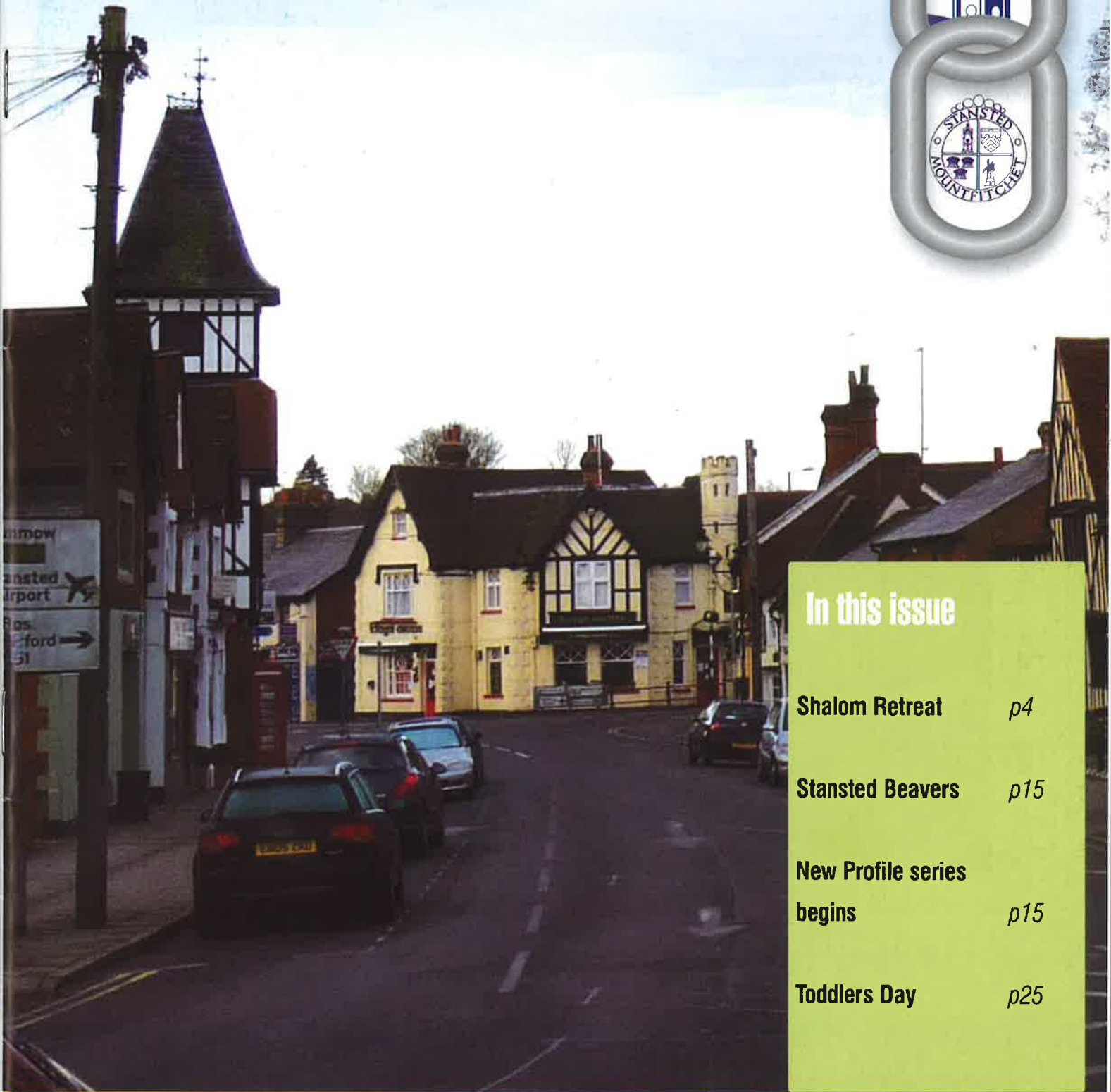


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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begins** *p15*

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VOLUME 29
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June 2009

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine
The Link
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The Link is an independent publication supported by local churches, businesses and the parish council

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Editorial



The bid which was led by Ken McDonald to purchase for public access and woodland some 21 acres of Green Belt land near the Birchanger/Stansted border may have been initially rejected by the Land Agents, but the keen attendance at a public meeting in the Day Centre should send a clear message to our local authorities and their planners. Where land has a Green Belt notation it should remain just that, irrespective of ownership. The Link has previously expressed fears about neglected fields so it is encouraging to know that there is strong and sustained local feeling against development.

Our familiar *cause célèbre*, the pothole syndrome, is now attracting press attention over a wider area. Traffic intensity seems to be recession-proof so we may have to experience further deterioration and exercise continued patience before repairs take place. It appears that funds for road-mending and a respect for speed limits are both less than they should be. Slower driving would be so much better all round.

It is good to know that improved times are with us at the Lower Street Youth Centre. During the day Spangles Children's Centre has done well in its first year, while in the evening the youth leaders are earning and receiving good support for their expanded programme, which includes at least five members entering for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and a weekend in the hills. Congratulations to Mandy Fitchett and Linda Barnes together with their helpers. We are publicising these and other Stansted organisations in a new series.

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

by email (*preferred*) to:
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

or by hand to:
 7 Blythwood Gardens,
 Stansted CM24 8HG

by **noon** on 11th June
 for the July issue

by **noon** on 11th July
 For the August issue

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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

A moment of understanding

The recent Shalom retreat to Hemingford Grey was a wonderful and inspiring opportunity to reflect on what it means to abide in Christ. We gathered in the beautiful setting of St Francis' Retreat House. We shared prayers, thoughts, meals, music and laughter. The greatest gift of all, certainly for me, was the fellowship of others.

The retreat was also an opportunity to take stock. To spend some quiet moments away from the hustle and bustle of one's daily life. A chance to be mindful of the beauty of the natural world. To enjoy a rare moment of wonder when a deer and its calf foraged in bushes in the grounds of the retreat house. This reminded me of the importance of being open to unexpected moments of understanding when things become known through one's immediate experience. It brought to mind the following passage from *Quaker Faith and Practice*:

'A sudden concentration of attention on a rainy August morning. Clusters of bright red berries, some wrinkled, some blemished, others perfect, hanging among green leaves. The experience could not have lasted more than a few seconds, but that was a moment out of time. I was caught up in what I saw: I became a part of it: the berries, the leaves, the raindrops and I, we were all of a piece. A moment of beauty and harmony and meaning. A moment of understanding.' In what may sometimes seem like a crazy world where consumption is king, we all need moments out of time to understand what really counts at the end of the day.



Jonathan Morrell



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Preachers for June

7th 10.30am The Worship Team
New Directions in Worship

14th 10.30am Rev'd Janet Tollington

21st 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton
Holy Communion

28th 10.30am Rev'd John Buxton

Herbert Colliver

Our church was full at the recent Thanksgiving Service for the life of Herbert Colliver, whose wife Judy is one of our church deacons. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family.

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High Lane
Stansted
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Masses

Saturday	6.00pm
Sunday	9.00am and 10.30am
Holy Days of Obligation	8.00am and 8.00pm
Tuesday-Saturday	9.30am

Confessions

Saturday	10.00am and by appointment
----------	-------------------------------

Baptisms

By appointment

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk Mrs Anthea Lee
24 Lea Close
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Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

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Tel: 812203
Email: paulwilkin@iname.com

Assistant Curate: Tel: 815243
Email: through the Church Office

Director of Music: Lorraine Everett
Email: church.music@stansted.net

St John's Diary

Sunday

8.00am	Said Holy Communion	Junior Church meets in church at 9.30am.
9.30am	Worship 4 All (1st Sunday)	
9.30am	Choral Eucharist (2nd - 4th Sundays)	The Lazer youth group meets on Sunday evenings at 7.30pm.

Monday-Wednesday

8.30am	Morning 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.
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	

Tuesday

9.00am St John's Tots

Wednesday

10.30am Holy Communion

Thursday

8.30am Morning Prayer

Saturday

9.00am Morning Prayer

From the Registers

April

Baptism

5th Harry Jake Gandy

Weddings

11th Judy Browning to Thomas Day
25th Lucy Kent to Jack Bowie

Funerals

24th Ronald Harrington, age 88 -
at St Mary's
28th Richard Aldcroft Crosby, age 70 -
at St Mary's

Our much-loved curate, Rev'd Dr Caroline Curren, will be leaving the Benefice at Pentecost, 31st May, to become Priest-in-Charge of four parishes in the Chichester Diocese. Caroline's last services with us will be in our three churches on Pentecost Sunday. On this day there will be a finger buffet in St John's Hall at 1.00pm, which we hope you can attend.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

Fundraising

As in previous years, we have held two fundraising events: Sonia Levy's Hill Chilli and Peter Baker's Jazz at St John's, which between them raised just over £2000. Enormous thanks are due to them both, to the Committee and to many others for these very successful events which do so much for the Hall's finances.

Bookings

Usage of the Hall fell a little during 2008 but has picked up again more recently and we are hopeful that we shall pick up a few more regulars to add to the half a dozen or so that we have at the moment. 2009 will see a drive to increase lettings.

Fabric

Fabric maintenance and renewal has continued throughout the year in line with our regular programmes of renewal. Vandalism had been in abeyance for some time but has become a problem again of late. This is probably not unrelated to problems with lighting around the Church which has not been functioning properly but is being addressed by the Churchwardens.

Our Plans for 2009

The Committee's plans for a website did not progress as fast as had been our hope, but preparations continue and I am hopeful that it will be up and running before too many more moons have passed.

The major long-term problem will be the heating which is growing elderly. The radiator fans are nearly 40 years old and the boiler is the same age although converted from oil to gas about 20 years ago. It is probably very inefficient by modern standards. During 2009 we shall be looking at fresh options for heating the Hall and, more generally, we shall revisit the question of refurbishment of the Hall in consultation with the Rector, the Parochial Church Council and parishioners.

The Committee

Once again it gives me great pleasure to record the Committee's thanks to Nigs Hall, our caretaker, and to Yvette Georgiou, the Hall cleaner, for their staunch support and hard work in maintaining the Hall and its fabric. But for them, the Hall simply would not function. I also pay tribute to the Hall Committee members - Alan Tait, Anthony Minshull, Joy Lambe - who put in so much effort to keep 'the show' on the road. I should be delighted to hear from anyone who would consider joining the Committee and meeting periodically over a bottle of claret to deliberate on Hall business. Fresh ideas and perspectives are always needed on the Committee.



Alastair Richardson
Tel: 815518

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sonia's annual **HILL CHILLI** will be held at 31 Chapel Hill on Friday 10th July from 7.00pm-10.00pm. Proceeds towards St John's Church Hall. Further details next month.



SHALOM

The Shalom Retreat 17th-19th April

On a number of occasions I have been urged to experience a retreat but this did not happen until this April. The Shalom Group have one organised every year by Harry Goreing and for 2009 it was held at St Francis' House, Hemingford Grey, near St Ives. It was led by the Rev'd Trevor Sands, minister of Saffron Walden Methodist Church, and was open to anyone interested in joining the group. Eighteen of us duly arrived late afternoon and were warmly welcomed by Trevor and his wife Judith. It was not long before we were seated before a wholesome home-cooked meal and embarking on conversation with our fellow retreaters. I was pleased to discover that this retreat did not expect silence at meal times!! An important element of the weekend was the fellowship that it provided. It seemed to me that, although it was open to all of us to find times for quiet and meditation as we wished, there was not one of us who did not enjoy that aspect. St Francis' House provided all we required for our gatherings and this included a beautiful chapel and library. This year the Retreat was blessed with beautiful weather and the gardens that surrounded the House were a great attraction to us.

Trevor's sessions with us gave us much scope for thought, meditation and discussion. He took for his theme 'Abiding in Christ' and for his starting point verses 1-17 from St John's gospel, chapter 15 - The True Vine. This was a well-known text but few of us were aware of just how far this could be richly explored. We were led down four 'avenues', each one supported by other biblical texts, serving to enlighten us and strengthen our understanding. In our final session on Sunday morning we were given Galatians 5 verse 22. This short verse described all those qualities that make for the fruits of the Spirit. We were now back to the The True Vine text and in particular, verse 8.



We had a theme song 'You are the Vine, we are the branches' - a beautiful song which kept our minds focused throughout the weekend on the text we were exploring. We sang many other verses and hymns when we met for our sessions and these made for a joyous lifting of spirits. We had in our midst some gifted musicians who gave us all the accompaniment we needed and we were very grateful for this. During the Saturday evening Prayer and Praise, they also showed

us, through drama, a modern interpretation of the St John text and this led to more lively discussion. A final good meal with more fellowship, a group photograph in the sunny garden, our farewells and it was time for home mid afternoon on the Sunday. We left St Francis' House with so much to be thankful for; above all for the leadership we had been given by the Rev'd Trevor Sands.

Margaret Silvester

June Meetings Mondays at 8.00pm - all welcome

- 1st Col Alan Hart - Street Pastors
7 Blythwood Gardens
- 15th Rev Stuart Veitch - Bible Study
Stansted Free Church
- 29th Brian and Eileen Quinn - plays
7 Blythwood Gardens



As we have been unable to book a suitable band, the Songs of Praise planned for 28th June has been postponed until 2010. Our next event will be the Harvest Supper on the evening of Sunday 11th October. More details to follow.



Stansted Cricket Club

Redecoration work has continued and the pavilion front and veranda have now been redecorated. With the new sight-screens in position, the field looked a picture for the first match on 2nd May. Initial performances on the field have been good with the 1st XI joint top of Div 4 with two wins, the 2nd XI fifth in Div 6 with one win and one defeat, and the Sunday XI having won its only match to date. Top individual batting performances have been E Pronk (92), I Parsons (63), D Ayres (55) and M Burgoine (51). Best bowling returns have come from I Parsons (6-29) and D Hedge (5-18).

Home matches for June are:

Sat 6th	1st XI v Bengoe	1330	Div 4
Sat 13th	2nd XI v Little Bardfield	1330	Div 6
Sun 14th	Sun XI v Springfield	1400	Friendly
Sat 20th	1st XI v Hatfield Heath	1330	Div 4
Sat 27th	2nd XI v Matching Green II	1330	Div 6
Sun 28th	Sun XI v Little Hallingbury	1400	Friendly

If anyone from the village wishes to join the club, please contact David Hedge 812509 (adults) or Keith Ayres 814471 (juniors).

David Hedge
Secretary

Bentfield Primary School PTA

RAINBOW COLOURS FAIR

Sat 6th June 2 – 5 pm

Tombola ~ Coconut Shy
Bouncy Fun Run ~ BBQ
Games & Stalls

Admission £1 per family



Stansted Windmill

Open 1.30 - 5.30

St Mary's Church

Open 2- 5 pm



Sunday 7th June

Sunday 5th July



Stansted Cricket Club

Coffee Morning

10 am - noon Thu 11th June
49 St John's Road

Entrance 50p incl refreshments

Tombola ~ Bric-à-Brac ~ Craft Stall
Raffle ~ Homemade Cakes & Jams

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VILLAGE EVENTS

June

- 1 Mon Shalom Street Pastors
- 3 Wed Mountfitchet Club
Mountfitchet Garden Club
- 4 Thu County & European Elections
- 6 Sat Interpreting Genesis
Rainbow Colours Fair
- 7 Sun Windmill Open
St Mary's Church open
- 11 Thu Cricket Club Coffee
W!
- 12 Fri Barnardo's Big Toddle
- 13 Sat & 14 Sun Skips
- 15 Mon Shalom
RBL
- 17 Wed Huw Johnson Coffee
- 18 Thu U3A
- 20 Sat Rainbow Fête
SWCS Summer Prom
- 24 Wed Crossroads Coffee
- 28 Sun Summer Fayre
- 28 Sat & 29 Sun Skips
- 29 Mon Shalom

7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
Day Centre 2 – 4 pm
Turner' Spring, Burton End 7.30 pm

Brentwood Cath 10.30 am – 3 pm

Bentfield Sch 2 – 5 pm

1.30 – 5.30 pm

2 – 5 pm

49 St John's Rd 10 am - noon

St John's Hall 7.45 pm

Recreation Ground 10.30 am – 1 pm

Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm

Free Church Hall 8 pm

Little Fosters, Cambridge Rd 7.30 pm

Day Centre 10 am – noon

Day Centre 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Quaker Meeting House 2 – 4 pm

St John's Church 7.30 pm

Day Centre 10 am – noon

St Mary's School 1 – 4 pm

Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm

7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

July

- 1 Wed Mountfitchet Club
Mountfitchet Garden Club
- 4 Sat Music @ Stansted Soirée
- 10 Fri Hill Chilli
- 11 Sat Music in the Park

Day Centre 2 – 4 pm

Day Centre 8 pm

St John's Church 6 pm

31 Chapel Hill 7 – 10 pm

Bentfield School 2 – 8 pm



Summer Soirée

by talented young musicians

6 pm Saturday 4th July

St John's Church

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Bric-à-Brac

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Summer Prom

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St John's Church

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IN MEMORIAM

RONALD HARRINGTON

5th February 1921 – 6th April 2009

Ron started life in the hard and tough times following the First World War. He lived locally with his very strict grandparents on Stoney Common, in the days when children were seen and not heard and pocket money was not on tap. This you had to earn, albeit very meagre amounts for shoe cleaning, chopping wood, gardening and running errands.

After leaving school at an early age he worked as a market gardener and with another war looming, joined the Home Guard before being called up to join the Royal Air Force Regiment. It was during this time that he met a young bus conductress by the name of Evelyn Carlton and married her on 22nd May 1943. This was the start of a long and happy marriage. Over the years he became the proud father of Pamela, David, Derek, Maureen, Lynne and Peter, who in turn added 12 grandchildren to the family, followed by four great grandchildren.



Ron set himself up as provider for his family. No matter how difficult at times this would be, this proud man's main aim in life was to ensure that his family did not go without. To achieve this, he worked long and hard in the early days as nursery man, builders' labourer and for the majority of his working life in the aircraft industry, travelling long distances wherever the work took him. Ron liked the simple things in life and was happy to be at home with his wife, pottering in the garden and for many years walking the family pet dog 'Tuppy'. Retirement did not come easy and he remained very active looking after his neighbours' gardens, as well as destroying any weeds that dared show their heads in the well kept plot.

Sadly on 11th November 1997 his beloved wife passed away after a short stay and minor operation in Harlow Hospital. For whatever reason, this was the day Ron's life changed as invisible 'demons' played havoc with his once happy-go-lucky caring nature. Life was never the same and although he remained in the family home for a number of years he became vulnerable and so confused that he was moved to the safety of a residential home where he felt comfortable and secure. Unfortunately, his condition deteriorated and he was placed in the care of Ashlar Nursing Home at Epping where the staff tended to all his needs extremely well. The grey muddle days eventually came to an end and he died in

his sleep on Monday 6th April whilst in hospital suffering from a chest infection. Ron will be remembered as someone who always came second because he ensured his wife, children, grandchildren and others were first in line to receive whatever they needed: food, money, gifts or offers of his help with all the abundant life skills he possessed. He leaves us now to join his beloved wife who he has missed so desperately but has been unable to express his feelings. Our message is this:

'You were a great dad and granddad. You will not be forgotten. We are sure that when you arrive in heaven Mum will have your 'socks and underwear on the tank' ready for you and you can enjoy a cup of tea together.'

Maureen Jackson



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

The 14th April meeting of the Stansted RBL was held at the home of the Vice-Chairman. Among matters discussed was the memorial tree in memory of Mrs Stevens. A sub-committee of members had been working to agree the right type of tree to plant and also the best position. They had been working closely with the Parish Council and the PCC at St John's Church. One or two final arrangements need to be made and then a planting ceremony can go ahead in the summer. The War Memorial was discussed and it was decided that perhaps the Branch would do some specific fundraising later to have a further inscription placed on the base of the memorial, this was received well by the whole meeting. A discussion took place about the possibility of commemorating the 60th Anniversary of D Day at the War Memorial on the 6th June; possibilities will be investigated and made known as soon as possible.

The meeting was informed by one of the members that he had a copy of the Legion Journal on a DVD which he now has delivered instead of the printed version due to his failing eyesight. He would like to offer the disc to anyone who would like it - anyone interested should contact me. It is also worth mentioning that this service is available to any member with visual difficulties and all they need do is contact the publishers of the journal.

The subject of the Village Roll of Honour was raised and the money donated to have it renovated and mounted. The payment for this work was not accepted by the company appointed to do the work and as a suitable time has elapsed the branch must now set about returning the donations to those who wish to receive it back. The details of donors were brought to the meeting and given to the Treasurer so that he could set about contacting people.

The future of the Branch was again discussed at length as the membership is getting older. It was decided to see if any new members could be found and to step up the recruiting efforts. The date of the next Branch meeting has had to be changed and this will now be held at Little Fosters, Cambridge Road on 15th June at 7.30pm.

Tom Chadwick
Branch Secretary
Tel: 01279 647617

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School News

The weather we hope, is at last improving! Our brand new school hall is now up and running and looks splendid. The first major production to be staged in the hall was 'Frankie and Me'. This lively musical is a new take on the story of Frankenstein and was performed with great enthusiasm by years 3 and 4. Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed a morning of science activities as part of the Federation of Schools Olympiad. Organised by Year 6 teacher, Miss Eldrett, this included parachuting raw eggs. Who said science was boring? Once again we had a fun time raising money for Red Nose Day. The children paid a pound each which entitled them to take part in any of the following activities: wear pyjamas to school, wear odd socks, have weird hair, write in red pen, make a joke book, or teach their teacher something new (who knows what they learnt!!!).

We are currently looking for mid-day assistants to help with our children during lunch time. These are paid positions. If you would like more information please contact Mrs Jones in the school office.

We still have places available in our nursery for this September. Children are admitted in the September of the academic year in which they are 4; for this September that will be children with birthdays between 1st September 2005 and 31st August 2006. If you are interested in either a reception or nursery place, please give us a ring on 813626 and we will be delighted to arrange a convenient day for you and your child to come and see us.

PTA News

In the PTA we are busy preparing for our summer fair, on Saturday 6th June 2.00pm-5.00pm. This year the theme is 'rainbow colours' and the children will be able to showcase some of their work from the school's Rainbow Art Week. Art week is the week leading up to the fair and the PTA are funding creative workshops for all key stage 1 and 2 children. Our non-uniform day on Tuesday 2nd June should provide plenty of tombola prizes and hopefully we can sell most of the raffle tickets that have been sent home. At the fair, we'll have all the usual attractions and plenty of treats in the form of cream teas, candy floss, ice creams and BBQ from our legendary chef, Olly. Come along to see the Rainbow Parade at 2.15pm and stay for the afternoon.

Advance notice that Music in the Park is on Saturday 11th July 2.00pm-8.00pm.

Kerry Freegold
PTA Co-Chair

THE LINK GOES ON-LINE

From July, the full edition of The Link will also be available on our website. This will give increased coverage for articles, advertisements and events. Please bear this in mind when submitting articles and pictures for inclusion in The Link.

www.stanstedlink.org.uk



Our May gathering is always our Annual General Meeting and once more Peter Brown, our Chairman, conducted the business with his usual efficiency. We were, therefore, soon able to hear our speaker for the evening, Paul Embleton. Paul is well known to the audience as he is a past Chairman of the Society and he is also a keen collector of old picture post-cards. It was some of these more local ones he was to show us this evening.

Paul explained that the heyday for the postcard was during the early years of the twentieth century, up to the Second World War. At this time, the Post Office service was not like it is now. He gave as an example a card sent by his father at work to say he may go to a cricket match in the afternoon and the reply of his mother asking her husband to fetch in some fish and chips if he did - all received before 2.00pm the same day! The cards were all of Stansted, the earliest being sent in 1903, and it was amazing that in spite of the occasional duplication, how many pictures of the village had been taken. Many were from people employed as servants; others were written by visitors or persons passing through. A large number were from the ranks of the Military. Before the First World War, they would be sent by members of the yeomanry or Territorial Army camping locally; later they were from troops billeted in cottages in the village. It was surprising how many camps there were in and around such as the Blythwood Camp which, in 1915, appeared to be acting as a clearing station for casualties. Another sad card told of a Cavalry detachment which had had its horses removed - one can only imagine the need for men for the trenches.

On a happier note, the '20s and '30s reflected just how nice a place Stansted was, as many cards, especially those sent from Mary McArthur House (Hargrave House), stated how pleasant it was and how much better they were feeling. There was even one from a person in Guernsey writing in the same terms. Paul's final advice to budding genealogists was not to ignore the postcard collection - his final card was from a namesake who had turned out to be a distant relation! We were very grateful to Paul for his very interesting talk and slide show.

This was the last meeting for the time being as we are now in our usual summer recess. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd September at 8.00pm in the Day Centre, when Georgina Green will be speaking about the Buxton family. I hope to see you then but in the meanwhile, have a good summer.



Ian Seavers

Judy Colliver and daughters wish to thank sincerely everyone who sent cards, flowers and letters of sympathy, which have helped so much following the loss of a dearly loved husband and father, Herbert.

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STANSTED CUBS

Many thanks to Paul, the Rector of St John's, for showing us around the many interesting parts of our local church; this was the last section of the 'my faith' and 'my promise' badges. Well done to all those who finished them.

Now that the summer term has arrived we are fully in our outside mode, and with not a single indoors event planned, let's hope for good weather. We started off with a mass digging and planting with the District Commissioner, Sandra Arnold, who only came down to invest our newest leader Dave Evett and to give Clare Arnold (no relation) her Wood badge for becoming a fully trained leader. Congratulations to both.



Next we must say a thank you to the district team who gave us a fabulous night as budding Robin Hoods. We all got to have a go at archery, although with 28 boys plus leaders and helpers, it was quite dark once we packed up. Many thanks to everyone involved. All the cubs loved cooking on an open fire and going home smelling of smoke, as well as having had extra food. This year we did an old favourite we haven't done for around 10 years. The cubs made something called dampers (basically a twisted finger roll of dough on a stick) baked on an open fire then rolled in sugar and jam. Everyone thought they were great, but I suspect they would be even more popular without the bread (just jam and sugar!). That's boys for you!

Other events coming up include five aside football, pond dipping, a treasure hunt, kayaking, camping and lots more. I'll keep you posted.

Akela



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In April the Vice-President of the Royal College of Pathologists, Dr Thomas Wraghitt turned 'plant diet and disease' into a fascinating talk on the pathologists' interest in not only diagnosis of disease but also in educating the public by means of yearly displays with their stand at Chelsea Flower Show. After repeatedly winning silver medals, the Royal College finally took gold for the last two years. There's great interest and support for 'Growing your own drugs' – so off you go and gather foxgloves, periwinkle and willow bark!

Manuden WI did us well as hosts to the Spring Group meeting in providing the school venue, fine refreshments and the excellent speaker – unusually, a horticultural auctioneer with a special flair for flower arranging. Intertwined with this decorous twist of stem and bloom were his often hilarious 'asides', giving know-all WI flower arrangers some wonderful tips. The competition for a cushion was won by Elsenham, while our entry by Margaret Jackson, as also the flowers done by Dorothy Wallace were much admired. Berden performed a very 'PC' version of 'Snow(non) White' and her seven assorted small people – very well done, and a warning to us all.

Phyllis Harrison



Saffron Walden Choral Society Summer Prom

7.30pm Sat 13th June St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden
7.30pm Sat 20th June St John's Church, Stansted

The centrepiece of this year's Summer Prom is Vivaldi's *Gloria*, a favourite classic with distinctive melodies and rhythms, full of light and colour. The trumpets will sound again in celebratory music for choir, organ and brass by Vaughan Williams and concert-goers can be sure of a rousing finale with sea songs and Prom favourites. The Saffron Walden Choral Society with conductor Janet Wheeler and organist Richard Carr will be joined by the Chameleon Arts Ensemble for an entertaining evening of music perfect for a summer evening. Tickets are £15 (concessions £12, accompanied under 18s £1) available from Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre (01799 524002), from 01279 812849 or at the door.

Sue Sylvester-Bradley, SWCS Publicity
Tel: 01440 783157
Email: publicity@swchoral.org.uk

ST CLARE HOSPICE

History in the Making

Following our inaugural meeting last month, Stansted now has a Friends Group of St Clare Hospice thanks to fellow residents in the village. There is a Committee of three and potentially five others who will help with fundraising events. Ideas were bouncing around thick and fast between the members so keep a look out for further details on the village noticeboards. One member, after attending a Stansted car boot sale recently, is donating £100 to the Friends to start us off financially, so a huge thank you to Gill. I feel really excited with this new venture and I look forward to meeting many more Stansted residents during the course of our fundraising within the village. The next meetings are scheduled for Saturday 23rd May and Saturday 13th June. If you would like to join us just give me a call for further details.



Caroline Bore
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CHIMNEYS GUEST HOUSE IN STANSTED WELCOMES ITS 10,000th GUEST

Iain and Selina Rankin have been looking forward to welcoming a very special guest to their guest house, Chimneys, in Lower Street Stansted. Since opening in September 2001, they have had many happy customers enjoy their 4 Star Silver Award accommodation and one couple who checked in on Wednesday 8th April were the 10,000th guests they have accommodated. To mark the occasion Iain and Selina presented their special guests - Mr and Mrs Sykes from Rotherham - with a bottle of champagne and a voucher for a free night's stay in one of the beautifully appointed double rooms which have king-size beds and en-suite shower rooms. Iain and Selina constantly strive to maintain and build on the highest standards of cleanliness, comfort and service, to ensure an enjoyable stay for their guests. Because they recognise the importance of sustainable tourism, the couple source local produce as much as possible, as well as using some Fair Trade products for the varied and extensive breakfast menu. The business continues to do well even under the current downturn in economic climate thanks to the valued support of local people and businesses and the high volume of repeat visitors. Iain and Selina are looking forward to welcoming their next 10,000 guests over the coming years.

For further details on Chimneys visit their website:
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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A held its first open meeting on Thursday 30th April. The meeting was a great success with 80 people attending. Iris Mooney, the chairperson of the Essex Association of U3A, explained the history of the organisation. The idea that older people who engage in activities, keeping the mind and body active and interested in life, promotes better general health. She explained that there are groups all over the United Kingdom and the membership is increasing as new groups, like this one, are formed. Over a cup of tea and some social time 59 people joined the new U3A and added their names to activity groups which vary from languages, book club, cards, Scrabble, science and rambling. A committee was formed who will assist the organisation, getting group activities started as soon as possible.

At our second open meeting on 21st May, our guest speaker, Mr Roy Evans talked about 'The Art Deco Style'. Future open meetings will be on 18th June and 16th July at the Day Centre. Please come along if you would like to find out more or contact me.

Maureen Lindsell
Tel: 01279 85031



MOUNTFITCHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



Mountfitchet students get 'Interact'ive

On Wednesday 22nd April, members of the Stansted Stort Valley Rotary Club met with students at MMCC to re-inaugurate the 'Interact' Club at the College. Interact is the young people's branch of Rotary and MMCC students have been keen to re-instate the club to formalise their activities. The elected officers are:

President	Louise Luxton, Year 10
Vice Presidents	Rosie Greaves, Year 9 Ellie Griffiths, Year 10
Treasurer	Ciaran O'Donohue, Year 10
Head of Publicity	Toby Dale-Cooke, Year 10

This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to be directly involved with an organisation which does so much for charity. The students also learn and develop life-long skills such as financial planning, management of people and creative thinking. The students presented a cheque for £600 from their fund-raising events to the Rotary 'Purple Pinkie' campaign, the aim of which is to raise money to End Polio Now - one of the world's biggest ever immunisation programmes. Polio has no cure. It is a crippling and potentially fatal disease and children under the age of five are at the greatest risk. However, polio is easy to prevent by vaccination that costs just 50p. When a child is vaccinated, they have a purple stamp put on their little finger - giving them a purple pinkie!

World War One History Day

On 7th May Year 9 students at MMCC spent a whole day looking at the life of a British Tommy in the trenches of the First World War. The day was led by WW1 enthusiast, Andrew Spooner. An amazing collection of artefacts were on display, including Lee Enfield rifles, medical equipment, a gruesome collection of barbed wire and a Vickers Maxim machine gun. Students took part in various displays as well as an artefact handling session. In July students will visit the Ypres area of Belgium, a region that saw some of the worst fighting of World War One.

MMCC PTA Car Boot Sale

The recent Car Boot Sale at MMCC was a big success raising around £400 for PTA funds.

Ruth Martin

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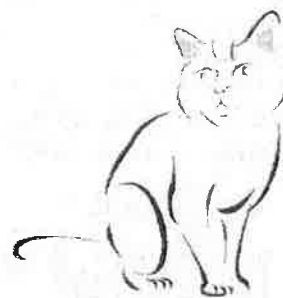
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STANSTED BEAVERS

Lord Baden-Powell chose St George to be the patron saint of the Scout Association as he felt that the St George of legend set a good example of faith, courage and perseverance. Continuing that tradition the 1st Stansted Beavers celebrated St George's day with a short play of the story of St George and the Dragon, and attending the district Renewal of Promise service in Hatfield Broad Oak.



As usual we have had a varied programme over the past few weeks. Before Easter we welcomed Martin West, who enthralled the Beavers with lots of facts about the solar system. More recently we had a fascinating visit to the historic and beautiful church of St Mary's. Our thanks to Audrey Rodgers for kindly showing us around. Now that summer is nearly here, we are hoping to make the most of it with lots of outdoor activities. Some new Beavers have joined our colony recently – welcome to Daniel, Joseph and Sofie! We are also saying goodbye soon to Joshua and Merlin, and wish them well as they move up to Cubs.

David South
Tel: 814371



VOLUNTARY and RECREATION PROFILES

For the benefit of our readers, especially those who have recently moved into the area, the 'Link' proposes to publish profiles of Stansted's various voluntary organisations and sports clubs. These will include details of venues, times and days of meetings, telephone numbers and email addresses. Although these will be correct at time of printing, there is a possibility that they can change in succeeding months so we hope, with the organisations' co-operation, to publish any changes from time to time.

NO 1 STANSTED MILLERS



Stansted's windmill is its most prominent feature and has become the village's icon. It is a brick tower mill, built in 1787, and it worked by wind until 1910. In 1934 its owner, Lord Blyth, gave the mill to the village and it has since been vested in the Parish Council and is administered by two trustees, one being the Council and the other independent. It contains intact almost all of its original machinery, the sails are able to turn in a favourable wind, and it is floodlit. During World War II and until 1963 it was used by Stansted Scouts as their headquarters. Three major renovations have been carried out since the sixties and it is hoped that another, which could enable the cap to turn 360°, will take place in the foreseeable future. It is classed as a National Monument and has Grade 2 star listing. An architect and millwright are appointed by English Heritage and the Parish Council.

The mill is managed by local people who, over 40 years ago, formed a group known as Stansted Millers. The group undertakes stewarding on Open Days, carries out minor maintenance tasks, raises funds for its upkeep and activates the sails. The principal event is the August Bank Holiday Fete which is one of the more spectacular Stansted occasions. Make sure you come!

Stansted Windmill is open from 1.30pm to 5.30pm on the first Sunday in the month, on Bank Holiday weekends on Sunday and Monday between Easter and October, and on National Mills Sunday in May. Windmill souvenirs are on sale and party or school visits can be arranged. Admission is only £1, children 50p, and refreshments are usually available. The Millers, with their new maroon sweatshirts, would welcome new members and/or regular donors. Instruction can be given on the rudiments of the milling operation. Anyone who could offer simple building or woodworking skills would also be useful additions to the team.

If becoming a Stansted Miller appeals to you, ring the Treasurer and Secretary, Alan and Marion Williams, on 813124 or email marionalan@uwclub.net. The mills' dedicated web-site is www.stanstedmountfitchetwindmill.co.uk. If you haven't yet seen around our best-known treasure, do make a visit.

Derek Honour
Co-Chairman



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Stansted network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

ACTIVITY WITH ENJOYMENT IN (HOPEFULLY) A BLUE SKY SUMMER

Stansted Tennis Club, which is situated on Cambridge Road, has two courts and welcomes tennis players of any standard (coaching is available if required). The costs of membership are modest – please see below for contact details. This is very much a village venture with the Parish Council leasing the land to the tennis club and maintaining the attractive surrounds. If you enjoy playing tennis then this friendly club may be for you. If you would like further information, please contact Richard Mott (Secretary) on 466348, Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 812073 or Daphne Lunnon (Membership Sec) on 817574. Alternatively, visit the website at www.stanstedtennis.co.uk. The Link carries information from Stansted Tennis Club each month.

STILL A QUALITY COUNCIL



The Clerk, Ruth Clifford, has piloted the Council through to re-accreditation as a Quality Council. A certificate recognising this achievement was presented to Geoffrey Sell (Chairman) and Ruth Clifford at a meeting of Uttlesford District Council by the Chairman of the Essex Association of Local Councils. Only four Parish Councils in the District enjoy this status.

NEW BUS SHELTERS ARE ON THE WAY!!

After a long period in which the necessary consents were lost in an administrative quagmire, it has been indicated that approval has been given. Hopefully the new shelters will soon be in place but, given the history of disappointment, no date

will be given in case it gives rise to undue excitement.

PRESENTATION TO PEGGY HONOUR

At the Reception hosted by the Parish Council, the Chairman presented Mrs Peggy Honour with a Caithness glass vase inscribed with a picture of Stansted Mill and expressed thanks for Peggy's long service to the Mill and the community, not least as a former parish councillor. Although Peggy has retired as the co-Trustee to the Mill, she retains an active interest in its renovation and future.

MOUNTFITCHET GREEN – MULTI-USE GAMES AREA FINISHED

The contractors have now applied the top surface so the area, which has largely been funded by money from The Big Lottery, is now ready for use. With so many children and young people in the area, this is a welcome addition to our facilities.

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS WHICH HELP PARISHIONERS

The Parish Council budgets £1,000 per annum to support organisations which require to raise funding to continue their operations. Only organisations which directly help parishioners in Stansted Mountfitchet are considered and the Council donates this modest sum of money at the end of its financial year having considered the merits of any applicants.

This year, the Council has decided to support two organisations:

- Citizens Advice Bureau – which last year gave advice to 232 of our parishioners and which has seen grant funding reduced – will receive £650.
- Home-Start Uttlesford – which provides weekly support for families with children under five who may be feeling isolated, stressed or have difficulty dealing with the demands of everyday life, have helped eight families in the parish last year and have two more on their waiting list – will receive £350.

HIGHWAYS – MORE DISCUSSION AND SOME AGREEMENT

A constructive meeting has taken place with a representative of Essex County Highways at which a wide range of highways and parking issues, which are proving troublesome, were discussed. On some agreement was reached, whilst on others more research will be needed. The state of play on each issue is summarised below.

- **Grove Hill traffic signals** – entering the village the build up of traffic, particularly at peak times, is not acceptable. Agreed to implement double yellow lines at the bottom and top of the hill (after recent consultation with residents). Action to tackle excessive speed on the Elsenham Road is to be investigated.
- **Parking on Lower Street** (from junction of Grove Hill to the Youth Centre) – the cost of a self-financing scheme, the inadequate number of parking spaces and the problems of enforcement militate against a Residents' Parking Scheme. The same reservations would apply elsewhere in the village. A parking ban for one hour a day may be trialled in order to remove commuter and airport parkers.
- **Traffic calming measures for High Lane**, on which residents have already been consulted, were agreed. These will take the form of two gateways.
- **A traffic calming scheme at the village end of Forest Hall Road** was agreed (again after residents' consultation). Speed cushions will be used.
- **The construction of a footpath from the Forest Hall estate along Forest Hall Road** to the junction with Church Road appears likely although there are still issues to be resolved.
- **Widening the footpath along Church Road** is under consideration given support from the landowner. Alternative schemes will be analysed.
- **Improving pedestrian safety over the railway bridge in Church Road** – widening the road appears unlikely in view of the cost, but a scheme to control traffic by lights is proposed for consideration. More work needs to be carried out on traffic volumes and stacking issues, particularly onto the Lower Street junction.
- **A pedestrian crossing in Silver Street** – agreed to have the required pedestrian and traffic counts carried out. Subject to results, the order of priority will be determined against other challengers in the county.

- **Other issues were covered** including the need for traffic calming in Walson (Watson!) Way and protecting pedestrians in Cooper's Alley, extending double yellow lines at the junction of Bentfield Road/Causeway and in the entrance to Spencer Close and problems in Blythwood Gardens.

If a substantial part of this programme is achieved over the next year, this will make the village safer. However, the continuing growth in car ownership and the lack of off or on street parking will pose on-going problems. The Council remains very conscious that action in one area may only move problems to adjacent areas. As such, proposed solutions will, as far as is possible, be tested to analyse their impact. Please continue to voice your concerns and ideas.

DECISION ON NIGHT-LIGHTING TURN OFF

Information from Essex County Council indicates that the conclusions on the existing schemes will be released in July, at which point decisions on whether to continue, amend or scrap the midnight to 5am blackout will be made.

NO PLAYScheme THIS SUMMER

The Parish Council has been unable to find a suitable venue from which to run a Summer playscheme. With St Mary's School unavailable as a result of building works, it had been hoped to use the Youth Centre. Although the latter was offered, there is inadequate space as a result (we are delighted to hear) of the success of the Spangles Children's Centre. As time is passing, it will be difficult to complete the registration process with Ofsted as well as recruiting suitable staff unless a suitable venue can be found.

The Council has decided with reluctance that it is not practicable to run a playscheme this year. However, there is good news (we hope) for next year as our three local schools are planning to combine their efforts to run a joint scheme. Given premises and access to qualified staff, this is a promising initiative.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

It may be of interest to parishioners to see a list of planning enforcement investigations which Uttlesford District Council is undertaking. Usually these are undertaken following allegations of breaches of planning consent, or where activities are being carried on where no planning application has been made:

Address	Alleged Breach
Land at Bentfield Barns	Storage of portable site offices/toilets behind security fencing
Land rear of Pond Lane	A frame barn and land being used for storage
Station House	No extraction outlet fitted
Land rear of Rochford Cl	Houses constructed larger than permission
Ardent House, M11 Business Park	Airport-related parking
Station Road	Airport-related parking
Brickyard Plantation, Elsenham Road	Roadways constructed
Park Ho, Elsenham Rd	Non-compliance with conditions
Parsonage Farm	Operating off airport car park
4 Chapel Hill	Being used as a deli and a café
Rear of Sworders	Airport-related parking

It is not difficult to recognise that UDC faces a long list across the District, with only a small team to investigate the issues. Of course, allegations may prove unfounded.

BOGUS LOTTERY LETTERS/E-MAILS:

From Stansted Policing Team

Please be aware that recently there has been a large increase in the amount of people receiving letters or emails informing the recipient that they have won some money in a foreign lottery. These letters ask for a response, and in some cases, money to claim a prize. Some advertise that the recipient has won a large sum of money, which can sound very appealing, but we urge people not to be tempted to reply, as these claims are predominantly bogus and intended to scam money out of the recipient.

If you reply, you will be bombarded with letters of a similar content and people who have paid money to claim a prize, have never received it. Instead they have been requested to pay even more money. These letters/emails are usually from Europe, the most recent cases coming from Spain. Information from our Crime Prevention Of-

ficer is that we do not investigate these incidents locally as the correspondence is usually a mailbox in a foreign country, which becomes impossible to trace. There is a government agency/specialist police department in London which is dealing with and continually investigating these issues/frauds on an international scale. On the down side of this, there is currently no forwarding address or means of contacting these specialist units. Our advice to people is that if you haven't entered a competition, how can you win anything?

Please also be aware that we have recently suffered with an increase in the number of burglaries, which target sheds and outbuildings. Items such as gardening tools and equipment are being taken. Please be vigilant and exercise proper security measures in relation to any sheds or outbuildings that you own.

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

June 3	-	Full Council
June 17	-	Full Council
June 24	-	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.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

From Cllr Geoffrey Sell

Eco towns

Full council met recently, and the main item on the agenda was the Council's response to the Elsenham eco-town proposal. Councillors were presented with four alternative responses to the Government.

I supported Option 2 which would have had the council object to North East Elsenham as a strategic development location. This would endorse the arguments set out by the local communities and other parties against Elsenham as a location for an ecotown of 5,000.

The Administration were unable to support this and instead the Council has adopted as its response:

Reiteration of the Council's objections that national planning policy statements should not seek to identify potential locations for eco-towns such as North East Elsenham or anywhere else. The Planning Policy Statement should confine itself to providing support, to high standards being set by local planning authorities in their local development frameworks for carbon emissions, climate change adaptation, affordable homes, employment, accessibility and transport, local services, green space, habitat creation for biodiversity, water efficiency, flood risk management and waste.

If the local authority identifies that an eco-town would be the most appropriate of the reasonable alternatives, It should support local planning authorities in rejecting planning applications for proposal that do not meet exemplar standards which are challenging and stretching.

Freedom of Entry to the District

Councillors supported the proposal to grant freedom of entry to the District to the 33rd Engineer Regiment who are based at Carver Barracks in Debden.

This would allow the regiment the right to march through the streets of the district with due ceremony, bayonets fixed, colours flying and bands playing. The proposal gives some recognition to the hazardous work the regiment does on our behalf around the world.

Council Finances

These continue to show improvement and we anticipate being in budget for the current financial year. We are forecasting a small surplus. There is no definite news about our investment in Landsbanki and whether we are likely to get it back. Revenue streams for small district councils such as Uttlesford are fragile with downturns in planning applications. Increasingly the Council will be looking to working in partnership with other local authorities.

SOUTH UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY FORUM

Come along to the Multi-agency South Uttlesford Community Forum on Tuesday 9th June at in the Main Hall, Helena Romanes School, Dunmow. This is your opportunity to hear about, and discuss, issues in your area with Uttlesford District Council Councillors and Officers, Essex Police, Essex County Council's Highways Department and NHS West Essex. Doors open at 7.15pm - meeting starts at 7.30pm.

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

Alan Dean Tel: 01279 813579
Email: cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Hudson Tel: 01279 814489
Email: cldrudson@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Salmon Tel: 01279 814789
Email: cldr salmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell Tel: 01279 815925
Email: cldr sell@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cllrgooding@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

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

SUMMER SOIREE

Saturday 4th July at 6.00pm is the date and time set for our popular, biennial Summer Soiree featuring many outstandingly talented local young musicians in St John's Church and gardens. Taking part will be:

Antony Camillo (piano) who is in his second year at the Scottish Academy and has played on Radio3;

Sally Harding (oboe) – Harlow Young Musician of the Year (HYM) runner-up who hopes to study in Paris next year;

Amy Morrow (clarinet) who studies at the Guildhall and has also been HYM runner-up;

Leonid Plashinov-Johnson (violin) is a pupil at the Menuhin School and this year's HYM winner;

James Priest, who has studied voice and piano at the Birmingham Conservatoire;

Alice Prodger (piano) attends Chelmsford High and has passed all her piano grades with distinction;

Harriet Walker ('cello) attends the Junior Guildhall in London and was formerly in the National Children's Orchestra.

The first half of the concert is in the church and in the interval there will be supper, licensed bar and jazz in the church gardens. Tickets, which we ask you to purchase in advance please for catering purposes, are adults £12, accompanied children £5, including food, available from: Stansted Carpets, Nockolds Solicitors Bishops Stortford, and Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill Tel: 815282. For more information about music@stansted and future events please visit our website at www.musicatstansted.com.

Alan Corbishley

The children at Rainbow have been enjoying learning dinosaur songs this term, especially the roaring parts! The current theme is 'The World About Us' and so they have been getting out in the woods to investigate. The children also made their regular visit to the library and each child will be encouraged to talk about and share the book they chose. Two of the stories during the last month were 'Handa's Surprise' and the 'Enormous Turnip' which involved some very entertaining acting out. This was in preparation for digging the children's own garden and planting vegetables.

Some of the older group have enjoyed being introduced to the Reception class at St Mary's and meeting their new teachers and making friends to make it all familiar before their transition to primary school in September. Meanwhile, the younger group did their annual sponsored cake bake and managed to produce lots of chocolate crispy cakes and raise funds for Rainbow in the process. The staff enjoyed an ICT training day at the beginning of the term led by our Early Years Adviser, Sian Ansell, who introduced them to new techniques to make the recording and processing of the children's learning journeys simpler.

Please do come along to our next fundraising event on Saturday 20th June 2.00pm-4.00pm at the Quaker Meeting House when we will be holding our summer fête There will be lots of fun activities including hook a duck, toy stall, children's entertainment and homemade cream teas.

If you are interested in a place for your child at Rainbow Tots (age 18 months to two and a half years) please contact Tina South on 814371. If you are interested in a place at the pre-school we are now taking names for September entry. Please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for further information.



Isabelle Page
Rainbow Committee

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Wellbeing



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

A ship anchors. Supplies are taken on board and course directions checked. Human wellbeing is similar in nature. Are you aware of how you anchor yourself in the ever-changing sea of life? Classical singers are encouraged to 'mark the piece' as they approach a performance. Anchoring to the piece of music saves the voice and allows the brain last minute revision and rehearsal time. Singers and musicians aim to remember their role as servant of the music or, failing that, to follow the conductor's beat, smiling sweetly, ever hopeful for next season's contract.

When people suffer with depression/anxiety they lose their grounding and sense of hope. Food goes uneaten, clothes unwashed and they can become isolated. Psychologists encourage a person to anchor him or herself into the day by making a list (mental and emotional distress is increased by reliving negative past memories or negatively projecting into the future). At the beginning of the day, the list consists of tasks such as eating and maybe taking a small walk outside. As the day progresses, a list of achievements grow, rebuilding the person's self esteem. In time, the empty page becomes a creative planning ground, anchored securely by a belief in human potential and resilience.

We carry our children until we can put them down. We watch with pride their new-found mobility as they stand on their own two feet. They continue to call for help, a pull on the anchor 'Mum'. If I had a pound for every time I've replied "I'm here", I would be a very rich woman. As I visit my Mum at her nursing home, in one breath I say, "Mum, I'm here". I anchor myself rather than drift into a boundless sea of dementia.

Yoga students enjoy standing on one leg! As they practise the tree posture, they anchor themselves by aligning with the forces of nature. They direct their energy in opposite directions causing positive tension - arms towards the sky and a foot rooted to the ground. They anchor their wellbeing to the rhythm and movement of the breath. The inward breath brings energy into the body; the outward breath releases tension. The chosen posture is created and sustained. Our bodies (unlike our minds) don't live in the past or the future but firmly in the present moment - they make great anchors.

An anchor, which holds a large ship by necessity, lies at a distance from the bow. Our spiritual wellbeing connects to a power that is beyond and within our very being. Life is turbulent and unpredictable. We anchor our wellbeing when we stand back from our life situation. This time too will pass and then "Up anchor, my hearties", and the voyage begins again.

Isobel

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STANSTED SCOUTS

Congratulations to Lee Snelling for gaining his Chief Scout's Gold Award, the highest award in the Scout section. It's been some time since a Stansted scout gained the award. Lee has taken part in a wide variety of camps, activities and challenges over the last four years, resulting in the completion of eight of the nine Challenge Awards. He still intends to gain the ninth and final award before he has to leave us in the summer. Well done Lee.

Many of the scouts have taken advantage of the opportunity to go gliding. This was using the Hertfordshire scouts' own motorised glider based near Royston. Fine weather greeted the guys, which meant they all had a 30 minute flight with fantastic views of the surrounding countryside.

Recently, we went down to Skreens Park Scout Activity Centre to take on our District in the rafting competition. Our young team did well coming in third place after their four timed runs were combined.

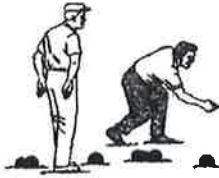


Every May bank holiday weekend, we have our annual four day District Camp in Hatfield Forest. Sixteen of our Scouts camped under canvas and cooked for themselves while taking part in a variety of activities throughout the forest. The aerial runway is always popular, as is the archery and air rifles.

St George's Day parade was this year in Hatfield Broad Oak. St George is the patron saint of Scouting and we use this time to renew our promise. It was nice to see such a good turnout from the Stansted Scouts.

The numbers continue to rise and we now have 28 members with more to come up from the Cubs. Anyone interested in helping just come and down and see what we do on a Monday evening.

Mike Byrne
Scout Leader



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

We opened the green on Saturday 18th April and we had a fine dry day which was great for our first game of the season. Since then the weather has remained reasonable so fingers crossed. We held our annual Bowls for Beginners session on Sunday 26th April and we had around eight people come along and give it a try and we now hope that they enjoyed it enough to become members. If anyone else feels they would like to try it out but could not make that session just call in at the club any evening after 7.00pm and we can arrange to give you some coaching. We have this year reduced our subscriptions to £40 for new members so that it will assist them in purchasing bowls etc.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Stansted Airport Community Trust for granting us £1000 which will go some way towards the purchase of new furniture, flooring and a replacement dishwasher. We would also like to wish our ex greenkeeper and life member Jim Stockley very best wishes on his 90th birthday celebrated in May this year. Jim carried out the green keeping at the club for many years without the aid of specialist equipment and materials and could be seen going back and forth to the club early morning and late evening to water the green. No one messed with him when it came to moaning about or mistreating the green as all he had to do was give you one of his looks and you knew you were in the wrong! With age comes the struggle to continue bowling but he has still had the occasional game indoors although outdoors is now difficult. He was one of the club's best leading bowlers for many years. Happy Birthday Jim and have many, many more! All for now.

Rex Turner
Secretary/Captain



The National Childbirth Trust
Education for Parenthood

STANSTED AND DISTRICT NCT

Our enthusiastic volunteers ran another highly successful Nearly New Sale on 25th April at St John's Church Hall. We raised over £1,400 for the National Childbirth Trust, which was our best yet. Beautiful spring weather, some amazing volunteers and our ever-increasing thrifty public enjoyed a bumper sale with over 180 people coming through the doors to find a bargain. Our sales cater for babies and children, with everything from nearly new prams, high chairs, and cots, outdoor play equipment, clothes, books, DVDs and baby equipment. A big thank you to the organisers and helpers. Our next sale is 17th October. If you wish to sell, please contact Jane on 08442 436281, Option 2.

Spring has also brought out our adventurous side and we are off to Audley End to brave the weather and have a picnic after a train ride for the little ones. We are hoping to have a fire station visit, a pub lunch and a visit to the forest this summer. Our numbers are also up with our membership hitting an all time high.

I wish to welcome all our newcomers and we look forward to catching you at our upcoming events. We have started running Refresher Ante-Natal Courses for parents who already have at least one child and are pregnant with another. For more information please contact our bookings clerk, Amanda Guttridge on bookings5j@nct.org.uk or phone 08442 436893. For any further information on the NCT whether it be local or national, please check out the website, www.nct.org.uk.

Donna Butler



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MYTHS, LEGENDS, CUSTOMS

ASPEN TREES (*Populus tremula*)

Celtic warriors made their shields from aspen wood which was thought to protect the bearer from physical and psychic harm. It was a tree of heroes who wore crowns of poplar leaves, giving them power to visit and return from the Underworld in safety. Aspen crowns have been found in ancient burial mounds perhaps in the hope that the deceased could return from the dead. Treasure was buried beneath aspen trees to give protection. The wind in these trees makes them quiver and give a rustling sound which associated them with spirits. A Scottish myth has it that an aspen leaf placed under the tongue would provide more eloquence. Also in the Highlands some people were against using the wood for fishing, agricultural implements and house building, believing it to be a faerie tree. As it is a lightweight wood it would probably not be suitable for these purposes anyway. Another legend has it that it was the wood used for the Crucifixion Cross from which time the trees have trembled in shame.

Peggy Honour



Nature Notes

This spring the cock blackbirds in the garden have been having their usual squabbles which sometimes developed into fierce fights with much pecking and fluttering. On the whole our local birds tend to avoid physical combat and seem to accept a 'pecking order.' When the blackbird wants to chase the smaller thrush off the lawn, the thrush always backs off. Sometimes the deciding factor in a contest is not size, but rather a determination to stand up for one's rights. Over the fields we watched a buzzard approach the territory of a pair of kestrels and immediately one of the kestrels flew up to intercept. From the ground it looked a very uneven David and Goliath contest but after a couple of diving attacks by the kestrel the buzzard decided that he did not want to be there anyway and turned to glide back the way he had come.

Robins can be aggressive birds and one hopped up to a hedge sparrow which was foraging at the edge of the lawn and gave it a peck. The hedge sparrow, which is a shy little bird that rarely strays more than a few feet from the bushes, stood its ground and gave the robin a peck in return. The hedge sparrow has a small but sharp beak and the bully beat a retreat - lesson learned.

By the time you are reading this most of our spring flowers will be well past their best. It has been a good year for cowslips and there has been a wonderful carpet of bluebells in the woods. We are fortunate to be on the edge of the oxlip growing area which is mainly restricted to North Essex and Suffolk, but this year there has been a profusion of plants with very few flowers. They could have been affected by the dry spring because blooms have only appeared in ditches and very damp areas of the woods. However, now is the time that a host of early summer flowers appears. Purple orchids are blooming and can be found in woods and damp places. Bee orchids grow locally and often appear where the ground has recently been disturbed along road verges. Young rabbits are hopping around and one can see signs of much badger activ-

ity along the lanes. So, folks, it's all out there, close by, and free to view.

Felix

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Friday 12th June 10.30am-1.00pm
Recreation Ground

Pre-school children from Stansted are helping to make a big difference to other little children, by taking part in the Barnardo's Big Toddle 2009. By doing a short sponsored event, our toddlers will be raising money for Barnardo's Early Years work with disadvantaged and vulnerable under fives in local projects throughout the UK. This includes services for children with disabilities, young carers, and mums and dads who need support to help their children. Now in its thirteenth year, the Big Toddle continues to be the UK's biggest sponsored event for under fives! Nearly half a million children registered for the Barnardo's Big Toddle 2008, and the children's charity is hoping even more will sign up for some summer fun this year, helping to raise vital funds for Barnardo's. This is an inspiring event - one which we hope will give our children a fantastic time, whilst raising money for those who really need it. Want to do your bit for charity? And find a reason to get the kids exercising in the fresh air? There will be a Barnardo's organised Big Toddle event taking place on Friday 12th June 2009 on the Recreation Ground in Stansted - based around a short sponsored walk and obstacle course for the under fives.

How do you join the Big Toddle?

You can call me on 07818 213723 or register online in minutes at www.stanstedbigtoddle.tumblr.com.

What do we wear?

Many of our children love dressing up - if you wish to attend in fancy dress, we'd love to see what you have chosen! If cold or wet, please bring appropriate clothing.

Thank you to Bentfield Primary School and St Mary's Primary School who have both agreed to bring their nursery classes along.

Rachel Pocknell



**Huw Johnson
Club**

We had a very enjoyable Bingo Evening on 7th May. Our members are now experts at finding the number called and delight in bellowing loudly "Bingo" when they complete their card. The room is usually very quiet which is an unusual occurrence. We have now received a cheque for £557 from Waitrose and we are planning a trip to the seaside. Changes will be taking place soon as we may be using the Uttlesford Community Minibus which is stationed at Saffron Walden. This will mean that our minibus drivers and escorts will no longer have to travel to Dunmow to pick up the bus. This will also mean a much earlier finish for our drivers and escorts. Put the date for our coffee morning into your diary. This will take place on Wednesday 17th June at 10.00am in the Day Centre. Raffle prizes and cakes for the cake stall will be gratefully received. However we do not want second-hand clothes. Thank you all for your support.

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Very good Ofsted report (March 2008)

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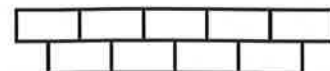
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STANSTED CARNIVAL IN BYGONE YEARS

I have found three old Stansted Carnival photos which will be of interest. All three are of entries in the carnival by the Stansted Congregational Drama Group. I think the first two are our first ever entry



into the carnival - probably around 1965. The car belonged to Brenda Vaughan; she lived at Henham and her father was a fireman at the airport - she was also my girlfriend for a short time. The entry was supposed to represent a popular children's TV programme at the time and



we were all dressed as the animal characters. I think I am inside the cow. Brenda is on the left and the person on the right is Alison Little.

The third photo was entitled 'And her Mother came too'. Line up - Me on left with Alison Little as the bride, Valerie Little (her older sister) as the Mother, Brian Wright and Betty Markwell. I think we used Betty's car. This was probably one or two years after the first entry.



From time to time Dick Pollard writes about the carnival. Some of my first memories are when Aubrey Buxton, who was with Anglia TV, used his influence to attract a rising TV/film starlet to the carnival, Susan Hampshire, a blond vision of loveliness in a fetching lemon outfit with an impressively large hat. She was conveyed to Hargrave Park on the top of a huge stagecoach drawn by some magnificent horses. For a rural yokel in post war Britain, this was quite something. I seem to remember that the sun always shone for Carnival Day - but then it would in memories, wouldn't it!

Another feature of life in Stansted in the 1950s was the annual flower show, and my grandfather, at that time being a gardener by trade, regularly entered his vegetables and fruit and quite often won some prizes - I vaguely remember them as being the odd shilling cash prize. My mother often entered flower arrangements and one year persuaded me to enter the 'wild flower arrangement'. I duly scoured the countryside for flowers which included scabious, meadowsweet etc and some beautiful blue globe thistles which I found growing wild. I got disqualified as the judges said the thistles were cultivated flowers - quite a disappointment for an 8/10 year old.

Another childhood memory is rather vague, but is of a pageant held at the Manor House. If Dick hasn't written about this in the 'Link', he might like to search his memory as I remember it as being a very grand affair with lots of people from the village, including many of the primary school teachers dressed up in costumes to represent the various ages of history. Mrs Boddington (wife of Mr Boddington, teacher) is still fresh in my memory in a medieval costume with a tall pointed hat and flowing net veil. We were allowed into the Manor House kitchen to choose a cake/bun! I believe somewhere I have a copy of the Festival programme.

I left Stansted when I got married 41 years ago, and although we came back to the village regularly to see my mother, because she was elderly and by herself, time on visits was always taken up wrestling with her large garden, doing chores round the house etc. Mum passed away last January which is why I now have a number of old photos which I am still sifting through. Stansted will always have a place in our hearts, but we have got soft since we moved to Devon, then Dorset and we now find the village either too cold or too hot!!!! We live right next to the sea so are now not used to either frosts or extreme summer heat!!!!

Keith Eagleton

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Stansted Tennis Club



Clower Boys' Tournament

Fifteen boys aged between 10 and 14 participated in this popular annual tournament, which took place on 10th May. This is the seventh year of the tournament and once again we were blessed with a gloriously sunny day. The boys were divided into two groups in which round-robin matches of five games were played and according to how many points were amassed determined the pairings for the seeded knock-out draw. In the first semi-final, number one seeds Joe Hollis (14) and Thomas Taplin (13) defeated the number four seeds Matt Hollis (10) and Conor Hutchinson (10) in a closely fought 6-3 set. The younger pair were certainly not intimidated by the age difference and rallied very consistently. In the second semi-final on the adjacent court, number two seeds Richard Berry (13) and Lawrence Hogg (14) beat Henry Kirby (13) and Thomas Horton (13) 6-1. The final produced some sizzling rallies and exciting points. After a closely fought battle Joe and Thomas beat Richard and Lawrence 6-3. The players were cheered on by a large and enthusiastic crowd of supporters and the trophies were presented by Honorary Club member, Pat Clower.

Dates For Your Diary

14th June 12.45pm Clower Boys Singles tournament
20th June 4.30pm President's Cup Adult Tournament

Hospital Cup Tournament

Please look at the draw in the clubhouse as soon as possible in order to arrange and play all 1st round matches.

Coaching

The popular lunch-time adult coaching session continues throughout the year on a Friday between 2.00pm and 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 as usual for all junior age groups. 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

Priced at a reasonable £1 per tin of four balls, please contact Jan Hollis on 812073 or call at 105 Cambridge Road.

Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions at the following times:

Wednesdays at 10.00am and 6.00pm
Friday at 9.30am. Sunday at 10.00am

Contacts

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

Chris Hollis

SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect
of the night sky



Now that Pluto has been downgraded, Mercury has returned to being the smallest planet, just a little larger than the Moon, about 2,200 miles in diameter and the closest to the Sun, at an average of around 35 million miles. This proximity makes it difficult to see Mercury. In fact, it can only be seen, at the most, 90 minutes or so before sunrise or after sunset. This means that we never see the planet in complete darkness. Furthermore, we have to observe very near to the horizon, which means we have to look through a lot more of our atmosphere and this reduces the apparent brightness of Mercury. This atmospheric effect is known as extinction. To add even further to the frustration of learning more about the planet, Mercury, like Venus is closer to the sun than the Earth, so we can only see phases of the surface, never a complete hemisphere.

Despite these difficulties, Victorian astronomers made the first very accurate measurements on Mercury's orbit, as they had with other planets. However, they were confounded by a small but definite error in Mercury's orbit; it always made its way round the Sun a few minutes too quickly. Astronomers from quite different places all noted the error. The problem was not solved until Einstein came along with his ideas that space-time and gravity are connected. The intense mutual gravity between Mercury orbiting the Sun about every 88 days and the Sun's own gravity actually distorts time.

These days we have a much clearer view of Mercury due to the work of a spacecraft called Messenger, launched in 2004, which has mapped the whole planet and shows craters and much evidence for volcanic activity, which is unsurprising with the great gravitational forces which Mercury experiences. Messenger was, in fact, the second craft to go to Mercury; the first was Mariner 10 in 1974, which had a most unfortunate result. Mariner was given a highly elliptic orbit round the planet which meant that the craft was sometimes millions of miles from the planet. At that time, we did not know how long a Mercury 'day' lasted. The unfortunate thing was that Mariner's orbit chimed exactly with the planet's rotation thus ensuring that on each of its three designated orbits, it photographed the same bit of Mercury. But at least we knew the length of a Mercury day!

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Government deals further blow to Stansted runway plans

Figures contained in the Budget Report – and their impact on the Department for Transport (DfT) forecasts for UK air travel demand – show that the gloomier outlook for the UK economy means that a new Stansted runway would not be needed before 2030 at the very earliest. Alistair Darling's Budget Report last week shows a further deterioration in the growth outlook for the UK economy to 2030 which SSE calculates reduces the demand forecasts for Stansted to about 42.7 million passengers by 2030, well within the capacity of the existing runway. When BAA submitted its planning application in March 2008, its demand forecast of 68 million passengers by 2030 was underpinned by the DfT demand forecasts at that time. However, the DfT has since reduced its demand forecasts for Stansted because of the deteriorating economic outlook. Initially the DfT trimmed its 2030 demand forecasts to 55 million passengers and then, in January 2009, announced a further reduction to 46.5million, based on applying the Government's projections for UK economic growth contained in the November 2008 Pre-Budget Report. This further reduction to 42.7 million passengers reflects the difference between the economic projections in the Pre-Budget Report and those published in the actual Budget Report last week.

Moreover, the Government's growth projections for the UK economy are widely regarded as over-optimistic. If the latest IMF projections were to be applied, the 2030 demand forecast for Stansted would be much less than 42.7m passengers. These latest Government figures totally pull the rug from under BAA's feet and show that it would be a complete waste of time and money for BAA to insist on proceeding with a Public Inquiry when there is no prospect of its project being approved. We have the Competition Commission saying that BAA must sell the airport; we have both the main opposition parties pledged to cancel the second runway project; we have Stansted passenger numbers down by more than 20 per cent since 2007; and now we have these new forecasts showing that the existing runway can cope with predicted demand for at least the next 20 years. How much more evidence does BAA need before it will accept that its dream of a second runway is dead in the water? If BAA won't abandon this project, the Government should step in and cancel it for them. In these austere times, this Spanish-owned company should not be allowed to force UK taxpayers and local council taxpayers into incurring totally pointless and wasteful expenditure.

Brian Ross, Economics Adviser
Tel: 814961, Mobile: 07850 937143
Email: brian.ross@lineone.net

MANUDEN GUIDES



A group of girls from Manuden Guides spent a great three days at Guidewoods in Hockley during the Easter holidays. Our theme was 'St. Trinians' and one evening we dressed appropriately- see photo opposite:



Another evening we took part in a wide game in the wooded grounds, based on stealing the painting 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' (as in the movie), and decided that we wouldn't make very good art thieves: probably no bad thing! Other theme-related activities were a rather unusual hockey match and dance routines to the film's sound track.

We went by bus into Southend on one of the hottest days of the year so far. We were able to sunbathe on the beach, paddle in the sea, enjoy some rides in Adventure Island and even fit in a bit of shopping. Another day saw us out in the grounds, using the stream, trees, logs and items of camp equipment to make fitness trails, which everyone tried out with varying degrees of success! We even fitted in an Easter Egg Hunt: everyone managed to solve the clues and find their eggs. We all had a super time, in a beautiful setting, trying new things, getting to know each other better, and having lots of fun.

The following two weeks were spent putting the finishing touches to our pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. The performance took place on 5th May to a full hall of Brownies, parents, and friends, who all seemed to enjoy it. The girls certainly enjoyed performing it, even when the CD player refused to work, just singing on as though nothing had happened. The pantomime cow probably stole the show, although all the girls did well.



*The characters in the panto photo are:
Hen (Laura Armorgie), Town Crier (Georgia King), Jack's Mother (Daisy Musgrove), Jack (Helen Carter), Cow (Daisy Kershaw and Aisha Sollars), Giant's Housekeeper (Olivia Tait), Magic Bean Seller (Estelle Williams)*

Then followed the presentation of Lesley and Glynis' awards for 30 years in Guiding, and the evening ended with a celebration!

Glynis Prothero



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MERCER AND HUGHES BLOOD DONOR DAY

I'm pleased to report that our first blood donor day was a tremendous success with clients bringing dogs in from as far away as Braintree and Bishops Stortford. It was run in conjunction with the Pet Blood Bank, an organisation that collects blood from volunteer dogs, processes it at their centre in Loughborough and then distributes it to vets across the country, so blood is available for transfusions. We first became aware of the Pet Blood Bank more than a year ago when Spot, a lively Staffordshirebull terrier, started haemorrhaging after a routine operation. We used one of the vet's dogs as a blood donor on the day of Spot's operation as it was an emergency, but further tests revealed that Spot was in fact a haemophilic and missing one of the clotting factors in his blood. We soon realised that we would need a regular supply of blood as it was likely that Spot would suffer further bleeds during his life. The pet blood bank supply plasma which can be frozen and stored so it is always available for an emergency.

On the day there were 15 donor dogs. Blood donation is very similar to the human situation; a small sample of blood is taken first to make sure the dog is not anaemic and a thorough questionnaire is filled in. Then the dog is positioned on a padded table and about half a pint of blood is taken from the jugular vein. All the dogs behaved brilliantly and were rewarded with a tin of food and a goody bag - and the owners got tea and biscuits too! It is hoped that the blood donor days will become a regular feature as dogs can give blood four times a year. A free health screen is run on each dog's blood and the owners also get to know their dog's blood group. If anyone is interested in their dog becoming a blood donor, please contact Lisa the head nurse at the Saffron Walden surgery for more details.

It just so happened that Spot was in the surgery on the day, as he had cut his mouth, so he was able to say thank you to all the wonderful people at the Pet Blood Bank that have saved his life on several occasions now! Mr and Mrs Neal, his owners, said "Most owners are probably unaware of the need for blood donors among dogs, but having a haemophilic really brings it home. Striking a balance between wrapping him in cotton wool and allowing him to have the freedom to live a happy fulfilled life is hard. Mercer and Hughes have become a central part of our lives and without the diligence, dedication and attentiveness of all their staff our little guy would not be alive today. No words can begin to describe what their involvement with Spot has meant to us." All I can say is that it has been a pleasure to treat Spot over the last year and thank you to his owners for their kind words.

Ilse Pedler
Partner

Mercer and Hughes, Veterinary Surgeons

SUPPORT 4 SIGHT

Sponsored Abseil – Sunday 3rd May

As a local resident and Support 4 Sight's Chairman I undertook a sponsored abseil down Church Langley Water Tower on Sunday 3rd May with the Director, Madeleine Cassidy – a distance of 110 feet! The occasion was organised by the Harlow Rotary Club and is an annual fundraising event which is well-attended. A large group of well-wishers and staff from Support 4 Sight came along to cheer on Madeleine and me. It was quite an experience. Once we had put the harness on we had to climb up through the centre of the water tower and I took a deep breath when we got to the vertical steel ladders and saw how high they were. Once I got to the top it was quite windy but there was an incredible view and particularly of the M11!

The men in charge attached ropes to my harness. I then had to put my legs onto the concrete supports, let go and inch over and dangle over the side which is not quite as easy as it sounds. It was 'take a deep breath' again time and then step backwards. Coming down the view was quite amazing although I found it a bit hard to let go when I was asked to wave to everyone below as it was quite windy and I was hanging on hard to the rope. Would I do it again? – yes for such a good cause. I have been sponsored for over £400 for Support 4 Sight and would like to thank everyone who has supported me.



Funds are needed to run the centre in Saffron Walden and to provide home visits to people who are losing their sight or are becoming blind. Support 4 Sight is a local charity that helps visually impaired and blind people in West Essex to remain independent and assists 2500 people each year. The centre in George Street is open to callers during weekdays. If you would like to donate to the charity, or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer with Support 4 Sight, please telephone 01799 523700.

Iris Evans

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

(every 3rd Saturday of the month)

Saturday 20th June 10.00am-12 noon

Ugley Village Hall

Meat, poultry, eggs, pate, bread and home baking, fruit and veg, honey,
cut flowers, plants, cards and crafts

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'From Idealism to Disillusion 1914 - 1918'
Saturday 27th June 9.30 am - 2.30 pm
Peter Kirk Centre, St John's Road

A one-day course (due to be led by Judith Moss & David Morson) on the History and Literature of World War 1. There will be an optional follow-up visit to the Somme if there is sufficient interest.

Advance enrolment essential

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494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

We start this month having marked a major event in the history of the unit. The Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Lord Petre, performed the official opening of our new Squadron Headquarters. The Squadron marched down from the old headquarters in First Avenue led by the band of 2317 (Harlow) Squadron. Guests included Wing Commander Glen Mayes, OC Essex Wing and Lieutenant Colonel Dylan Wells representing 494th Fighter Squadron USAF from Lakenheath. Squadron Padre Reverend Canon Chris Bishop held a service of dedication and Lord Petre cut the ribbon to allow everyone into our superb new accommodation. We all then enjoyed a lovely buffet lunch laid on by Daphne Smith and her band of helpers.

The eagerly anticipated Inter-Squadron Falklands Competition was held at Carver Barracks with 27 teams from all over the county taking part. Cadets were tested on a wide range of skills including map reading, small bore shooting and first aid. There were both missile and log races and a navigation exercise to complete. It was a hard fought contest with our A and B teams coming third and sixth respectively. The A team will now go on to compete against teams from both the Army and Sea Cadets in the Tri-Services Competition and we wish them the best of luck.



A sterling performance by our athletics team resulted in success at the recent Inter-Squadron Athletics held in Chelmsford. We were competing against some really large units with Southend Squadron alone fielding some 60 plus cadets, so achieving overall third place was a superb effort.

Members of the Squadron were called upon to provide a Guard of Honour for guests arriving at the Parish Council Reception held at Crafton Green. The cadets were praised for their smart turnout.

Cadets and staff from the Squadron assisted with marshalling duties at the Cancer Research UK Race for Life held in Harlow. They joined Cadets from 2317 (Harlow) Squadron to support the event which saw over 3,000 ladies run, jog and walk a five kilometre course around the Town Park to raise money for this very worthwhile cause.

If you are aged between 13 and 17 and interested in joining us call us on 681559 or visit our website for more information: www.stanstedaircadets.org.uk.

Simon Stacey
494 Squadron ATC



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

May Meeting

'A Humorous look atThe Good Life (Part 1)' was the topic of May's speaker, Peter Webb. Twenty five years ago Peter and his wife Mary decided to try and become self-sufficient. In some ways they resembled Tom and Barbara Good (from the TV series), as they were living in suburbia when they first decided to dig up a third of their back lawn and grow vegetables. Over the following years the rest of the lawn was dug up and converted to vegetables. The flower beds in the front garden became home to runner beans and more vegetables – a very unusual sight in suburbia! They even had a neighbour who resembled Margot Leadbetter!!

From the garden they progressed to owning one, then two allotment plots. However, after using his tractor to plough his plots, he was banned by his local Allotment Society and it was at this time that Peter and Mary decided to try and find a smallholding. However, this was in the 1970s and they were gazumped three times before they came across a derelict smallholding on the edge of the Essex marshes near Tolleshunt D'Arcy. This 'desirable residence', as the estate agent described it, had outbuildings and acreage - just what they were looking for to house their sheep, grow crops and generally feed themselves.

Throughout the evening Peter praised and acknowledged the work that his wife had done over the years to make things work. He declared that without his wife working alongside him, their dream could not have been fulfilled. The evening was full of anecdotes from start to finish which had the members in fits of laughter all evening. Watch this space for ... 'The Good Life Part 2'!

June Meeting

The meeting on 3rd June is NOT at the Day Centre - June's meeting is a visit to Mr and Mrs David Harrison's garden at Turner's Spring in Burton End from 7.30pm. When everyone has finished wandering around the garden, we will hold our Question and Answer Time – so bring along any question or queries you may have and we will try to answer/solve the problem. Please bring along camping chairs if you have them.

Summer Coach Outing – Saturday 19th July

Names are being taken for our summer coach outing to the Garden at Harcourt House in Bromley, followed by a visit to the World Garden at Lullingstone Castle in Eynsford Kent. The cost is £16 per person.

Maralyn Harris
Tel: 07919 478144

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If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk or send the form below to 58 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AQ. Details must be submitted by the 11th of the month for publication the following month.

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