

Stansted Mountfitchet The Link



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Neighbourhood Watch *p15*

Scouts County Award *p25*

A great harp evening *p33*

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by **noon** on 11th November
for the December/January
issue

by **noon** on 11th January
for the February issue

The Link is an independent publication supported by local churches, businesses and the parish council. Each edition is also available on line at www.stanstedlink.org.uk

Editorial



The 'Link's' front cover for this month depicts a scene taken in Silver Street during last winter's brief snowfall. For financial reasons we can only change our cover photo at quarterly intervals (November and December/January being a quarter) but we assure you that spring will show a warmer face!

Cleaning the streets and open spaces of litter and rubbish is at best an unglamorous task done for modest reward and we should be grateful that we have people to do it. However, there are occasions, fortunately infrequent, when one feels bound to express a concern. Whilst it is true that most rubbish should not be there in the first instance, it is doubly wrong that quantities of discarded nappies should fill the wayside bins and become part of the cleaner's chore. Of late the practice has been growing and by any standard should just not happen. Hopefully a message of disapproval will get around.

The staff and customers at Millway were saddened by the death in September of Jill Willis. Her presence over the years cheered and assisted many of us. She, and others like her, made shopping a pleasure.

Perhaps next month we can return to happier themes!

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Stansted Network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

When the Saints Go Marching In 🎵🎵🎵🎵

As I am writing this I am looking forward to the jazz concert featuring Pete Baker and his Crusty Jazzers at St John's Church, Stansted on Friday 23rd October which is raising money for the St Clare Hospice. I inherited my interest in jazz from my father as I grew up listening to his old records, featuring, among others, Louis Armstrong, Bix Biederbecke and the then young Chris Barber, Acker Bilk and Kenny Ball. One of the earliest songs I remember listening to was Louis Armstrong playing *When the Saints Go Marching In*. I am sure many people are familiar with the chorus of the song:

Oh, when the saints go marching in, oh, when the saints go marching in
Lord, how I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.

The reason why I mention this is that on Sunday 1st November the church celebrates All Saints Day. Many people who are familiar with the major church festivals such as Christmas and Easter may be unaware of All Saints Day and that it is such an important date in our church calendar. So what do we as a church celebrate on All Saints Day? The short answer is the communion of saints. This is our belief as a church that all of God's people, both on earth and in heaven, are part of one communion. Because of our common communion with and through Jesus Christ, our prayers are joined together with the heavenly community of Christians. Therefore, on All Saints Day we remember all the saints who have gone before us. Some saints, such as St John, are well known, and have their own special day in the church calendar. But on All Saints day we remember all the saints, both known and unknown. This covers all those who have died in the Christian faith: family and friends, famous people and all those we have never met or even heard of. What a wonderful thought that those we remember on this day are praying with us and for us in heaven, and that one day we will join them. Which brings us back to the hope expressed in the final two lines of the song:

Lord, how I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.

If you have someone in particular you would like to remember on All Saints Day, there will be a Benefice Service of Remembrance for the Departed on Sunday 1st November at 6.00pm in St John's Church. If you would like us to remember someone's name in the prayers please contact the parish office by Friday 30th October. Hopefully before then I will see many of you at the jazz concert, when, if I am lucky, the band might play *When the Saints Go Marching In*.

God Bless.

Rev'd Giles
Assistant Curate

The United Benefice of Stansted Mountfitchet, Birchanger and Farnham



STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Ministers Rev'd Allen Morton
Tel: 757635
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Rev'd David Mullins
Tel: 654475
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Lettings Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059
lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Preachers for November

1st 10.30am Julie Finbow
8th 10.50am Rev'd David Mullins at St John's
15th 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton - Holy Communion
22nd 10.30am Gordon Doyle
29th 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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High Lane

Priest Father Joe White
The Presbytery
High Lane
Stansted
Tel: 814349

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
 St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
 Tel: 815243
 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
 Tel: 812203
 Email: paulwilkin@iname.com

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Giles Tulk
 Tel: 817155
 Email: stansted.curate@googlemail.com

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-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday

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.
Tuesday		
9.00am	St John's Tots	
Wednesday		
9.00am	Morning Prayer	
10.00am	Holy Communion	

Saturday

9.00am Morning Prayer

Monday-Friday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

From the Registers

September

Wedding

12th Nina Lenton to Chris O'Brien

Funerals

15th Richard Paul (Jack) Sayers, age 84 - at St Mary's
 21st Daphne Margaret Agar, age 86 - at Cambridge Crematorium
 29th Edward James Burgess, age 99 - at St Mary's
 30th Gladys Edith Miller, age 84 - at St John's

Service of Remembrance for the Departed - All Souls Please see Rev'd Giles' article on page 2. The list of names is made from scratch each year so if you wish a name to be included please contact the Church Office, tel 815243 or email st.johns.church@btinternet.com (please to not send to the rectory) by Friday 30th October at 9.00am.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

This will be held on Saturday 21st November between 12 noon and 3.00pm in St John's Church. There will be all the normal well-laden stalls - gifts, crafts, toiletries, candles, cakes, toys and games, books, bric-a-brac, tombolas and grand raffle etc as well as a few 'extras' this year, together with tempting refreshments to enjoy whilst savouring the festive ambience.

Do come along to find some Christmas presents, grab a bargain, have a chance of winning a great prize in our raffle or on one of the tombolas and generally join in the fun.



Hope to see **EVERYONE** there!

Francine Cope

IN MEMORIAM

Gladys Edith Miller

Gladys was a special person who had earned love and respect particularly among those who live in Canons Mead or are members of the St John's congregation. She had the ability to make a relationship into one that was peculiarly hers. All that she did, she did quietly and with no sign of self-gratification.



As a result her friends were legion. Much of her life was spent in and around Stansted, mainly in a caring role. She was housekeeper to the Braeckman family in Ugley, for the Tonkin family in Birchanger and for Mrs. Gillon at Blythwood House. After her marriage to Harry in 1946 they lived in the Dairy Cottage at Blythwood. Following the break-up of the estate they moved into a pre-fab and then into Mead

Court. Gladys loved cooking, particularly for residents' events and 'church fund-raising occasions'. She regularly provided a lunch and did the shopping for Stan, another resident. She visited and helped Mrs Rossey in Hargrave House every week. Moreover, she could be relied upon to make bread pudding for the Canons Mead coffee mornings. These and numerous other efforts richly earned Gladys her Uttlesford District Council Community Service Award.

For as long as most of us can remember she was the committed sacristan at St John's Church, ensuring that requisites were ordered in good time and having everything in its rightful place. Gladys was also mainly responsible for the clean linen in the church. In the Rev'd Andrew Spurr's time he had her photograph entitled 'The Boss' placed in the vestry. She was the boss, and a good one. Her comments, occasionally acerbic, were innocuous, and were given and taken in good humour. Her church, her faith and her Lord were central to her life and He will not let her down. As we all await the Archangel's call and the sound of the trumpet we do so in the faith we share with Gladys. Hers was truly a life to celebrate.

Rev'd Paul Wilkin,
 members of St John's Church and friends

Shalom

At our recent open meeting it was agreed that the Shalom group will meet at 8.00pm on the second Monday of each month at 7 Blythwood Gardens for a more structured meeting, sometimes with a speaker and sometimes led by ourselves. On the fourth Monday of each month from 8.00pm we will meet in various people's homes for an informal 'At home'. Please see 'Village Events' for dates and venues.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES

Please join us at the Shoe Box packing evening on Wednesday 11th November from 7.00pm in the Free Church Hall, Chapel Hill. If you are not able to stay and enjoy the fun, then please help by bringing shoe boxes, Christmas wrapping paper and items to fill the boxes, such as:

- Toys - soft toys, balls, finger and glove puppets, jigsaws, cars, girls' jewellery and hair accessories
- Paper, pens, felt tips, chalk, crayons, stickers
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, flannel, hair clips
- Sweets (but not chocolate) with a sell-by date of at least March 2010, gloves, scarf, sunglasses.

Catherine Dean Tel: 813579
Eileen Quinn Tel: 812109 and Helen Baker Tel: 814865

THIRTY YEARS ON THE 'LINK' BECOMES A CIC

The 'Link' is now 30 years old! Late in 1979 it began under a sub-committee of Stansted Association of Christian Churches and early this decade, largely for reasons of finance, it became an independent publication. Because of the more uncertain times in which we now live, and a much higher turnover, its Committee has decided that the magazine should become a Community Interest Company (CIC).

This is a fairly new type of company specifically intended for organisations that work solely for public benefit. Its Articles include an Asset Lock which ensures that any surplus is given to a charity or public beneficiary and not to directors or shareholders (of which, in our case, there are none). The advantage to the former Committee members, who are now the Directors, is that they are no longer liable to personal loss if the 'Link' ever became insolvent or the subject of litigation. We firmly believe that these eventualities are highly unlikely but we hope you will agree that it is only fair that people who work voluntarily should have this safeguard. As with any company the audited accounts will be filed with Companies House and available to public scrutiny. The Directors will retire by rotation and either be open to re-election or replaced by new people. The month by month publication, appearance, content and editorial policy of the magazine will not change in any way as a result.

The Editor

STANSTED 'LINK' MAGAZINE CIC First Annual General Meeting

Stansted Mountfitchet 'Link' Magazine CIC will hold its first annual public General Meeting on the first floor at Crafton Green at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th November. There will be a short report of the year's work, presentation of accounts and an opportunity for questions. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Derek Honour
Editor
Tel: 64721

A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN ST MARY'S CHURCH, STANSTED

On Sunday 4th October we walked to St Mary's Church along the old route past Stansted Manor and through the trees. The moon was up and we heard the bells ringing as we approached the church. When we walked through the Norman north door we found ourselves in a blaze of light, the church bright with candles and flowers and a buzz of anticipation from the packed church. The occasion was to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Churches Conservation Trust. Throughout England, 40 churches had been chosen to hold a concert to mark the birthday – Stansted Mountfitchet being the only Essex church to be selected for this very special event.

The 13 strong De Merc Chamber Choir under their conductor Adrian Jolliffe, sang a wide range of beautiful and varied works by British composers. Most of the pieces were sung



unaccompanied, producing intricate harmonies and counter melodies. Compositions ranged from a Holst song evoking the swooping flight of the swallow to two moving arrangements, one by Parry and the other by Bridge, of Tennyson's 'Crossing the Bar'. Nearly all the works in the programme used texts from Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poems as this year marks the bicentenary of his birth. One of the songs was arranged by Lady Tennyson herself. The church has excellent acoustics, a fact commented on by choir members, and their voices rang out with amazing clarity. During the interval wine was served and the choir mingled with the audience to wander round the church. It is thanks to the work of The Churches Conservation Trust and all the volunteers that we are still able to admire the beauty of this ancient building with its Norman chancel arch and seventeenth-century monuments. I think everyone agreed that it was a very memorable and enjoyable birthday celebration.

Rosina Kirkwood



Village Fireworks & Bonfire

Elms Farm - entry by Archway Cottage
(park in Lower Street car park)

Sat 7th November

- 6.30 pm Gates open
- 7.00 pm Bonfire lit
- 7.30 pm Fireworks

Wear wellies!

Adults £3, Children £1 - pay on gate

Refreshments Available



SAFFRON
WALDEN
CHORAL
SOCIETY

Handel's - Messiah

7.30 pm Saturday 7th Nov
St Mary's Church Saffron Walden

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Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre
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Adults £15 Concessions £12 Children £1

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Primary School**

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9.30 - 10.30 am

Mon 9th November

A chance to have a coffee, chat to other parents and to our Foundation Stage Teachers, tour the school and see our Foundation Stage in action

VILLAGE EVENTS

November

31 Oct Sat & 1 Sun Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm
4 Wed Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 – 4 pm
	Mountfitchet Garden Club
	Day Centre 8 pm
5 Thu Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
7 Sat Village Fireworks	Elms Farm from 6.30 pm
	S Walden Choral Soc Concert
8 Sun Laying of Wreaths	St Mary's Church, S W 7.30 pm
9 Mon Open Morning	Memorial Gardens 10.45 am
	St Mary's School 9.30 – 10.30 am
	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
11 Wed Shoe Box Packing	Free Church Hall from 7 pm
12 Thu WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
13 Fri Age Concern visit	Day Centre 10.30 – 12 noon
14 Sat Scout Group Quiz	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
14 Sat & 15 Sun Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm
17 Tue Link Magazine AGM	Parish Council Offices 7.30 pm
19 Thu U3A	St John's Hall 2 pm
21 Sat Christmas Market	St John's Hall noon - 3 pm
23 Mon Shalom 'At Home'	62 St John's Road 8 pm
28 Sat & 29 Sun Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm

December

2 Wed Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 – 4 pm
	Mountfitchet Garden Club
	Day Centre 8 pm
3 Thu Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
6 Sun Manuden Singers Concert	St Mary's Ch, Manuden 7.30 pm
10 Thu WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
11 Fri Huw Johnson Concert	St Mary's School 7.30 pm
12 Sat Christmas Fayre	Norman Court 2.30 – 4.30 pm
	Skips
	Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm
13 Sun Music@stansted	St John's Church 3 pm

Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

7 pm onwards Wed 11th Nov
Free Church Hall

Come for coffee and bring along your fully or partly completed shoe boxes



For more information
tel 813579, 814865, 812109
or see Link article

All welcome

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link
www.stanstedlink.org.uk

The 1st Link CIC AGM
7.30 pm Tues 17th Nov
Parish Council Offices

A report of the year's work,
presentation of accounts and
an opportunity for questions.
All welcome

St John's Church Christmas Market

12 - 3 pm

Sat 21st November

Gifts ~ Tombolas ~ Toiletries
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Crafts ~ Candles ~ Raffle

Admission Free ~ Refreshments

The next edition covers December and January
To advertise **your event** please tel 814059 or email
events@stanstedlink.org.uk **by 11th November**
Inclusion is subject to editorial decision

Norman Court Christmas Fair

2.30 - 4.30 pm
Saturday 12th Dec

Afternoon Tea ~ Raffles



Admission 50 p



Tel Audrey on 812162 for details



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

7.30 pm

Friday 11th December

St Mary's School

Admission Free

All welcome ~ raffle & mince pies
Proceeds to the Huw Johnson Club

Manuden Singers Haydn's Creation

7.30 pm Sun 6th Dec

St Mary's Church, Manuden

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Royal British Legion

Women's Section

A FINAL WORD

There were only 12 of us at our Annual General Meeting in October 2003. We had just lost our much-loved President, Margaret Gabb; and our Treasurer, Bessie Blyth, was seriously ill in hospital and, sadly, later died. We felt that we could no longer keep going as an official body. Having enjoyed so many happy years together with lucrative meetings and coffee mornings etc we were loath to abandon our happy association - and especially our fund-raising - which, over many years, had been quite considerable. But with just 12 members remaining we knew we could no longer afford to pay for the use of the Day Centre once a month - let alone pay for a speaker and also raise money for the British Legion.

Then someone had an idea - why not meet in our own homes? Our first meeting was on 8th March 2004. We sent letters out to our remaining 12 members and we managed to find a friend to show us his holiday slides. With cups of tea, biscuits and a generous raffle we made a fair profit. After a couple of these meetings several younger friends joined us who seemed to enjoy our company and who fitted in extremely well. We held four meetings a year - including a Harvest Sale - and were always fortunate in finding some stalwart friend to give of his/her time to keep us entertained. The numbers at our meetings grew at times to 28 and 30 and the regular attendance and generosity of all who came was simply outstanding.

For five years we continued to meet four times a year; and thanks to the interest and generosity of all who came we made a total profit of £1427, from 2004 to 2008, which we have divided between the Gurkhas, the Royal British Legion and the Royal Chelsea Hospital. Sadly, our stalwart entertainers (one of whom has recently died) have indicated that due to 'anno Domini' or poor health, they feel that they are no longer able to help us. We do thank them and all those who attended so regularly and gave us so much support - financially and in every possible way - making each meeting so wonderfully successful and enjoyable. Our thanks to all those who have written to us to say how much they have enjoyed our meetings over these past five years. We 'go out on a high' - so farewell, Women's Section, but we take comfort that the local RBL Branch carries on with its invaluable work into the future.

Janet Hollis
Pat Clower
Gill Robinson

THE POPPY APPEAL 2009

As stated in the October 'Link', collecting for the Poppy Appeal begins on 24th October. If you can help with collecting please contact John Segar, the Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser, Stansted & District, tel 813289. Please give generously. The support of all donors is much appreciated. Thank you.

FORESTHALL PARK STREET PARTY

On Saturday 12th September all the residents of the newly finished Croudace Phase 1 Development in Foresthall Park held a coronation style street party and barbecue. This was an informal way of meeting everyone who had moved into the development. Some home owners have been settled for almost a year and a few had only moved in that week.

Several gas barbecues were set up and everybody brought food and drink; we even had a local resident DJ providing the music for us!!!. The park area was filled with all the children and lots of toys and games. The day was an absolute success and the glorious weather was a bonus.



In a time when the pace of life moves so fast, knowing our neighbours has almost become a thing of the past. However thanks to the hard work of Debs Eldred, who fronted the whole campaign, and with the help of Vanessa Kelly, the residents of Bayford Way and the surrounding roads will have friends in their neighbours for many years to come. We are already planning our next event.

Fran Coe
Bayford Way resident

HOST UK

Registered Charity No. 327592

Are you thinking about who might come for Christmas this year? Perhaps you would like to make it a bit different. Some adults from overseas who are currently studying at UK universities would love to spend a couple of days in a real home, rather than on a deserted campus. It is interesting to share Christmas with people for whom it is all quite new (many international students are from China, for example). HOST (Hosting Overseas Students) has been linking students with hospitable volunteers for 22 years, at Christmas and also one-off weekends throughout the year. HOST is a registered charity backed by the Foreign Office and many universities. It is not necessary for hosts to live near a university, as students are prepared to travel far for this unique experience! See www.hostuk.org or call HOST's voluntary regional organiser Eniah Nhika on 01375 393877.

Thank you!

HOST UK
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ST CLARE HOSPICE

All our patients have a life-limiting illness which may include cancer or another condition affecting their heart, lungs, kidneys, liver or brain. We care for patients in West Essex and the neighbouring borders of East Herts. Importantly the care is also extended to family and friends of any age and provided free of charge. "Everyone is all so kind and friendly and instantly make you feel at home, offering all kinds of support" said one patient. I have learnt many things from our patients over the years, not least to try to live each day to the full. The Hospice receives 30% of the £2.5 million running costs for the year from the state and, as always, we do look to the community it serves to help raise the remaining costs. You may, recently, have noticed several St Clare events in Stansted over a short space of time and some of you may have felt overloaded by them. This has not been intentional; however, sometimes events have clashed because groups have felt moved to raise funds for the cause because of personal experience of Hospice care or it has been convenient to donate funds from an already planned event. I am most grateful and appreciate those supporting the Hospice in whichever way they do as I never forget that people do have a choice.

The Kings Arms Bike Ride is still attracting sponsorship and to date an unbelievable £1893.50 has been raised. It is really great to see that the bikers' and walkers' efforts have been recognised. The Stansted Friends' Fashion Show cleared a wonderful £950 and it was brilliant to know that the Hospice benefited from the Village Harvest Supper by £400. Again, if you want to support the Kings Arms Charity Day, there will be an all-day tombola and a £10 per head Curry Night and Auction on the same evening at 8.00pm. Please let Jackie or Lorraine know so that a seating plan can be arranged.

If you are adventurous and interested in a challenge, the Hospice is organising another China Trek for local people, set to take place on 17th–25th September 2010. A group of people will embark on a five day trek along spectacular sections of the Wall and through villages seldom visited by foreigners. I trekked the Wall in 2002 and it was an amazing experience, walking along parts of the Wall that few westerners ever see. There was a fantastic sense of achievement walking the Wall and on one of the days walking through over 40 towers, negotiating a suspension bridge and descending on a zip line or toboggan. The sense of camaraderie was unbelievable and 18 of us raised a total of £45,000 for St Clare Hospice. Please call Sally on 01303 862996 for more information or there is a meeting at the Hospice on Saturday 7th November at 2.00pm for all those interested to hear more about the trip; just let us know for catering purposes.



Caroline Bore
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Wrong Side of the Tracks

As I left the Doctors Surgery I passed along Cambridge Road. I saw the beautifully restored flower troughs burgeoned with flowers and the multiplicity of seats, both traditional and modern, then turning down into Chapel Hill I saw the magnificent old seats by the lovingly tended fountain. At Crafton Green I saw the street cleaner picking up litter from yet another seat. Going down Chapel Hill I could not help but marvel at the flower baskets on every lamp post, not one but two on each. Passing Lower Street I glanced towards the 'Dog & Duck' where rests Mrs Cawkell's seat, removed from Burton End some years ago. Crossing the railway bridge I entered Church Road and the scene changed. No more flower baskets on the lamp posts, no more seats for weary mums to rest whilst pushing their babies up the hill. After passing the school I noticed that the litter had not been collected; apparently it is too far for the street cleaner to walk.

Turning left into Burton End I pass the site of the cheap wooden seat which had been removed for repair at the same time as the beautifully restored flower troughs from Cambridge Road, but never replaced. I then remembered the old American term 'Living on the wrong side of the tracks'. Why do the people on my side of the tracks have to pay the full Parish precept when we get few, if any, of the services???

David Harrison

BALLET SUCCESSES

The autumn term at the Mitchell School of Dance started with great excitement as the children prepare for their biannual dancing display. All the children are involved in various ballet, tap, modern and national items. Their efforts also raise funds for the Save the Children charity. Congratulations to Clare Agnew who has been accepted once again as a senior Cecchetti Associate. Clare is in her fifth year as an Associate, and classes this year will be held at Ballet Rambert in Twickenham, London. The timetable will include pas de deux Clare has been attending weekend classes for the past five years, where together with other talented dancers, she has been learning a wide range of dance styles including modern, jazz, character and tap dancing while developing her ballet skills further. Last year Clare had the chance to perform at the Royal Ballet School in the Linden Studio Theatre at Covent Garden.

The autumn term continues at St Mary's Church Hall, Birchanger and St John's Hall, Stansted (see regular advertisement), as pupils prepare for their dance examinations later in the term.

Wendy Mitchell
Mitchell School of Dance
Tel: 01992 812781



**STANSTED & DISTRICT
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

The Annual Constituency Dinner will be held on Saturday 14th November, 7.00pm for 7.30pm, at the URC Hall, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden. The cost is £24 and the speaker will be Lynn Featherstone, MP for Hornsey and Wood Green. Further information from me, Ruth Rawlinson 814222 or John Hudson 814489.

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Year 7 students settle into life at MMCC!

Year 7 students from MMCC spent a day in Stansted Mountfitchet looking at the history and geography of the village. They visited many of the well-known sites in the village like the war memorial and the windmill and looked at the architecture of some of the lovely houses. In the castle they looked at how people had lived and worked in 1066, and they were able to compare it to the village of today. The visit gave all students an ideal opportunity to familiarise themselves with the village. For some students it was a chance to get to know the village.

Mrs M Smith, Head of History

Primary students and parents rise to the Mountfitchet maths challenge

Year 6 students from Bentfield and St Mary's C of E Primary schools recently took part in a series of maths challenges at the Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College. The demanding puzzles were set in consultation with teachers from the highly successful MMCC mathematics department. The event took place in two parts. The primary students spent the morning working in small groups with staff from all three schools. With the guidance of 13 Year 7 MMCC maths ambassadors, they successfully worked their way through a series of activities designed to engage and stretch their numeracy skills.

The second part of the 'Engaging with Numeracy' event was held in the evening when the Year 6 students were invited back to MMCC with their parents. This time the youngsters were the ambassadors as their parents attempted to solve the various maths challenges and discovered just how much mathematics teaching has changed since their own school days. MMCC maths teacher, Sue Hutchins organised the event with fellow teachers Karen Eldrett from Bentfield and Rebecca Carter from St Mary's. MMCC Maths Department had an OFSTED Good Practice visit last year where inspectors found that "The College's record is consistently among the best 10% in the country for the progress made by students in mathematics." The OFSTED is on their website.

Mr P Smith, Deputy Headteacher

Year 11 Mock Interviews

Twelve members of our local community gave up their time to take part in our Year 11 mock interviews recently. Prior to the day students were asked to prepare their Curriculum Vitae and were given advice on how to prepare effectively. It was lovely to see all the students in their business dress, showing high degrees of confidence and optimism. Each student was given a 20 minute interview which included feedback on their CVs and their performance within the interview. When all the interviews had been completed each interviewer was asked to name who they felt had given the best performance on the day. Twelve students left the day elated. Both the students and the interviewers enjoyed the event and they believed that it was highly successful.

Mrs F Barvé, Work Related Learning Co-ordinator

The September lunch was the usual cheerful affair enjoyed by almost 60, with over 100 regretting and apologising that they could not be present, many because they were revelling in late season holidays following the end of school holidays. It has always been difficult to organise lunches to avoid school holidays but now it is even more so when one has to navigate out of season holidays as well! Danny Doyle, in his dual roles as host and sponsor of the lunch, and with his special brand of Irish humour, acquitted himself with great panache as he told us something of the history of Pearse House and its activities. This performance was only equalled by his enthusiastic staff who, with typical welcome and friendliness, served the excellent products of the culinary specialists in the kitchens. Another memorable and enjoyable lunch, for which we are enormously grateful.

The Club next meets in the Sworders Auction Rooms at 1.00pm for 1.30pm on Wednesday 18th November as guests of Guy Schooling for a buffet lunch provided by Small But Perfect Caterers. An occasion not to be missed!!



Alastair Richardson
Tel: 815518
amg.richardson@gmail.com



At Beavers we have had a busy half-term, starting with a very enjoyable visit to the windmill in September. We are grateful to Alan and Ted for showing us round and answering all our questions so patiently! At the beginning of



October we took part in an activity day with other Beavers from the Hatfield Forest District. The activities on offer included archery, pedal cars, pop-gun shooting, trampolining and a 3-D maze. We all had a brilliant time, and needless to say, there were some very sleepy heads on the coach going home. We have also been working towards our healthy eating badge, thinking about a balanced diet and making - and eating! - healthy sandwiches. Recently we welcomed the local PCSO to give us a safety talk too. If you have a child who would like to become a Beaver, please contact David South on 814371.

David, Dot, Frazer, Laurence & Gerry

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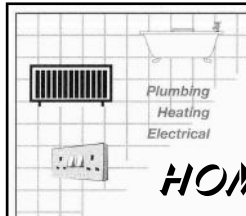
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TAX ... TO PAY, OR TO REPAY?

The sort of good news

If you are self-employed it may be difficult to have enough money to pay the two instalments of your tax bill for the year due on 31st July and 31st January. HMRC has realised these two large six-monthly bills can be difficult to manage, so they have set up a budget payment plan to help individuals pay their tax bill in smaller chunks.

It works like this:

You register on the HMRC website to use the HMRC online service for self-assessment. You don't have to use this service to send in your tax returns, as we can still do this for you, but you can review all your tax statements online, which may be useful.

Next, you set up a direct debit online to pay your self-assessed tax to HMRC. You chose exactly what to pay and whether to pay weekly or monthly.

Or you can call HMRC Business Support Line on 0845 302 1435.

The less good news

Some of our clients are currently waiting for a tax rebate from the Tax Office, as they have claimed for losses to be set against an earlier year's income. If you are expecting such a tax refund, or even if you are not, take care not to be drawn in by emails that claim to have a tax rebate for you. These emails normally ask for details of your bank account to pay the refund into, but they are scams.

HMRC does not send emails to taxpayers informing them of tax rebates. Such emails are fraudulent, and may also be very dangerous. Do not respond to the email. Do not click on any link that is part of the email as this may allow the scammers to gain access to your computer through a virus included in the link. Fraudulent emails normally stand out, as they are not correctly addressed to you personally. They may also be intercepted by junk filters, but many clients of ours have still received emails in their normal Inbox.

If you have any queries regarding these, or any other aspects of the tax treatment of your business, or personal affairs, please contact either Jeremy Fozzard or Mark Williams.

Mark Williams
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Tel: 658499

WHAT IS REIKI?

Hi, My name is Joy and I would like to tell you a little bit about Reiki. Reiki is an energy which comes from the Universe – it is a very powerful healing force of which I am the channel. It is good for all the conditions I have listed in my advert (see back cover). Reiki has been around for thousands of years. It originated in Japan. It is a very spiritual and peaceful experience. It is becoming very popular in the therapy world as you do not have to take any pills or potions – just lie back and enjoy the healing.

Joy Mountney
Reiki Master
Tel: 870699



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Last month our members were entertained by Barbara Haslam, who explained that she loved frogs and Moorcroft pottery! And having been the successful bidder at a charity auction for the chance to design and decorate a piece of Moorcroft, proudly displayed a beautiful vase featuring a family of frogs surrounded by flowers and birds.



She carefully explained the hours of work that went into every piece of Moorcroft as it is all hand-made and decorated. She showed members a copy of a book that she had written and illustrated for children, based on a frog family diary, which she hoped to have published in aid of a children's charity which was obviously very close to her heart. A display of this talented lady's artwork, including non amphibious creatures, brought the entertaining talk to a close.

Andrea Fitt

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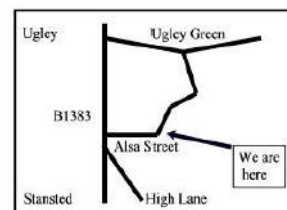
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MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

In wonderful sunny weather, my sister Mary and myself, together with a large number of very enthusiastic and willing helpers held a three-day sale in St John's Lane to raise funds for this truly worthwhile cause. Many of the items came from our Aunt Joan who was born in Elsenham, lived in Surrey for many years and died recently. Our total was boosted by sales made by our Aunt Kath Turner (formerly of Moat Farm, Tye Green and now living at Fullers Houses) to residents, friends and family. She is now 93 and raised more than £150 - well done! We are very grateful to all who came along and thank them for helping us to raise the grand total of £1520. However, we would have been pleased to see more locals supporting the Macmillan cause - we missed you this year.

Gill Robinson



It's the Economy - stupid!

If you want to support the UK economy - Stop Stansted Expansion! That was the simple message which SSE took to this year's Labour and Conservative party conferences. The challenge of rebuilding the UK economy was the dominant theme at this year's party conferences providing SSE with an opportunity to drive home the message that cheap flights generate jobs and investment overseas at the expense of the domestic UK economy. Using official Government statistics, SSE set out the key economic facts about airport expansion in a special conference leaflet entitled 'Support the UK Economy' which highlighted the link between the growth in cheap overseas leisure flights and the spiralling deficit in the UK trade balance on overseas travel and tourism. The leaflet pointed out, for example, that the UK trade deficit on air travel and tourism has grown from just £2.3 billion in 1996 to £20.2 billion in 2008, coinciding with the boom in low-cost overseas leisure flights; Stansted Airport has grown almost five-fold over the same period; Ryanair accounts for 67% of Stansted's passengers and easyJet for 20% and both are focused on providing leisure flights rather than business flights for UK residents.

It isn't possible to fly direct from Stansted to any of Europe's main business centres such as Paris, Zurich or Frankfurt but there are daily flights to Torremolinos and Tenerife. SSE handed out 1000 copies of the leaflet at the two conferences including copies given personally to Chancellor Alistair Darling, Shadow Chancellor George Osborne and a host of other Cabinet Ministers, Shadow Ministers and other leading politicians and national journalists and broadcasters. SSE's factual summary of the economic realities of airport expansion also proved invaluable at conference fringe meetings as a basis for stimulating debate and exposing the illusory nature of many of the claims made by the aviation industry about the economic benefits of airport expansion. When the facts are properly presented, politicians begin to realise that a second Stansted runway would not only have some disastrous environmental consequences but would also further weaken the UK economy, which would be complete madness, especially in the current circumstances. With the General Election campaign just months away and the UK economy needing all the help it can get, this was exactly the right moment to highlight to leading politicians the fact that a second Stansted runway would be a net drain on the UK economy.

Carol Barbone
Campaign Director
Tel: 07775 523091
Email: cbarbone@mxco.co.uk
Brian Ross
Economics Adviser
Tel: 07850 937143



HATFIELD FOREST HIGHLIGHTS

Hello everyone. November has arrived, as has the cold, wet weather but the Forest is looking as beautiful as ever in its autumnal colours. Vehicular access to the lake is now only available on Sundays but we will still all be here, so look out for the Wardens working away amongst the trees. On a seasonal note, our shop and café will operate reduced hours from 31st October. The shop will be open Saturdays and Sundays 10.00am-3.30pm and the café will be serving Wednesdays to Sundays 10.00am-3.30pm. Both facilities are available seven days a week during the school holidays.

As winter gets closer there are fewer visitors to the Forest but still plenty to see and do. Some exciting news is that we will soon be receiving a further 21 Wiltshire Horn sheep, expanding our stock



from 12 to 33 sheep in the Forest. As intensive conservation grazers these sheep play an important role in restoring our lost woodland pastures by keeping the brambles and thistles down in key areas allowing a richer variety of grasses, herbs and wild flowers to come through. Some of you have noticed the strange new structures along the dam of the lake and have questioned me as to their purpose. I hope you all had fun trying to guess what they were for and I can now reveal that they are new bivy platforms for our fishermen to safely pitch up for the night. They are now fully complete and ready for use so for all you fishermen; come and have a look and tell us what you think. I hope to see you all around the Forest soon; otherwise, until next month, take care.

Laura Slater
Community Warden
Email: laura.slater@nationaltrust.org.uk
Tel: 874043

AGE CONCERN TO VISIT STANSTED DAY CENTRE

On Friday 13th November a representative from Age Concern and UOSA (Uttlesford Over Sixties Association) will be visiting The Stansted Day Centre. The purpose of this visit is to provide information on a whole range of issues which affect older people. We have up to date information on finance, benefits and health, in fact anything that might be of interest to older members of our community. We also have access to expert advice from trained staff in all these areas. So why not come along and meet me on 13th November. I shall be at Stansted Day Centre from 10.30am until 12 noon. I look forward to seeing you there.

Lindsey Peters
Age Concern



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We had an old friend to speak to us at our October meeting, when Peter Lawrence gave us another fascinating talk which he had entitled "London 'remains' remains to be seen". As usual, he showed some excellent slides to demonstrate his discoveries. His aim this time was to show the changes in attitude of, among others, the architects and planners. He recalled the time shortly after the war when, during excavations for a building project, major Roman remains were discovered. This was the Temple of Mithras and after the archaeologists had studied them, the contractors dug them up and put them on the roof of an underground car park. Peter compared this with the discovery seven years ago of an important arch from the Middle Ages. Here the architects re-planned the proposed building, and a secure site was produced to which the public could have complete access - even to the provision of glazed pavement above so that passers-by could look down on the remains. As you will gather, the ground level has risen by many feet with the constant re-building of the City but more importantly, the last 51 years have seen a great shift in thinking over discoveries of the remains of our heritage.

Among the many subjects Peter touched on was the Great Exhibition of 1851. This was held in Hyde Park and the Albert Memorial is on part of the site, recalling the Prince's inspiration for this mammoth task. Following the five months that the Exhibition was held, the profits were sufficient to buy Brompton Village and build the many Museums and The Royal Albert Hall which are still active. Not only that, but the profits are still available today to provide grants for students to the Royal College of Music, which is part of the complex. Peter compared this with the Millennium Dome, which has cost us all so much.

He referred to the perfect eighteenth century view of Kensington Palace in Hyde Park and the visible remains of the trenches dug during the Napoleonic Wars which are close by - the magazine to provide them with shot and gunpowder is now used to store grass-cutting equipment. We also saw many pictures of statues all over London put up at various times, culminating in the ten foot one in Southwark Street, which is the first automaton to be erected! The references that Peter made are far too many to be included here, and we were fascinated with all he had to tell us - we were very grateful to him for giving such an interesting talk

Our next meeting is on Thursday 5th November in the Day Centre at 8.00pm (why does that date seem familiar?) when Rosanne Kirkpatrick will be telling us about 'Saffron Walden and the Quakers' - hope you can be there.



Ian Seavers



GENERAL MEETING OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Stansted Neighbourhood Watch recently held a successful evening in the Free Church Hall. The attendance was fair and the following visitors were also present: Lindsay Baillie (Essex Watch Administrator), Kelly Roberts (PCSO) and Stuart Stranger (PCSO). The following items were discussed:

Neighbourhood Watch Notice Boards. It was decided not to purchase new boards but to continue to use the existing Parish Boards to advertise NhW information.

Neighbourhood Watch Signs. Five illuminated signs will be placed at the entrance of the five approach roads into Stansted. Other smaller signs will eventually be purchased to replace old existing ones and to introduce further new ones to other locations, where they are needed.

Graffiti Kit. The Council will eventually have a Graffiti Kit for use in Stansted; it will however need to be used under supervision and with prior notice to the Police before any work commences.

Identity Badges will be supplied to Co-ordinators who wish to wear them when visiting households.

NAP Meetings. Richard Portway, our main co-ordinator, is now our NhW link with these meetings. The general public are also encouraged to attend these meetings which are advertised in the 'Link' and on the Parish Notice Boards.

Diane Roberts gave a detailed update on how NhW was functioning at present. Thanks were expressed to her for her hard work over the last year. We have now formed our own Stansted Steering Group who will meet a week before each main Public Meeting. Questions were put to our Police representatives who responded to a number of concerned residents. Future meetings will be on 27th January and 26th May 2010 in the Free Church Hall at 7.30pm.

Cllr Valerie Trundle
Chairman



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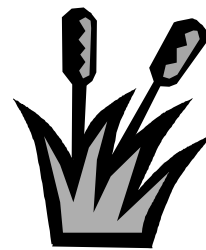
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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

**REMEMBER, REMEMBER!!
NOT THE 5th, BUT THE 7th
NOVEMBER**

**ANNUAL BONFIRE AND
FIREWORKS.**

ELMS FARM, CHURCH ROAD,
ENTRANCE VIA ARCHWAY COTTAGE
GATES OPEN 6.30 pm,
BONFIRE 7.00 pm
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ADULTS £3, CHILDREN £1
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
WEAR WELLIES
TAKE SPARKLER STICKS HOME AS
THIS IS A HORSE FIELD

*If you can offer wood for the bonfire,
please contact the Parish Clerk on
01279 813214*

REMEMBERING SACRIFICE AND SUFFERING

On Sunday 8 November at 10.45 am there will be a short, traditional ceremony around the War Memorial on Chapel Hill, followed by a service in St. John's church. The ceremony will be led by Revd Allen Morton.

Although we come together to give thanks for those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom, we also remember all those who have suffered and continue to suffer in war, mostly innocent civilians. In coming together to remember we also look forward in hope that negotiation, with understanding and patience, may resolve and replace armed conflict.

NEW LIGHTING CONTRACTOR

Unfortunately we are still awaiting some details to be agreed in the small print in the contract. Finding a new contractor has not been easy but hopefully this contractor, who also acts for Essex County Council, will provide an efficient, if more expensive, service. The Council apologises for the poor service during the interregnum between contractors.

BENTFIELD POND ENHANCEMENT

The final phase of our three-year project will take place on Sunday 6 December, 11am – 3pm. All volunteers will be welcomed! Please bring gloves/wellies/waders/waterproofs and flask!

LOCAL LANDMARK REVIVED

We are extremely grateful to John Nicholls of The Mile Iron Society for undertaking the refurbishment of our Mile Iron on the B1383. He gave his time freely and has agreed to “keep an eye on it” in the future. For further information on mile irons and stones see www.milestone-society.co.uk

WORK AT THE WINDMILL

After years of negotiations the long awaited renovation work and project to turn the cap is imminent. Completion is expected in the New Year. The Council and the Millers wish to record their gratitude to local donors, Essex County Council, Viridor, Essex Heritage Trust and English Heritage for providing funds for this work. Next year the mill will again be open and volunteers are always needed and welcome. If you would like to support the work of the mill, become a Miller by contacting Derek Honour on 01279 647213.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANEL

Regular meetings are held between the police and local residents at which local priorities are discussed. If you are interested in attending the next meeting, or future meetings, please contact our PCSO's on 07801 461 666 for further information . The meetings are usually held at The Youth Centre, Lower Street from 6.30 – 7.30 pm.

PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON THE BUDGET

2009/10 – At the half-way stage in the year overall income and expenditure is on target to meet the budget. As always there are swings and roundabouts with benefits accruing from lower business rates, no playscheme and higher cemetery income being offset by adverse movements in lighting maintenance costs, lower interest receipts and a contribution to the Youth Centre to enable opening in the summer.

2010/11 – Initial projections point to an 8% increase in expenditure with the main elements contributing to this rise being the contribution towards the resurfacing of unadopted roads, higher lighting maintenance charges and a full year cost of 50% of the PCSO's salary. Fortunately the yield from council tax should increase given the greater number of houses. It is hoped, therefore, to restrict the rise in council tax to about 3-4%.

2011/12 – During this year, assuming the new health centre has been completed, it is probable that the Parish Council offices may move to the ground floor of Crafton Green. Even if nothing else changed, costs would increase as the rent from the clinic will cease while the upper floor, even if a tenant is sought and found, will not produce an equivalent figure. In addition the full cost of the building would fall on the budget. Altogether, the additional cost will fall into the £20 - £25,000 range.

As Foresthall Park is built, the size of the parish will increase and costs will rise in terms of maintaining verges, play areas and litter collection while income from council tax is likely to grow at a slower rate.

Such a step change is likely to mean higher council tax for the parish, but the Council will seek to limit this impact whilst sustaining and improving services at what remains a relatively low cost. However, nothing has been decided but decisions will need to be taken in 2010 if the move of the health centre is confirmed.

HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY – COMMENTS ON STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

The Council has made the following representations to Uttlesford District Council over the list of possible development sites in the parish. The main conclusions may be summarised as follows:

- A number of brownfield sites in the centre of the village (Braefield Engineering, 10 Cambridge Road, 14-28 Cambridge Road and works at Bentfield Road) would be suitable for

housing development, providing they are not needed for business use.

- Building on green belt land is unacceptable in most instances but consideration could be given to Elms Farm and land south of Stoney Common Road. However, apart from traffic issues the Council is insistent that the view across Stansted Park from the west side of the village, particularly from Chapel Hill, must be protected.
- Development on the triangle north of the Catholic Church on High Lane was opposed given its prominent position at the entrance to the village and because any building would detract from long views across the countryside.
- The density of development on any site should be determined by the context and respect the rural situation of Stansted. This should apply to any further development at Foresthall Park and construction of more flats should be opposed.
- Development of five low rise houses on the St Mary's School in St John's Road site may be acceptable provided the open space is safeguarded while the Three Colts, an empty pub, may offer scope for a modest scheme.

These are preliminary views and may be changed in light of the responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire.

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

11 November	Full Council
18 November	Open Spaces (Budget)

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

From Cllr Alan Dean

The bus shelters around Stansted were installed in early October after a further month's delay, but in time for the autumn and winter wind and rain. The revised bus service to Stortford is far from ideal, with the two services 7 and 301 timed to trail each other within a few minutes in each direction. In fact I was on a 301 that was competing for space with a number 7 at the Silver Street lay-by. The poor timing has been pointed out to the county council, but no solution is on offer.

However, from November 15th the Arriva 510 service between the airport and Harlow centre will be diverted via Forest Hall Road. This bus will use Walson Way when it opens early next year. The 510 service will provide a direct service every 20 minutes for much of the day to the airport, Bishop's Stortford and Harlow. It runs all day and also throughout the night every hour so will be a big boost for local bus travel even though it only touches the edge of Stansted. There is even an hourly service of Sundays, which will give Stansted its first Sunday bus service for many years.

Other good news on Foresthall Park: the footpath to Stoney Common is now open; the footpath which provides a temporary link into Church Road has been improved; architects have been appointed to design the new primary school and finally the children's play area in Walson Way will open at the time the road opens, but not before for safety reasons whilst some nearby homes are still being built.

I am part of a team within the local strategic partnership called Uttlesford Futures which has commissioned a survey of over 300 local businesses to get their views of what it's like to do business in Uttlesford. We are still analysing the results, but two caught my attention. Four out of five businesses have five or fewer employees and one in eight of these businesses are thinking of leaving the district in the next three years because either they can't expand locally or they find premises too expensive in Uttlesford. This suggests that a fresh approach is needed to planning in Uttlesford if the local economy is to climb out of the recession in the best possible shape. I have for some time felt that the planning system in Uttlesford is good at stopping what it doesn't like but bad at promoting the area to encourage enterprise.

District Councillors are carrying out a review of day centres. People who run and use Stansted's day centre will be invited to contribute. As with most council services, the use of day centres has been changing over the years so the time seems right to have a fresh look at making best use of these community facilities.

From Cllr Geoffrey Sell

Council Finances

For the financial year 2008/09 there was an under-spend of about £1.1 million. This is considerably in excess of what was predicted at the beginning of the year. Although budgeting is not an exact science the variances have been substantial. Most of the under-spend has been allocated to the Landsbanki Bank reserve. Uttlesford had £2.2 million invested in this failed Icelandic bank. Latest indications from CIPFA the local government accounting association is that councils are likely to receive back 83% of their investment. It is not clear yet whether councils will be treated as a preferential creditor.

Whilst the substantial under-spend for the last year helps financial stability there is a need to improve the effectiveness of services such as Planning and Enforcement.

Further news on the finance front was the result of the Use of Resources Inspection for 2008/09 by the Audit Commission. Use of resources is an assessment of how well organisations are managing and using their resources to deliver value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people. Grading is from Level 1 being the lowest to Level 4 being the highest. The Council scored a Level 2 overall which is an improvement over the last two years when Uttlesford scored a Level 1 in the inspection. It also illustrates that we have still some work to do to achieve the higher grades but at least we are moving in the right direction.

Impact of recession upon the Housing Department

The number of people seeking housing advice has continued to rise substantially. Whilst in the first four months of this financial year compared to the same period in 2008/09 the numbers of new applicants registering onto the housing register has risen from 148 to 198, a 25% increase. This has created extra work processing and assessing the applications

District Council Housing Strategy

This is a long but interesting document which members of the Community & Housing Committee considered at their last meeting. Some extracts from this document:

'There is a growing affordability problem in the District. ...There is simply not enough affordable housing to meet the need of the District's residents.'

'The East of England Plan –Regional Housing provision 2001-2021, sets out a minimum dwelling provision for Uttlesford of 8,000 new homes. The Regional Plan identifies at April 2008 that a minimum of 5,428 dwellings are still to be built.'

NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

From Cty. Cllr Ray Gooding



Ray Gooding Welcomes the first 120 Essex County Council Apprentices

We read a great deal in the media about unemployment amongst young people and in these difficult times many companies are unwilling or unable to invest in training for young people. Similarly, there is a general lack of skilled and qualified people in the workforce and when the economy picks up again we will need a workforce that is capable of fulfilling the requirements of employers.

This is particularly true of the Engineering and Manufacturing sectors of our economy so, to make sure that employers in Essex are equipped for the future and young people in the County are properly skilled to meet these requirements, Essex County Council have started their own Apprentice Training Scheme.

In September the first 120 young people from across the County came to County Hall to welcome the start of their training as Engineering Apprentices. The innovative scheme which is being pioneered by the County Council means that young people who reach a basic entry level will be employed by ECC for a year during which time they will attend colleges in either Harlow, Basildon or Colchester to gain some basic skills and technical training and they will spend about a third of the time with a number of companies so that they get a taste of what the workplace is really like. They will stand a good chance of getting a job and continuing their training with those companies and at the end of the year. What's more they get paid as well!

The intention is that this scheme will be extended to engage 1000 young people over the next three years and will be broadened to provided skilled people to other sections of the economy. Indeed, ECC is currently investigating schemes for high level engineering skills within the County and has just started a scheme in association with Chelsea Football Club which is aimed at Looked After Children where twelve young people have begun a 15 Month Apprenticeship to equip them to become sports trainers.

If you would like any further information about these schemes or if you have a company that could become involved with this training process, please let me know.

CONTACT US!

Clerk – *Ruth Clifford*
Admin Assistant – *Anne Court*
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net
Phone/fax 01279 813214 10am – 1pm

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members

<i>Alan Dean</i>	<i>Tel: 01279 813579</i>
Email: cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>John Hudson</i>	<i>Tel: 01279 814489</i>
Email: cldrudson@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>John Salmon</i>	<i>Tel: 01279 814789</i>
Email: cldralsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>Geoffrey Sell</i>	<i>Tel: 01279 815925</i>
Email: cldrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk	

Essex County Council Member

<i>Ray Gooding</i>	<i>Tel: 01279 813103</i>
Email: cldr.ray.gooding@essexcc.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, Tel: 01279 812211
Non-emergency number 0300 333 4444
PCSO's (Stuart/Kelly) 07801 461 66



Saffron Walden Choral Society is embarking on a season packed with choral masterpieces. It features three of the greatest pieces of choral music, all performed with a professional orchestra and wonderful soloists. The choir's first concert on Saturday 7th November at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden is Handel's *Messiah*. As 2009 marks the 250th anniversary of Handel's death SWCS will perform this most enduring and popular work with an orchestra of period instruments at Baroque pitch. The players of the Chameleon Arts Baroque Orchestra specialise in recreating an authentic sound from Handel's time, making this a truly distinctive performance.

The season will also include the traditional Spirit of Christmas concerts on 5th December, a singing day, '*A Day at the Opera*', on 6th February and two Summer Proms with guest Crispian Steele-Perkins in June (*one of these will be in St John's Church*).

The concert on 20th March 2010 marks another anniversary: 400 years since the publication of Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine 1610*, a collection of vespers music assembled by a composer with his eye on the top job in Venice – maestro di capella at St Mark's. Four hundred years later there's no doubting Monteverdi's genius and the juxtaposition of the 'old' renaissance with the dramatic 'new' Baroque styles is as striking now as it would have been for a contemporary audience. Again SWCS will be joined by Chameleon Arts Baroque Orchestra, this time also incorporating the English Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble. Voices 8 will provide a line-up of superb young soloists who regularly perform this work together, so we can expect precision ensemble work. The final concert marks a new venture for the choir when they perform Brahms *Requiem* for the closing concert of the Thaxted Festival on Sunday 12th July.

Rehearsals for *Messiah* have just begun and any singers who would like to join the choir are warmly invited to attend a Monday rehearsal. The choir includes many experienced singers and also those with less experience, so whatever your level you're very welcome to try them out! For more details on how to join, contact membership secretary Carol Hunt on 813392, email: membership@swchoral.co.uk.

Tickets for the concert on 7th November at St Mary's Church Saffron Walden are £15 (£12 concessions, £1 children) and are available from SWCS Box Office tel: 812849 and from Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre. The society's brochure giving details of the whole season will shortly be available from the Tourist Information Centre.

Sue Sylvester-Bradley
SWCS Publicity
Tel: 01440 783157

Sing Hallelujah for Children in Need!

Saturday 31st October 10.45am for 11.00am until noon.

Come and sing the Hallelujah Chorus in the company of Saffron Walden Choral Society and St Mary's Church Choir, in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's, Saffron Walden. The BBC and English National Opera have launched *Sing Hallelujah*, a nationwide project encouraging people across the UK to find their voice and discover the joy of singing. You don't have to sing in a choir to join in. Everyone is welcome and you can help raise funds for Children in Need. For further information log on to the website: www.waldenhallelujah.org.uk.



Nature Notes

With winter upon us, our wildlife companions will be seeking shelter. What to us may be an unwelcome heap of rubbish can be a haven for numerous species, large and small, but it need not be unsightly. Bins made from pallets can be both functional and tidy, and hedge bottoms with a generous layer of fallen leaves, cones and small twigs can provide cover and future nutrition. There is, of course, a potential problem in that such resorts can harbour slugs and snails, so the practice should not apply in the vicinity of borders or vegetable patches. It is, like everything in nature, largely a matter of balance. Woodpiles which can remain undisturbed for the season are particularly useful for invertebrates. Please bear this in mind when preparing your Guy Fawkes bonfire!

It has at last been a good year for butterflies. Painted Ladies, Gatekeepers (also known as Hedge Browns) and Commas have been plentiful, while the Small Tortoiseshell has made a modest comeback. The Painted Lady breeds and overwinters mainly in Southern Europe, so our summer population is vulnerable to other climatic influences - hence it can be either a feast or famine year for us in the UK.



The drought of late summer and autumn has scorched our lawns, reduced vegetable yields and influenced earlier autumn colour, but we should remember that these phenomena are part of our maritime climate pattern and if we discount global warming have little long-term affect on woody plants.

Looking through the garden bird list for the year, we noted that a Pied Flycatcher visited for the first time over three weeks in July. Bird books of 20 or 30 years ago show them breeding in the west after overwintering in Africa but not coming to SE England. It seems that they are one of the few species on the increase, so it would be interesting to know if there have been other local sightings. Sadly the Spotted Flycatcher has become a rarity.

Derek Honour

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Learning together we care, share and prepare

The first half of the term has been about settling in all our new pupils and staff and getting back to business as usual. The pupils are always pleased when the autumn term means a return of football, tag rugby, hockey and netball clubs which are well supported by both girls and boys. Mark North is coaching the football team and they got off to a good start this season - in our first match of the year against Great Chesterford we won 3-2. Pupils have already taken part in two Multiskills festivals at MMCC. Netball, rugby and cross country fixtures are also in the diary so we are looking forward to a winter with plenty of sport! It is the time of year when parents of pre-school children are making a decision on a school for their child. The application deadline is 30th November. To help with your choice we are having an **Open Morning on Monday 9th November 9.30am-10.30 am**. There will be chance to have a coffee, chat to other parents and to our foundation Stage Teachers, tour the school and see our Foundation Stage in action. Otherwise, if you are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school, please give us a ring on 812212 to arrange a visit. We are always happy to show you around the school and answer any questions. We also have a website full of information: www.st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher



The National Childbirth Trust
Supporting you to be the parent
you want to be

On 2nd October, Bishop's Stortford/Sawbridgeworth and Stansted and District NCT ran an event called Bumper Bumps and Babes. It was a huge success with over 40 pregnant and new parents coming along. Kate and Dianne from the La Leche League allowed us to take over their usual monthly drop-in session which is held at the Havers Lane Community Centre and Windhill Children's Centre, Bishop's Stortford was good enough to sponsor the event. We had Barbara from the Hertfordshire County Council checking car seat safety and Sandra Buchholz-Rutter talking to mums and dads about breastfeeding. Lou Painter from the Dunmow NCT branch was there with maternity bras for sale and the Stansted Children's Centre, Spangles, also came along. The mums and dads enjoyed baby massage demonstrations, baby sling demonstrations and sing and sign sessions. We had a health visitor and an ante-natal teacher on hand to talk to and lots of cakes and cups of tea for the hungry mummies and daddies. A big thank you to La Leche League and Havers Lane Community Centre/Windhill Children's Centre.

Forthcoming Events

Halloween Messy Play

2.00pm-4.00pm Friday 30th October in St John's Church Hall

Girls' Night Out

8.00pm Friday, 4th December

Audley End Santa Ride

2.00pm Tuesday, 15th December

Kim Taylor
Publicity Officer

STANSTED DAY CENTRE'S 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On 26th August, the Day Centre celebrated its 25th birthday! Nearly 70 people arrived to enjoy a wonderful buffet lunch that was provided by the Women's Institute, who also supplied our beautiful cake. A great time was had by all and



it was also an opportunity for us to thank all of our hard working volunteers. It was lovely to see so many of our members in the Day Centre at the same time and to reminisce about times gone by. We hope that you all continue to



enjoy the service the Day Centre provides. Here's to the next 25 years!!

Kat Lupton
Day Centre Manager

IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A VET !

The phrase "It shouldn't happen to a vet" has been in my mind a lot this week, unfortunately connected with the phrase "bad things happen in three's!" What I thought would be a normal Wednesday morning began badly with Dave - the dog who would be issued with the doggy equivalent of an ASBO if there was one. Dave unfortunately has dominant personality traits with underlying psychotic tendencies. As he pulled his frazzled looking owner into the consulting room, she shouted "don't look him in the eyes!" Following the advice I tried to ignore him as he pulled his owner around the room in tighter and tighter circles and then proceeded to urinate up the examination table legs and all four walls. "What appears to be the problem?" I asked through gritted teeth and the suffocating smell of urine. "I think he's got conjunctivitis" she said. I looked at Jo the nurse and for a moment I could see the same thought flashing through our minds. How on earth were we going to carry out a proper eye examination without looking Dave directly in the eyes and him misinterpreting it as a direct challenge on his manhood and deciding we needed to be reminded of our position in his social hierarchy? For an instant I had a vision of a device using several mirrors arranged at particular angles to avoid a direct stare, but realising I didn't have the time, knowledge of physics or enough mirrors, I resorted to the dog treat jar. Fifteen minutes and many dog treats later we opened the consulting room door and watched as Dave pulled his owner across the waiting room and out of the front door, stopping only to urinate up it. A case for castration and dog training classes we both agreed.

After mopping up the copious quantities of urine and disinfecting the floor, table and walls I called the next client through, a beautiful Jack Russell puppy called Molly. The morning already felt better, I welcomed Molly enthusiastically and got the jar of dog treats out again. It's important to make a puppy's first visit to the vets as pleasant as possible. Molly got so excited at the sight of the dog treats she promptly wet herself, and with some vigorous wagging of her little tail managed to share it with everyone else in the room. Well, I thought to myself, at least she didn't try to bite me. Molly's owner had also brought their other dog in as she hadn't wanted to leave it at home alone and I bent down to give it a friendly pat before they left. Not a good move, I managed to snatch my fingers away just in time from a very sharp row of shiny white teeth. "Oh, he's never done that before" his owner said. Now as I may have mentioned before there are two phrases vets hear a lot, one is the above one, usually said in a shocked voice after a pet has managed to pierce part of a vet's anatomy with its teeth or claws and the other is "he doesn't eat much", usually uttered by the owners of 'generous' sized animals, but that's another story.

Well, the rest of morning surgery went on uneventfully and by the time it came to the last client Jo and I were looking forward to our cup of tea and chocolate biscuit; have I told you about Jo's chocolate habit ...? Anyway we should have realised there was going to be trouble when we saw the animal's name ... 'Killer'. Killer turned out to be a hamster. "Interesting name" I joked when the owner came in. "Yeah, he's a lot slower than he used to be though" the owner said thoughtfully. It turned out Killer had a lump on his tummy. "Would you like to get him out?" I said. The owner looked at

me as though I was on day release from a secure unit. "No thanks" was the short reply. With a sinking heart I opened the top of the shoe box. (It is the unwritten law of hamster medicine that they are always brought to the vets in a shoe box.) Before I had time to blink, a small flash of brown fur let out a blood curdling scream and the next thing I knew, it was attached to the side of my hand with two long yellow teeth. Stifling a scream myself, I grabbed it with my other hand at which point it did a flying leap incorporating a triple back somersault in the piked position (admittedly I could have been imagining that bit) and sank its teeth into my other hand instead. Seeing that if I tried to grab it again I would just be perpetuating an endless series of bites on alternate hands, I then tried to shake it gently off and back into the shoe box. The only effect this seemed to have was to make it clench its jaws tighter. By this stage I was beginning to feel rather faint and my eyes appeared to be watering and rather than coming to my aid the owner seemed to have retreated to the other side of the room. Suddenly for no reason Killer let go, dropped calmly back into the shoe box and shuffled off in a business-like fashion into its little house. I realised apart from the throbbing hands I also had a warm wet sensation on them. I looked more closely and yes, you've guessed it, I'd also been urinated on! Needless to say, I had a few extra chocolate biscuits with my cup of tea that day, but relaxed with the thought that even though it really shouldn't happen to a vet, at least I'd had my three bad things and surely the rest of the day should be a breeze!

Ilse Pedler
Partner

Mercer & Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Hello to all of our 'Link' readers - just to let you know that by the time this goes to print Stansted Football Club will have their new projector and massive screen in place for everyone to enjoy all the Sky sports coverage. So why not come along and join us? And with bar prices at the Club being substantially cheaper than the pubs it is also great value for money.

Why not also support your local side on Saturdays when either the 1st team or the reserves play. On Wednesdays the under 18s are sometimes at home. On Sundays we have Queens Park Stansted, our Sunday side, who kick off at 10.30am, and Sunday afternoon we have our under 16s side who normally kick off at 1.30pm. So please come along and support us here at Hargrave Park. 1st team fixtures for November are: 7th at home to Southend Manor; 14th away to Long Buckley in the FA Vase; 21st at home to Enfield; 24th at home to Barkingside and 28th at home to Basildon. All Saturday matches kick off at 3.00pm and evening matches at 7.45pm. We look forward to welcoming new and old supporters.

Larry Woods
Vice Chairman



STANSTED SCOUTS

On a glorious last weekend in September, Stansted Scouts took on other Scout troops in our District's Super Troop event. There are eight events, and the troop winning the most becomes the 'Super Troop'. On the Saturday, we won the shooting, cross-country and athletics and took 2nd place in the football on goal difference. By 11.00pm the darts have finished, and it's another win, this time by the B team. Time for a few hours sleep and a well earned rest. Sunday, and it's more of the same, the rounders competition, archery and skittles all fall to Stansted. There can only be one winner!

This follows on from the Troop's recent success in winning both the District Fishing and Shooting competitions. Next up is the Night Hike in November, last won two years ago.



To complete the 'visit' section of our Community Challenge award, 32 Scouts and four Leaders went to the airport police station, where we were shown around the Armoury (and got to handle the guns and ammo, but not at the same time!) as well as the custody area (finger print time), the control room and one of the armoured response vehicles. An excellent evening and thanks to Julie and Ian for their time. We held a joint evening with Elsenham Guides where we lit fires and did some backwoods cooking. Nearly 60 young people cooking outside on wood fires, laughing and just having a good time. That's what scouting's about - outdoors, having fun. Our Chairman, Brenda Ryan, organised a Group Fun Evening to allow parents and siblings of the three different sections to meet. There were various activities to take part in, with the plate smashing probably the favourite, with the china tea pot being rescued in the nick of time! Throughout the evening Niggs and Jack kept the supply of burgers coming, and very nice they were too.

The Group as a whole recently received a certificate at the Essex County Awards evening for 66% growth between



2005 and 2009. Mark Gerber and Fintan Lambe represented Stansted at the awards where Lord Petre (Essex Scouts President and Lord Lieutenant of Essex) presented the certificate. Well done to all Leaders and parents for their support but especially the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for attending.

We have five more new Scouts settling in over the next few weeks, including our first female Scout. This takes our numbers to 35 and if any adults would like to help on a Monday evening you would be most welcome.

Mike Byrne
Scout Leader

Wellbeing

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



My desire for wellbeing has caused me to enter in to a relationship with the world famous psychologist Jung (1875-1955). I have always liked clever people but he is something else! The unconscious, dream state, extroverts, introverts; the mind boggles. I've self-analysed my personality type. I'm a feeler more than a thinker helped by a practical sensate side. Jung's theories may have stolen my heart but they are too complex to be read and remembered over a coffee in Café Nero. Jung studied how people perceive and evaluate their lives, their wellbeing.

Reading psychology, practising yoga and personalising some ideas help me to create my own personal theory of wellbeing. Living, breathing psychologists have had an impact on my health through a focused, distilled version of Jung's work by simply asking "Are those thoughts, is that behaviour, helpful to you Isobel?" Over time the questions remain the same, yet the unfinished, developing answers offer potential and an expanded, exciting view on life.

At the age of thirteen I had my first singing lesson, the aria from Mendelssohn's Elijah, 'O rest in the Lord wait patiently for him and He shall give thee thy heart's desire'. Common to spirituality around the world, the heart is a symbol for wholeness. Psychologically, humans have many desires. Again, I have to ask, "Which of my desires is helpful to me?"

Listening to the news I've heard that social policies are being devised which are 'age appropriate'. I have just met my new class of yoga students with the average age of 80! The vision of yoga from the armchair may bring a smile to your face yet it remains appropriate for all ages to consider what is helpful for wellbeing, how to move, breathe, eat, relax and pray.

Jung valued the intuitive aspect of the human psyche. Intuition has been described as unlearned knowledge. Jung describes the collective unconscious as the wisdom and experiences from the beginning of humanity. Spirituality describes the point in the heart where the creator dwells. Jung's interests included psychology, religion, culture and art. He required his therapists to study for seven years. Once qualified and working with people, Jung offered his last words of wisdom. They were to forget all they had studied and were to listen to the unique individual before them. Jung believes that each individual knows and holds within, their path to wellbeing.

Isobel

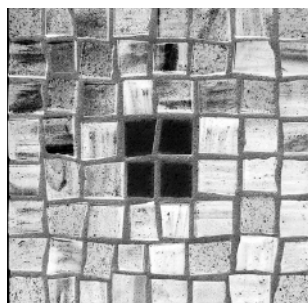
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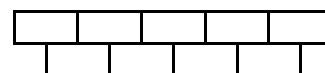


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SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect
of the Night Sky



I have discovered that, in going through our local planets in the early months of Skywatch, I managed to miss out Saturn. However, in the week of writing this, Saturn has been in the news. I'll start with the facts about Saturn that we have gathered over the last 400 years. At 78,000 miles in diameter and at a distance of around 800 million miles from the Sun, it is the second largest of the four gas planets, along with Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune (who also have ring systems but extremely faint), and takes something a little under 30 years to orbit the Sun. To the naked eye, the planet is decidedly yellow and through a telescope one can see some storms and other activity on its surface, but not very much. Poor Galileo knew something was different about Saturn as it seemed to be a funny shape, but that was because his telescope was unable to define Saturn's ring system. The rings are about 175,000 miles in diameter yet less than five miles thick. The rings really are separate (as opposed to some being black) because you can see distant stars in the gaps. The rings always stay at the same angle relative to the planet which gives us, over a 30ish year cycle, a look down on the rings then, 15 years later a look up at the rings. In between times, about seven and a half and twenty two and a half years, we see the rings edge on, just. Something that is so far away and so thin is difficult to discern.

We are learning a great deal about Saturn because, for a few years now, NASA has had a space craft orbiting the planet, even flying through the gaps, to observe and discover new moons and details of the fine structure of those rings. One discovery is that the rings have little moons within them. Now known as Shepard Moons, their gravity helps keep the rings together. But someone has discovered another ring round Saturn. Very, very tenuous it is; more detected than seen and it is eight million miles in diameter. This is a real mystery; how on earth (ha-ha) could such a thing be created, especially as the other gas planets do not have this extra ring? I have noted before that there are things in the Universe that are 'impossible' but it's rather nice to have one so close to home.

Martin West
Mooncraft Productions



**Stansted
Evening
Women's Institute**

Our October meeting was attended by a large number of members and visitors. It is good to see that each month we attract new people, which is encouraging for our speakers, who sometimes travel quite a distance, as well as for us. We were pleased to welcome Sue Sincock, from the Southend area whose topic was 'The City of London'. Sue, a former headmistress - you can always tell a former teacher - they have amazing control over noisy WI audiences - told us how she trained as a City of London Guide after retirement. This entailed a year of training in London's Guildhall

with a three hour paper to pass at the end as well as a practice tour. The Square Mile is the area originally occupied by the Romans enclosed by a wall and moat. The walls disappeared many years ago. The original wooden London Bridge crossing the Thames started where St Paul's was first sited. The Great Fire of London in 1666 (she tested us every now and then on dates to make sure we were listening) destroyed the first St Paul's Church and it took 35 years to build its replacement. The good thing was that most of the new buildings were built on the site of the old so that the original London streets and alleyways were preserved and retain their names even today.

Sue centred her talk around the many famous people who lived and worked there, although not necessarily born there. These included of course Richard Whittington (1358-1423), four times Mayor, and a member of the Mercers Livery Company, of which there are still 106 members. He left money in his will for improvements in the City which are still in use today (he probably didn't have a cat and he was never poor)! Geoffrey Chaucer, who was a contemporary of Richard's, may have been inspired to write his Canterbury Tales by watching travellers go in and out of St Botolph's Church. William Shakespeare, who wrote most of his plays in London, had three theatres - the Globe being accidentally destroyed when they decided to use real cannons during a performance. 'Twelfth Night' was first performed before Queen Elizabeth I in Middle Temple Hall. The Tower of London was of course used quite frequently as a setting in his plays. Christopher Wren, famous for designing St Paul's Cathedral, was in fact a Professor of Astronomy at Oxford and not a trained architect, although he designed over 50 churches. He is buried in the crypt at St Paul's. We couldn't forget Samuel Pepys, the great diarist who lived through the Great Fire and the Plague and wrote it all down in a form of shorthand and various languages. He was apparently greatly loved by all who knew him. Sue was thanked by Ros Francis for a really interesting evening and she has promised to return another time with some more stories.

We have sent a large number of filled shoeboxes to the troops in Afghanistan. These are being sent on our behalf by the British Legion and we were able to take them to the Herts & Essex Office in North Street, Bishop's Stortford for collection, which I think shows great co-operation all round.

We have a shopping trip going to Norwich on 14th November and the opportunity to go to our County Christmas Concert at Colchester in early December. We have also booked our Christmas Dinner at the Old Bell again, so even before the leaves have fallen Christmas is on the horizon. As the meeting on 12th November is our AGM, we have no speaker booked but there will be a Pie & Pea Supper and a Beetle Drive after the all important business of forming a new Committee. New members are very welcome. Now is the time to join; you get two extra months free as subscriptions aren't due until January!



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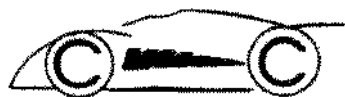
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Stansted Tennis Club



Recent Tournaments: Finals Day

The annual finals took place on 13th September. In the Ladies' Singles, Sandra Ayres defeated Fiona Pye 6-3 6-2. Sandra had taken a year off from singles in 2008, but has returned with renewed vigour and determination. The Men's Singles was between the two youngest finalists in the long history of this particular event. Alex Lupton and Joe Hollis, both aged 15, played three sets of scorching baseline rallies, with Alex coming out victorious. The score was 6-0 3-6 6-0. The Ladies' Doubles was a cat and mouse affair between two very experienced doubles partnerships; Sandra Ayres added to her singles title, partnering Sue Sebley, to beat Jenny Kirby and Fiona Pye 6-4 2-6 6-3. The longest match of the day (over two hours) was the Mens' Doubles. Joe Hollis teamed up with dad, Chris Hollis to retain their title, beating the hard-hitting pair of Charlie Kirby and Ross Armorgie. The first set tie-break was an epic, which Ross and Charlie won by 12 points to 10. Chris and Joe, however, fought back to win the next two sets 6-3 6-3. The final event of the day was the Mixed Doubles, which produced the same winning pair as in 2008. Joe Hollis and Jenny Kirby raced into a 6-0 2-0 lead before the opposing finalists, Chris Hollis and Daphne Lunnon, managed to get a few games on the score sheet. Joe and Jenny eventually won the second set 6-3. The spectators had endured a full day of excellent tennis in very cold viewing conditions. The club was delighted that ex-Treasurer and Honorary Life Member, John Eyre, was present to award the trophies to this year's champions.

Clower Girls' Singles Tournament

Six girls battled against each other in the round-robin stage of this tournament. In the semi finals Zoe Wilson defeated Alice Golden in a repeat of last year's final. Zoe was again successful, winning 6-1. In the other semi, Ellie Sykes defeated Robyn Green in a tense 6-4 set. In the final, having taken a decisive lead, Zoe became nervous and Ellie was able to get back into the match. Zoe recovered her composure and eventually won the match and retained her title 6-3.

Coaching

The lunch-time adult coaching session started on Friday 11th September 2.00pm-2.45pm. If you would like to come along and join in, please call me on 319155 - (please do not just turn up). You don't have to be a member of the club. Junior coaching also restarted in September for all junior age groups. If you would like to find out more and get your name on the waiting list, please call me. 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



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

October Meeting

'Northumberland and Alnwick Castle garden' was the subject of our speaker, Mr Roger Clayden, this month. By using slides members were shown how the castle gardens had matured in the four years between visits. Ten years ago the Duchess of Northumberland imagined creating a garden out of a derelict and forgotten part of the castle estate. This dream led to The Alnwick Garden which has beautifully landscaped gardens brought to life with water. The centre-piece of the garden is the Grand Cascade - a staircase of



water built down a hill so that every 'step' can be seen. The water cascade and fountains are very popular with visitors of all ages - even the youngest visitors have been catered for. It is a garden for families with lots of

chances to get wet! Mini tractors are provided for smaller children to scoop up the water and return it to the system, as they dodge the water jets and paddle in the rills. Members were shown slides of pathways and topiary hedges leading to the Rose and Ornamental Gardens, while in the intriguing Poison Garden visitors are shown how many poison plants we actually grow in our gardens! One of the world's largest tree houses has been built; it has wobbly rope bridges, walkways in the sky and a treetop restaurant. Other gardens and places of interest visited in the North East and just over the Scottish border were Floors Castle, Lindisfarne and Holy Island, Seahouses and the Farne Islands, as well as the Beamish Museum and Durham Cathedral. We continued the tour by heading south-west into the Lake District and saw slides of Holker Hall, Levens Hall as well as the Northern Horticultural Society's garden at Hullhead.

4th General Knowledge Quiz Night:

Peter Perké was Quiz Master for our very enjoyable evening and set questions that varied from literature to family connections to the 1970s. By half-time there was only a few points separating the teams, but after the splendid refreshments, the distance between the teams widened and the final winners were the The Underdogs with 83 points.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th November at the Day Centre, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. There is a change to the published talk - due to unforeseen changes in his travel itinerary, Mr Don Gardiner will not be able to speak on 'Chasing the Cherry Trees' as he will still be in Japan. However, Mr Richard Thomas, who came to our club and spoke on the River Stort, is standing in and will be telling us about the the River Lea from its source at Leagrave in Luton to Leyton. Mr Gardiner has been re-booked for next season.

Maralyn Harris

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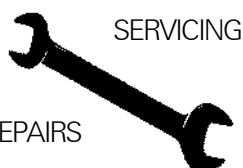
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This month the children at Rainbow have been making leaves for our indoor Autumn display and talking about the animals that live in the forest. This was all ahead of their trip to Hatfield Forest. The older group have also kept the theme going in PE by using their bodies to move like the wild animals such as frogs, rabbits, worms, butterflies and bees. Some children have greatly enjoyed using the magnifying glass to look for mini beasts in the pre-school garden as well. Our Harvest Festival went very well thanks to the lovely service put on by Rev'd Paul and the children all enjoyed a trip up to Norman Court to deliver a few harvest goodies to the residents there. So far, all the younger children have settled in well. The playleaders are all looking forward to welcoming more children into the younger group after half-term.

At our AGM on 15th October we said goodbye to a number of committee members who are retiring from service after several years. We also had Sian Ansell give an informative talk about the importance of speech and communication in the home and in a school setting. Thank you especially to Kate Maginn, our retiring Chairperson and all the other leaving Committee members for their hard work. I, too, will be retiring from the committee so this will be my last article for the 'Link'.

**** Correction **** In last month's article we suggested that our toilets were renovated thanks to the fundraising of the Committee but in fact the upkeep of our facilities is kindly supplied by St Mary's School. We would like to express our thanks for their generous support and apologise for any confusion.

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 please contact Gill Purslove on 814701 for further information. We do currently have a few places available.



Isabelle Page
Rainbow Committee

MYTHS, LEGENDS, CUSTOMS

ROWAN TREES *Sorbus aucuparia*

In Greek mythology, Hebe, the goddess of youth, lost the cup she used to give ambrosia to the gods. An eagle was sent to recover it from the demons, and when fighting with them, lost feathers and drops of blood which grew into rowan trees. So the shape of the leaves derives from the eagle's feathers and the berries are like drops of blood. The first woman was made from rowan according to Norse mythology and it saved Thor's life by bending over a fast flowing river which was sweeping him away. In the British Isles it is said to protect from witchcraft because the berries are red which is the best colour for protection from enchantment. Pieces of wood were carried by people, the trees were planted near their homes, and it was used as a protection for their cattle and dairy products. Equal-armed crosses made without using a knife were thought to be particularly effective.

A rowan growing from a crevice in a rock was known as a 'flying rowan' and was credited with particularly strong powers. Also, as it has white flowers, it was considered a fairies' tree.

Peggy Honour



Stansted Cricket Club

The final Sunday friendly matches have been completed and saw individual performances from D Ayres (65) and S Carter (62). A splendid response to the call for helpers to repair and treat the square on 26th September meant that all work was completed by 3.00pm and the remaining helpers were able to enjoy a few drinks. Our thanks go to all who played, organised teams, coached the juniors, made teas, did the scoring and supported the teams during the 2009 season.

We had a very enjoyable and successful Presentation Evening on Saturday 3rd October at the Stansted Hilton Hotel. Some 70 guests enjoyed a three-course meal followed by musical entertainment. Award winners were:

Charlie Kirby (1st XI batting),
Ben Baker (1st XI bowling),
Matt Abbotson (1st XI Captain's award),
Mark Johnson (2nd XI batting),
David Powter (2nd XI bowling),
David Powter (2nd XI Captain's award),
Mohseen Noori (Clubman award),
Ian Parsons (President's award).

The club was also honoured in the HECL League awards:

Jez Kealy (Div 4 wicketkeeper),
Charlie Kirby (Div 4 U18 award),
Keith Ayres (Div 6 wicketkeeper),
Max Baldock (Div 6 U18 award).

If anyone wishes to join the club next season, please contact David Hedge on 812509 (adults) and Keith Ayres on 814471 (Juniors). We would also welcome enquiries from anyone able to fulfil the role of regular Club Scorer (following the sad death of our previous scorer, John Pape, last June).

David Hedge
Secretary



Huw Johnson Club

Our night at the Chequers went with a swing. The sandwiches and chips were greeted with glee while everyone enjoyed chatting over their drinks. A big thank you to all the staff for looking after us so well. Now we really must get to work on the concert. I hope you have all booked the date, Friday 11th December at St Mary's School. By the time you read this we will have enjoyed an evening of music with the 'Woodwinders'. More about that next time. If you are interested or thinking of volunteering to be a driver for the club please contact me on 812284. You would be asked to drive once a month, travelling to Saffron Walden to pick up our members, or returning them home. If you are not sure and would like to first meet our members, come along one Thursday evening to St John's Hall.

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Firstly, a huge thank you to all those who came to *music@stansted*'s first concert of the new season. It turned out to be quite a drama. Catrin Finch, the famous harpist, who



was to have played for us, was indisposed. At nine hours notice, the current Royal Harpist, Claire Jones, stood in for her and she enthralled a full-house with her beautifully sensitive playing of the harp and stories about her role working for Prince Charles and the Royal family. What could have been a disaster turned into the most fantastic start to the season!

Our next concert, given by Cambridge Chorale, is on Sunday 13th December at 3.00pm in St John's Church. The choir was formed in 1994, originally under its founding director, Michael Kibblewhite. Since 2005 Julian Wilkins has been the musical director and in 2008 the choir was successful in the BBC Radio 3 Choir of the Year competition, beating over 100 other adult choirs to win a place in the top six. The judges commented that their performance was 'bright, clear and precise' and 'assured and polished throughout'. Their concert is entitled 'Joy to the World' and will feature glorious choral music from around the globe: sacred music spanning the centuries from Gregorian Chant to Lauridsen; Russian vespers by Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky; choral masterpieces by Debussy and Mantjyarvi; exhilarating folk songs, jazz, and uplifting spirituals. What a feast it promises to be!

Tickets - adults £12, children £1 - are available from Stansted Carpets, Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford, Sonia Levy tel 815282 or at the door on the night.

Future *music@stansted* concerts will be on Sunday 17th January at 3.00pm - Andrew Booth (guitar); and Saturday 6th March at 7.30pm - The Coull String Quartet. Please visit our website at www.musicatstansted.com for more details.

Alan Corbishley

FIELD STUDIES WALK

On Saturday 4th October, a group of Local History Society members and their guests took part in a Field Studies walk of about two and a half miles in and around Stansted. The purpose was to look at, discuss and learn about anything relating to local history, natural history, archaeology, or whatever turned up along the way. We talked about the Recreation Ground and the Stansted Charities, wondered whether a track followed the course of Stansted Brook before the railway line disrupted things, discussed the Pest House and the fords at Pesterford Bridge, investigated badgers' habits, savoured the autumn fruits and took in the views. At many places along the paths and lanes it was sad to see all the domestic and garden refuse dumped by our local citizens. However, we discovered that this was not a new phenomenon. In the past, Lime Kiln Lane was a popular stopping place for itinerants and we saw where rabbit burrows had exposed ancient bottles and crockery items which were possibly jettisoned from travellers' caravans many years ago. It is intended that there will be monthly walks for the next year covering all corners

of Stansted and its close surroundings. If anyone is interested in coming along please contact me for further details.

Tony Wellings
Tel: 813614



CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN



20th August and we're back from Sharm el Sheikh
Well rested from our summer break
What's this hiding amongst the post?
Only Christmas menus from that place Host!

23rd September 93 days off
(Better stock up on the Smirnoff)
Don't heed the sun shining so bright
Time to start planning that Yuletide delight.

13th October the shops have gone silly
Christmas goods strewn willy nilly
I dread to think what will be next
Grottos with Santa Claus looking perplexed?

24th October must start on the cake
Cook the pud, how long will it take?
Must get the cards, paper and tags
Make some shepherds costumes out of old rags.

25th November a month to go now
Panic's set in, had our first row
I'd like turkey he prefers goose
Kids want the decs up - go away, vamoose!

13th December it's the first Christmas 'do'
Babysitter's gone down with the 'flu
Who'll stay home - it'll have to be me
Hopefully I'll get to **one** of the three!

20th December just five days to go
Post the last card, tie the last bow
Tree is trimmed and the decs are hung
Celebrations start, carols to be sung.

22nd December wallet is nude
Had enough of shopping for food
What's been forgot we'll do without
No rest 'til I've peeled that last brussels sprout.

24th December and all is complete
Time to relax and soak aching feet
Then off to Church when the bells call
For the biggest Birthday Bash of all!

25th December, one thing left to do
Amid the fuss and hullabaloo
Take a moment to muse, or pray
About the true meaning of Christmas Day.



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BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel: 813626

On 1st October we held a really great fashion show in the school hall. The children and adult models put on a great display. We raised around £200, so a big thank you to all who modelled, helped out or came and bought some clothes.



We are now in the process of getting ready for our Sparkler Party, which is being held in the school grounds on 5th November at 6.30pm. As well as the children having their own sparklers, we will have donut eating and apple bobbing. There will also be hot food available and drinks including mulled wine. Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult to enter the

sparkler area and must also wear gloves whilst using the sparklers. We are also looking forward to our annual Christmas Fair which will be held on 5th December and will have all your favourite stalls, including a trip to see Santa, Present Planet and toys and cakes to buy.

Kerry Freegard
PTA Co-Chair



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

'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'.

We are now full members of the U3A and by the time you read this we should be live with our very own website: www.stanstedu3a.webs.com. For those of you without internet access, please contact one of the following who will be pleased to help you: Cherry (Chair) 817140, Chris (Secretary) 817587, Eileen (Activities Co-ordinator) 865087, Vicki (Membership Secretary) 810985. The next meeting is at 2.00pm on Thursday 19th November in St John's Hall, when the speaker will be Tim Turner from Sworders Auctioneers, who will talk on 'Fakes and Forgeries'. Over the last 1,000 years or more the art trade has become very susceptible to valuable items being copied or altered. Part of the work of Sworders is not only to verify the genuine article, but, in the case of forgeries, to establish how they have been copied or altered. This should be a very fascinating talk even if you are not directly interested in antiques. Tim's talk will include stories of forged pictures, furniture and a variety of other objects. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available

along with the opportunity to meet other members, so even if you have not joined yet please come along and see what we are all about. Please note you must be a member to participate in any activities - new members are always welcome. If you are a member of another U3A you may also join our branch providing our membership fee is paid. We are a very friendly lot so why not come along and meet us? For more details please contact one of the above.

Forthcoming Events and Outings

8th December - Christmas Lunch at the Great Hadham Golf & Country Club

Every Sunday at 9.30 am - The 'Sunday Easy Walk'. Meet outside the Day Centre, Crafton Green. This is a 45 to 60 minutes 'easy' walk around the village. No booking required, just turn up.

Cherry Venn
Tel: 817140

GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION

Dolly and Keith Camp

Dolly and Keith Camp returned to St Mary's Stansted 50 years to the day after they got married there on 17th October



1959. Dolly was actually born in Stansted and Keith was born in nearby Elsenham. They met at school in Stansted and had their first date on 1st May 1957 at the Phoenix Cinema in Bishop's Stortford. The service of blessing and renewal of vows was conducted by Rev'd Paul Wilkin and was attended by over 100 friends, family and well wishers including their three sons Dale, Darren and Scott. The music for the service

was led by the Mimram Singers from Hertford conducted by Mrs Val Hurford, with trumpet solos by Keith Neat, Dolly and Keith's son-in-law. The service was followed by a reception at Hatfield Heath Village Hall.

The picture shows Dolly and Keith on their wedding day outside St Mary's in 1959.

Keith Neat

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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 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG. Details must be submitted by the 11th of the month for publication the following month.

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 9:30am to 5:30pm
 Closed Wednesday
 and Sunday
 Closed for lunch
 1:00pm to 2:30pm


Stove shop in Stansted

Orion Heating have been trading in the area since 1977. We are now pleased to invite customers to our family run Cambridge Road shop.

Free surveys and quotes can be arranged through our network of HETAS registered independant installers. Call in to discuss the best stove for your home.

01279 813591 **25 Cambridge Road, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8BX**