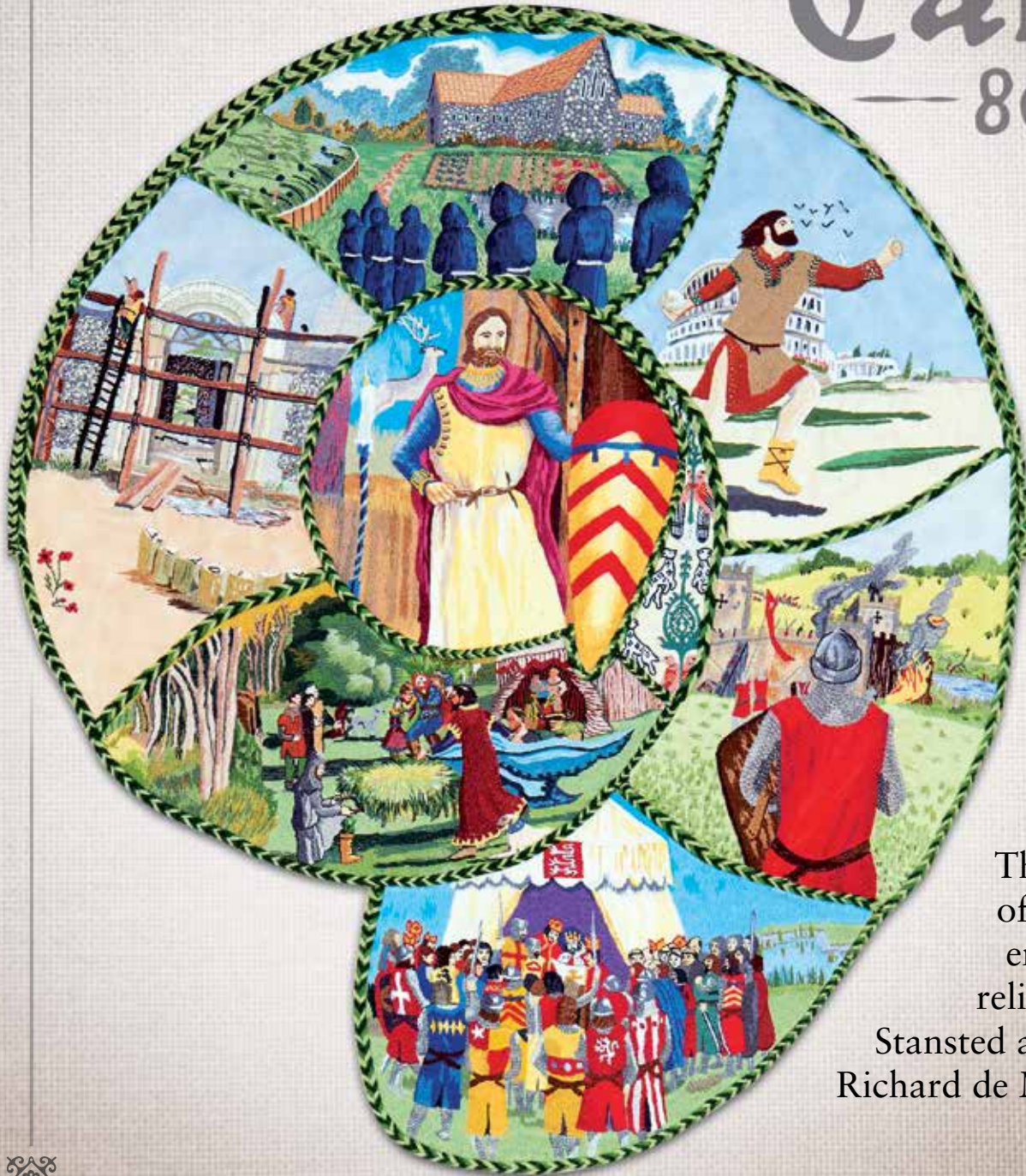


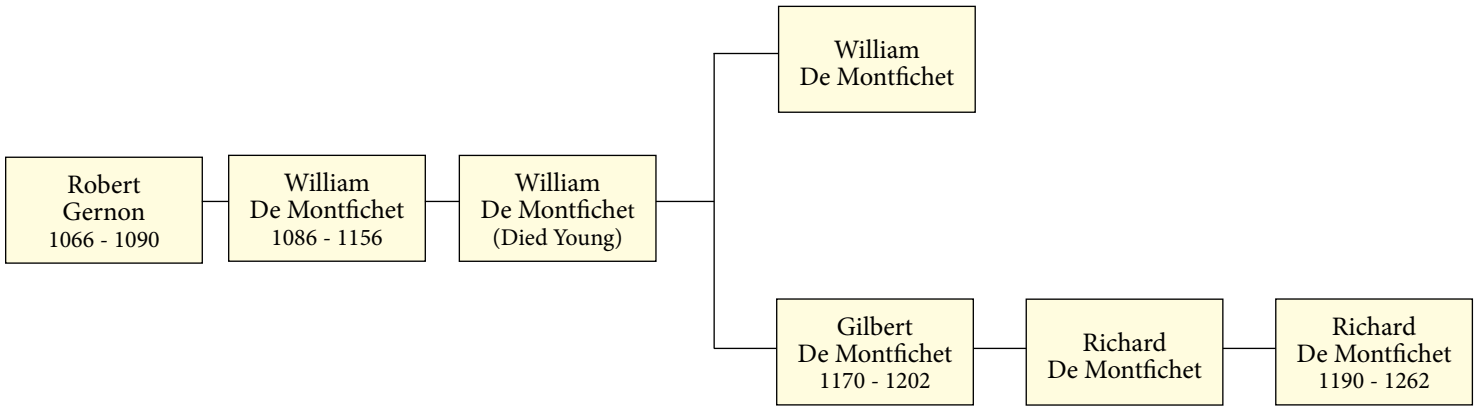
Magna Carta

— 800 —

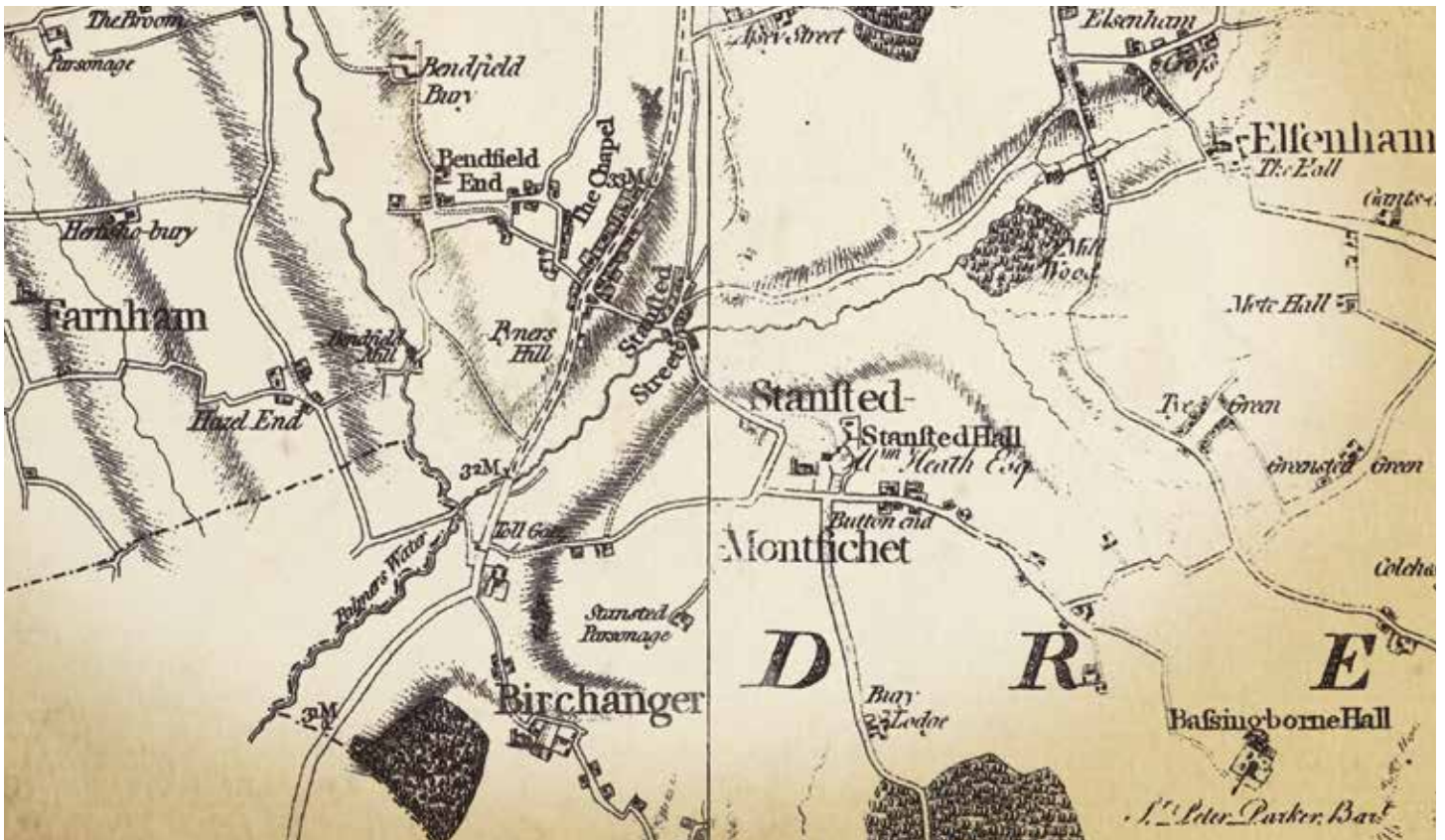


The creation
of a heritage
embroidery,
reliving life in
Stansted after baron
Richard de Montfichet

De Montfichet Family Tree



Map of Stansted Baron



Introduction

On a summers day in June 1215, a beleaguered English Monarch met the disgruntled barons in a meadow by the river Thames called Runnymede.

Successive failure by King John to defend his inherited territories in France, led to excessive taxes on his English barons, who were now in revolt.

Crucially, in the May of 1215 the City of London changed allegiance and opened the gates to the barons, (losing King John effective control of his Treasury). King John had to negotiate and Magna Carta was sealed.

Our story, so brilliantly depicted in this 800th anniversary Embroidery, celebrates the part played by Stansted's young baron, Richard de Montfichet in the realising and upholding of this great charter. The document agreed to by royal seal that would change the way much of the world is governed.

The deed was drawn up not so much to defend the rights of the citizen, rather to pin down a remorseless king. For the first time, an English monarch was forced to limit his powers over his subjects. Remarkably, our young rebel baron, whose family had previously been loyal to the king, now risked his life and, his family, in defence of established privileges.

It is remarkable also that, even though King John reneged only 6 weeks later, the deed after 800 years, is now more famous and globally influential.

Stansted's heritage is reborn in this beautifully crafted Embroidery, lovingly brought to life by many talented local volunteers, under the design and guidance of Leila Riddell. Later in this brochure, Leila and our artist Carole Crosby describe the work, which, I am sure the reader will agree, is quite stunning. Special thanks to all of our volunteers, whose talents shine out and also special thanks to the Local History Society, whose members have spent hours of research on the historical content, and then providing the written text that accompanies each of the panels in this brochure.

The Primary Schools have created the tufts of grass, and narrative from the Great Charter has been stitched by our secondary school. Local photographers captured the work under construction, a truly local community project.

Our heritage is reborn in this pictorial display, instantly recognisable to current residents. The work revives a proud heritage in Stanted's history, giving a legacy for generations to come.

Nigel Collingwood 2015

Left Panel

1. St John the Evangelist Church.

A chapel of ease, completed in 1889, largely at the expense of the Pulteney family of Hargrave House. The architect was W.D. Caroe and the builders John Sillitoe and Sons of Bury St Edmunds. The red bricks of the church were made in Birchanger and the stone came from five quarries. The tower was built in 1895. With the closure of St Mary's St John's is now the parish church.

2. Space Shuttle.

Over the weekend of 5th-6th June 1983 Stansted Airport welcomed a unique visitor when the United States Space Shuttle "Enterprise" landed. The Shuttle arrived piggyback-style atop a specially adapted Boeing 747 aircraft.

3. St Thérèse of Lisieux Roman Catholic Church.

The 3rd October 2003 marked the dedication of a new church in High Lane. The previous Roman Catholic church in Stansted, established in 1958, had been a converted house at Millside.

4&5. Stansted Airport Tower and Terminal.

A new control tower at Stansted became operational in 1996. It is 65 metres tall. After five years under construction the present airport terminal, designed by Norman Foster, was ready to celebrate a royal opening by the Queen on 15th March 1991. The Wren Orchestra and the choir of Kings College Cambridge accompanied the ceremony, with a Sea Harrier giving a majestic coloured smoke salute to the Queen.

6. Police House.

The Police Station was in Silver Street, directly opposite the fountain. It was housed in the right-hand side of the tall brick building once known as the 'Chestnuts'. There were detention cells underground. The site was well chosen: as well as being on a major cross roads it was particularly convenient for keeping an eye on motorists going to and from the Newmarket races. The police operated from these premises until the late 1960s.

7. Hargrave House.

Henry and Mary Croasdaile lived here with their son and daughter-in-law from 1777. A plaque in St Mary's Church states that Mary was "charitable to the poor and a most kind neighbour". Subsequently there were other illustrious residents including Sir Walter Gilbey, who was a tenant from 1865 to 1874, the family of Rev. R.T. Pulteney (see St John's Church), and Gilbert Alder, a keen sportsman. Later the building was sold to the Mary Macarthur Trust as a Holiday Home for Working Women, opened in 1939 by Queen Mary. After the Second World War it became a school for children with special needs, and in 1985 it was converted into a care home.

8. The Old Bell, Pines Hill.

The Old Bell dates back to the 15th century and was at one time a dairy.

9. The former Edison & Swan United Electric Light Company - "Ediswan" - in High Lane.

In 1916 this Newcastle company set up a thermionic valve factory at Ponders End, north London. It became a national centre for the manufacture of these valves and cathode ray tubes. Its building in High Lane dates from the late 1930s. Incorporated into its construction was an unusual WW2 Factory Pill Box, which is shown in the embroidery. Defective radio valves produced in the Lee Valley during wartime were sent to Stansted to be converted into bayonet-fitting household light bulbs. On Sunday afternoons children from the village were invited to the factory to see film shows. Later the building was used to manufacture washing machines and afterwards 'enclosures', or exceedingly specialised boxes, often in valuable metals. The factory has now been demolished and Mountfitchet House Care Home built on the site.

10. Tudor Cottages, 63 Lower Street.

In 1930 these timber-framed cottages were taken down piece by piece to be re-erected at Horsham, Sussex. They had been an attractive feature of the lower village for some 300 years.

11. The White Bear Coaching Inn.

In 1774 there were four coaching inns in Stansted. The largest and most important was The White Bear, situated on the Cambridge Road, roughly opposite where Normans Way is today. One early 19th century commentator recalled that The White Bear was “considered the pleasantest inn on the road between Newmarket and London”.

12. The Kings Arms Hotel.

A 17th century building, with various modern additions. The centre gable has sham timber-framing and at the north side, between the gables, there is a castellated “Gothic” octagonal tower. Outside the door there is a list of publicans, of whom Pool Frances is the earliest recorded. He ran the hotel between 1753 and 1768.

13. The Dog and Duck Public House.

17th-18th century timber-framed building with 18th-19th century external features. It is a truly Essex pub with low ceilings and uneven floors creating a cosy atmosphere. In the 1881 census Mr and Mrs Haggerwood and their 10 children lived there.

14. The Water Tower.

A water tower was built at Bentfield End for the Stansted Water Company during the early 1930s. It had been asked for by the Fire Brigade who complained there was not enough pressure for them to operate effectively. Constructed mainly from reinforced concrete, the lofty storage container with a capacity of 50,000 gallons was perched high on stilt-like legs, the supply being pumped from the company’s water station. During the last war the tower was painted with camouflage colours because of its vulnerability to attack by enemy aircraft. With the introduction of a new water system the tower and reservoir became redundant and the tower was demolished in 1987.

15-16. Bath House & Ruth’s Stores.

When Rochford’s Nurseries were established in the 1890s many cottages for the workers were built as well, and also a corner shop, known latterly as Ruth’s Stores, with a communal Bath House attached.

17. 40 & 42 West Road.

These fine red brick cottages were built for the Ancient Order of Foresters, a friendly society. One still carries the name Foresters Cottage. They are typical of the advanced accommodation for that date, built around 1900 for the working class in Stansted, with a shop, a bathhouse and many social institutions in the vicinity. Originally in Birchanger, the cottages came into the parish of Stansted under the boundary changes of 1987.

18. The Queen’s Head Public House.

This old public house is a 17th century timber-framed and plastered house with 18th century external features. A 19th century brick house at the north end is now incorporated into the inn.

19. The Three Colts Public House.

Built about 1770, a timber-framed and plastered house with some weather-boarding in the gables and brick faced, the ground storey painted. The Three Colts was clearly positioned to catch the coaching trade from the north, with a large field behind for the horses of customers and guests. The pub has now closed and the building is in a state of dereliction.

20. Dorringtons - Refinery, Cambridge Road.

This building was for many years Kitsons Stores where Miss Annie Kitson ran a gift and wool shop. Before and during WW1 Mr Kitson was a basket weaver who also made hampers, wicker chairs, etc. with osiers from the other end of Cooper’s Alley. In the early part of the 20th century Stansted telephone exchange was at the back of the shop. Miss Kitson became the best informed person in the village. Their phone number was No1. On the front of the building in the centre there is a date July 25 1559 (this may be incorrect).

21. De Vere Chapel.

This chapel formerly stood where the drinking fountain is now. It was built by John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford, and dedicated to Our Lady. In 1492 it was described as ‘new built and not yet completed’. The Bishop of Ely granted an ‘indulgence of 40 days to those who should contribute to the support of John Parrot, Hermit, Keeper of the Chapel or to the ornaments of it when finished’. It was abolished as a chapel in the Reformation, but the building remained. At some point it became a blacksmith’s forge, and in 1871 it was demolished to allow the road junction to be widened.

22. The Cork House.

This building, fitting snugly in the junction of Grove Hill and Lower Street, had inset into the red brickwork the name ‘Stansted Pork Stores’ until recent years. The date 1893 is still visible. A water pump stood just in front of the building until around 1932, by which time it had become redundant and was removed. Over the years the building has been home to a variety of tenants: fishmonger, butcher, hairdresser, estate agent, an antique shop and most recently a restaurant known as The Cork House.

23. The Barley Mow Public House.

At the turn of the 20th century the Barley Mow served as the headquarters of the local courts of two friendly societies - the Ancient Order of Foresters, founded in 1869, and the Order of Ancient Shepherds, founded in 1882. On Whit Mondays it was the custom for members of the societies in full regalia, band and all, to march from the Barley Mow to St Mary’s Church for a special service. During the war the American servicemen stationed in Stansted quickly grew fond of the many hospitable pubs in the area, one of which was the Barley Mow. The hostelry closed around 1972 and is now a private house.

24. The Primitive Methodist Chapel.

This chapel was opened in 1876. It seated 110 people, with 35 rented seats and 75 free. In 1898 it had 52 members. It was sold in December 1932 for £150 when

the Primitive Methodists joined with the Wesleyans.

25. Bridge Cottage (formerly Elms House).

Early 16th century timber-framed and plastered house. The front of the ground storey has been refaced in brick and painted.

26. The Post Office, Chapel Hill.

The Post Office was situated in the Central Hall until a new Post Office building was opened, just next door, in 1892. The new building was said to be spacious and well fitted with every modern convenience, but by 1914 extensive alterations had to be made including a new counter, up-to-date fittings and at the rear a new telephone instrument exchange room where all work for the Stansted district was dealt with. Also, there was a large and commodious sorting office, together with a retiring room with a fire and chairs for postmen and clerks. The Post Office closed in 2003 and the sorting office in 2014. The standard designed pillar box that stands on the Cambridge Road was cast by Machan, of Scotland.

27. The Warren.

Stansted Hall’s large rabbit warren was some way off the driveway from the Hall, facing the valley of Stansted Brook below. The importance of rabbit as a source of fresh meat is underlined by the fact that the gamekeeper’s 16th-17th century cottage was built there, well away from any other dwellings, to protect the rabbits from human and animal predators. John Wilkins, his wife and their family of five children lived in ‘The Cottage in the Park’, ‘House by Wood’ or ‘Warren Cottage’ as it was variously described in the census returns between 1851 and 1881. Wilkins died on the 14th October 1894 and is buried by the main path from Church Road to St Mary’s Church. William Fuller-Maitland had engaged him as his gamekeeper in 1843. Wilkins wrote a wonderfully controversial autobiography describing life in Stansted in his time. Warren Cottage was destroyed by fire in the 1960s.

28. Former Independent Church, Silver Street.

The red brick building standing a few yards back from the road and now selling leisure furniture was previously an Independent Chapel, built by Guiver Sanders of Stansted in 1822 at a cost of £550. It was known as the New Meeting House because it was formed by a breakaway group from the Old Meeting House on Chapel Hill. This came about primarily because the young minister, Josiah Redford, was ‘guilty of fornication at the time of his ordination’, and while he was rejected by some of his congregation others, in fact most of them, remained loyal to him. The church was wracked with conflict: Redford left and was then welcomed back, but support dwindled over the years. In the 1870s the conflict was finally resolved and the building became the Independent Church’s Sunday School. During WW1 it was used by the YMCA for troops billeted in Stansted.

29. Parish Council Offices.

In June 1987 the new Parish Council Offices at Crafton Green House were officially opened. Formerly this building was the family home of the artist, Richard Crafton Green (1848-1934). These new council offices replaced the old premises in Lower Street, which had been the Council’s home for 48 years.

31, 31, 32. Railway Station, signal box and footbridge.

The inaugural journey between Bishop’s Stortford and Cambridge was on 29th July 1845, when it was reported that “Leaving Bishop’s Stortford the train passed on by Stansted station, close by the pleasant village of that name, by Elsenham and Newport, all built in the Elizabethan or Tudor style of Architecture, neat and commodious”. Ebenezer Fuller-Maitland and Robert Gosling, respectively Lords of the Manors of Stansted and Bentfield Bury, were Directors of the Eastern Counties Railway. The Signal Box was originally a tall post abutting Church Road Bridge with a shelter beneath for the signalman who pulled a rope to activate the arm above. This shelter lasted as a lamp room until the line

was electrified and the bridge renewed. The signal box depicted dates from about 1875. The signal box itself lasted until a ‘power box’ was installed at Cambridge in 1987, although the equipment inside was frequently updated. The footbridge was a standard Great Eastern Railway design with lattice metal sides through which one could see the incoming trains. Its former position is still visible where the bridge passed through the present platform awning.

33. Bentfield Bury Barn.

This mighty barn symbolises the importance of Stansted’s agricultural past. In 1800 more malted barley for brewing beer was sent to London from Bishop’s Stortford than from any other town in the kingdom. The barn was a year-round mainstay of the farming economy and the livelihood of the agricultural workers. Bentfield Bury Barn dates from 1453. The timbers were dendrodated (tree-ring dated) by Dr Martin Bridge. It is one of the oldest buildings in Stansted parish; it may even be the oldest after St Mary’s Church.

34. Baronial village signs.

The two signs at either end of the village were designed and carved by Harry Carter of Norfolk. They represent Richard de Montfichet in full armour. Above him are the words Magna Carta and its date 1215.

35. Central Hall, now Old Court House.

In 1854 finance was raised for this impressive four column fronted building for the purpose of holding public meetings and events. Its reading room and library belonged to the Stansted Literary Institution. An impressive but ancient clock was installed, but its workings were a continual cause for concern. The hall has been the venue for many village functions and activities. It has been a Magistrates’ Court, with the appropriate cells for temporary detention, a Post Office, concert hall, school room, polling station, clinic and dance-hall. Whist drives, film shows, parties and church functions have been held there and plays and light operas performed. The building was given to the Parochial Church Council in 1931. In 1969, now under

new ownership, it became the venue for various forms of entertainment and was known at different times as The Supreme Ballroom and Rocky's Disco. It was converted into flats in 1987, when it was renamed 'The Old Court House'.

36. Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club and telephone kiosk.

Built by A. Sanders, a local builder, as a Liberal Club, and largely funded by Henry Parry Gilbey. It was opened on 25th July 1888 by Lord Rosebery (who became Prime Minister in 1894) at a public meeting on Castle Hill with 1,200-1,400 people attending. Staunch Conservative Harry Chester referred to it as a "huge and hideous excrescence". In 1892 the club was renamed 'The Working Men's Club' to avoid any further political bias. In the 20th century the first floor served as the Parish Room. Today it is the home of the Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club. Adjacent to the Social Club stands a red-painted cast iron telephone kiosk. The design was by Giles Gilbert Scott and is known as a K6. This type was first manufactured in 1936.

37. Robert Gernon.

Robert Gernon (or Robert Greno as he is referred to in the Domesday Book) no doubt crossed the Channel with William the Conqueror. He was well rewarded, for William bestowed on him 91 manors, Stansted among them. Since his head barony was at Hamme, about 25 miles to the south, he probably spent very little time in Stansted. Among his other Essex manors were properties in what became the neighbouring parishes of Takeley, Farnham, Ugley and Manuden.

38. Rochford's Nurseries.

At some time during the 1890s Edmund Rochford Ltd developed an extensive site as a Green House Nursery and built some 60 dwellings of fine red brick to house its large workforce. Also included was a corner shop, known latterly as Ruth's Stores, with communal bath house attached. Later Rochford's added various sporting facilities including a recreation room. A fine Church Army Mission Room was built in 1910, and the whole enterprise was likened to 'a model

village'. The nursery had 293 large pinewood framed greenhouses covering some 25 acres, with hot water heating from coke/coal, converted to oil-fed boilers in the 1960s. The nursery produce included tomatoes, cucumbers, grapes and chrysanthemums. Being so close to the railway made rapid transport possible, enabling Rochford's produce to be enjoyed both far and near, not only in London hotels and restaurants, but also on the tables of Cunard liners. Rochford's closed around 1970, although the nursery enjoyed an extended run into the 1980s. At the beginning of the 21st century the whole site was developed into the residential Foresthall Park where, fittingly, most of the roads take their names from former Rochford's employees.

39. M11.

In 1979 the pressure of traffic through the village was relieved when the M11 was opened between Birchanger and Stumps Cross. Since then, however, it has built up again.

40. Stansted War Memorial.

On Wednesday 30th June 1920, General Sir William Pulteney, who as a lad had spent many hours with his relations at Hargrave House, unveiled two war memorials which the parishioners had erected to their late heroes. The General unveiled a beautiful memorial tablet placed on the south wall of St John's Church before moving outside into the memorial gardens, which had previously been given to the church by Lord Blyth. General Pulteney then, withdrawing the Union Jack, declared "I unveil this cross to the glory of God and in memory of those from this parish who have fallen in the war". The Celtic cross is of Portland stone and is inscribed "In proud and grateful memory of the gallant men of Stansted who fell in the Great War 1914 - 1919". This is followed by a list of 54 men by rank and name. This list is now known to be incomplete. By the end of WW1 over 400 men from Stansted had served under the colours. There are now 17 additional names of those who fell in WW2.

41. Chimneys Guest House.

17th century timber-framed and plastered building, originally three tenements. It was much rebuilt with brick in the 19th century and renovated in the 20th.

42 Football, FA Challenge Vase.

The Stansted Football Club first ventured into competitions in 1891, subsequently winning many honours. By far their greatest achievement came in 1984 at Wembley Stadium when they won the Football Association Challenge Vase, beating Stamford by 3 goals to 2.

43. Brett the blacksmith.

Brett's forge stood at the bottom of Chapel Hill. The decorative sign shown in the embroidery can now be seen in the Saffron Walden Museum.

44. Colin Horner and his Roses.

Colin was hailed as a world-famous rose breeder in a report on his death in 2005. "He developed countless breeds of roses, both at his home and allotments in Pennington Lane, that would be admired the world over". He won 10 Torridge awards and two gold medals, competing against professionals and amateurs from the Royal National Rose Society. His wife and family still continue the tradition.

45. Public Shelter.

Halfway up Chapel Hill, this shelter has a welcoming seat for the weary. It was built to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, 2nd June 1953. The celebratory inscription is positioned to the right of the shelter.

46. Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE).

Opposition to the expansion to the airport has been led, first by the North West Essex and East Herts Preservation Association, which was founded in 1965, and then, since 2002, by Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE.)

47. Joslin and Donkey.

Joslin was an under-gamekeeper around 1850 and was considered the strongest man in Stansted. Nobody dared to give him back an angry word. He stood six feet high, and was broad in proportion. One day he was going to Stortford, mounted on his donkey, a good-sized animal, when he came to the turnpike gate just past Zion House. He asked the pikeman how much he would be charged for his donkey to walk through. "Two-pence", was the reply. "And how much do you charge for carrying a parcel through the gate?" "Nothing" said the pikeman. "Whoa, ass, whoa," cried Joslin and, quietly dismounting, he deliberately slipped his head under the animal's belly and, seizing his fore-legs with his hands, lifted him off the ground and carried him through the gate, setting him down on the other side. "Gee up, Noddy" said he, getting on the donkey's back, and on he went. This tale comes from John Wilkins, *The Autobiography of an English Gamekeeper*, published in 1892.

48. The Army Camp

During the Second World War and for several years afterwards Hargrave Park was a substantial army camp.

49. Milepost opposite the fountain

The Hockerill Highway Turnpike Trust was founded in 1744, and by 1747 milestones had been placed along the length of the road. Adjacent to the drinking fountain stood a milestone inscribed 31, the distance in miles to London. In or around 1903 this was replaced by a milepost that is now situated on the western side of the road. The recorded mileage has been altered over the years to reflect road realignments. It is thought to be the largest milepost in Essex.

Stitchers

Central Panel

Sheila Bowles
Helen Clowes
Liz Hedge
Margaret Padgett
Leila Riddell
Iris Wood

Buildings, Figures and Trees

Julie Beck
Sheila Bowles
Verity Buckridge
Margaret Clemens
Helen Clowes
Lindsey Collingwood
Lucy Collingwood
Nigel Collingwood
Claire Crommie
Carole Crosby
Daphne Francis
Denise Gemmel
Liz Hedge

Sue Holland
Betty Kuczynski
Rosina Kirkwood
Carole Lambert
Maxine Levy
Frances Lyons
Clare Mears
Christine Morris
Margaret Padgett
Diana Pelly
Helen Pressland
Fran Richards
Leila Riddell
Sandra Ruff
Stella Skingle
Sally Smith
Dot Staunton
Christine Stiles
Tricia Summers
Ann Thompson
Margaret Trigg
Iris Wood
Jenny Wraith

Finishing and Support

Sue Griffiths
Petronella Humphreys
Frances Lyons
Lucy Murphy
Jill Walton

Braiding

Helena Bryant

Assembly Team

Helen Clowes
Liz Hedge
Frances Lyons
Chris Morris
Margaret Padgett
Leila Riddell
Sally Smith
Jenny Wraith
Iris Wood

The Heritage Embroidery

On the 6th November 2013, Audrey Rodgers introduced me to Nigel Collingwood. This was to discuss the working of a special piece of embroidery to mark the 800th Anniversary of the Sealing of the Magna Carta. Having been an embroiderer and changed careers I was unsure if I would take it on. However, the date of the meeting influenced my decision; it was the date that the Bishop's Stortford Mural was unveiled at the Rhodes Centre 23 years before!

After meeting historians Peter Sanders and Toby Lyons I had a list of the important buildings and local figures that should be included. They said I should find more information in the museum at Saffron Walden. When there I got my eye on a large ammonite with the heading 'What is beneath your feet'. This impressed me. Could the Stansted Magna Carta story be fitted into the segments of an ammonite?

Audrey gave names of three key people to help with the project. Artist Carole Crosby, whose work I admired; Iris Wood who stitched the finest silk embroideries for St Mary's church, and Liz Hedge, an excellent needle woman with City and Guilds in Embroidery. Iris and Liz shared their knowledge and skills with the stitchers.



It was decided that a three fold screen would be the best way to tell the Magna Carta story as it related to Stansted. The two side panels would depict the buildings and figures. Meetings were held in St John's Church in early March to recruit stitchers. Thereafter it took a while to go through the design process before the buildings were ready to stitch.

Claire Crommie took photos of the buildings that we needed. Peter Brown offered illustrations from the History Society archives; images came from Paul Embleton's book, and Ralph Phillips added his invaluable knowledge of the local history too.

As to the lay out of the side panels, we had the help of Alan Bowles. Using his skills as a graphics technician he produced these to scale.

Over the summer Carole worked on the elaborate designs for the centre panels, the Norman arch shape that the ammonite needed to fit was quite a challenge.

Landscape Architect Liz Lake offered her talents and produced art work for a number of the more difficult buildings. I resurrected long forgotten skills for drawing up the others. These had to fit onto the 13 to the inch gauge of the canvas. I drew most straight on the canvas as time was short. Colours were sorted out, and the embroiderers were advised of the stitches that would best represent roof tiles, bricks and glass windows.



While all this was going on, Barry Francis made the frames. He had sourced American Oak for the purpose, an extremely hard wood to work. His splendid creation was finished in October, the two side panels 30 x 48 inches, and the central one 72 x 30 inches, the Norman arch looking quite magnificent, a work of art in its own right!

There is no doubt that without the inspirational art work of Carole, we could not have hoped to achieve such an impressive piece of work. She was busy with many other projects, a committee member of the Bishop's Stortford Art Society, and involved with the Saffron Walden and Hertford Art Societies, as well as teaching local groups.

Carole recalls -

"From time to time we had more meetings, and we talked about how the finished project would look. It was to be a triptych, with the central panel having a Norman arch at the top, echoing the St Mary's church three Norman arches, and fitted inside the arch there was to be an ammonite shape, which could contain several scenes from the Monfitchet and Stansted history. Strangely enough I had been visiting Saffron

Walden museum each month to draw some of their artefacts, one of which was a huge ammonite, and it was this same ammonite, which Leila had also seen at Saffron Walden, that had inspired her to think that this would be a good shape to include. The ammonite was a very early item from the area, found in the earth from which our history evolved.”

Carole continues-

“I had no previous knowledge that our local knight, Richard Montfitchet, was one of the 25 knights who encouraged King John to put his seal to the Magna Carta in 1215. I am a local person, born and bred here, and went to school locally. One would have thought that with something so important, it would be mentioned in classes, and that the whole community would be proud of the fact, but if it was ever mentioned, I never absorbed the information. It never dawned on me throughout my life, until I heard about it during the setting up of this project”

Carole also produced the figures and scenes for the two outer panels. Her art work has challenged the stitchers to the limits. We are so grateful that she found time in her busy life to not only do the art work, but transfer it on the linen to be stitched.

The first piece was ready for stitching on the 28th July 2014. A team of over 30 stitchers worked the pieces.

The Parish Council asked that we should not miss out the school children in this historic piece. How could nearly 800 children be involved without completely covering all the buildings? The answer was to ask the children of St Mary’s and Bentfield Primary schools to make little tussocks of grass that could be set in front of some of the buildings.

As for the older children of Forest Hall School, they each did a letter of the Magna Carta text for the central panel. Wonderful!

The braiding was made at the last minute by Helena Bryant and her family. It was an essential part of the finishing.

Professional embroiderer Ann Small offered advice on methods of mounting these huge pieces of stitching. This in itself was a huge challenge and involved the stitchers working above and below the large frames that were laid between dining room table and side boards.

Liz and I finished off with safety pins before the photographer arrived! Just some tensioning left to do. The time from starting the first building to finish was only nine months!

None of this would have happened without the generous support of Stansted Airport, both for the materials, and for the publication of this booklet.

Materials used

Mace and Nairn supplied 13 to the inch canvas, 22 to the inch canvas, linen twill, and most importantly the Appleton’s Crewel Wools.

Julia Downing of Just Shetland supplied woollen, woven cloth for the sky.

Dukeries of Nottingham supplied fine cotton net.

Empress Mills supplied calico.

So, now 25 years after the Bishop’s Stortford Mural, I can say that this has been a most enjoyable experience.

It has been a pleasure to study the buildings of this rather special little village. More than that, as one could expect of a community project, new and lasting friendships have been made with all who have taken part. I am so proud of the stitchers who have made this work possible.

Leila Riddell Designer and Creative Director





MAGNA CARTA

WE HEREBY CONFIRM, THAT WE HAVE GRANTED TO GOD, and by this present charter have confirmed for us and our heirs in perpetuity, That the English Church shall be free and shall have its rights undiminished and its liberties unimpaired.

No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.

No one we have received will sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice.

Merchants may enter or leave England unharmed and without fear and may stay or travel within it by land or water for purposes of trade, free from all illegal exactions, in accordance with ancient and lawful customs.

In future it shall be lawful for any man to leave and return to our kingdom unharmed and without fear, by land or water, preserving his allegiance to us, except in time of war, for some short period, for the common benefit of the realm.

We will appoint as justices, constables, sheriffs, or other officials, only men that know the law of the realm and are deemed to keep it well.

The Road to Magna Carta



1. Richard de Montfichet in all his regalia



2. William de Montfichet laying his mantle on the bier of King William Rufus in the New Forest



3. Construction of the Chancel arch in St. Mary's, built by the Montfichets c1130



4. Monks of the Thremhall Priory, built by the Montfichets



5. Richard throwing a stone in Rome, further than any man before c1213



6. The destruction of Stansted's Castle by King John's men



7. Runnymede 1215

Centre Panel

The Road to Magna Carta

As you enter the village of Stansted Mountfitchet on the B 1383, whether from the north or the south, you will pass the village sign, the cartoon-like effigy of a mediaeval knight, with pointed helmet and nose guard, a hauberk (a knee-length shirt) of grey chain-mail, and a large shield. Above the effigy are the words Magna Carta and the date 1215.

This knight is Richard de Montfichet, whose family gave the village the second part of its name. Magna Carta makes its appearance because Richard was one of the 25 barons of the realm who were given the task of making sure that King John observed the provisions of that historic document. The centrepiece of our embroidery shows Richard at the height of his power.

What was Richard's background? The first Norman lord to be placed at Stansted was Robert Gernon, who probably came from the area around Bayeux. He had crossed the Channel with William the Conqueror and he had been well rewarded, for in all he held 44 manors in Essex and 47 others in Cambridgeshire, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and Herefordshire.

The head of Robert's barony was Hamme, about 25 miles to the south of Stansted, the area later connected with West Ham and East Ham. Stansted was merely one of his possessions, but it was most likely Robert who built the castle there, since there was a great rush of castle building following the Conquest and he would have wanted security as quickly as possible. Overlooking Stansted Brook, Robert's castle was of motte and bailey construction. Its two mounds were surmounted by walls, perhaps a wooden palisade at first, and surrounded by ramparts and a ditch, with a keep on the motte and a settlement of Robert's retainers within the bailey, where he perhaps maintained a priest. There were other castles nearby, such as those at Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden, to keep the local population under control.

Robert was the Keeper of the Forest of Essex, but apart from this little is known about him. By the reign of Henry I, perhaps earlier, his entire barony, including the manors of Stansted and Bentfieldbury, was in the hands of William de Montfichet, who came from the village of Montfiquet in Normandy. Perhaps the Montfichets were connected with the Gernons by ties of kinship or feudality: we do not know. The name Montfichet does not appear in Domesday, but we know that the 'sire of Montfichet' took part in the battle of Hastings where, though small in stature, he fought with great boldness and courage.

The Montfichets were among the leading nobility in Normandy. William was succeeded by his son, also William, who died young and was succeeded by his son, again William. He too must have died young, for he was succeeded by his younger brother, Gilbert, who in turn was succeeded by Richard de Montfichet (the father of the Magna Carta Richard).

It was the second William, Gilbert's father, who moved the head of his barony from Hamme to Stansted, a step of great economic benefit to the village. It was probably at this time that he developed the castle to its full extent and strength.

The Montfichets were closely connected with the royal family. William - we do not know if it was the first or second William - was among the hunters in the New Forest on the day when King William II, known as William Rufus, was killed by an arrow. A bier was made of branches on which flowers and ferns were spread, and William de Montfichet took off his grey mantle and spread it over the bier. The chronicler adds the curious detail that he had had it patched and mended only the day before, as if this made his gesture all the more loyal and generous. This is shown on the bottom left of our embroidery.

The Montfichets were also great supporters and benefactors of the church, being convinced that such generosity would work to the salvation of their souls and the souls of their ancestors and their descendants. At Stansted St. Mary's Church was built in the early



MAGNA CARTA

FIRST, THAT WE HAVE GRANTED TO GOD, and by this present charter have confirmed for us and our heirs in perpetuity, that the English Church shall be free and shall have its rights undiminished and its liberties unimpaired.

No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.

No one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice.

Merchants may enter or leave England unharmed and without fear and may stay or travel within it, by land or water, for purposes of trade, free from all illegal exactions, in accordance with ancient and lawful customs.

In future it shall be lawful for any man to leave and return to our kingdom unharmed and without fear, by land or water, preserving his allegiance to us, except in time of war, for some short period, for the common benefit of the realm.

We will appoint as justices, constables, sheriffs, or other officials, only men that know the law of the realm and are minded to keep it well.

1100s, probably by Gilbert, but possibly by his son Richard. Most of it has now been altered and Gothicised, and the main Norman features that survive are the font, the highly decorated dogtooth doorways in the north and south porches, and the spacious chancel arch, which is shown under construction on the left of our embroidery. It was either Gilbert or his son Richard who established Thremhall Priory, on Stane Street, for monks of the Augustinian order. The monks, in their black habits, can be seen at the top of our tapestry. According to the monks Richard went on a pilgrimage to Rome, where he died in 1202.

He was then succeeded by his son, also Richard, who was to play a big role in the troubles that were about to engulf the country. He was still a minor when he succeeded his father, but as soon as he became of age he joined the barons who were in rebellion against King John. In 1213 he was banished from the country by John and according to the monks he went to Rome, where, 'being a person of extraordinary strength, he obtained much fame in the casting of a stone, no man being able to do the like. In memory whereof certain pillars of brass were set up to show the distance'. This is shown on the top right of our embroidery. The monks of Thremhall Priory also tell us, however, that while Richard was away in Rome all his castles were destroyed by King John, and among them was Stansted castle. This is shown on the bottom right of the embroidery.

When Richard returned he joined the struggle against the king and was among those who confronted John and compelled him to agree to the Magna Carta at Runnymede on 15 June 1215, and although he was so young he was one of the 25 barons chosen to enforce its observance. He owned the manor of Wyrardisbury, which was on the opposite side of the Thames from the meadow of Runnymede. Six days later he was reinstated in his office of Keeper of the Forest of Essex, but when civil war was renewed in October he was dismissed again. In the struggles that followed he gained a great reputation for his boldness and courage, and was described as one of the three most valiant knights in

England, famous for 'his high prowess and chivalrie'. All of his lands were now seized by the King, and when the barons were defeated in the battle of Lincoln in 1217 he was taken prisoner. Henry III, however, was now king, though still a minor, and the Regent, the Earl of Pembroke, released Richard and restored his estates. He was also reinstated as Keeper of the Forest.

After the turbulence of his youth Richard's later years were relatively uneventful. Like his predecessors, he was a great benefactor to the church: he gave more land to Thremhall Priory and allowed the monks to use his park for grazing their cattle. In the records relating to nearby Hatfield Forest, which abutted onto Stansted's boundary at Stane Street, there are many entries relating to his actions as Forester - providing venison for the king, granting the right of estover (to cut wood), preventing unauthorised hunting, and responding to orders for timber, charcoal and other products of the forest.

He died in 1267, and he appears to have been buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, since the beautiful pall which was used at his funeral was kept there for many years.

He left no issue: his wife, Jacosa, was described as a lady eminent for beauty, virtue and piety 'but alas childless', and so his lordships were inherited by the heirs of his, already deceased, three sisters.



Key

- 1 St Mary's Church
- 2 The Windmill
- 3 Stansted Free Church
- 4 Green's Stores
- 5 Gate House
- 6 School at Gall End
- 7 Mountfitchet Castle
- 8 The Fuller-Maitlands
- 9 The Old Bakery, 44 Lower Street
- 10 Forest Hall School
- 11 St Mary's School, Forest Hall Park
- 12 The Cock Public House
- 13 The Bell Inn
- 14 No 47 Lower Street
- 15 Old Independent Chapel
- 16 Linden House Hotel
- 17 The Friends Meeting House
- 18 Jubilee Clock
- 19 Mountfitchet House Care Home
- 20 The Myddeltons
- 21 Bentfield Primary School
- 22 The Day Centre, Chapel Hill
- 23 Fountain
- 24 Savages, Lower Street
- 25 The Fire Station
- 26 Co-operative Store
- 27 Blythwood Dairy
- 28 British School
- 29 Green's Summer House
- 30 Fire Engine
- 31 Sir Thomas Myddelton
- 32 Jubilee Arch and Olympic Torch
- 33 GI Brides
- 34 Stoolball
- 35 William Fuller-Maitland, MP
- 36 The Hockerill Highway
- 37 Norman Ginger Beer
- 38 & 39 American Airbase & B26 Martin Ma
raiders
- 40 Milestone
- 41 Bentfield "Benny" Hucks
- 42 Sir Roger de Lancaster

Right Panel

1. St Mary's Church.

The Church of St Mary the Virgin was probably built in the early years of the 12th century. The brick tower was added in 1692. In the 13th century the chancel was extended towards the east and the building was extensively restored twice in the 19th century. It retains some Norman features, notably the chancel arch and two highly decorated doorways, and it contains several important monuments, including those of Sir Roger de Lancaster, Sir Thomas Myddelton and his daughter Hester Salusbury. The church was built on the site of a Roman building and is now in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust.

2. The Windmill.

Built with a malt house and villa by Joseph Linsell and his wife in 1787. The malt house was destroyed by fire in 1877, whilst the bakehouse, built in 1854, has been incorporated in the adjoining house 'Foxvanes'. In its final years the mill only crushed oats before it ceased working in 1910. Lord Blyth gave the mill to the parish in 1935. Now in the care of the Stansted Millers, it is still in part working order and open to view on set days.

3. Stansted Free Church.

The Independent Church in Stansted was founded in 1698 in a converted barn on Chapel Hill, and a new church was built on the site in 1865. A lecture hall was erected behind the church in 1934 and a porch was added in 1936. The Independents, so called because each congregation was independent, later became known as the Congregationalists, and in 1972 the Congregationalists became part of the United Reformed Church with the Presbyterians. In 2006 the Methodists joined in the religious life of the church and it is now called the Stansted Free Church. The picture in the embroidery shows the church that was built in 1865.

4. Green's Stores.

First opened its doors in 1687 as John Day's. It was always a strong Quaker establishment. When in April

1708 Day refused, as a good Quaker, to pay 17 years' tithes to the value of £1 8s 6d to the established church, and when in response to this John Reynolds, the vicar, refused to pay his bill of £1 9s. for candles, Day refused to accept the 6d change due. Under the Greens (of the same family) the shop became a huge departmental store and mail-order business. The directors of the company finally sold it in 1960, but Caton's continued the grocery and hardware business until 1982.

5. Gate House.

Stansted Hall Gate House on Church Road features an impressive arch with iron gates that gave protection by restricting carriage and pedestrian access along a winding driveway to the far side of Stansted Hall.

6. School at Gall End.

St Mary's school holds a long established place in the village, having been founded in 1838. The school motto is "learning together we care, we share and prepare". Its first building was in Gall End, where a commemoration stone relates that "These schools for the benefit of the children of Stansted Mountfitchet were erected at the cost of the Rev Josias Torriano, M.A. Vicar of this parish on a site given for that purpose on a long lease by E. Fuller-Maitland Esq, Lord of the Manor in commemoration whereof this stone was laid by Mrs Josias Torriano July 27th 1838. All Glory be to God". The building is now used for a youth club and Spangles Children's Centre.

7. Mountfitchet Castle.

The castle stands on ground north of Stansted Brook and is designated as a Scheduled Monument. When the Normans invaded in 1066 they quickly built a series of castles to be used as bases from which to subdue and control the surrounding areas. The standard design was one meant for speedy construction. A huge mound of earth was thrown up, on top of which a wooden fort was built, with a wooden enclosed courtyard at the bottom protecting the entrance to the mound; this then was the motte and bailey castle. At some time the wood was replaced by stone. Overall the castle is probably

11th century, built by Robert Gernon, who arrived in Britain with William the Conqueror. As a result of Richard de Montfichet's opposition to King John, the castle was destroyed - the exact date is not known - and it was never rebuilt. Complete with 'Norman village' and adjacent toy museum, it has now been developed as an imaginative and colourful tourist attraction.

8. The Lords of the Manor and Stansted Hall: The Fuller-Maitlands.

The Myddeltons were succeeded as lords of the manor by the Heaths in the 18th century and the Fuller-Maitlands in the 19th. Ebenezer Fuller-Maitland had the Myddeltons' hall pulled down, a decision he was to regret later. His son, William Fuller-Maitland, built the present Hall in 1871-6 as a fitting showcase for his fabulous art collection. His son, also William, lived there until 1921. When he left the parish the estate was sold to Albert Ball of Nottingham, but he quickly sold it on to J. Arthur Findlay and his wife, Gertrude. Fuller-Maitland, however, remained the lord of the manor. Stansted Hall was the Findlays' home until 1964, when it was given to the Spiritualists' National Union.

9. The Old Bakery, 44 Lower Street.

17th century timber-framed and plastered house built on an L-shaped plan with a cross wing at the south end. The front is pargetted in panels with traditional patterns. The gable of the south cross wing has original carved bargeboards.

10. Forest Hall School.

When the Church School and the Council School were combined in 1948 as a primary school, a new Stansted County Secondary School took over the old buildings of the British School on Chapel Hill. In 1960 the school was moved to new premises in Forest Hall Road. It had 330 pupils, 18 class rooms and a rural science block. There were sharp fluctuations, however, in the number of pupils, and in 1984 the sixth form was removed leaving the school to cater for 11 to 16 year olds only. It was renamed Mountfichet Mathematics and Computing College for a few years and again

rebranded in 2013 as Forest Hall School, a Secondary Comprehensive. It is now preparing for life under the guidance of the Burnt Mill Academy Trust.

11. St Mary's School in Forest Hall Park.

In 1948 the Church School and the Council School combined to form St Mary's Primary School in Gall End. When the Secondary School left Chapel Hill St Mary's Primary School moved into the buildings it vacated; in 1978 it moved into new buildings in St John's Road; and in 2012 it moved to its present premises in Forest Hall Park.

12. The Cock Public House and Restaurant.

The Cock is 19th century in origin and has been altered with additions to the front, side and rear where there is a later flat roof extension. At one time in the 19th century it was a beer house. The Link public house, adjoining the former De Vere Chapel opposite, was demolished when the chapel was taken down and William Amery, its publican, was given compensation and asked to vacate the premises. He later became landlord of The Cock.

13. The Bell Inn.

Until 1818 The Bell was owned by Henry and Elizabeth Gilbey, the parents of the two brothers, Walter and Alfred Gilbey, who founded the famous wine and spirits company. It was given a major face-lift in the Victorian period. Stansted Fair used to be held regularly on the 1st of May on the field behind the pub. The building has undergone several changes of name, including 'The Bell and Feathers', 'The Feathers' and, more recently, short-lived restaurant names.

14. No 47 Lower Street.

Timber-framed and plastered house with early 19th century external features.

15. Old Independent Chapel.

The history of the Independent Chapel is given under picture 3. Picture 15 shows the church that was built in 1698.

16. Linden House Hotel and Restaurant.

Given to the village as a Poor House in 1601. After several changes of use it became the Paringa Nursing Home and then an antique shop and is now the Linden House Hotel and Restaurant.

17. The Friends Meeting House.

Quaker meetings were held in private houses in Stansted as early as 1666. In 1703 a plot of land was leased to the Friends to build a Meeting House. The lease was for 1,500 years and was a gift from Stephen Fry the Elder and Stephen Fry the Younger. The building became unsafe in the 1960s and a new Meeting House was built and opened in 1967.

18. Jubilee Clock.

High on the southern wall of Green's stores is the commemorative Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee clock, 1897, installed by 'Ticker' Francis, watch and clock maker of Silver Street.

19. Mountfitchet House Care Home.

Opened in November 2014, this Home offers residential, dementia, nursing, permanent and respite care for its patients and help for their families. It is operated by Care UK.

20. The Lords of the Manor and Stansted Hall: the Myddeltons.

The first Norman lord of the manor, Robert Gernon, was succeeded by William de Montfichet and his descendants. When Richard de Montfichet died in 1267 he left no children and his Stansted estate was divided among the descendants of his three sisters. They were followed as lords of the manor by the de Veres (the Earls of Oxford) and in the 17th century by the Myddeltons. We do not know when the first Stansted Hall was built, but it seems there have been various halls on or near the site of the present Hall, near the church. In the 17th century Sir Thomas Myddelton began the Jacobean-style Hall that was completed by his descendants.

21. Bentfield Primary School.

This school was founded in 1978 in the shape of an

octagon with a secondary building added in 2000 to allow it to become a fully inclusive mainstream school. 2009 saw the addition of a new assembly/ physical exercise hall and ICT (information and communication technology) suite. There is a light and sound studio and soft play area. The nursery can take 52 children for three hours per day in term time. Bentfield is able to provide enhanced facilities for children with severe and profound learning difficulties, as well as out-of-school care with breakfast and after school clubs.

22. The Day Centre, Chapel Hill.

A long awaited Day Centre opened in 1983. Over the years many people have devoted their time to managing and running the centre thus ensuring its continuing success. Many local residents, organisations and clubs use and enjoy the facilities.

23. Fountain.

The elegant drinking fountain on Chapel Hill was opened in 1871 by Henry Parry Gilbey and Walter Gilbey. It replaced what had originally been the De Vere wayside chapel that had become a blacksmith's shop. The fountain was manufactured by the Saracen Foundry, Glasgow, to the Walter Macfarlane's patent at a cost of £35 and was erected by J.L. Glasscock of Bishop's Stortford. The water originally issued from a gilded stork under the dome. There were four taps with cups, a gas light and signpost. Also provided was a horse trough which was discontinued when motorists contaminated it.

24. Savages, Lower Street.

A 16th or 17th century timber-framed and plastered house. There is some restoration and the timber-framing is exposed on the east front.

25. The Fire Station.

In 1928 a new fire station was built on Chapel Hill. It was officially opened by Lady Blyth, having been financed by donations from parishioners. Lady Blyth had a personal interest in fighting fires as her home, Blythwood, had burnt down just two years earlier. The

station housed various fire engines and crews until 1960. In March 1960 a new two-bay station on Chapel Hill was officially opened. It houses many additional facilities for fire brigade requirements. To the rear is a large drill yard with a purpose-built hose-drying tower topped with a siren. In 1975 the siren became redundant when each fireman was issued with a personal alerter. The embroidery shows the 1928 station.

26. Co-operative Store.

Originally called the Galloping Horses Villa, this shop is now run by the Co-operative Group. The frontage is decorated with wreaths of greenery and the following symbols: a dove for loving constancy, a bees' skip for efficient industry, and a cornucopia representing the bounty of nature's gifts. An upper window sill is supported by a pair of lions' heads. The building and the former large sheds behind were once the winter quarters for Thurston's fairground equipment and were later used as cycle and motor garages.

27. Blythwood Dairy.

The dairy was reported to be the most modern of its time and was opened by the Lady Mayoress of London, accompanied by the Lord Mayor and many distinguished guests in 1892. The Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, visited the dairy in the same year. It consisted of two floors, the lower floor comprising of a milk room, manufacturing room, scullery and living room. The upper floor served as an afternoon tea lounge.

28 British School.

A British School, non-denominational, but in fact mainly supported by the Nonconformists, was founded in 1835 on Chapel Hill, and in 1912 was taken over by the Essex County Council and became known as the Council School.

29. Green's Summer House, Chapel Hill.

The small red brick building opposite 'The Old Court House' was the Summer House of the Green family. When the de Vere Chapel was demolished some of the timbers, including a beautiful oak window frame

carved with the de Vere Arms, were incorporated into this building. Later it served as Stansted Football Club's changing room, with a playing field beyond (now the residential road, Greenfields).

30. Fire Engine.

During WW1 a second hand Shand Mason manual engine was delivered to Stansted. It replaced the existing appliance built in 1822. The cost of the new engine was upward of £60 including several items of fire fighting equipment. Because so many horses were required on the fighting front, the engine often had to be drawn manually. It attended its first call in 1915 when it was reported as "working admirably well for about 5 hours with two deliveries of hose." Over the next 13 years it played a very important role in Stansted and many surrounding villages and served the parish with distinction. By 1927 this engine was considered to have run its course and was taken out of service. In 1939 the brigade was taken over by the Saffron Walden District Council, and in 1941 by the National Fire Service. In 1948 it was handed back to local control, this time the Essex County Council. The old Shand Mason engine is now in safe keeping and restoration works are being undertaken.

31. Sir Thomas Myddelton (1550-1631).

Thomas Myddelton was a Welshman. As a youth he was apprenticed to a London grocer and made his fortune in trade. He bought Chirk Castle in Wales in 1595 for £5,000. He was a member of the Grocers' Company, a Member of Parliament and a founder member of the East India Company. In 1613/14 he was Lord Mayor of London and two years later bought the manor of Stansted Mountfitchet. His splendid monument stands in the chancel of St Mary's church. It was Sir Thomas who began building Stansted Hall in the Jacobean style in the early 1600s.

Hester Salusbury, née Myddelton.

There is an altar-tomb in St Mary's to Hester Salusbury, who died in 1614, with a recumbent figure on a sarcophagus. Hester was the daughter of Sir Thomas

Myddelton. She is dressed in the fashionable clothes and hat of a Jacobean lady. Above the tomb on a wall is a beautiful cartouche and a brass tablet inscribed:

The passions w[hich] thou didst endure
Sweet Saviour for my sins
My soules salvation did procure
Though body rest herein.

32. Jubilee Arch and the Olympic Torch.

The 1935 Jubilee Arch spans the gateway entrance to Hargrave Sports Ground and was erected in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of King George V. It was unveiled after a carnival procession through the village to Hargrave Park. In the same year, 1935, the park was opened as a Sports Ground which is now mainly used for football and cricket. The figure shown in the embroidery is holding the Olympic torch, which arrived in Essex on day 49 of the torch relay - Friday, 6th July 2012. Having gone through many towns, villages and Olympic venues in Essex the torch left the county by way of Stansted and Newport in the early afternoon of Saturday, 7th July. The wet weather failed to dampen the spirits of either the torchbearers or the thousands of people who turned out to show their support.

33. GI Brides.

At least two Stansted girls are known to have married American servicemen, though one came back with her husband and they are buried in St Mary's churchyard.

34. Stoolball.

In 1620 Stansted's churchwardens were taken to the church court for failing to present 'certain maids' who had been playing stoolball when they should have been at church. Stoolball, sometimes regarded as a precursor of cricket, was generally played by girls, traditionally milkmaids, who used their bucket as a wicket. The churchwardens explained that they had admonished the girls' parents and masters who had promised to reform their ways.

35. William Fuller-Maitland, MP (1844 - 1932).

While at Oxford he was an outstanding cricketer. In 1864 he took 8 wickets for 58 runs against the

MCC and 8 for 48 against Surrey. Married to Evelyn Coulstoun Gardner, Fuller-Maitland was a Justice of the Peace, Deputy Lieutenant of Essex and Member of Parliament for Breconshire (1875-1895). He was a good constituency man and active parliamentarian. He sold Stansted Hall in 1921 and died in Brighton aged 88. His father, also William (1813-1876), was a distinguished art collector: after his death the bulk of his collection was exhibited at South Kensington Museum and nine major pictures were sold to the National Gallery in London.

36. The Hockerill Highway.

This road was rebuilt by King Charles II's military in the 17th century, the King insisting on travelling at ease between his palaces in London and his stables in Newmarket. It was excellently maintained and provisioned, with four coaching inns just in Stansted. Parson Woodforde described it as 'the best of roads I ever travelled'. In 1744 it was turnpiked and its upkeep became the responsibility of the Hockerill Highway Trust. This remained the position until the mid-19th century and the advent of the railway. Now the road is even more congested despite the M11 motorway which runs to the east of the village.

37. Norman Ginger Beer.

In and around 1875 Mr Norman of Bentfield End was manufacturing home-brewed ginger beer. This was often referred to as "stone ginger beer" and became a very popular soft drink. In later years the salt-glazed, blue-lipped stoneware bottles became very sought after by collectors. Norman's gallon flagons portray the message 'Home Brewed (non gassy) Ginger Beer. 2/= deposit. Jar must be returned keep stopper tight'.

38 & 39. American Airbase & B26 Martin Raiders.

In 1942 the United States Army Air Force began to construct an airfield at Stansted. By 1943 this had become a huge USAAF base with a main runway some 6,000 feet long. March 1944 saw the first mission from Stansted by the 344th Bombardment Group flying B26 Martin Raiders. The 344 Group had four

squadrons, and the aircraft selected for the embroidery was called 'Shopworn Angel' from the illustration on its nose cone. It was part of 495 squadron. The nickname of the 344th Group, 'The Silver Streaks', arose after the Marauder crews had stripped their aircraft of the camouflage paint leaving a natural aluminium finish. The camouflage was considered unnecessary as, by then, raids over East Anglian airfields were virtually non-existent. Aircraft from Stansted played a major part in the bombing that supported the D-Day invasion. In 1954 and 1957 the Americans built new taxiways and hard standing and the main runway was extended to 10,000 feet for their nuclear bombers, but they left Stansted the following year. The airfield has played many roles within its history and today has developed beyond all recognition into a major international passenger airport.

40. Milestone.

The Hockerill Highway Turnpike Trust was founded in 1744, and by 1747 milestones had been placed along the length of the road. The milestone shown in the embroidery was specially important for racing cyclists. At least one had his ashes scattered there and flowers are still left in remembrance. Before cars ever set tyre on the highway penny-farthing riders congregated surreptitiously on the Newmarket Road. To remain within the law they did not 'race' but set off at one minute intervals to be timed over a set route. Such events were called time trials and were held in secret very early in the morning. The 25-mile route from the 32nd milestone to Stumps Cross and back again was one of the fastest courses in the country. It was not until a change of law in 1960 that time trials became fully legal, bringing coloured racing vests and publicity.

41. Bentfield "Benny" Hucks.

Born in Bentfield End in 1884, 'Benny' Hucks was to become one of the most celebrated pioneer aviators, being known throughout the country for his spectacular aviation skills and thrilling demonstrations in his 80 hp Bleriot Monoplane. In 1913 he became the first British pilot to perform the manoeuvre of

'Looping the Loop'. He died in 1918 of pneumonia. A wall plaque in his honour is proudly displayed in the Crafton Green Day Centre

42. Sir Roger de Lancaster.

Towards the end of the thirteenth century Roger de Lancaster, then Lord of the Manor, built the Lancaster Chapel on the north side of the chancel of St. Mary's Church, and he is probably the man who is commemorated in the effigy of a cross-legged knight in the north wall. Originally the figure would have been resplendent with the emblazoned arms of the Lancasters and other colourful attributes.

Design and Assembly images



We would also like to thank the following:

- The Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society
- Alan & Mark of Liz Lake Associates for sponsorship and web design.
- The Arthur Findlay College for the generous use of their premises and supporting our celebrations in all stages.
- The Magna Carta Barons Association whose organization cemented the 800 events.
- James Wallace Jarvis for his kind sponsorship
- Barry Francis for his brilliant craftsmanship in making the Oak frames
- Molly & Geoff Clark for their kind donation
- Ben & Bob of Marketing Kinetics for design skills & enthusiasm
- The Teachers and pupils of our Primary & Secondary Schools
- Photographers Nigel Luckhurst and Roy Smith
- The Stansted Airport Passenger Community Fund in sponsoring this Brochure
- The Stansted Airport Community Trust for helping to fund the finest materials

STANSTED AIRPORT

Part of the area's history -
and in the heart of it's future.

Stansted Airport is proud to support the Magna Carta 800 Embroidery Project and congratulates all of those involved.



PART OF M.A.G

MAGNA CARTA

FIRST, THAT WE HAVE GRANTED TO GOD, and by this present charter have confirmed for us and our heirs in perpetuity, that the English Church shall be free and shall have its rights undiminished, and its liberties unimpaired.

No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.

No one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice.

All merchants may enter or leave England unharmed and without fear and may stay or travel within it, by land or water, for purposes of trade, free from all illegal exactions, in accordance with ancient and lawful customs.

In future it shall be lawful for any man to leave and return to our kingdom unharmed and without fear, by land or water, preserving his allegiance to us, except in time of war, for some short period, for the common benefit of the realm.

We will appoint as justices, constables, sheriffs, or other officials, only men that know the law of the realm and are minded to keep it well.