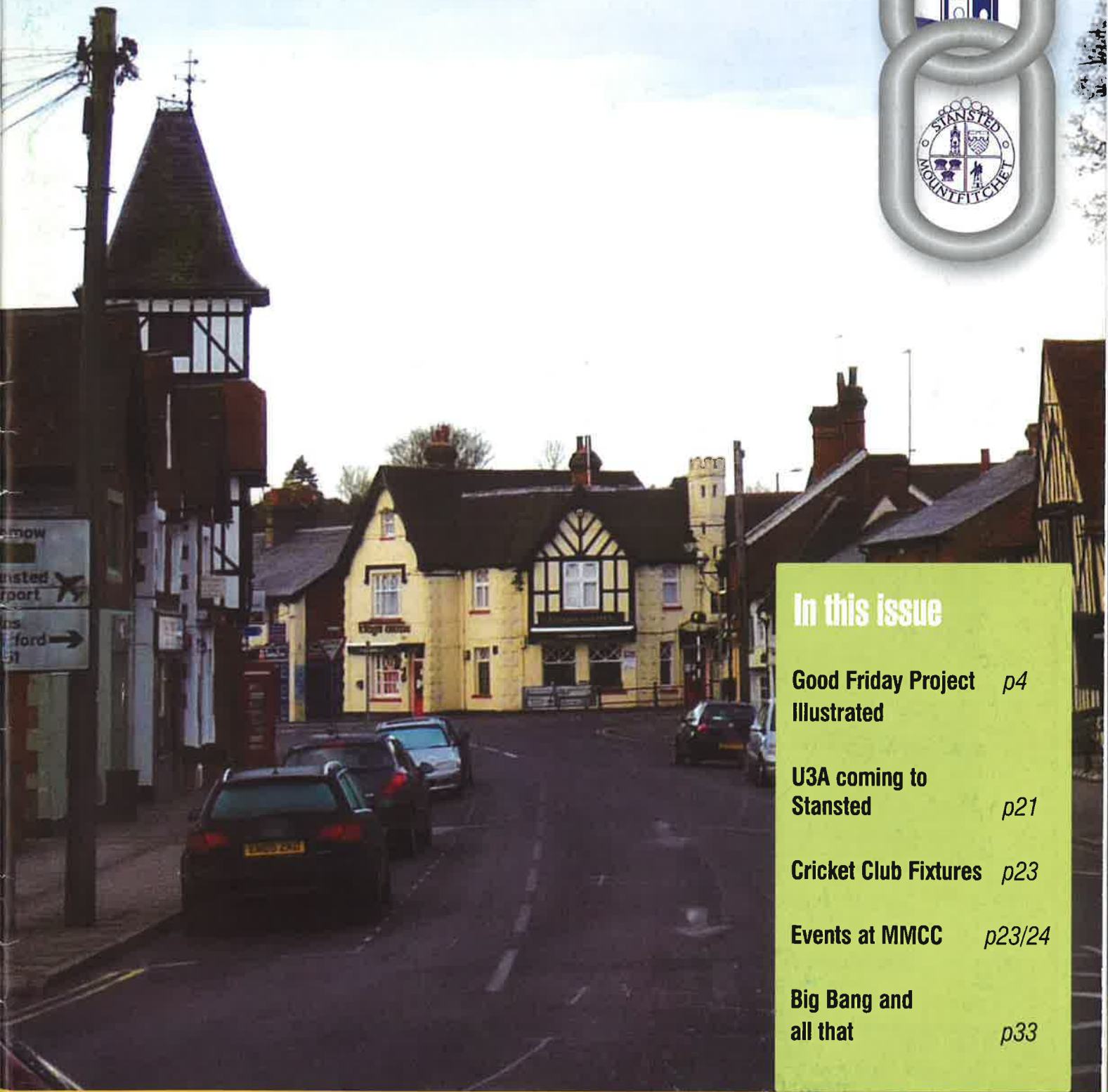


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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all that *p33*

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May 2009

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Editorial



The local Footpaths Association has commended Tony Wellings for initiating rights of way information on-line, beginning with some 14 walks within 10 miles of Bishop's Stortford. In Copenhagen an international gathering of scientists has bluntly told the politicians to act rather than talk about climate change. These two disparate pieces of news, one local and the other global, each point in a similar direction - that we should acquaint ourselves with simple, inexpensive and low carbon-footprint ways of keeping healthy and appreciating the natural world. We in Uttlesford are fortunate that there is delightful countryside on our doorstep, a network of footpaths and bus routes, and a most rewarding succession of seasonal variations. It's all there for our benefit.

A review of Stansted's roads has shown that the County Council is plodding through the backlog of patching brought about by an old-fashioned winter. Footways, however, are lagging - Silver Street being an extreme example. Putting aside ownership, Stoney Common has re-established its position at the top of the Pothole League with a champion suspension-buster and several lesser craters, but St John's Road and Bentfield Road have interesting potential. Watch this space, but more particularly where you put your feet or wheels.

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 May
 for the June issue

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

Second week of May you are likely to be greeted on your doorstep by a friendly, properly authorised, collector requesting your Christian Aid envelope, filled with generous donations! Gift aided, where possible, please help sustain the fight for a better life for millions of people around the world. When I first became interested in spiritual matters, back in the 1960s, I realised this includes coming alive to issues of hunger and poverty. Every pound donated is accounted for: dedicated relief and development agencies like CAFOD, Oxfam, and Tear Fund and Christian Aid always work with trusted overseas partners.

Christian Aid also educates our awareness of not only poverty's extent and its deadly outcomes, but also about true causes and real cures. Christian Aid joins in campaigning to make governments take notice of what we ordinary people think about unjust world trade rules that are making it impossible for local growers, say, in an African country, to get a fair price for their produce because the government of that country is not allowed to protect their local markets against flooding by cheap, mass imports from richer nations who actually subsidise their growers on a huge scale.

To the growing chorus of concern about climate change Christian Aid also adds its voice. Global warming already makes life in poorer countries even less sustainable, which in turn sparks wars as neighbouring countries, or groups within, find themselves fighting over something as basic as a clean water supply. All of this action comes not from guilty feeling, which merely paralyses; your friendly Christian Aid collector is inspired by thankfulness, a passion for God's justice, and by Christ who said: "You will always have the poor with you, and you must do what you can to help".



Rev'd Allen R Morton
Stansted Free Church Methodist/
URC Ecumenical Partnership



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Rev'd David Mullins
Tel: 654475
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk
(On sabbatical from 14th May)

Lettings Janet Townsend
58 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AQ
Tel: 812593
lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Preachers for May

3rd 10.30 am Christine Heyhoe
10th 10.30 am Gordon Doyle
17th 10.30 am Rev'd John Buxton
Holy Communion
24th 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch
New Directions in Worship
31st 10.30 am Rev'd Allen Morton

As Rev'd David Mullins is on sabbatical from 14th May to 26th August, please contact Rev'd Allen Morton for all church matters during that time.

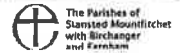
Did you know that Christian Aid is Britain's longest running fundraising week? It has been going since 1957. Look out for the distinctive red envelopes when they drop through your letterbox in Christian Aid Week. Did you know that Christian Aid works in 50 countries, regardless of race or religion? Working with its partner organisations such as Humanite Nouvelle in the Democratic Republic of Congo, it helps people like Nadia Kabula, whose family was struggling to make ends meet after her father died. Nadia attended a tailoring course run by Humanite Nouvelle and now she is looking forward to a brighter future. She is also passing on her skills to others in the community. To hear more about Nadia and the projects that our money supports, come along to the Act of Worship for Christian Aid Week on Sunday 10th May 6.30pm at the Friends Meeting House. For more about Christian Aid's work, please see Rev'd Allen Morton's excellent 'Thought for the Month'.

Use your brain power at Shalom's fundraising Christian Aid Quiz - 8.00pm Monday 11th May at 7 Blythwood Gardens. You don't have to be in a team, and there is no entrance charge, but be prepared to lose some money if you don't know the answer! There will also be prizes for correct answers, so you can be assured of a fun evening.

And finally, if anyone has a few hours to spare in Christian Aid week (10th-17th) to knock on some doors, please let me know as I am still short of envelope collectors.

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS



All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
Tel: 81 5243
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com
Office hours: 9.00am-12 noon, Monday,
Wednesday, Friday
Administrator: Mrs Elizabeth Jennings
Website: www.stansted.net/stjohns

Rector: Rev'd Paul Wilkin
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Email: paulwilkin@iname.com

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Dr Caroline Curren
Tel: 81 5243
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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)	The Lazer youth group meets on Sunday evenings at 7.30pm.
9.30am	Choral Eucharist (2nd - 4th Sundays)	

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

Nearly 50 people from the village churches joined this year's ecumenical Walk of Witness which started at St Theresa's Church and finished at St John's Church.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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The Presbytery
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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



SHALOM

We have one meeting in May, which will be a Christian Aid Quiz. Last year this was great fun – so please do come along – 8.00pm Monday 11th May at 7 Blythwood Gardens. See this month's Christian Aid article for more details.

On 1st June, Alan Hart will be talking to us about Street Pastors, and our evening on 15th June will be led by Stuart Veitch. More details next month.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

From the Registers

March

Baptisms

8th Andrew Jeffrey Gemmill
22nd Oliver Etham Luke Fothergill
William Thomas Fothergill

Wedding

7th Nichola Martin to Neil Tilstone

Funerals

13th Jean Collett, age 80 - at St Mary's
27th Ralph Dawson, age 85 - at St Mary's

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT 2009



The Good Friday Project was another great success for St John's Church and the children of Stansted and local areas. Nearly 90 children attended, enjoying a day getting ready to put on the play of 'Dr Luke and the case of the Empty Tomb', to show to their parents later in the day. They painted the scenery, made their own costumes, learnt the music and drama of the day, and created a beautiful Easter Garden to put under the altar table.



The children learned the real Easter story through looking for clues of the life of Jesus from birth, right up to the time he was crucified, then brought back to life. The Good Friday Project is a great way of introducing children to the reality of Easter, without trivialising the story, and at a pitch that they can enjoy and understand. Many thanks to everybody who helped on the day - we couldn't have done it without you!

Rachel Pocknell & Verity Beynon

Photos by Sarah Lee and Mike Howes



THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**Open Meeting
at the
Day Centre**

2.30 - 4.30 pm Thurs 30th April

Come and find out more about U3A and enrol in this new group.

There will be some suggested activities to join and we will be collecting ideas of the things you would like to do in the future.

Tel Maureen Lindsell 01279 850310



**St Mary's
Church Open**

2- 5 pm

**Sunday 3rd May
(and every 1st Sunday
until September)**

Everyone Welcome



Stansted Windmill

Open Days

1.30 - 5.30 pm

Note new opening times

Sun 3rd & Mon 4th May
Sun 10th May (Mills Day)
Sun 24th & Mon 25th May

VILLAGE EVENTS

April

27 Mon Shalom
30 Thu U3A Open meeting

7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
Day Centre 2.30 - 4.30 pm

May

2 Sat & 3 Sun Skips
3 Sun Red Cross Week begins
Windmill Open
St Mary's Church open
4 Mon Windmill Open
6 Wed Mountfitchet Club
Mountfitchet Garden Club
7 Thu Local History Society
9 Sat Table Top Sale
10 Sun Christian Aid Week begins
Windmill Open
11 Mon Shalom Christian Aid Quiz
14 Thu WI
16 Sat & 17 Sun Skips
21 Thu U3A
24 Sun & 25 Mon Windmill Open
30 Sat & 31 Sun Skips

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

1.30 - 5.30 pm
2 - 5 pm
1.30 - 5.30 pm
Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 8 pm
Day Centre 8 pm
St John's Hall 10 am - noon

1.30 - 5.30 pm
7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
St John's Hall 7.45 pm
Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
Day Centre 2.30 - 4.30 pm
1.30 - 5.30 pm
Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

June

1 Mon Shalom Street Pastors
3 Wed Mountfitchet Club
Mountfitchet Garden Club
4 Thu County Council Elections
6 Sat Interpreting Genesis
Mind Body Spirit Health Fair
7 Sun Windmill Open
St Mary's Church open
11 Thu WI

7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 8 pm

Brentwood Cath 10.30 am - 3 pm
Rhodes Centre, B Stfd noon - 5 pm
1.30 - 5.30 pm
2 - 5 pm
St John's Hall 7.45 pm

To advertise your June or July event on this page
please email events@stanstedlink.org.uk or tel 814059
before 11th May

Inclusion is subject to the editor's decision



**Songs of
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Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill
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Please bring your own chair!

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**Open Meeting
at the
Day Centre**

2.30 - 4.30 pm Thurs 21st May

Come and listen to a speaker followed by tea and biscuits. Members and visitors can find out more about U3A, socialise and enrol in the organised activities. Open meetings will follow on a monthly basis.

Tel Maureen Lindsell 01279 850310

Red Cross Week

3rd - 9th May

Please support the collections
which will be made during
Red Cross Week in Stansted

New collectors welcome
Please contact
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Sat 9th May

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In Memoriam

GRAHAM BUTTERY

1945 – 2009

Graham lived at the top of Chapel Hill for the first 22 years of his life. He attended St Mary's Primary School and later Saffron Walden Technical and Modern School. His best friend was Richard Robinson, who was later to be the best man at his wedding. As a boy he sang in St Mary's Church choir – more for the sixpence a week wage than any other reason! He was a boy scout and his troop met regularly at the Windmill. His first job was as a paper boy in the village; his round included Bentfield End, and he saved up for a Dansette record player with his wages. He left school at 15 and started an apprenticeship as a colour process prover at a firm of photoengravers in Drury Lane. Sadly Graham's Dad died when Graham was only 19 in similar circumstances to that of Graham – he collapsed in Silver Street. Graham's Mum, Muriel, continued to live in the house on Chapel Hill



until 1976 when she moved to Clarence Road.

At the age of 17 he met Janet, his future wife, at a fête at Hargrave Park – Janet and friends were running the 'bowling for a pig' stall. They began courting. At that time Graham had a blue bubble car, and it was not unusual to see Graham and two of his mates

'bombing' around the village. However, the practice of regular overloading caused the engine to burn out – an expense which an apprentice could ill afford. He progressed to an Austin 7 – his pride and joy. Eventually, however, the car had to be scrapped after being involved in an accident and ended up in the local tip at Stansted. Graham married Janet in 1967 at St Mary's Church, when they were both 22 years old, and they moved to Bishop's Stortford. Graham was a very practical man having learnt a lot of skills from his father. He enjoyed DIY and gardening, and in recent years, cooking. For a time he took up horse riding and running, progressing to half marathons. Janet and Graham's son, Mark, was born in 1976. Graham was a wonderful dad.

Despite living in Bishop's Stortford Graham's links with Stansted continued – not only because his mother still lived in the village (until her death in 1989) but also because in 1983 Janet became the Clerk of the Parish Council, a post she held until 1990, and of course, they had many friends in the village. In late 2005 Graham was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He had surgery in early 2006, made a good recovery and at the time of his death was reduced to annual checks.

By this time, he was working part time for Photosound at Syon House, Birchanger. However, having had a health scare, Janet and Graham decided to retire in July 2007, so they spent their 40th wedding anniversary later that year in Australia. This was followed by several other trips including New England in the Fall, and visits to their Spanish holiday home which they had purchased in 2002. They were enjoying their retirement to the full. Graham died suddenly and unexpectedly of a heart attack on 2nd March. He had not been ill and was, for all intents and purposes, fit and healthy.

"Live for today for tomorrow is promised to no-one".

Janet Buttery



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

Tom Chadwick, Hon Secretary, Stansted and District Branch RBL, sends the 'Link' the following letter from RBL member Bob Stoddart, in praise of the War Memorial – a subject close to Bob's heart.

"Through the Stansted and District Branch of the Royal British Legion I would like to congratulate The Parish Council for the care and attention they have given over many years to the village War Memorial and Memorial Gardens. It is an area that the village should be proud of. Situated amidst the hustle and bustle of Chapel Hill, it is a spot worth preserving. In this period when our Forces are under so much public attention it is heartening to know that tradition is being observed by our Council. The Memorial carries the names of village residents lost in two major conflicts and the care given to the gardens shows that they are not forgotten."

Bob Stoddart

WARDY DOCKS

In the April 'Link', the penultimate verse of Frank Finch's parody on 'All things bright and beautiful' refers to Wardy Docks, and the Editor asked for an explanation – so here it is: This is a location in Stansted – a section of the Stansted Brook near to the wooden bridge over the railway that leads to Stoney Common. The Ward family used to live in the house up the hill from the brook and their garden ran down to the water. I suspect that the name was 'coined' by us boys and it stuck.

Derek Francis

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Most members of historical societies have an interest in old maps and it was with a sense of anticipation that we attended Peter Walker's talk at the beginning of April. He proved to be a very knowledgeable speaker, who illustrated his talk 'Essex on the Map before the Ordnance Survey,' not only with pictures of the many maps he mentioned but with some of the maps themselves, which were in his own collection.

The story began in the reign of Elizabeth I, when Christopher Saxton surveyed the whole country, with Lord Burghley's backing, and published a series of maps of the English counties. They were produced from copper engravings, which were used by subsequent map makers for over a century but, as Peter showed with reference to our own area, were not always accurate. Once the idea had surfaced, maps began to be produced at an increasing rate, though in many cases those of Saxton were copied - mistakes and all - and only some were re-surveyed to try to provide greater accuracy. The aim at first was to show what was there rather than how to reach a particular place, but gradually strip maps of roads between principal towns, distance tables, compass roses and scales of distance became included - the latter with some complication, as for a long while there was little agreement over the length of a mile! Among interesting quirks to our eyes was the reference to the German Ocean, which did not become the North Sea until towards the end of the nineteenth century. Reference was also made to the production of estate maps, which were usually very accurate - Peter showed us one of Audley End Park dated 1686. With the involvement of the Dutch and Italians, it was obviously a profitable market, but in 1774, Chapman and Andre produced a series of maps and an atlas which were at last considered correct in their details.

Difficulties experienced by the military during the Scottish rebellion of 1745 highlighted the need for accurate maps of the whole country but it was not until the risk of invasion by Napoleon later in the century that the Ordnance Survey was undertaken. The first two counties surveyed were Kent and Essex, considered at greatest risk of invasion, and published in 1801 and 1803 respectively. We were extremely grateful to Peter and his wife (who displayed the original maps very efficiently) for their excellent presentation and for such an interesting evening.

Our last meeting of the season will take place on Thursday 7th May, at 8.00pm at the Day Centre, when there will be a short AGM, followed by a presentation by Paul Embleton - and as he has a great collection of local postcards and pictures, I have a feeling it could be a fascinating evening. See you there!

Ian Seavers

FARNHAM HANDBELL RINGERS

We are a small group who meet at 7.00pm most Wednesday evenings in St Mary's Church, Farnham. We enjoy playing for the monthly children's service when possible, and at Christmas for the people in local nursing homes - which is much appreciated by them. We would welcome new members - don't worry if you cannot read music! Please contact me for details.

Freda Nancarrow
Tel: 01279 771717

ST THERESA'S BOOK GROUP

The St Theresa's Book Group has been meeting every six weeks or so for the past three years. During Lent this year the book we chose to read was 'Finding Sanctuary' by Christopher Jamison, who is the Abbot of Worth Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in Sussex, and well known from the BBC TV series *The Monastery*. By a happy coincidence, he was also a contributor to the CTS Lent course this year.

The subtitle of the book is 'Monastic Steps for Everyday Life' and Christopher Jamison has a profound conviction that the rule of St Benedict has much to offer all those seeking peace and spirituality in everyday life, coupled with a deep understanding and insight into the realities and problems of modern living. His book is a guide to finding sanctuary, whose first meaning he points out is *sacred space*, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. The book also draws on the experiences of the five men in the TV series, who lived the monastic life for 40 days.

The book starts by looking at why we are often so busy, and goes on to look at the steps building up to sanctuary, including silence, contemplation and meditation, obedience, humility, and community. There are many fresh and interesting ideas here. For instance, under 'obedience' the author has much to say on what people regard as freedom of choice, but is in effect obedience to other forces, such as peer pressure on young people to start smoking, and even our choice of clothes being governed by what the fashion industry decides should be available. He is amazingly up to date with current trends and is very open to appreciating the best of other faiths and movements. This is very evident in the chapter on spirituality, where he deals with modern approaches at some length, acknowledging that there is much to be learned from contemporary spirituality, but seeing the dangers of some aspects becoming just another antidote to the consumer society. Christopher Jamison's engaging, sympathetic and open minded approach permeates the book, and provides a rich source of practical ideas for finding peace in an increasingly busy world.

Ruth Rawlinson



Huw Johnson
Club

Firstly a big thank you to everyone who shopped at Waitrose and placed their green discs in the Huw Johnson box. I was given a running commentary on the progress we were making! Many of you, I know, encouraged those who dithered to place their disc in our box. We will receive the grand sum of £557 as a result of your efforts. Secondly, thank you to Brian and Eileen Quinn and Sandra Embleton for nominating us to take part. We will let you know how we intend to spend the money. Finally thank you to all those who attended our AGM, and the Free Church for allowing us to use their hall.

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494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

With the old saying that time passes quickly when you're having fun very much in mind, another year had gone by and it was the occasion of the Annual Squadron Awards Evening at Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College. Cadets, staff, parents and friends all gathered in the main hall to celebrate another year of notable achievement. Squadron Padre, the Rev'd Canon Chris Bishop, officiated at the enrolment of our latest intake of Junior Cadets. The youngsters made their cadet's promise and received their Record of Service Books to mark their becoming fully fledged members of the Corps. Our Officer Commanding, Flight Lieutenant Ellie Chinnery, outlined the wide ranging success that our cadets had enjoyed both individually and as a unit. This was very much in evidence with a large number of certificates being presented including Gliding Proficiency, Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Wing Blues for Sports.



Individual Trophies and Cups were awarded with Best NCO going to Cadet Sergeant Mitchell Adams, Best Cadet Charlie Douglass and best overall performance Cadet Robert Jones. The Squadron President's Trophy was presented by Ron Paternoster to Cadet Matthew Barton in recognition of his sterling efforts on the fundraising front and his general support for the Squadron community aid programme. Congratulations also go to Lauren Cox who was promoted to Cadet Sergeant. To finish the evening the audience had a chance to see what we had been up to over the past 12 months with a film showing highlights from the Squadron's year and the move into our new building followed by a buffet kindly prepared by Daphne Smith. It was a poignant time for Cadet



Warrant Officer Andrew Riley as it was time to hang up his uniform having reached the grand old age of 20 (cadet retirement time!). Andy was the longest serving cadet on the Squadron having joined the unit in 2002. However it is not goodbye as Andy will be staying with the Squadron as a Civilian Instructor.

With the reflections on the past over for another year the focus is very much on the future now as the unit prepares for the up coming Falklands Competition and is looking forward to a busy summer of activities. If you are aged between 13 and 17 and interested in joining us, please call 01279 681559 or visit our website www.stanstedaircadets.org.uk.

Simon Stacey
494 Squadron ATC

Stansted Tennis Club



Dates for your Diary

Sunday 10th May: please note that the Cayless Chilli Tournament has now been postponed to later in the year. Please see club notice-board for future date, once agreed.

Sunday 10th May 12.45pm start: Clover Boys' Doubles Tournament (under 16). Sunday 17th May 12.45pm start: Adult/Child Tournament. Entry forms in clubhouse.

Club Tournament

Entry posters will be up on the club noticeboard for the month of May and the draw will take place in early June.

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: Wednesday 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.

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VET STUDENTS

As some of you may know, vet students have to spend a proportion of their holidays 'seeing practice' at veterinary surgeries. This is termed extramural study and is an important part of their professional development. It allows them to gain experience in the practical aspects of the job, such as the clinical examination of animals, client communication skills and so on. We are a practice that has always enjoyed letting vet students do their extramural studies with us and over the years we have had some wonderful students or 'baby vets' as one now retired partner used to call them. In fact I saw practice with Mercer and Hughes 20 years ago and never got away. Gemma, one of our assistant vets, also came to us as a student and we're not letting her go either. She doesn't know this yet, so don't let on if you see her!

Most of the students that have seen practice with us over the years have been fantastic. I've been so impressed by their motivation, eagerness to learn and dedication. I've also been overwhelmed by the sheer volume of work they have to get through in order to qualify these days. As one vet student said recently, "There are so many new developments, they have to keep adding things to the syllabus, but unfortunately they don't take anything out". I feel it is our job as general practice vets to guide the students in what to expect on a day to day basis and to how to communicate with clients effectively so as to be able to manage their expectations and concerns, as this is a major part of our job. One common tendency is to see the unusual in everyday situations, which is understandable as the vet schools get all the rare and complicated cases and it is sometimes easy to forget that a swelling on a cat's face could just be an abscess and nothing more sinister. I often ask students in the consulting room what their list of differential diagnoses would be for the animal they've just done a clinical examination on. One particular client I remember had brought in her prize spaniel that had been off colour, not eating and salivating excessively for 24 hours. After completing her clinical examination, the vet student headed her list of possible conditions with rabies, tetanus ... A look of complete horror came over the owner's face until I pointed out the stick that was stuck in the dog's mouth and was the cause of all the symptoms! Phrases we use a lot are "common things occur commonly" and "a thorough clinical examination is the single most important thing you can do".

The last vet student we had was wonderful with a great sense of humour, and I like to think we kept each other amused during the two weeks she was with us, although I fully realise she could just have been humouring an old codger! I told her that I thought one of my jobs was to inform her of all the tips I'd learnt, to save her some time when she qualified. She thought they ought to be collected into a book that should be given out to all final year vet students. Some of her favourite ones were:

If you are doing a visit to a pig farm on a summers day, never leave your car windows open or you'll end up with a car full of flies.

Never stand directly behind a cow when you are taking its temperature, you will get covered ...

Never say "this won't take a minute", it will.

Never put your box of equipment and drugs inside a horse's stable, it will get trodden on.

Always check the sex of a female cat before you clip it up to neuter. It's amazing how often pet shops and owners get it wrong and trying to spay a tom cat is embarrassing.

If a farmer offers you a pair of wellies to wear, always check inside to make sure there are no nesting mice.

I could go on, but perhaps I ought to save them for the book!

Ilse Pedler
Partner
Mercer and Hughes,
Veterinary Surgeons



Nature Notes

This month's notes are mostly a round-up of seasonal observations to which I hope you will respond with your own experiences. What may be mundane to some may be of interest to others.

Firstly, I should mention legislation which can be a tedious factor in our lives, but one edict to be welcomed is the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Among its provisions is the necessary avoidance of hedge and tree cutting where and when birds are nesting. Please remember this before getting the hedge-trimmer out in the months up to July, and check your vegetation beforehand.

This last winter brought greater numbers of birds into our gardens, particularly where feeders are regularly filled by thoughtful owners. Fieldfares, greaterspotted woodpeckers, blackcap and nuthatches - even the long absent tree creeper - brightened the darker days. Hopefully other readers have a tale to tell. One such occasion was in early March when foxes took to loudly barking and squabbling in a holly spinney in the small hours, so interrupting several residents' sleep. A healthy fox can be a fine sight, but their inclination to kill for the sake of it earns the species a bad reputation, as does their smell.

Rosina Kirkwood's account of slow worms in the April issue reminded me of a family I inadvertently disturbed in Elsenham Parish Cemetery some years ago and another specimen seen in Silver Street more recently. Being largely nocturnal they may be more plentiful than we think.

Spring butterflies have appeared on cue, notably brimstone, comma and tatty overwintered peacocks. The changing climate may bring in some exotics, so perhaps we can hope for clouded yellows which have not been evident in the wet summers. Two insects which seem to be more numerous are the showy capsid or shield bugs and the sawflies. The latter are sometimes regarded as dangerous on account of the long rear 'spike' which some species have, but they are beneficial as well as attractive. If we are alert there are few uneventful days, so let us all sharpen our powers of observation.

Derek Honour

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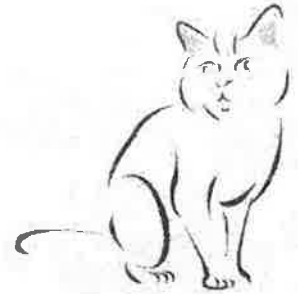
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HATFIELD FOREST HIGHLIGHTS

Hello all again. Hatfield Forest has been very busy recently with Easter been and gone and many of you coming to find the Easter Bunny on the Easter Egg Trail. I hope you were all successful. At the moment the buttercups should be flowering, covering the Forest in a beautiful yellow carpet. Also in May we will be welcoming back our cattle who play an important role grazing the plains and meadows of the Forest. Grazing has been happening on the Forest for hundreds of years and is an important process in allowing our woodland pastures to continue to exist as well as saving us from doing a lot of mowing!



Another exciting announcement for the Forest is the start of a regular Health Walk in association with Natural England and the WHI. The walks, starting at the beginning of May, will take place through the Forest and encourage people to start walking more in an effort to stay healthier. We are also hoping to use this opportunity to tell people something about the Forest that they didn't know before.

Now that our Shell House has had its spring clean we are looking for everyone to help us collect shells as part of our ongoing restoration project. As this is the 250th birthday year for the Shell House we are hoping to get the missing shell pictures recreated and we need your help to do it! If you have any shells that you've got buried away in your cupboards that you would be happy to donate then please bring them along on your next visit to the Forest. Last month I told you about Ian Pease our Conservation Warden producing a new bell stay for St Michael's and I wonder how many of you were able to guess what I was talking about. A bell stay is put in place above the church bells to stop it swinging over when rung. I'm looking forward to a fantastic summer and to seeing you all in the Forest soon.

Laura Slater
Community Warden
01279 874043

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Calling all Link Contributors Please note change of address

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Wellbeing



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

Do you ever feel you were born to travel? Wellbeing has been likened to riding a bike; if you don't keep moving forward you will lose your balance. One of my most treasured travelling companions is my friend Sue. Having met at Bishop's Stortford station we proceeded to transport and transform ourselves from mothers of toddlers into singing divas. Arriving at the Stage Door, Covent Garden, once again we had pulled it off - applying our latest lip gloss, we were sparkling. A journey fuelled by adrenalin, caffeine and a little bit of denial. We were living two lives; one for the boss (focused professionals) and one for the kids - "Mummy's Home!"

This shared journey taught us about womanhood - we laughed and cried. Women have always worked in and outside of the home, moving between unpaid and paid work, negotiating conflicts of interests whilst developing the role of peace envoy to the extended family, health practitioners and education systems. Women discover a centre of gravity enabling themselves and those they love to move forward, to flourish.

People feeling underwhelmed by life will say that they feel stuck; stuck in their relationships and jobs, lacking a sense of purpose and direction to their lives. Psychologists recommend a simple but profound formula. What is your goal? How will you achieve it? When will it happen? My dad was extremely resourceful. The idea of travelling to London on a train wasn't for him. Hearing on the grapevine that my old secondary school was organising a trip to the Opera House, my mum was immediately instructed to ring the school and blag them onto the bus. A funny story but my dad knew his goal, how to achieve it and how to seize the moment.

Recovering from a list of injuries, Kelly Holmes knew she was travelling to her last Olympics. When interviewed about how she approached the winning line she replied "Runners who try to run fast - start to run backwards." Whilst we watched on TV and presumed she was running for her life she had mentally and physically told herself to relax. I remember this each time I try too hard to move forward, try too hard to find all the answers. I remember to relax and not to get in the way of myself - it worked for Kelly!

Spiritual teachers describe the heart as restless. They dedicate themselves to an inner journey, the search for truth. The heart's outward journey is the return journey home. If we were created fully-formed wouldn't we miss the experience and satisfaction of co-creating our lives? Our lives' journeys may take us in circles: we will get lost but if we are brave and wise we will invest in a good travel guide and watch our wellbeing blossom.

Isobel

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (APM)

It has been suggested that the minutes of the meeting should be published as soon as possible. Although too long to be included verbatim in The Link, the main points and issues from the meeting are summarised and commented on below. The draft minutes, which will be submitted to the next Annual Meeting, can be read on the Parish website. It is worth noting that the meeting was attended by forty-three parishioners, twelve Councillors, the Clerk, Ruth Clifford and Anne Court.

POLICING MATTERS – ALWAYS OF CONCERN

Robert Chambers, Chairman of the Essex Police Authority, briefly addressed the meeting and gave some encouraging news that funding has been approved for an additional six hundred sworn Police Officers to be recruited in the county over the next three years. With more officers planned for rural areas, this Parish should be a beneficiary.

A bold offer was also made by Robert Chambers, namely that if people found their concerns unsatisfied or felt the police to be unresponsive, then they could contact him twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week on 07880 286041. However, do remember he does sleep occasionally so leave a message if necessary.

Sgt. Sharp, our local officer, introduced himself and his colleagues, P.C. Bastendorff and PCSO Stuart Stranger (who also told the meeting about his work). Across most categories, reported crime has fallen in Stansted and the district, while detection rates have risen. Concerns over the limited opening hours at the Police Station remain unaddressed. However, please report crimes, anti-social behaviour or other incidents of concern on 0300 333 4444. If an immediate presence is required dial 999.

DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION – STRIKING A BALANCE.

The following resolution was passed unanimously.

In light of continuing development and the possible need for further public buildings and spaces, it is requested that the Parish Council should:

Establish an inventory of possible development land within the village and its surrounding area so that attempts could be made to preserve such land for public or community use.

Review local areas of the village with a view to establishing further conservation areas so that future building and development can most sympathetically fit with the village as a whole.

The Parish Council would welcome information about sites with development opportunities for public use and ideas for extensions to, or the creation of, new conservation areas. However, it should be borne in mind that whilst sites may be identified, the Parish Council can persuade and lobby but has little direct power or financial clout with an annual budget of £136,000 to take on substantial schemes. Any additions to conservation areas will need to meet criteria laid down by the planning authority particularly as Stansted Mountfitchet has only recently been reviewed.

A NEW HEALTH CENTRE – INCHING FORWARD

The Primary Care Trust, in a written report to the Annual Parish Meeting, has stated that the preferred option now is a site behind Silver Street. Negotiations are in train with the landowner who is consulting the planning and highways authorities. Assuming no serious obstacles or delays, then the new health centre should be operational early in 2011. Should the preferred site be blocked, the PCT is attempting to keep the High Lane and Forest Hall Road sites as reserve options.

If members of the public have any questions or comments, please contact Michelle Bassett, Primary Care Programmes Manager on 01371 767007.

BETTER PREPARATION TO HANDLE SNOW CONDITIONS

Whilst it is to be hoped that this will not be of concern for many months, a resolution was put and passed which called upon 'Essex County, Uttlesford District and Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Councils to work together to ensure adequate arrangements are in place before next winter to make pavements safe for pedestrians following snowfall and ice'.

The District Council has indicated that it is not anticipating taking action even in the car parks so it appears that any solutions must come from the County or Parish.

The Parish Council will be seeking ways to clear the main pavements – namely parts of Silver Street, Cambridge Road and Lower Street, Station Road, Crafton Green and Chapel Hill. This will require labour and will cost. Discussions will need to be held with the County Council. Any ideas or comments from parishioners would be welcome.

FACILITIES FOR THE RETIRED BUT WHAT?

Following an outline of the investment in recent years for our younger parishioners, albeit much of the cost being funded from sources other than the parish precept, a parishioner raised a concern that facilities should also be provided for those in retirement. As no discussion took place no suggestions as to the type of facilities or activities were forthcoming. The Council would be pleased to hear from any parishioner who may wish to put forward proposals on this subject.

RAISING THE TROUGHS ON CAMBRIDGE ROAD

Following several occasions on which the troughs were overturned, the Open Spaces committee decided to leave the troughs on the ground whilst ways were sought to prevent hooligans being able to repeat their vandalism. With the help of our new gardening contractor, Peter Sykes, a solution has been found and hopefully, by the time you read this, the troughs will have risen. Thank you to the parishioner who raised this issue.

OTHER ISSUES PUT FORWARD AT THE APM

- The misnaming of two roads on Forest Hall Park. The Council is seeking a way to correct our mistake.
- Litter and noise from people congregating in Burnells Way. Police will follow up this issue.
- The planned merger of two bus routes – 7 and 7A – into one will lead to later arrival times at the airport and the Herts & Essex Hospital in the mornings. How many will be affected?
- Problems relating to obstruction by vehicles in Blythwood Gardens and Lower Street will be considered by the Highways Working Party and then residents will be consulted.
- The Tennis Club on Cambridge Road (the land is owned by the Parish Council) should be promoted more actively by the Council. How or whether to do this is under consideration.

- The accounts circulated for the APM should be signed and a statement from the external auditor included. This will be done next year.
- The Council should seek to have a swimming pool provided in the parish. Whilst sympathetic to the wish, there is, we believe, no immediate prospect of success.

DESIGNING A NEW PARISH WEBSITE

Many thanks are due to John Papazoglou, a teacher at Mountfitchet Mathematics & Computing College, (and to Jo Mullis, Headteacher) for her support in designing a new and, we are sure, a much improved website for the Parish Council and perhaps for other organisations. If any parishioner has views on what should appear on the website, please email the Clerk on parishcouncil@stansted.net

OPENING THE YOUTH CENTRE IN SOME HOLIDAYS

Following the successful opening on Friday evenings (partly funded by the Parish Council), the Centre will soon open on Tuesday evenings for those interested in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. This is good news and with more volunteers appearing, we applaud the work of the Centre.

However, a major gap occurs in school holidays as funding only covers 37 weeks. If a further £2-2,500 can be raised then the Centre could open for another nine weeks. Already ways are being explored to find funding.

WELCOME PACKS – ASK IF REQUIRED

Welcome Packs for new residents are being distributed and should have reached you if you are a recent arrival by the time you read The Link. If you have not had a pack delivered, please contact the Parish Council office on 01279 813214 or by email at parishcouncil@stansted.net

ECO-TOWN CONSULTATION – FINAL OPPORTUNITY

The deadline for comments has been extended to 30 April. If you are concerned about this major proposal, then please send in your views to The Eco-towns Team, Housing & Growth Programmes, Dept. for Communities & Local Government, 1/H9 Eland House Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU before the end of April. The objections of the Parish Council may be viewed on our website – www.stansted.net – click on Parish Council and then on publications.

AIRPORT – LEGAL AND OTHER

SSE has lodged an appeal against the recent ruling in the High Court requiring certain key issues to be taken into account in considering expansion of the Airport. The latest information suggests that the G2 Inquiry relating to the second runway will not begin before September 2009 and would then last for fourteen to sixteen months with no decision until 2011. This presumes that the Inquiry takes place.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – SUCCESSFUL GROWTH

Over the past few months this organisation, which was virtually dormant, has been revived and has now recruited a healthy number of interested new members. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 29 April at 7.30 pm in The Day Centre, Crafton Green. If you are interested, please come along – you will be most welcome. If you cannot attend but would be interested in learning more, please contact Cllr Valerie Trundle on 813433.

STANSTED IN BLOOM

Bentfield School have produced four lovely posters advertising our competition for Spring Gardens to be judged on the weekend of 2/3 May 2009. These posters have been put on the noticeboards and in various shops in the village. As we have had to print more entry forms for the competition, we are looking to viewing many lovely gardens.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

From Cllr Geoffrey Sell

Small Businesses and the Recession

Small businesses (those employing fewer than 50 people) play a vital part in our national and local economy. Some 98% of firms in the UK fit into the small business category. Despite big names such as Woolworths falling casualty to the economic downturn, small businesses are particularly vulnerable.

I have a particular interest in small businesses as this is an area I lecture in. I have also acted for some years as the Council's representative on the board of Business Development Services (N/W Essex) Ltd. Last year they celebrated their 20th anniversary of their presence in Saffron Walden as an enterprise agency in assisting people hoping to set up businesses in the area.

At the last Finance and Administration Committee meeting I raised the plight of small businesses. Since November client numbers for Business Development Services have more than trebled and continues to increase by the week. Often clients are referred by JobCentrePlus. Three clients they recently saw were

professional people who had been made redundant from firms in the City.

I am impressed by the work that neighbouring councils such as Braintree and East Herts are doing in the field of Economic Development and small business support. I should like Uttlesford to put it higher up their agenda. East Herts held recently a recession clinic supported by agencies such as Business Link aimed at small businesses. After some persuasion my fellow councillors have accepted my suggestion that Uttlesford should try something similar for our small businesses. Our officers will be talking to their counterparts in East Herts.

If small business owners in Stansted would care to contact me I should be interested in learning how they think local government can assist them.

Skips

The skips at the Lower Street car park are a well-used and appreciated facility. If residents request staff help to put bags into the skips then the staff should give it. If, however, you wish to enter the skip and physically put the bags there this will be allowed. Notices will be on display at the skips to this effect.

Quality of Life

Despite threats to our quality of life from eco towns and an expanded airport Uttlesford residents enjoy some of the highest quality of life in the country. The second Halifax Rural Areas Quality of Life Survey used a range of statistics to establish where quality of life was highest, including figures on the labour market, the housing market, the environment, education and health.

The survey only covered "rural" authorities; defining a rural local authority as one in which the majority of residents live in towns or villages with populations of less than 10,000. Out of the 114 authority areas in the country in this category, Uttlesford was ranked fourth. We need to ensure that we retain this position in the years to come.

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

From Cllr Alan Dean

The government's consultation on the Elsenham/Henham eco-town has been extended until the end of April. This has given Uttlesford DC the opportunity to respond on behalf of the local community. It will do this at the April 21st council meeting. One disadvantage of a new town at Elsenham was obvious at midday on a Sunday in March. There was a half-mile queue of traffic trailing back towards Elsenham from the Grove Hill traffic lights. The lights were in good working order. It was simply the volume of traffic ---- before any new homes at Elsenham.

There have been complaints about the disgraceful state of the grass verges and pavements on the Mountfitchet Estate caused by the long-lasting water company works. The new water main is necessary, but residents should not have to put up with such a protracted mess.

We are still waiting for news of when Walson Way will be opened up to Church Road. There was to be a meeting in mid April to address health and safety issues. It has been noticed that street lights have now been installed, which indicates progress.

There are plans to change the routes and timings of local buses nos 7 & 7A. It may affect you. There would be no bus to the hospital before 09.50 that qualifies for bus pass use. Make your views known to me or the parish council.

We may have heard by the time that The Link is published whether there is a new date for the start of the second runway public inquiry. More and more people, including local and national politicians have called for the inquiry to be abandoned now that BAA has been told to sell the airport. It is obvious that there is a lot of uncertainty hanging over the heads of all people who work at the airport at the moment. I fear for job losses as the recession bites and BAA prepares for the sale. As Geoffrey Sell has written, now is the time to be encouraging new businesses to be setting up in Uttlesford.

Cllr Alan Dean
Tel: 01279 813579/ 07710 105824
Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

CONTACT US!

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

OTHER CONTACTS

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

Essex County Council Member
Ray Gooding Tel: 01279 813103
Email: 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
Stansted Police Station, Hargrave Close
Tel: 812211
Essex Police non-emergency number :
0300 333 4444
Mobile phone carried by PCSO: 07801 461666

LOCAL POLICE STRUCTURE

Inspector Glen Pavelin	Dunmow
Sgt Chris Sharp	Dunmow
PC Tom Bastendorff	Stansted
PCSO Kelly Roberts	Stansted
PCSO Stuart Stranger	Stansted

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

April 22	-	Full Council
April 29	-	Finance
May 13	-	Full Council and Annual Council

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.

ANNUAL COUNCIL – 13th MAY

This is the meeting at which the Council elects its chairman & vice chairman, the committees and people to serve in a number of other roles (not necessarily members of the Council).



Our story this month has been 'Danny's Duck' as a follow-up after the older children's visit to the duck pond in Saffron Walden. On their return, the children made colourful nests and ducks to hang on the wall to add to the spring-themed mural. As a further continuation of the duck theme the children have also been learning about the difference between mummy and daddy ducks. Meanwhile, the pre-school cocoons have now formed and, at the time of writing, we are waiting to see how many turn into butterflies over the Easter holidays. The children have been very creative lately with projects including making Mothers Day cards and presents of beautiful beaded bracelets. For Easter they made their own chocolate nests complete with mini eggs - most of which were consumed before the children left the school premises!! Rainbow are collecting Tesco and Sainsburys vouchers so please hand any you receive in to one of our playleaders.

**** A Date for your diary ****

On the afternoon of Saturday 20th June we will be holding a Summer Fête with many stalls and activities including home-made cream teas and children's games.

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



**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
U3A**

We are starting a new group of the U3A (University of the Third Age) in Stansted. You may know that there is a very successful group in Bishops Stortford, which has had to refuse new people as it has over 1000 members. I belong to Saffron Walden, also thriving with 430 members and we do not want to become too large. U3A is a unique and exciting self-help educational movement for people no longer in full time work.

What does it offer?

Each U3A is different. The programme reflects its members' wishes and resources. Activities which can be arranged include languages, history, book clubs, painting, music, walking, poetry, keep fit and computing. Through sharing our knowledge, skills and experience, we aim to offer a combination of opportunities to study, create, socialise and in general develop a fitter mind and body.

Open Meeting 30th April 2.30pm-4.30pm

Our first meeting at the Day Centre is an opportunity to find out more about U3A and enrol in this new group. There will be some suggested activities to join and we will be collecting your ideas of the things you would like to do.

The next meeting is on 21st May 2.30pm-4.30pm when we will have a speaker followed by tea and biscuits. Members and visitors can find out more about U3A, socialise and enrol in the organised activities. Open meetings will follow on a monthly basis. For further information please contact me.

Maureen Lindsell
Tel: 01279 850310

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**Stansted
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**UGLEY WOMEN'S
INSTITUTE**

We had an extremely successful NatWest CricketForce 2009 working party on 29th March. Over 30 members turned up and we succeeded in painting much of the outside of the pavilion; laying the new mats in the permanent nets; cutting back all the vegetation on the ha-ha boundary; and building the new sightscreens, which look magnificent. A separate team led by David Hedge and Ken Blake have redecorated the changing rooms and toilet areas, and we are all looking forward to the new season.

At the AGM on 31st March the following were elected:-

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Sat 1st XI | Captain: Ian Parsons
Vice Captain: Matt Abbotson |
| Sat 2nd XI | Captain: Dave Roach
Vice Captain: David Hedge |
| Sunday XI | Captain: Mervyn Parsons
Vice-Captains: Charlie and Fred Kirby |

Home matches for May (all 2.00pm start) are:-

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Sat 2nd | 1st XI v Essendon (HECL Division 4) |
| Sun 3rd | Sunday XI v Matching Green (Friendly) |
| Sat 9th | 2nd XI v Abridge (HECL Division 6) |
| Sun 10th | Sunday XI v Epping Foresters (Friendly) |
| Sat 16th | 1st XI v Thaxted (HECL Division 4) |
| Sun 17th | Sunday XI v Nazeing Common II (Friendly) |
| Sat 23rd | 2nd XI v Albury (HECL Division 6) |
| Sun 24th | Sunday XI v Birchanger (Friendly) |
| Sat 30th | 1st XI v Braughing (HECL Division 4) |
| Sun 31st | Sunday XI v Molehill Green (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

WI saves Planet?? Maybe! What came top of the resolutions to be put to HM Government this year? Forget (for a minute) trafficking of women in Europe, female circumcisions, child abuse, teenage knifings, banking (English and Scottish) - this year it's 'Save the Honey-bee'. Following TV appeals for endangered Amazon forests and Australian coral-reefs, I wonder whether we should follow up the honey-bee with these demands? Maybe the new WI formed by the students of Goldsmith's College will lead the way. Well done, those women. Welcome to WI! The TV caught them making sponge cakes and jam (why not?) and I'm sure their well-trained minds will produce useful ideas for our members to pursue in Resolutions.

Lt Col Alan Hart attended patiently to our business session before giving us the moving story of his call, with his wife, to serve in the Salvation Army (SA). What a life! 'Belief in Action' - the story of the SA's work, shows not only an exciting range of approaches to worship in music and on-line prayer services, but a complete range of social work: campaigning for justice, housing for street-sleepers, child-care, parent training, support in prisons, airports and workplaces, IT training for apprentices... After some exhilarating years in Glasgow, Col Hart became National Organiser for SA social work, an enormous task, till his 'retirement' to Bishop's Stortford for more local SA work.

As promised, Jackie Lamberty gave us an excellent account of her adventurous voyage with 'SS Explorer' to the Arctic. From Spitzbergen, island of fishermen and miners emigrating over centuries, they sailed north 'to see how far they could go into the ice sheet' and to record the wonderful variety of flora and fauna (walrus stay north, but you can see your Arctic Terns on Havergate Island, Orfordness in June! PH). How sad it was to see a final picture of the 'Explorer' later (2007) sunk in the Antarctic.

Phyllis Harrison



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A Tribute to Jill McMahon

Jill left MMCC last July (before she knew she was ill) to spend more time with her three daughters. Sadly, Jill died on Saturday 14th February. The following has been edited from the eulogy given at her funeral.

Jill was born in Gosforth, Newcastle on 31st March 1952. A bright and bubbly pupil, Jill attended Dame Allan's Girls School where she stayed on for sixth form. It was here she became Deputy Head Girl. Appreciative of her privileged education and given the opportunity by the school, Jill happily carried out a period of community outreach, working with under-privileged youths in the poorer parts of Newcastle. Working with teenagers in this way perhaps shows how experiences in Jill's childhood very much reflected who she was to become. After graduating, Jill chose to pursue a teaching career, undertaking teacher training at Leeds University. Following successful completion of this, Jill decided to venture down to the south of England.

Family life was very important to Jill and although separated in 1997, Jill and Peter remained close friends and continued to share happy family times. Jill was very excited about her unborn grandchildren, which Sarah and Emma are expecting in April and May this year. She was particularly impressed that she would have a little grandson, shortly followed by a granddaughter!

Jill's happiest time teaching was spent at the MMCC, where she taught English between 1992 and 2008. Ever the driven professional, during her time at the school, Jill embraced alternative roles which included working in the dyslexia support unit;



becoming Head of Year and later permanent Head of Year 7. When Jill left Stansted in 2008, in order to spend more time with her family and take on a less demanding teaching role, she was incredibly overwhelmed by everybody's kind words and farewells. Jill

was particularly proud of receiving the Jack Petchey achievement award, given to leaders and teachers who have encouraged and motivated young people in an exceptional way. Jill was awarded 'Outstanding Leader' on 26th June 2008. This came as no surprise to her family as she dedicated so much of her time, energy and self to teaching, which she loved with a passion! Jill had so many wonderful qualities, she was reflective, kind – always put others'

needs first. She could be described as one of life's 'doers', a tireless professional, and a dedicated mother. Jill was sensitive and intuitive which enabled her to build such a positive rapport with her students, colleagues, family and friends. A strong, independent, 'modern' woman, whose outlook on life was optimistic.

Badminton Master Class

On 31st March, MMCC hosted the Key Stage 4/5 (age 14–18 years) Uttlesford School Sports Partnerships' Badminton Master Class. The coaching session was run by Clive Palmer, the badminton development officer for rural Essex and also an ex-junior England international. The session included five students from MMCC, two students from Saffron Walden County High School and two from Newport Free Grammar School, who were put through their paces throughout the five hour coaching session. Students looked at every aspect of the game including the full range of shots, footwork and tactics which will add to the players' games and further these county level players to, hopefully, produce future stars. Mr Tom Anderson, Head of Physical Education said, "These sessions are provided for students in order to develop them as players and as young adults. The session was run extremely professionally and put them into a coach-performer environment, which not all of them had experienced before. Although they were put through their paces all the students enjoyed themselves and there was a real buzz. I think a few of them now have 2012 well within their sights!" Students taking part were:

MMCC: - Chloe Nash, Helena Berry, Sophie Stacey, Jack Morland and Richard Honour.
SWCHS: - Heidi Lawrence and Rosie Chatto (both ex MMCC students)

NFGS: - Ben Stiles and Michael Darby.

Schools Science Olympiad Final

To celebrate Science week MMCC and SWCHS, along with local primary schools St Mary's, Bentfield, Katherine Semar, Great Chesterford, R A Butler and St Thomas More all took



part in a Science Olympiad. Competitions were held within each school to select the teams that took part in the final on 19th March. The day was a great success with Dr Ian Dunham, a leading scientist in human genetics based at the

MATHEMATICS AND COLLEGE



Wellcome Trust Genome Campus in Hinxton, opening the event with an inspiring speech about the wonder of science.

The students had three tasks to complete: designing and building a car powered by a balloon, making a test tube rainbow from red cabbage extract and to create an animal adapted to live in a mountainous terrain. All the students



showed a great deal of teamwork and dedication. Their efforts were judged by Year 9 and 10 students from both secondary schools. Dr Dunham presented the prizes to R A Butler School, the winners of both the Year 3/4 and the Year 5/6 competition. The runner's up were Great Chesterford. SWCHS won the Year 7/8 competition. The standard of the work carried out by all the students was exceptionally high.

Ruth Martin

and Sean Clark) guided by Mr Anderson and Mrs Carpenter, provided a demonstration of their skills. The boys are dedicated members of the club and had attended seven consecutive lunchtime sessions in order to put their display together. I would like to thank all students for their efforts and thank



parents/carers for their support of the evening. The Year 9 Celebration Evening will be held at the College on Thursday 9th July.

Mr S Balaam
KS3 Student Learning Manager

Year 8 Celebration Evening

Year 8 students and parents/carers enjoyed celebrating the successes of the students in the College on 25th March.



Their work in all subjects, over an 8 week period, culminated in a display in the main College hall. Visitors enjoyed excellent drama performances of 'We shall never die' by David Sheasby, from each Year 8 Form co-ordinated by drama teacher Miss Beard. In addition, three extremely brave students from the Gymnastics club (James Francis, Jack Bradley



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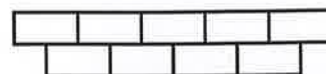
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STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

March Lunch

With 75 members present, Danny Doyle and his Pearse House colleagues again excelled themselves, catering smoothly for a full house and, whilst trying to clear tables and serve dessert, overcoming the challenge of a roving speaker with all his paraphernalia! That speaker was none other than Nick Bailey of Price Bailey who enlightened and inspired us to address the effectiveness of our businesses in a fundamental and disciplined way. It was a refreshing dose of good, sound common sense which will be good for all of us. Many of us would gladly have listened to Nick's whole presentation on the subject but, sadly, time only allowed a brief taste. Nick, I am sure would be happy to enlighten further those who wish to know more – see www.pricebailey.co.uk. Many thanks to Nick and to his colleagues who so generously sponsored this very interesting lunch – no wonder there was a waiting list!

May Lunch

The May lunch on the 27th will break with our normal pattern of sponsorship by established businesses and will see the local launch of The Savvy Business Community, operated by Savvy Business Limited, and to be launched formally in London on 11th May. Savvy is a fresh concept in the provision of regional and specific business information in all regions of the UK, both for general consumption and to the specification of individual businesses for their particular purposes. What will be particularly interesting is that Savvy has agreed to return again in 2010 to tell us how it has fared during its first year of operation.

Future Lunches

15th July – St Clare Hospice sponsored by Weston Business Centres and Daniel Robinson & Sons
23rd September – Sponsor needed



Alastair Richardson

John Wootton's Plea

Three friends and I have taken on a challenge to cycle from London to Paris later this year in order to raise a significant sum for Cancer Research. My athletic prowess is almost nil, and therefore cycling 300 miles in four days will be something of a challenge. Furthermore we have decided not to do this as part of an organised group, as some of the funds raised in these events go towards the organisational costs. We are paying for everything ourselves (new bikes, kit, hotels etc) and we will have to find our own way, and carry our own provisions. For some reason we have also chosen to cycle via Calais, which is almost 100 miles longer than the route traditionally taken via Dieppe. We really do want to raise lots of money, and we would be extremely grateful if you would sponsor us by visiting:

<http://www.justgiving.com/thewoottonwanderers>

All you will need is a credit or debit card. Justgiving sends your donation straight to Cancer Research and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you're a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more. By visiting the website you will also get the opportunity to laugh at a really terrible photo of the four of us. Many thanks.

John M Wootton
Director
Savills (L&P) Ltd - Bishop's Stortford



BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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After a quiet start to the spring term we had a very busy run up to Easter. We were able to hold our belated school disco in the new hall. All the children had a great time; however the new venue took some getting used to for the organisers. As usual we held a dance competition and prizes were awarded for the best dancers.

During the final week of term an Easter hat competition took place. This was judged by the class teachers, and the PTA awarded prizes to the best hat and runners up in each class. Each child who participated was awarded a small egg for their efforts. A photographer from the local paper was there to record the event and we hope to see this in the paper shortly. Then we held our traditional Easter Egg Hunt. The children had to work out answers to the 15 clues, which in turn directed them to words located around the playground, and once they had all these they could create the Easter sentence. As usual the correct answer resulted in a well deserved chocolate egg for all those who took part. The event last year resembled a mud bath but this year the weather was kinder to us and the parents were able to have a chat in the sun while enjoying their tea and hot cross bun. Next term we are hoping for some more good weather as we prepare for our Summer Fair and Music in the Park.

Susan Scott
PTA

INTERPRETING GENESIS

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STANSTED FUN RUN

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Just to confirm that as this is a bi-annual event; our next Fun Run will be in June or July 2010.

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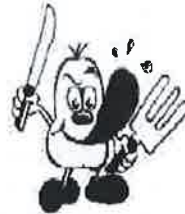
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**Stansted
Evening
Women's Institute**

Spring is always a busy time in the WI as, apart from our own monthly meetings and a local Group Meeting, we have the County AGM. It was held this year at Towerlands, Braintree and Sue Holland, our representative, gave us a full account of her day there. She enjoyed having the opportunity to hear Jackie Cheer, Deputy Chief Constable of Suffolk and a former Essex girl, who said that some attitudes to women in the police force remain unchanged since the early '80s when she joined. Terry Waite also spoke of his many experiences and at over six feet tall dwarfed our County Chairman, Julie Alen, who is under five feet tall. She makes up in personality what she lacks in height and we are lucky to have her at the helm for another year.

At last month's meeting, Jane Crosfield Chapman spoke on myths, magic and legends illustrated by her superb wood engraving prints of wild flowers associated with these. June studied wood engraving at Glasgow School of Art and became fascinated by the Theatre. She has become renowned for her theatrical wood engravings and has recently had an exhibition in the Globe Theatre.

In April we welcomed Keith Baldwin a former Household Cavalry soldier and retired senior police officer. Since his retirement he has become a professional raconteur and com-pere. His early attempts at being an ordinary active soldier in Germany and Singapore resulted in accidentally shooting himself in the arm and setting fire to himself under a land-rover. This led him to settle for a safer option by volunteering for the Cavalry Regiment. We were surprised to hear that they prefer their new recruits to have no experience of riding and the horses in his day were also young and untried and mainly from Ireland. Amazingly, after learning the 'naming of parts' of the horse (front and back being the most important and dangerous), the men are ready for ceremonial duties in five months. He was proud to be part of the regiment who guard the Queen, which dates back to 1660, when Charles II came back to England to claim the throne.

Our Quiz Evening was a great success and raised over £250 for our funds. Much of this goes towards paying for our speakers so we thank all those who came and especially our quizmaster, Martin West.

In May, Pauline Martindale will tell us of 'The Life of a Prison Officer'. We will also be discussing this year's resolution for our National AGM, which is 'SOS for Honey Bees' and urges the Government to increase funding for research into bee health. Come along as a visitor or to join - you will be made most welcome.



Judy Colliver
(Secretary)
Tel: 812470

Brenda Ryan
(President)
Tel: 812725

MYTHS, LEGENDS, CUSTOMS

OAK TREES Quercus sp.

This tree was sacred to the Druids and also to Thor, the Norse god of thunder. The oak is thought most likely of all trees to be struck by lightning. As Shakespeare's King Lear raged, "Blow winds and crack your cheeks ... vaunt-couriers to oak-cleaving thunderbolts". King Charles II is said to have hidden from Parliamentary troops in an oak in the grounds of Boscobel House in Shropshire. Royal Oak Day, 29th May, is celebrated at Aston-on-Clun by decorating the Arbor Tree with flags and bunting, some of which are left up all through the year. Strangely, the Arbor Tree is not an oak but black poplar! Although many people like to think that this tradition started when Charles II was restored to the throne, most likely it was when a local landowner was married on 29th May 1786. The 18th century highwaymen, Tom and Harry Dunsdon, were hung at Gloucester and their bodies taken back to near where they were captured in Oxfordshire. An oak at Shipton-under-Wychwood was used as a gibbet which is said to have stunted the tree.

Peggy Honour

PS Apologies: the last sentence of April's piece should have read: "Cast not a clout 'till May be out" refers to the Hawthorn blossom, not the month as many believe.

WALKER'S LAMENT

Early spring sunshine encouraged me to walk
Up Alsa Street and along Snakes Lane.
Tits argued loudly, how they did squawk;
Blackbird sang a sweet refrain.
But gracing ditch and hedgerow what did I see?
Amongst the grass so green
Three pairs of ladies panties, bottles, shreds of paper,
And other debris starting with a 'P'.

Plastic bags of every hue, from dirty pink to royal blue
Obscured the pretty violet and primrose.
Old McDonalds cartons, empty beer cans too
Offend my eye and nose.
Next time I go walking I'll take snaps of every object
And post them on the Web for all to view.
Items discarded, lost or just misplaced?
Labelled "Owners Please Collect".

Our country lanes are not for dumping
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They're for riding, cycling, 'gallumping',
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Loki



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There will be a few duties such as all family letter writing, sending of Christmas cards, birthday cards and purchasing appropriate gifts for such occasions. Applicants must also be capable of educating the children in table manners and social behaviour plus scholastic coaching as required. Holidays will be granted each year, but the household duties and care of children must be carried on during the vacations.

Any hobbies or pastimes may be pursued during leisure time, as long as regular duties are not neglected. It would be advisable that hobbies include gardening and cooking. Housekeeping allowance will vary according to income. There will be no salary, sick leave or pension plan attached to this position. Room, bed and food will be provided free, so long as the incumbent cleans the room, shares the bed and cooks the food. The employer has the privilege of terminating this employment at any time should better prospects appear on the horizon.

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY LOGO



Probably not even many present members of the History Society know why this is their logo, but those who were on the Committee in the late 1980s when excavations were being carried out at the airport, will remember.

The Society was given permission to use the image of the Greek hero Diomedes which was carved on a piece of onyx. This was part of a Roman finger ring and found in a pit near the site of a possible shrine.

During the Trojan War Diomedes stole their good luck symbol, a palladium; a staff with the figure of Pallas-Athene on it. This gem was one of many treasures found during the dig.





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April Meeting

Dr William Kay of the Stansted Chiropractic Clinic spoke about 'Safe Gardening'. At this time of year many people are tempted to overdo it in the garden and suffer bad backs, aching shoulders etc. Gardening is a good form of exercise but the gardener must listen to his/her body – warm the muscles up before undertaking any strenuous work, ie digging; have a plan of work so that you can work for 20-30 minutes on one particular job before moving onto another, and possibly another before returning to the first. Thus different sets of muscles are used and one set is not overworked. By working outside in the fresh air, the body absorbs vitamin D from the sun which encourages strong bones. Although none of us like to admit to getting older, former easily undertaken regular jobs put an extra strain on the body, so help it by adapting tools, making raised flower beds, using electrical tools instead of manual ones, allowing more time to do the heavy jobs or asking for help.

AGM

The Chairman's report outlined the previous 12 months – speakers, trips, social events etc and outlined the programme and aims for the forthcoming year. The chairman thanked the committee and helpers Meg Monaghan, Kathy Poole, Margaret Loynds, Denise Filler, Cyril Stoneham and Brian Townsend for all their help throughout the year to ensure club meetings and events run smoothly.

Our meeting on 17th May is the start of our new season and our speaker is Mr Peter Webb. His topic is '(A humorous look at ...) The Good Life'. An 'Anything Related to Gardening Bring & Buy Stall' will be held at the beginning and end of our May meeting. Please label and price items and bring along to the meeting at 7.30pm to sell. For larger items – please take a photo. You can give a 10% donation to the club or the full amount if you wish. Unsold items are to be collected at the end of meeting. Full details of our future programme can be found on our website www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk. Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre, adjacent to the Library and car park at the top of Chapel Hill. Note: during the summer evening visits are planned – please see notices and website for confirmation of venue – everyone is welcome. Annual membership fees are as follows:
Single - £11.50;
Double (two from the same household) - £19;
Visitors - £2 each per meeting

Spring Outing

16th May – Outing to Glen Chantry and RHS Hyde Hall. This year will be Glen Chantry's last open season as its owners are retiring at the end of August. Although we visited the garden three years ago we saw it in mid-summer, whereas this visit is timed to see it in the spring. At the time of writing we have some spare seats, so if you are interested please telephone 07919 478144. Cost is £12 per person.

Maralyn Harris

SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



It is believed, for many good reasons, that the Universe began with the Big Bang. A point smaller than any of the sub-atomic particles that exist now, which suddenly exploded, about thirteen and a half thousand million years ago, releasing, at huge velocities, the energy that became both solid atoms and the forces that govern the atoms, activities, not least of all our good friend gravity. So great was the power of that explosion that all the movement of all the planets and stars (and everything else) that we observe today is still from the momentum of the Big Bang. The whole universe is dynamic; nothing is standing still. We know the Earth spins and that it goes round the Sun every year, but we are also moving in three other ways. The Sun belongs to a galaxy we call the Milky Way. Like most (but not all) galaxies, ours is a spiral with a core and several curved arms, a bit like a swirling octopus. The Milky Way spins round once every 225 million years and, therefore, so do we. Add to that the fact that every star has its own individual movement through the galaxy, which is known as 'proper motion' and in the case of the Sun, we are travelling slightly upwards and across our particular arm at around eight thousand miles an hour.

Then add the fact that the Milky Way belongs to a group of galaxies which together have their own trajectory across the Universe. In addition, we have to remember that the Universe is still expanding, which affects everything and, as has been discovered in the last few years, the rate of expansion seems to be accelerating. As a result astronomers had to start looking for some other, previously unknown and entirely unexpected force. And they theorised two new 'substances' called 'dark energy' and 'dark matter'. This rather sounds like a face saving answer to an impossible problem but in the last year or two, there has been substantial evidence of each of them, most notably with dark matter which astronomers think 'appeared' in a picture of two very distant galaxies colliding. Galaxies collide quite a lot, although it takes several thousand years for one to be completed. During this extended prang, vast forces are generated and there was a hint of an unknown force in the middle of it.

There, you'll never sit still again!

Martin West
Mooncraft Productions

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Mountain saves Molehill?

BAA forced to sell Stansted – death knell for a second runway?

The news from the Competition Commission that BAA must sell Stansted is expected to sound the death knell for the proposed second runway at the Essex airport, which would have made it bigger than today's Heathrow. BAA has been given two years to sell Gatwick, Stansted, and then either Glasgow or Edinburgh airports – in that order. Importantly, the Commission will not insist on any new buyer of Stansted taking forward BAA's second runway proposals. SSE has been actively campaigning for a break-up of BAA's monopoly for more than four years and so we are naturally delighted with the decision, which is an important milestone in our campaign. The battle over a second runway at Stansted is far from over but this decision unquestionably increases our chances of winning that battle.

SSE believes that any new owner would be highly unlikely to press ahead with development plans at Stansted. Opposition to the plans is immense, not least from the airlines, including Stansted's two main airline customers, Ryanair and Easyjet, who would be forced to pay for the expansion. Furthermore, over the years to 2003 the expansion of Stansted was cross-subsidised by the far more profitable Heathrow and Gatwick airports. With the three airports under separate ownership in the future, cross-subsidy will no longer be a possibility for financing any expansion of Stansted. The airport's passenger numbers have fallen dramatically over the past two years and are currently running 19.5% below the peak reached in 2007. There has been an even sharper decline (21.7%) in the number of flights with the result that this year Stansted will use only about half the capacity of the existing runway. The airport is expected to handle about 20 million passengers this year compared to the peak of 24 million reached in 2007.

"BAA's plans for a second runway at Stansted are driven by blind allegiance to Government policy on airport expansion, not by commercial realities," said Mr Ross. "We cannot imagine any potential purchaser wanting to press ahead with BAA's wildly over-ambitious plans for Stansted, particularly in the current economic climate." A Public Inquiry to consider BAA's second runway plans was due to begin on 15th April but was recently put on hold by Communities Secretary, Hazel Blears, to allow BAA time to re-consider its position after seeing the Competition Commission's final report. BAA must now decide whether it wishes to proceed with its Stansted planning application or to focus its efforts on its remaining airports. SSE expects the Public Inquiry to be cancelled but if it does go ahead, we are confident that the proposals will be defeated. Furthermore, if there is a change of Government – a General Election must be held before June 2010 and the Inquiry could not be completed before then – the prospects of securing approval for a second runway would be remote since the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats are both pledged to cancel any plans for a second runway at Stansted.

Brian Ross
Economics Adviser to SSE

BAA's debt mountain seems likely to prevent it from obtaining the compulsory purchase orders (CPOs) it would need to allow a new runway to be built at Stansted. As a consequence, Molehill Green, threatened with extinction by the proposed new runway now seems far less likely to be buried under concrete. This latest blow for BAA was identified in an Appendix to the recent Competition Commission report which ordered the airport operator to sell Stansted Airport but gave it up to two years to do so, raising the possibility that BAA might press ahead with its second runway application in the hope of obtaining approval and achieving a higher selling price. Legally, however, CPOs can only be granted if a developer can demonstrate that he has sufficient financial resources to implement the project within a reasonable time-scale. It seems very unlikely that BAA could demonstrate this because its latest financial accounts show debts of £18.1 billion and negative equity of £1.7 billion as at 31st December 2008.

In the light of the new information, SSE has written to the Secretaries of State for Transport and Communities and to the Chief Executive of BAA calling for the proposed Public Inquiry to be abandoned. Without CPO powers, plans for a second Stansted runway are dead in the water. The list of obstacles just gets longer and longer. It's time for BAA to do a reality check. We recognise of course that a new owner could be in a stronger financial position but a change in ownership would give rise to all sorts of other issues. Either way, the current plans are going nowhere and both BAA and the Government must realise that by now.

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

A PROBLEM AT BENTFIELD END

We who live in Bentfield Road and the Causeway have a big problem. Our pavements are soiled on a daily basis by the dogs being walked around the area. So this is a polite but fervent plea to the owners of the animals. Please, please clear up after your dog. It's not just that the deposits are unsightly and smelly; how would you like it if every time you walked along the road you had to watch the ground and pick your way through heaps of excreta, or had to constantly inspect the pavement outside your house, remove the mess and wash it down? How would you like it if you couldn't let your children run ahead down the road or along Cooper's Alley for fear that they might step in the dog dirt? How would you like to have the task of cleaning your hall carpet where mess had been trodden in? Please, please think of others. Thank you.

The residents of the Bentfield area

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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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