would not be a simple matter. I used to borrow a coal lorry from Hicky King, decorate it, fill it with cub scouts and away we went. A look back at the plan of the procession route for 1967 highlights the many changes in businesses and places. There was Buntings Greengrocers, Mascalls Butchers, Mumfords Fish Shop (now a tapas bar), Felicity lingerie etc. I put a caption on that saying "My living bra just walked off". Do you remember living bras? I do! Talking of bras, 'as you do', I was the compère at a fashion show during Carnival week. I had the privileged position of being behind the scenes as the models were dashing about in various states of undress. When I took to the stage I said I had just seen an atomic bra, so called as I was waiting for the fall out. Happy days!

There was the Off Licence run by Stan Scrivener, outside of which local youths used to congregate. As a little boy I used to join the older lads and I was always made welcome. There was never any trouble. Drugs - what drugs! Wren's fish and chip van used to park round the corner - there's a throw back from the past. Les Oldfield's hardware store, what a terrific stock he used to keep. This was on the site where Matthews cycle shop used to be, Prossers the chemists, the list goes on and on. Mention of the chemists reminds me of when it was Ecclestones. I lived opposite and can recall the large bottles of coloured water in the window, which leads me on to the lovely tribute to Mary Ecclestone by David Morson. Mary was a true character with a great zest for life. How she did love her dancing. Stansted had lots of characters. I recall Cecil Cropford pushing his bike emblazoned with *Cropford Enterprises* on it. Cecil was a simple character and loved organising games for the children on the Recreation Ground. I am sure that in today's climate his actions would unjustly be questioned.

A while back I received several pages of recollections from a 75 year old Stansted resident, who did not give his name. I used some in a previous article. He recalls Turner's Grocers shop in Bentfield Road at the foot of the Causeway. They were cousins of the well known Turner's grocers shop in Lower Street. A certain lady who lived in a big house locally and was quite well off came into the store a week before Christmas and said she had come to pay for the Christmas ham she had the previous Christmas and then asked if she could have one for this Christmas. The answer was, sorry they are all spoke for! Mr Turner told the tale of a man who paid for items he had just purchased and then said here is the money I owe you for items I had the other day. Mr. Turner said he couldn't recall this. The man said "I helped myself when you weren't looking and my conscience has been pricking me".

At the top of the Causeway was a small dairy farm run by Kath Levy. She had taken the farm over from her father Alf who was nicknamed Bummy. Along on the left was another dairy farm run by George Rose which was opposite Bentfield Pond. Further along was the reservoir and water tower. The reservoir was covered over and built on many years ago. The water tower was built by a firm from Croydon in 1936 as the reservoir couldn't cope with the demands from an expanding Stansted!

Joe Childs, who had an electrical shop in Silver Street, was mentioned. I well remember Joe with his little Austin Seven plus enormous speakers fixed to the roof. It was a familiar sight providing the sound system at many local events. Joe was another real character, a lovely man whose electrical knowledge and expertise was terrific. He lent me a tremendous portable sound system for one of my floats. It was very advanced for the time.

It is nice to go back in time and recall things as they used to be. Stansted was a good place to grow up in. If anyone has stories of nostalgia re Stansted way back when, I would love to hear them.

Dick Pollard

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STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

November Lunch (101 members; 90 apologies)

The annual November Lunch with a preview of the Sworders autumn sale, has become the prerogative of Sworders, the highlight of our gastronomic year and an occasion when members bring wives, partners and guests to enliven and enrich our gatherings. This year was no exception: the venue delightful; the food, courtesy of Small But Perfect Caterers, delectable. A few intrepid members, who probably regretted bringing their wives/partners, were to be seen at the sales the following week with bidding cards clutched in their hands! I must thank all present for behaving so well - no spillages on the furniture; no rings on polished surfaces. The result - we have been invited back in 2009! And, of course, a huge thank you to Guy Schooling and his colleagues for their generosity and hospitality.

Future Lunches

25th March – Price Bailey (sponsors)

27th May – Sponsor needed

15th July – St Clare Hospice sponsored by
Weston Business Centres and Daniel Robinson & Sons

Musical Sponsorship

The Lunch Club will be supporting music@stansted formerly The Village Music Club, which itself once sponsored The Lunch Club! The last concert of this season is at 7.30pm on Saturday 14th March in St John's Church.

Also in St John's Church at 7.30pm on Friday 6th February, The Lunch Club will be sponsoring Jazz at St John's, an annual and informal evening to raise funds for St John's Church Hall.

See *Village Events* page for details.

Alastair Richardson
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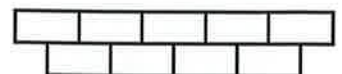
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Simon Stacey

The Squadron ended 2008 on a fun note with a bowling and burger evening and a Christmas disco. Both events proved very popular with the cadets and everyone had a great time; thanks go to Garry King for providing the disco and Daphne Smith for organising a couple of fun evenings. The party atmosphere was tempered slightly as we said goodbye to two members of the Squadron, Pilot Officer Mat Moakes and Cadet Sergeant Rob Hume. As is the custom at 494, the occasion called for a couple of suitably embarrassing home movie productions showing their career highlights!



Mat has moved on to take command of his own unit, 295 (Witham and Rivenhall) Squadron. His great enthusiasm, boundless energy and sense of humour made him a very popular member of staff on the Squadron.

Rob has joined the RAF as a regiment gunner and has started his initial training at Honington. We are looking forward to hearing about his progress in the coming months and wish him all the very best of luck in his new career. They will both be greatly missed by staff and cadets alike.



We have had a fantastic year of achievement as those of you that have been reading the column will no doubt be aware: Wing Champions in athletics, swimming and cross country, third in the Falklands Trophy and highest placed mixed team in the Tri-Services Competition, Wing Aircraft Recognition and Modelling Champions. Our cadets have achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards and numerous Wing Blues, passed their classification exams and various specialist courses - far too many to mention individually. Congratulations go to Charlie Douglass and Alice Brooks, both promoted to Corporal, and Sam Carrington and Alistair Wise who become Cadet Sergeants.



We now turn our attention to 2009. We have a brand new building, some beautiful new shiny kit and, not forgetting, some great cadets so the sky is definitely not the limit...

SKYWATCH



A monthly look at an aspect
of the night sky

This month we consider gravity; one of the four fundamental forces. The others are the weak and strong atomic forces which influence the way atoms are constructed, and the fourth is magnetism. Everything has a degree of gravity: you, me, churches, squirrels, everything; but you need something the size of a planet before it has real influence. Gravity is an attracting force, as is magnetism. But magnetism is also a repelling force; if you put two magnetic poles of the same polarity together they push away from each other. Gravity has no opposite, at least, none has been found and you'll become a millionaire if you find a source of anti-gravity!! Gravity is thought to be a sub-atomic particle; one of the particles in the rather exotic world of quantum mechanics. The particle even has a name, a 'graviton'. The trouble is, no one has ever discovered it, although the Large Hadron Collider may reveal it when it gets going.

Gravity pervades and stabilises the whole universe. Balanced with the centrifugal force of moons circling planets, planets circling stars and stars circling together around the hubs of billions of galaxies, and vast groups of galaxies spinning round each other, we can see that gravity is fundamental to the shape of the universe. Yet, if you have ever bounced on a trampoline or enjoyed a freefall parachute jump, you may have missed out on something very strange about gravity. When you leave the aeroplane you are, for an instant, motionless in the air before gravity makes you accelerate towards the Earth. You will, given time, get up to about 126 mph. Yet you will feel no acceleration at all. Try going up to 126 mph in a fast car and you will be pressed in to your seat!

Although it all happens much more quickly, a trampoline is the better example because as you reach the top of the bounce you slow to zero without any feeling of deceleration, then start down to the canvas without any feeling of acceleration. So we understand the truly universal nature of gravity and how it keeps us where we are, but, of the four fundamental forces, gravity is by far the weakest. Let go of a paper clip over a table and the gravity of an 8000 mile diameter lump of rock will pull the clip down ... and a child's magnet will pick it up.

Martin West
Mooncraft Productions

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MANUDEN GUIDES AT CHRISTMAS

Yes, Christmas seems long ago now, but we had a good time, and wanted to share it with you! It started early when, along with the Brownies, we packed over 30 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, sending gifts to children who, for a number of reasons, would otherwise receive no presents. We have done this for many years now; the girls really enjoy doing it, and it helps us all to realise how lucky we are.

Once term had finished, we headed to London for ice-skating at Somerset House, where we had great fun. The wonderful



setting and festive atmosphere got us into the Christmas spirit. This continued with a visit to the German Christmas Market set out along the embankment to the London Eye. Here we bought presents, tasted a variety of foods, and enjoyed the street theatre. The return tube journey saw us entertaining commuters with Christmas songs and carols!



Our season ended with another of our Christmas traditions, a visit to the pantomime at Harlow Playhouse to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Who knows, we may be inspired to put on a pantomime of our own; it has happened before, so watch this space! Happy New Year!

Glynis Prothero
Guide Leader

Wellbeing

*Exploring the connections
between mind, body and spirit
with Isobel Bradshaw*



February 2009 marks the first birthday of the Stansted 'Link' Wellbeing articles. I'm celebrating freedom of speech as I've yet to receive a 'Dear John' letter from the editors. I hope that my musings on wellbeing have been and will continue to be helpful. The idea of freedom and wellbeing has captivated me at the beginning of an uncertain year.

I am indebted to my father-in-law who, when asked what his thoughts were on freedom (family and friends have suffered for years with what a primary school teacher once described as 'my enquiring mind') answered "Well, of course it's the four freedoms in Roosevelt's address to congress in 1941: Freedom of speech and expression, Freedom of every person to worship God in his own way, Freedom from want and Freedom from fear". At what point, I wondered, was the admirable quest to 'free the world from want' replaced with a freedom for the few to consume without financial accountability and its social consequences?

I teach people from different walks of life and as they arrive for their singing lessons or yoga class, I welcome them with a "How's it going?" Their common answer is an update on their job security. Social conversations with friends only return to its normal light heartedness when everyone feels reassured that 'so far is so good'. Psychologists work hard on freeing people from their fears. Difficulties can never be taken away but they can be placed in a better perspective. Individuals are encouraged to trust their own abilities and resilience to cope no matter what life brings. Spiritual teachers have always taught the interdependence of human beings and their relationship to the whole of nature – they call upon us to contribute to a greater freedom, free of fear that recognises the richness of an abundant world respected within its natural laws. Ghandi said "There is enough in the world for everyone's needs but not everyone's greed."

Understanding of our wellbeing may reveal the path in which we enjoy life rather than endure it. At times we will feel trapped by difficult circumstances. We are called to take action. Some days it may be simply the acknowledgement of the positive things that contribute to our lives; psychologists have recorded that remembering three positive events at the end of the day has a lasting effect on your sense of happiness. We may have to dig deeper to find the courage to accept things that are out of our control. Ultimately we are being asked to participate in the ongoing creation of freedom for ourselves, others and the world we live in. When we have worked hard for our 'wellbeing wealth' it is ours to hold; 'healthy wealth' isn't bought at someone else's expense. We are truly free to live our lives with a big smile on our face!

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Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

On 14th December, the Stansted Branch hosted the RBL Essex County C Group Annual Carol Service in St John's Church. Our AGM on 16th December was attended by ten members. The Officers of the Branch, elected at the 2007 AGM to serve for three years are: Dave Challis - Branch Chair, Janet Hollis - Branch Vice Chair, John Seagar - Branch Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Poppy Appeal Organiser, Tom Chadwick - Branch Secretary and Reece Teagle - Branch Standard Bearer. The Branch Chaplain is The Rev Paul Wilkin and one of Stansted's residents, Col Richard Shervington, is currently serving as the RBL Essex County President. It was a good meeting and many items were discussed, among them the 2008 Poppy Appeal which was slightly down on last year. It was hoped that this may change as donations usually carry on arriving until late spring.

Discussions took place regarding the membership of the Branch and the current position of the serving officers. The main question was the future of the Branch and where we would be in the coming years. There are currently some 39 members of the Branch, of which the majority were of advanced years and were not as able as they once were to attend meetings and play an active part in Branch affairs. It was agreed that new members were badly needed to enable the Branch to remain an effective force in the welfare and care of ex-Service people within the Stansted area, of which there are a growing number. The Branch is fortunate to have recruited a young man aged 18 who does an admirable job of carrying our Standard at official functions, although with pressures of work, he has to be deputised for funerals and other duties carried out during the working week.

The Branch enjoys a close relationship with 494 Squadron ATC who support the aims and objectives of the RBL and, indeed, where possible the Branch supports the Squadron. The Branch and ATC have recently formed an affiliation in accordance with current guidelines from the RBL Headquarters Youth Department, and we are hoping for some members from this area. We look forward to a fine working relationship in the future. We plan to have discussions with 494 in the New Year about the possibilities of a recruitment drive among the adult instructors, parents, officers and NCOs. The possibility of forming a sub branch of ATC members was mentioned and this may be discussed in the future.

There is a great need for new members from the village and surrounding areas. Members from the ex-Service community are wanted desperately, but as there are now no restrictions on membership within the RBL, non-Service members are also very welcome. All members receive the same status; however, non-Service members cannot receive the same benefits that ex-Service members and their dependants enjoy. Not only will new members keep the Branch alive but there will be a larger number of people to care for the ex-Service people who need our help within our community.

There is no longer a Women's Section of the RBL in Stansted but any lady who misses the companionship of the Women's Section will be welcome to join also. We plan to have six meetings a year but this may increase if required. We voted to have six meetings this year on 10th February, 14th April, 9th June, 11th August, 13th October and 15th December, which will be followed by the AGM. These meetings will be branch meetings as opposed to committee meetings and all members are welcome to attend. If we get enough members then we can arrange larger meeting premises. If you think you have something to offer the RBL or, just as important, if the RBL has something to offer you, then please think about joining us.

Tom Chadwick,
Hon Secretary
Tel : 647617



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

End of year

'The Ghost Train' which came rumbling through Ugley Village Hall to the great enjoyment of the village, failed alas to bring the VIP to conduct our AGM. However, 'Blythe Spirit' Ruth Rawlinson was well able to take over, and as a result of the business, she was happily re-elected as President, Brenda Scarr as Secretary, and Dorothy Wallace, Treasurer. The new committee then did the catwalk so that we know whom to praise or blame for the forthcoming year!

Illness sadly took Valerie and Peter Trundle from giving us their Christmas readings and music programme, but the gap was most adequately filled by a beautiful slide show of Madeira from Edna and Alan Wright's collection. We can always count on Edna, especially for local Essex scenes.

Phyllis Harrison



BIRTHSTONE OF THE MONTH

February - Amethyst

This quartz stone is generally purple of varying shades and contains impurities of iron oxide. There was once a belief that it could prevent intoxication and help overcome addiction. It is said to make the wearer gentle and amiable and aid healing. Because in the Middle Ages it was thought to encourage celibacy and symbolise piety, it was an important stone in the church and a favourite for bishops' rings. As a 'royal' colour it has often been used by monarchs and is included in the British crown jewels. In Tibet it is sacred to Buddha. Found all over the world including parts of Britain. It is one of the stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

Peggy Honour



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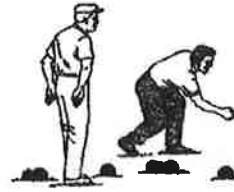
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Nature Notes



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Like most watercourses, Stansted Brook is host to crayfish. However, the example you may find there is unlikely to be our native white-clawed crayfish which is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1984. You are more likely to see an introduced species, probably an American signal or a Turkish crayfish. Both were introduced in the '80s for the catering industry and, being larger and with a higher breeding rate, have since ousted our smaller white-clawed species from most rivers. A fungal disease known as crayfish plague has recently wiped out thousands of Turkish crayfish in the River Colne at Colchester. The disease is contagious and can be spread by boots, fishing gear and boats. In Scotland, anglers have been asked to kill any signal crayfish they come across.

Most of our surviving native crayfish sites have been designated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and are largely in limestone or chalk country in Wales or the north. Fortunately, and none too soon, a native crayfish breeding programme in the Yorkshire Dales has been organised by Natural England which aims to introduce 500 crayfish to the wild each year.



The crayfish is not a true fish but resembles a small lobster and our native one is up to 12 cm (4"-5") long and olive green or brown in colour; larger in the case of signal crayfish. The native species is so named because the inside of the claws is pink or dirty-white. Crayfish feed on almost anything, are largely nocturnal and avoid predation by lurking in crevices and behind roots. Eat the alien ones if you wish but do not move them to other waters. Good hunting!

Derek Honour

RSPB

A support group for this association is being set up in Bishop's Stortford. Anyone interested in joining is invited to contact me, preferably by email, and I will be delighted to discuss what is intended.

Malcom Allen
Tel: 504452
Email: glenallan@tiscali.co.uk

Here we are in 2009 and we certainly would not want to be playing outside with the current weather conditions; let's hope that by the time we get to the end of April it will be warm and sunny and remain so throughout the summer. The club held its presentation dinner on the evening of 10th January and we were pleased with the attendance of 43 members and guests to what was a really good event. A wonderful meal was provided by Poppies Catering again this year, so a big thank you to them. Thanks also to Janet Petchey for making the arrangements. Our President, Ro Turner, presented the various trophies and cups to the competition winners and finalists, and the Men's Captain, Roy Prentice, handed over the captaincy to Rex Turner for the coming two years.

We are open on Friday evenings throughout the winter and would welcome anyone wishing to come and see us and maybe we can explain all about bowling before the season starts to give an insight to anyone who feels they may want to take it up. We will be holding bowls for beginners sessions again this year around May and will keep you informed about the dates. We do need new members and would really like to see some younger people coming along.

Rex Turner
Secretary

THE 'LINK'

In November the 'Link' held its first AGM as an independent body.

The officers and committee are, L to R, Marion Dyer, Susan Bone, Michael Dyer, Ruth Rawlinson, Derek Honour, Eileen Quinn, Dick Pollard, Katharine Hurford and Janet Townsend. The Certificate shown is an Award from Essex Rural Communities Council.



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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The normal date for our meeting falling on the New Year Bank Holiday and the Day Centre's commitments, meant that we actually met on Friday 9th January, and we were wondering what sort of a turnout we would get with the change. We needn't have worried, as the large audience greatly enjoyed our Members' Evening. Firstly, Paul Embleton shared with us two pictures of the village he had recently obtained through eBay. He has been collecting old picture post cards of local sights for many years but recently has come across little that was absolutely fresh. These two pictures of Woodfields taken in 1905 and Stoney Common in 1908 were completely new to him and the latter even pictured some allotments - the first photograph to show them we had come across.

Paul was followed by Derek Honour, who told us of Bentfield Hucks, born in the hamlet he was named after in 1884. A three year disqualification for speeding turned him from cars to aeroplanes and he became first, a mechanic and later, a very proficient pilot of these early machines. He was associated with the development of the Blackburn and de Havilland planes, owned at one time three Bleriot's and was the first Englishman to loop-the-loop. During WW1, he flew aircraft to the RFC in France but died five days before the end of the War from the epidemic of Spanish 'flu which occurred at that time. As a post script, Derek said that an early Blackburn plane had crashed on a farm in 1909 and the farmer put the wreckage in a barn. It was discovered by Richard Shuttleworth in 1937, ultimately rebuilt in 1949 and is at Old Warden - Britain's oldest aircraft still flying. An excellent memorial to one of Stansted's sons!

Next, Tony Wellings showed us slides he had taken of the village. He had shown many of them at an early meeting of the Society and had recently taken more from the same positions to see what changes were evident. What surprised us was not the spread of housing but the tremendous increase in the number of trees and general greenery! It was quite a revelation.

Finally, Ros Peck gave us an introduction to Eleanor Glyn, who became a somewhat romantic character in society around the time of WW1. Red haired and capable, she was married to Clayton Gill. Meeting Daisy, the Countess of Warwick, she was introduced to a rather racy lifestyle, although Ros emphasised that manners were very strict in public. She travelled much with her husband but, however romantic the surroundings, unfortunately Clayton was not! Frustrated, she started to write, and continued when Clayton got into financial difficulties. Although her books were successful, she was dropped socially, but in America she was a great success both with her books and popularity. She was one of only two ladies who witnessed the signing of the Peace Treaty at the end of WW1. She became Lord Curzon's mistress for a while, becoming famous for her tiger skin rugs, and also was a Hollywood producer and director. She eventually died during WW2.

A most enjoyable evening, showing we have much talent and knowledge to draw from. We were very grateful to all our

speakers. Next month, we will return to our usual meeting on 5th February with a talk on 'The Historical Treasures of Essex', given by John Drury - hope to see you there.



Ian Seavers



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

December Meeting

Despite a very cold, icy night our annual Bring & Share Christmas Party was enjoyed by over 20 members. The evening started with a quiz, with questions ranging from Santa's reindeers' names to recent history! All the teams were very evenly matched - there was only one point between 1st and 2nd place! After supper, members were whisked off to the sunshine and heat of South Africa as they watched a video of the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. This garden is world-renowned for the beauty and diversity of the Cape flora it displays and for the magnificence of its setting against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain. Kirstenbosch grows only indigenous South African plants. The estate covers 528 hectares and supports a diverse fynbos flora and natural forest. The cultivated garden (36 hectares) displays collections of South African plants, particularly those from the winter rainfall region of the country. On a local note, it was Cecil Rhodes who purchased the property in 1895 and appointed a caretaker to look after the rundown land. In 1902, Rhodes died bequeathing Kirstenbosch to the people as part of his great Groot Schuur Estate. It was the first botanical garden in the world to be designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The Year Ahead

Our next meeting will be on 4th February. Our speaker is Richard Thomas, whose talk is entitled 'The Stort Story'. Please see our website for details of future meetings. Two trips have been organised: Glen Chantry and Hyde Hall in late spring, and Harcourt House Garden and Lullingstone Castle in July. More details will be given out at Club meetings. Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Day Centre, adjacent to the Library and car park at Crafton Green. Doors open at 7.30pm for refreshments and social time, with the meeting starting promptly at 8.00pm. Do come along; you will be very welcome.

Maralyn Harris
Tel: 07919 478 144



The members of the Mountfitchet Garden Club would like to wish all 'Link' readers a very happy and prosperous 2009!

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