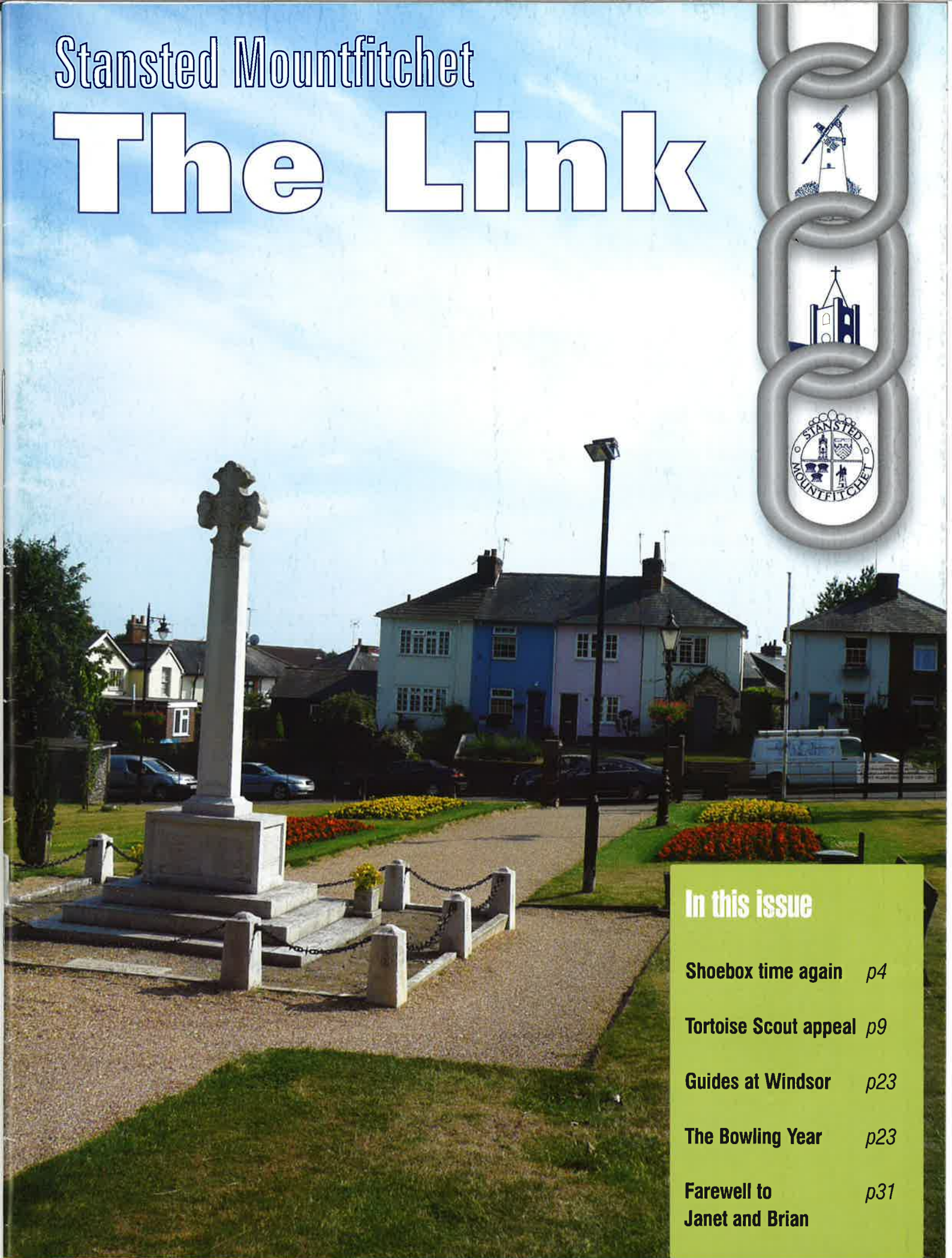


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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Farewell to Janet and Brian *p31*

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Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

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

Editorial



The 'Link' has benefited from several new contributors in recent months, among them the Football Club, Stort Valley Rotary, St Clare Hospice, NCT and Hatfield Forest. We continue to welcome contributors although increasing pressure on space may necessitate occasional shortening of copy and reduction of entries from outside the parish boundary. We realise that with over 6000 potential readers we should provide varied content, so we hope that you see it as *your* magazine and continue to send material, photos and snippets. It is important that the 'Link' has a human voice so telephone 647213 if you have any concerns or comments.

Lord Aubrey Buxton of Alsa, who died on 1st September, was an outstanding benefactor to Stansted and to the wider wildlife movement. In the '70s he brought various celebrities to open the Carnival and subsequently left much of his estate to the Essex Wildlife Trust. Several residents recall hearing an injured bittern which he had rescued booming over the village in the spring. By coincidence he and his family featured in a talk given to the Local History Society last month.

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CIRCULATION:

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

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

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

by **noon** on 11th October
 for the November issue

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

DISCLAIMER

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"All is safely gathered in, 'ere the winter storms begin." So we always sing at our harvest festival service.

At St John's this year we are combining with St Mary's School to support a charity called 'Harvest for the Hungry'. This is a local charity which fills up boxes with food and ships them out to Bulgaria where they are distributed to some of the poorest people in Europe. What for us is a simple box of food becomes for its recipients a sign of hope and a gift of love. Families which are struggling to survive in the face of the kind of poverty which is almost unimaginable in our land are given a simple helping hand which can make all the difference to their situation. There are two different kinds of boxes that can be made up. The first is a Family Food Parcel which contains a specific list of foods – pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes, tuna and so on; the second is a single item box, which contains just one type of food, and goes to institutions like schools and orphanages and so on. My target had been to fill up 20 boxes from Stansted, but when I went to collect the boxes they came in lots of 15 so I ended up bringing back 30. These have now all been taken to be filled (well done everyone!) so I have been back to the depot and got another 30. If you would like a box they can be found in St John's Church, together with some leaflets telling you what to put in them. These need to be back at the Church for our Harvest Festival Service at 9.30am on 4th October. At St John's recently we've been reading the letter of St James. James tells us that we need to be people who put what we believe into action. Our Harvest Charity this year enables us to do just that.



Paul Wilkin
Rector, St. John's



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- 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
7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG
Tel: 814059
lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Preachers for October

- 4th 10.30am New Directions in Worship
The Worship Team
- 11th 10.30am Ken Mark
- 18th 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton - Holy Communion
- 25th 10.30am Penny Flynn

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

- Clerk** Mrs Anthea Lee
24 Lea Close
Bishop's Stortford
Tel : 01279 656707
- Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

- Priest** Father Joe White
The Presbytery
St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane
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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



Harvest Supper

After its great success last year, CTS will again be holding a Harvest Supper on Sunday 11th October in St John's Church Hall which will include some 'light entertainment' from the different churches. The event will commence at 6.00pm and tickets, costing £5 each with accompanied children free, are available from the Benefice Office at St John's Church Hall (Mon, Wed and Fri mornings), Marion Dyer (814059) or any of the churches. Own drink and glasses to be taken. All are welcome and any surplus money raised will go to St Clare Hospice.

Francine Cope

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
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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

August

Baptisms

16th Oscar Arthur Jordan and
Felix Arthur James Strain

Funerals

6th Mabel May Maynard, age 95 -
at Islington Cemetery
10th Rose Ellen Dawson, age 89 -
at St Mary's
20th Minnie Eileen Edington, age 97 -
at St Mary's
26th Peggy Winifred Phyllis Banks, age 81 -
at Parndon Wood

It is with great sadness that we at St John's learnt of the death of Gladys Miller. She was a much loved and appreciated member of our congregation and was well known and well regarded throughout our village. She will be greatly missed.

IN MEMORIAM

Minnie Eileen Edington

11th December 1911 - 8th August 2009

Minnie Edington was born Minnie Eileen Shuker on 11th December 1911 in the naval town of Portsmouth. She was the eldest of ten children and spent more time caring and looking after her siblings than attending school. There were frequent visits from the truant officer. She left home at an early age and went into service as a housemaid to Mr and Mrs Vigurs. Minnie was to find Mrs Vigurs suffering from severe depression and cared for her until her untimely death. In 1932 Minnie was to marry Mr Vigurs and had a son Michael. Unfortunately Mr Vigurs died in 1942 leaving Minnie having to find paid work, making ammunition boxes for the duration of the Second World War. During the war period she found the time and energy to care for three refugees from Mansfield. The war over and without work she took to cleaning and caring for various families in Worthing; sometimes elderly, and often young families with children.

In 1951 she married a widower, Mr Edington, who brought with him a young daughter, Celia. A son Trevor was born and she cared for all the family. Following her separation from Mr Edington, Minnie moved first to Havant and then to Lower Street, Stansted, where she continued to work and care for various Stansted families, taking great pride in her work and an interest in 'her families' as she called them. She took an active part in the religious and social life in Stansted helping with school and church outings, frequently accompanying the children. Stansted Carnival, a significant event in the village calendar, was always supported. Her grandchildren could always count on her support and help with the fancy dress competition. Then, of course, she could be relied upon to 'do the teas'.



In 1979 she retired to Dove Close, Stansted where she cared for the gardens - she loved her gardening. During her retirement she attended Crafton Green Day Centre, often three times a week, where she met her friends and as usual helped with teas and light snacks. She derived a great deal of pleasure engaging socially and helping at the Day Centre and the Wednesday Club. Of her long and fruitful life, the last six months were the most difficult for her. Since 4th February she had spent all but nine weeks in hospital, which resulted in a great deal of pain and frustration. Frustrated that she couldn't do anything to help herself made her cross to think that she was putting folk out in caring for her. Minnie devoted her entire life to caring and helping friends, neighbours and family, and she always thought of others before herself. This quiet dedication has been the hallmark of a woman who lived through two world wars, the reigns of four monarchs, and witnessed the governing of nineteen prime ministers.

Michael Vigurs

Happy Birthday

On 1st November Stansted Helpline will be 25 years old! Helpline was initiated by the Stansted Association of Christian Churches (now Churches Together in Stansted) at the suggestion of the then Anglican curate, Rev'd Tony Bundock. It soon became an independent voluntary organisation, funded solely by donations, although affiliated to Care Network (Uttlesford), an umbrella group for community care schemes operating in the District.

The original aim of Helpline was to provide practical assistance to Stansted residents in times of real need where no other help was readily available. Many changes have occurred within Helpline over the years (most noticeably several changes of telephone number!) but its aim has never altered. The range of tasks undertaken by Helpline has been quite extensive; from cooking and delivering a meal to an elderly person to babysitting; from visiting and befriending people living alone to providing transport. No reasonable request has been refused and if Helpline has been unable to assist they have usually 'known of a man who could.'

Stansted Helpline has always kept up with the times, firstly using a dedicated telephone line, then a pager, and now a mobile. The phone is manned by a team of 'listeners-in', operating on a rota basis, who arrange whatever help is required. In its first year, Helpline dealt with approximately 150 calls, of which 50% were for transport. In 2008 Helpline received just over 200 calls, of which 90% were for transport. These figures prove that there is still a real need for Helpline. Since 1984 other national voluntary organisations have been formed. These specialise in different areas, eg Crossroads, Homestart, etc, which explains why Helpline is mainly called upon just for transport nowadays.

For Helpline to have been so successful for so many years is testament to the generosity and dedication of local people, mainly from Stansted. Helpline is run entirely by unpaid volunteers, many of whom have been with us since day one (in fact two of the original steering committee are still working hard on the present Helpline committee!). Thank you all, past and present. Of course, there is always room for more volunteers (especially day-time drivers!) so if you would like to join us then please contact Helpline on 07704 553727 9.00am-4.00pm Monday to Friday (not Bank Holidays).

Thanks also to everyone who has helped us across the years. Those who have fund-raised on our behalf, and both the Day Centre and the Doctor's Surgery for allowing us to have the Helpline phone on their premises in the early years. It is usually the case that organisations start small then expand. However, with Stansted Helpline we started with a committee of ten and almost 100 volunteers. Twenty five years later, we have a committee of six and less than 50 volunteers - and yet we still manage to fulfil most of the requests we receive. The whole country might be in a deep dark recession, but here in Stansted, there is some light - and it's silver!

Happy Birthday Helpline!

Yvonne Ayres
Organiser

Christmas is
a time of giving



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES

The shoe box packing evening is on Wednesday 11th November from 7.00pm in the Free Church Hall, Chapel Hill. Shoe boxes, Christmas wrapping paper and items to fill the boxes can be left in the following places:

- Stansted Free Church foyer on Saturdays 17th and 31st October from 10.00am - noon
- At the back of St John's church from 12th October
- Brought on 11th November

There are six categories: boys and girls aged 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14. Leaflets are in the churches or available from the contacts below. The following is a list of the items that can be included, though it is not comprehensive.

- 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.

We also need people to cover shoe boxes in advance of the packing evening - boxes and wrapping paper supplied. A pattern is available for knitting a soft toy. Many of you will know that Janet Townsend organised the shoe boxes for several years, sending 360 boxes last year. We hope this year's operation is as successful, so that we do not disappoint Janet. Please give whatever help you can. Thank you!

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



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

For Members' Day, Ann Calver romped us through the business in her usual lighthearted way before introducing our indefatigable, much-travelled county adviser Susan Walker, who, in her turn, romped us along the Silk Road from China through Kyrgistan, Uzbekistan ... well all the 'istans'. Take your atlas and follow the path of traders blazed hundreds of years ago, not just from but to the Far East. The camel-trains joining up and travelling on or back from their early-day Crewe Junction to Samarkand. Bananas got bent on their first trip to us from China; think of that when you bite your Beijing banana! We lost a lot of metal and pottery in the east and took up silk for soft sell.

Who should come to decorate our next meeting but our old friend Olivia Elton-Barratt, the Belle of Basketry! Just visible above her shoulder-high display of woven wonders, she was delighted to find two or three of us had 'passed out' of her class in St John's Hall some 25 or more years ago; and they and she proud to find their baskets still useable (down with plastic bags!). Her teaching skills are truly first class, as proved by our treasurer nearly completing a basket in front of us during the tea hour.

Phyllis Harrison

**Bentfield School PTA
Fashion Show & Sale
7 pm Thu 1st October
in the School Hall**

Ex High Street ladies' & children's clothes up to half price

Tickets £2 incl free drink
Tel 815765

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**Sing for St Mary's
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7.30 pm Sun 4th Oct**

Music from Stanford to The Beatles

Entry free - retiring collection for Churches Conservation Trust

More details from 812162

A Quarter Peal will be rung at 3 pm and 6.30 pm

**Mountfitchet
Garden Club**



QUIZ NIGHT

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 10th Oct
Stansted Free Church Hall

£6.50 including supper
Bring your own drink & glass
Tel Maralyn 07919 478144

October

- | | | | |
|----|----------|---|--|
| 1 | Thu | Fashion Show
Local History Society | Bentfield School 7 pm
Day Centre 8 pm |
| 3 | Sat | SSE Race Night | Broxted Village Hall 7.30 for 8 pm |
| 3 | Sat & 4 | Sun Skips | Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm |
| 4 | Sun | De Merc Choir Concert | St Mary's Church 7.30 pm |
| 7 | Wed | Mountfitchet Club
Mountfitchet Garden Club | Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 8 pm |
| 8 | Thu | WI | St John's Hall 7.45 pm |
| 10 | Sat | Music@stansted
Garden Club Quiz | St John's Church 7.30 pm
Free Church Hall 7 for 7.30 pm |
| 11 | Sun | Village Harvest Supper | St John's Hall 6 pm |
| 14 | Wed | Red Cross Gift Fair | Parklands, Quendon 10 am - 3.30 pm |
| 15 | Thu | U3A | St John's Hall 2 pm |
| 17 | Sat | NCT Nearly New Sale | St John's Hall 2.30 - 4 pm |
| 17 | Sat & 18 | Sun Skips | Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm |
| 20 | Tue | Charity Day for St Clare | King's Arms Public House |
| 21 | Wed | ADAS Charity Fair
W I Flower Arranging | Quendon Vill Hall 10.30 am - 3.30 pm
Free Church Hall 2.30 pm |
| 23 | Fri | Friends of St Clare Jazz | St John's Church 7.30 pm |
| 24 | Sat | Lib Dem Quiz | Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm |
| 24 | Sat & 28 | Wed Deer Rut Walks | Hatfield Forest |
| 31 | Sat | St Clare Halloween Walk | Spangles, Lower Street 2 for 2.45 pm |
| 31 | Sat & 1 | Sun Skips | Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm |

November

- | | | | |
|----|-----|---|--|
| 4 | Wed | Mountfitchet Club
Mountfitchet Garden Club | Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 8 pm |
| 5 | Thu | Local History Society | Day Centre 8 pm |
| 7 | Sat | Village Fireworks | Elms Farm from 6 pm |
| 11 | Wed | Shoe Box Packing | Free Church Hall from 7 pm |
| 14 | Sat | Scout Group Quiz | St John's Hall 7.30 pm |

VILLAGE EVENTS

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Parklands, Quendon Hall

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Lunches available



Shoe Box Packing

7 pm Wed 11th Nov

Free Church Hall

Please bring empty shoe boxes
and donations of items to the
Free Church Foyer on

Sat 17th & 31st Oct 10 am - noon

For more information see Churches Together
on page 2 or tel 813579 ~ 812109 ~ 814865

**Stansted Friends of ST CLARE
HOSPICE**

**HALLOWEEN WALK
2 for 2.45 pm Sat 31st Oct**

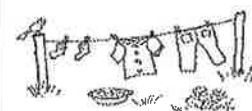
From Spangles Children's Centre, Lower St

Registration £5 adult £3 child

Tel 773750 or visit

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Fancy Dress Competition ~ Refreshments



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St John's Church Hall

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Stansted Free Church Hall

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01279 815336

IN MEMORIAM

Peter Thomson 1935-2009

Part of this tribute appeared in the September issue, but unfortunately due to a technical fault, the latter paragraphs did not appear. We now reproduce the whole item.

Peter and his wife Rosemary downsized from Bishop's Stortford to Stansted in 2006 but had, indeed, begun their married life in Croasdaile Road, when the new estate had been built in 1965 living there for four years before returning across the border where Peter had been born and bred. He was born in a flat over what was then the National Provincial Bank; his father being the manager of the London Meat Company in Potter Street and his mother nanny to Doctor Wallace's family in North Street.

He attended St Michael's School, where he was encouraged to become a chorister at St Michael's Church, soon becoming a regular soloist and first trod the boards in St Michael's Church Hall, now a hairdressers!

His involvement with the Church continued into adult life, becoming a Boys Brigade Officer and Captain, Youth Club and Pathfinders leader, also giving help with various theatrical and fundraising events.

At age 11, he won a scholarship to Bishop's Stortford College, where, although achieving good academic results, he shone as a sportsman, particularly on the cricket field. He began scoring for Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club at an early age, gained his School colours and then played for the town club's first XI aged just 15, later becoming their Captain for a number of years. In the twilight of his cricketing career he was pleased when son Andrew joined him in the Third XI and honoured to become the Club's President for three years in the 1990s.

Whilst completing his National Service with the RAMC at Netley Hospital, near Southampton, where he worked in the pay office, he was fortunate to have a colonel who was also passionate about cricket and, whilst other soldiers on the parade ground were berated for their kit not being 100% up to the mark, Peter was asked where the next match was to be played! Peter did have a trial with Worcester CC but was unsuccessful and, instead, joined the Chase Manhattan Bank in the City where he worked for 41 years. He loved to reminisce about the journeys by steam, diesel and electric and, after various social evenings out, got to know most of the stations between Bishop's Stortford and Cambridge!

Many readers will best remember Peter for his stage exploits, particularly in comedy roles. He was a founder member when the Bishop's Stortford Operatic Society, reformed in 1963 and took part in most shows over the next 30 years and, with Rosemary, founded The Pavilion Players, an Old Time Music Hall group which travelled far and wide, raising many thousands of pounds for charity. Having directed shows he then became its Chairman on stage and woe betide anyone who heckled him from the audience as they would then be the victim to play the bugle in his Chairman's song, 'Goodbye Dolly Gray'. He also 'guested' for Water Lane

Drama Group and last performed for them in St John's Church where he played the Angel Gabriel in the guise of a postman in a modern version of The Nativity Story. He took on many voluntary commitments throughout his life, not least in retirement, and he and Rosemary joined St John's Church, Stansted in 1999 to enable them to attend church with their daughter Julia when the first grandson was born. He soon became a valuable member of that community and together they took on the monthly Holy Communion visits to Norman Court, Broome End and Hargrave House as well as to housebound parishioners. When they moved to their bungalow in St John's Crescent, he was then able to revisit the football ground and Stansted Hall cricket ground where he had played in his youth. He was honoured to be made a Vice-President of the latter last year and more recently had taken on the Chairmanship of the St John's Road Residents Association.



After only six months in their retirement bungalow, Peter was taken seriously ill whilst on holiday in Croatia from which he never fully recovered. The last three years had been very difficult as he suffered pain and increasing lack of mobility but remained cheerful and devoted to his family throughout. Following a private funeral, a marvellous celebration of his life was held at St Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford attended by over 350 people whose lives had been touched during the wonderful life of a wonderful man.

Donations in his memory may be sent to St Michael's School, Bishop's Stortford, supporting needy families for school residential trips.

Rosemary Thomson



**Huw Johnson
Club**

Once again we have to thank Sandra and Paul for a lovely barbecue recently. We usually hold this event in June, but we were very lucky with the weather and many of our members were brave enough to eat outside. Garry's disco went with a swing and we also celebrated four birthdays. On 1st December our club will have been in existence for 35 years, and we say thank you to our many benefactors who have made this possible. Our concert this year is on Friday 11th December – more details to follow.

Marion Johnson

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Started in 1976 in Stansted, Tortoise Scout Group was intended to offer scouting in the Stansted area to young people with a special need. The name Tortoise was derived from the story of the tortoise and the hare, because although it may take the scouts a little longer, they always reach their goal. For over 30 years the Tortoises have continued to run successfully, by being fun, informative, educational and moving with the times. The Tortoises now cover the whole area of the Hatfield Forest Scout District, which runs roughly along the A120 corridor from Dunmow to Stansted, and outside of that too. Several members have come from Saffron Walden, Bishop's Stortford and many of the villages not in the Hatfield Forest District. The troop has also expanded into a group, which means that it is not restricted to young people of scout age, and is open to boys and girls aged 8 to 25. The Tortoises are open to any young person within the age range who wishes to benefit from scouting but who feels that, for whatever reason, they may not reach their full potential in a 'mainstream' group.

The Tortoises meet fortnightly during the school terms on Tuesday evenings from 7.15pm to 8.45pm, at the Stansted Scout Headquarters. On troop nights scouts take part in the scout training programme, which is designed to allow young people to have fun and learn many skills whilst being part of a team. Two camps are also held each year. One is a weekend at Hatfield Forest with other scouts troops from the District. The other camp is a week long camp as part of the Essex Agoonex, when we are joined by our sister unit from another part of the county. Locations for this camp have been as close to home as Chelmsford and as far away as Belgium. As well as the camps and troop nights, the Tortoises also go on other excursions, such as ten-pin bowling and the cinema, to name but two. One of the benefits of the Tortoises is not just for the members themselves, but it also offers an hour and a half respite for hard working parents each fortnight, and a whole week's peace and quiet for them in the summer!

For more information about the Tortoises please contact me, Judy Brand (Group Scout Leader) on 01799 550540 or Mark Gerber on 07715 628201.

Judy Brand

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HARGRAVE HOUSE FÊTE

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported our fête on 15th August, and to all who helped out and prepared for it - everyone worked very hard. It was a great success and raised £706. The residents' meeting have come up with some good ideas what to spend the money on. I would also like to say thank you for the lovely donated gifts for our raffle and tombola stalls.

Stella Papworth
Activities Co-ordinator



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Hello to all of our 'Link' readers – just a few lines to let you all know how we have started the season here at Stansted FC.

1st team results

8th Aug	Eton Manor 1	Stansted 2
11th Aug	Witham Town 0	Stansted 3
16th Aug	Royston Town 5	Stansted 2
25th Aug	Takeley 2	Stansted 1
29th Aug	Clapton 1	Stansted 1
5th Sept	Stansted 4	Witham Town 1

Reserves

29th Aug	Romford Res 4	Stansted Res 0
8th Sept	Stansted Res 2	Sawbridgeworth Res 0

The 1st team fixtures for October are as follows:-

3rd Oct	Barkingside	Home
10th Oct	Barking	Home
17th Oct	Barkingside	Home
24th Oct	Clapton	Home
26th Oct	Bowers Pitsea	Away

We are confident of having a good season and I look forward to welcoming 'Link' readers at Hargrave Park this season.

Larry Woods
Vice Chairman



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Nature Notes

In our area of north-west Essex the wildwood which covered Britain up to six to seven thousand years ago consisted mainly of small-leaved limes. There would also have been elms, ashes and hazels. With the arrival of Neolithic farmers much of this wildwood disappeared, and by Roman times Essex would have had a patchwork pattern of farmland and woods much as it has today. These areas of wood have been managed at least since 4,500 BC. Coppicing was a method of utilising the natural regrowth that takes place in most deciduous trees. When these trees are cut down they produce new stems from the base. After a number of years these stems in their turn can be cut down to provide poles and rods for fencing and other purposes and, of course, wood for fuel. The coppicing cycle was usually every four to eight years, but could be up to every 20 years. The coppices (or 'copses') were made up of underwood consisting of hazel, lime, ash and hornbeam (the last particularly in our area). The timber trees were allowed to grow tall so that they could eventually be felled and used as building material.

A tree left to its own devices might die after a hundred or more years, but if coppiced it will have a base, or stool, that can increase greatly in size and can be up to 1,000 years old. In Hatfield Forest, with its medieval mixture of grassy 'plains' and coppices, one can see ancient coppiced hornbeams and oaks with massive stools. Coppicing here dates back at least to the fourteenth century and although the practice lapsed, it has been revived by the National Trust. Turner's Spring Wood at Burton End gives one an idea of what a medieval wood looked like, with its coppiced hornbeams and typical flora such as oxlip and wood anemone. These are flowers which benefit from the coppicing rhythm of years of light followed by years of shade. Birchanger Wood, again with hornbeams, is carpeted with a wonderful display of wood anemones in spring.

Hatfield Forest, which was designated a Forest about 1100AD, illustrates another technique used in wood management, that of pollarding. A Forest was a place where deer (usually fallow) were kept. Deer, sheep and cattle browse on the young shoots of trees and have a particular liking for ash, elm and hawthorn. Coppices would be fenced in, but individual trees in grazing areas were vulnerable. So these trees were cut at a height of 8-15 feet every 10-15 years, leaving a short trunk which then sprouted above the level of the browsing animals. The new stems provided wood that could be used in the same way as that of the coppiced trees. In Hatfield Forest there are ancient pollard oaks, hornbeams, ashes and hawthorns - these last mentioned are at least three hundred years old.

Rosina Kirkwood



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

'Hardy Geraniums//Cranesbills' was the topic of September's speaker, Frances Mount. Her love of this flower grew from her first job when her employer only trusted her with his bed of hardy geraniums! Over the years her knowledge and collection of plants grew and finally she opened a nursery specialising in hardy geraniums. From the three native varieties found in the UK, there are now over 300 named varieties with their flowers ranging in colour from pure white, various shades of pink and blue to the darkest of mauve. Many of the varieties have a contrasting 'eye' and some of the newer introductions have petals that looked as though they had been 'splashed' - the variety Splish Splash demonstrates this effect well, with white petals splashed with streaks of pale mauve. Their height ranges from ground-hugging to 2-3ft high and foliage varies in shape and colour. With so many different varieties it is possible to have hardy geraniums flowering in your garden from Spring until Autumn. Some of the early varieties, having been cut back after flowering, reward the gardener by having a second flush of flowers in August and September. In the slides, Ms Mount showed how the hardy geranium softened planting schemes, filled gaps between shrubs, grew in shade, and filled the odd spot with colour. Even when there are no flowers, the foliage is a good foil for other plants and bulbs.

October Meeting

At our meeting on 7th October, we will be welcoming Roger Claydon who will be talking about Northumberland and Alnwick Castle Garden. The Green Bowl Photograph Competition will be held - the subject is Moving Water and members can enter up to two photos. Our meetings are held at the Day Centre. Visitors are always welcome (£2) and membership is available.

General Knowledge Quiz Night

Saturday 10th October 7.00pm for 7.30pm in Stansted Free Church Hall, Chapel Hill. Tickets are £6.50 - tables of 8. Singles/couples welcome (we make up mixed tables to make up a team). Supper is included but bring your own glasses and drink! Mr Peter Perké is returning to be our Quiz Master for the evening. Please phone me to reserve a table/tickets.

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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

We have had occasion to be especially proud this month as one of our number, Cadet Corporal Matt Barton, returned from the World Transplant Games in Australia with a huge haul of seven gold medals and four new world records! The Squadron had helped Matt, who received a heart transplant as a baby, raise the necessary funding to enable him to travel to the Gold Coast for the Games and were especially grateful to the Kings Arms Public House and BAA Stansted for their most generous support. This was an incredible performance from Matt and it is good to see that all those early morning training sessions have paid off in such spectacular style!

Cadets and staff from the Squadron have been busy collecting in aid of the annual RAFA Wings Week Appeal. The Charity which supports serving and former members of the RAF, their families and dependents, is very grateful to all the cadets who have given up their evenings and weekends to collect in the terminal at Stansted Airport. A number of cadets spent the Bank Holiday weekend in the Thetford area in a joint Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition with 1207 (Maldon) Squadron. The weather was kind to them and hopefully all are well on their way to the successful completion of this award. As the autumn approaches cadets are starting their syllabus training and are making the most of the newly installed classroom projectors to enhance their learning experience. Funding for these was kindly provided by the Essex Youth Bank via the Youth Capital Fund whose kind support we are very grateful for.

Finally the Squadron said a fond farewell to Cadet Sergeant Mitch Adams as he left to join the Army. Mitch, who hopes to become a paratrooper and wear the coveted red beret, was



treated to the now traditional 494 farewell film show and Officer Commanding Flt Lt Ellie Chinnery presented him with a card and gift to mark the occasion. A larger than life character in every respect Mitch has proven to be a tremendous asset to the unit over the years and we all wish him the very best of luck as starts he his new career. If you are interested in joining the fun call us on 681559 on Monday and Friday evenings

Simon Stacey
494 Sqn ATC

We welcomed Olivia Elton-Barratt to our August meeting - a return visit after many years, when she gave classes in basket making. Olivia came armed with some wonderful samples of her work. She told how she started on what eventually became a lifetime's occupation of basket and cane work when she joined the WI at the age of 22, and even confessed that it was more than 50 years ago! Her expertise has led to her becoming a member of the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers in the City and to designing and making two enormous figures from willow, Gog and Magog, which appear in the Lord Mayor's Show. The items she had with her were much smaller of course and included a woven fishing basket, rush handbags, garden trugs and a beautiful work-basket complete with needle cases and tiny baskets for pins and buttons with lids - I would love to own that! She showed us how various willows can differ in colour and the interesting effects that can be made. We were encouraged to have a go at mat making with cane which she started off for us, quite rough on the hands but fun to do. I can definitely see some classes in the future.

Our September meeting attracted several visitors and there was a full house to welcome our speaker, Roy Waters from Colchester to tell us of growing up in the '40s and '50s in the Dutch Quarter of Colchester. This was revealed to be an area just off the High Street about a mile square, the oldest street in the country, but not Dutch speaking! It has beautiful 17th century houses, and a 12th century church, St Martins, which was damaged in the civil war, as well as Victorian and Edwardian houses and old cottages. Jane Taylor, who wrote 'Twinkle, twinkle little star' lived there as did Daniel Defoe, who could well have written some of his books in the local Stockwell Arms. In the 1600s, Flemish people came over with their weaving skills to revive the failing cloth trade. They were allowed to practise their religion and gradually this small area became known as the 'Dutch Quarter' - Dutch eventually being the name given to anyone not born there. Roy was born and bred in a small two-up, two-down terraced cottage with no inside running water and all the facilities in a shared courtyard out the back. He took us on a wonderful nostalgic journey, remembering the war years and the early '50s of his youth. The number of shops in this small area were amazing - they included an ironmonger, wet and fried fish shops, butchers, general stores, an antique shop and a working men's club! There were also three pubs (of course), two churches and an infants' school, so your whole life revolved around one very small area. He recalled old radio shows, and gave a wonderful description of bath night in front of the fire; what luxury to sit in the water reading his comic. Ray grew up to be a PE teacher after National Service in the RAF and he managed to keep our rather noisy WI audience in control very well!

Next month we meet on Thursday 8th October at 7.45pm in St John's Hall, when the speaker is Sue Sincock talking about the 'City of London'. Come along if you can, and also to our flower arranging demonstration and tea on Wednesday 21st October at 2.30pm in the Free Church Hall.



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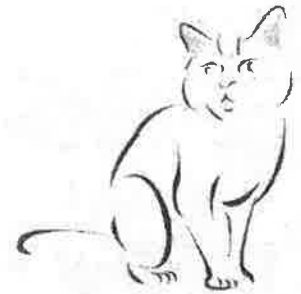
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HATFIELD FOREST HIGHLIGHTS

Hello everyone. It's October and the nights are drawing in fast on us. At the Forest we have been busy with exciting developments and plenty still going on. October is deer rutting season, the annual rutting of deer can be seen and heard throughout the Forest with the marking of tree trunks and the bellowing of the dominant buck to mark his territory. If you are very lucky you may come across two bucks in head-to-head battle! We are holding two Deer Rut Walks through the Forest with one for adults on 24th October and one for families on 28th October, come and join one of our experienced deer stalkers for a chance to see wildlife in action.



Some of you may have noticed that we have been carrying out a significant amount of work in some of the conifer plantations in the Forest. Supported by the Forestry Commission we have started the work to remove the conifer plantations and reintroduce native coppices back into these areas. The first stage of removing the conifers is currently taking place in Emblems Coppice and Wall Wood. We will be replanting these areas in 2010 and those of you who planted Mighty Oak seeds in 2008 will be able to join us, with your saplings, in October 2010 and be a part of this fantastic project. The coppicing season is about to start, with our weekend volunteers. (See also Nature Notes article. *Ed*)

Laura Slater
Community Warden
Tel: 874043

Email: laura.slater@nationaltrust.org.uk

Spangles* Children's Centre

As you know, keeping a 20 month old brain stimulated can be a challenging business. You think it gets easier because they can walk? Forget it. What about when they begin to talk? Same answer. I can tell you from my experience elsewhere in life, it doesn't get a whole lot easier when they can drive - but they do sleep more by then.

So there I was, thrust into this world again. Last time I was here I was a clueless young dad of about 20. Back then I was part of a rock solid family unit. Now I was on my own. I never saw myself as a 'Saturday father' sitting in McDonalds once a week making small talk with my kids. That was a world I had only read about. But life has a habit of doing the unexpected for whatever reason. Sitting in McDonalds and

talking was no more than a distant prospect now I have a one year old. Ronald McDonald is barely on his radar. So what about this Spangles place I wondered? Is it a centre for people like me, problem people? Who will be there? Lots of single dads perhaps? Not that it would have been any consolation if it were the case.

Men do not congregate around coffee cups and make small talk with people they hardly know; and the idea of men making friends with each other in that scenario is quite unthinkable. As a species, we don't really do that. In the event, Spangles was 100 percent female. But that was no bad thing. I was welcomed but not bombarded with attention and the structure is quite informal. I think I would have had a problem sitting in a circle and singing songs. And in any event, I just wanted to be with my boy, Teddy, and experience the place with him. There are bikes, cars, football, play dough and paint and plenty of room to run around. He can interact with his little bunch of toddling colleagues and I can do all the things I want to do with him, without running out of room or worrying about mess. There is even food laid on; a chance for him to eat with several junior diners - all with the same shortcomings and questionable fork control!! It gives a structure to our time together and formed the basis of our relationship as well as providing the confidence and building blocks on both sides that led to the relationship improving and increasing. And it is for anybody, in whatever situation.

Recently whilst playing with my son, my attention was diverted by one of the mums. After chatting for a minute, a little girl asked me, "Was that your Mummy?" I realised at that point, despite my height, I had been fully accepted into the fold. So, have no fear about songs and overbearing females. Relax, enjoy it and do not be surprised if you are mistaken for a three year old.

Darryn Garrett



Stansted Cricket Club

The HECL completed its season on 29th August. The 1st XI won 14 of their 18 matches and finished runners-up in Div 4, gaining a well-deserved promotion to Division 3. The final game that clinched promotion was won by the narrowest margin of one run! The 2nd XI won seven matches and finished in 6th place in Div 6. The Sunday XI finished playing on 20th September and at the time of writing had seven wins and two draws from their 15 matches. Recent top individual performances have been F.Kirby (102), I.Parsons (83), M.Johnson (62), C.Kirby (57), M.Roach (56 and 5-33), D.Ayres (53 no), R.Gardiner (50) and E.Pronk (5-20). For further details see

<http://stanstedcc.hitscricket.com/home/default.aspx>.

The club is holding an end-of-season Presentation Evening at the Stansted Hilton Hotel on Saturday 3rd October from 7.00 pm until midnight. Tickets £20 (three-course meal and entertainment) from Ian Parsons (07809 723652), Keith Ayres (814471), Dave Roach (07712 040674), Bob Selby (01945 772587) and David Hedge (812509). To join the club, please contact David (Adults) or Keith (Juniors).

David Hedge
Secretary



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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

The number of questionnaires completed so far is as follows:

- Main questionnaire 970
- Youth questionnaire 70
- Business questionnaire 30

Analysis of the answers submitted in the main questionnaire is now being undertaken but **THERE IS STILL TIME FOR YOU TO RETURN YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE – YOUR VIEWS WILL BE INCLUDED.**

A renewed effort will be made through September to increase the number of returns from our youth and businesses.

It would be helpful for the working parties to review their work once the questionnaire analysis is available. If you wish to be part of a group or send in ideas, please contact the Chairperson:-

W/group	Chairperson	Tel.No.
Health	Fran Richards email: richkidz@waitrose.com	
Airport	Ray Woodcock email: raymond.woodcock@btopenworld.com	816468
Future of Stansted	Ruth Rawlinson email: ruthrawlinson@tiscali.co.uk	814222
Highways	Alan Corbishley email: alan@bentfield.co.uk	816318
Police	Stuart Ayres email: stuart_ayres@hotmail.com	
Communication	Oya Wilkes email: oyaer78aol.com	817112
Open Space/Leisure/Sport	Jo Freeman email: j.freeman195@yahoo.com	812524
Education	John Hudson email: john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk	814489

Once the analysis of the questionnaire is absorbed then the results will be published after which the Council will be looking to produce a draft of the Parish Plan which will then be put out for consultation.

****DON'T FORGET – KEEP YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES FLOWING IN****

NEW LIGHTING CONTRACTOR

A new contractor, who will undertake maintenance of the street lights, has been appointed. The charges are around are certain to be higher, the full impact of which will be borne next year. The bulk clean and change of bulbs for all lights will be undertaken in the near future while estimates are being sought to repaint the lighting columns in the Conservation Area. The Council apologises for the poor service during the period in which there was no maintenance contractor.

FACILITIES ON FORESTHALL PARK

Approximately 35% of the new development falls into this parish with the remainder situated in Birchanger parish. The Council is delighted to welcome the growing number of new parishioners on Foresthall and recognises that there are areas which will need care and attention. Discussions are taking place with Uttlesford District Council and the developers about funding for equipment on the two play areas and the maintenance of the verges. If, however, any resident has suggestions as to what should be included on the play areas, please contact the Clerk – Mrs Ruth Clifford, preferably by email: parishcouncil@stansted.net or by telephone on 813214.

IMPROVE HIGHWAYS AND SAFETY AS FORESTHALL PARK DEVELOPS

A meeting between Stansted Mountfitchet and Birchanger Parish Councils and Essex Highways recently took place to discuss the priorities for spending the money provided by the developers under the Section 106 Agreement to improve highways and road safety arising out of the development. A further meeting will be held in October.

Stansted Parish Council has identified the following priorities:

Footway along Forest Hall Road
Traffic calming on Walson Way
Widening of footway, Church Road

The pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Mountfitchet Mathematics & Computing College has already been completed while the bus shelters are in hand (or so we are told!!). If you have any comments or ideas please contact us.

PARKING IN LOWER STREET & GROVE HILL

A meeting is due to be held with residents to consider proposals by Essex Highways to alleviate residents parking in Lower Street between Flutes and the Youth Centre and the traffic flow problems on Grove Hill. Having heard the representations, further discussions will then be held with Essex Highways.

NEW EMERGENCY TEXT SERVICE

This new service for the deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired means that instead of ringing 999 in an emergency, they can text a message to 07624 800102 and receive a similar priority.

However, members of the public must register to use the service, which is designed for those who are d/deaf – an all-encompassing term to denote everyone with a hearing-related disability – and/or speech-impaired.

Anyone wishing to register for the emergency text service can do so by:

- filling in a form online – visit www.essex.police.uk and click on the Test Messaging link under How to Contact us on the front page
- contacting the Essex Police switchboard on 0300 333 4444 and asking for an emergency text registration form
- visiting their local police station front office and asking for one

Once registered, they will receive a special ID card, sponsored by Essex Police Authority.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARDS A NEW HEALTH CENTRE

At a public meeting on 8 September, the PCT provided the following update.

The new centre is proposed to be located on land (not precisely specified) behind Chapel Hill and Silver Street with access in from Chapel Hill

and the exit on to Silver Street. Detailed design work is still in progress with discussions taking place with the local Doctors' practice, the Clinic, the District Nurses, Dentist, the Developer and Uttlesford planning. This phase of work should be completed by end of October after which final costings can be made and the Heads of Terms agreed by the end of the year. Assuming success, a planning application would be submitted in the New Year. Given that approval is forthcoming the new centre should be in operation in 2011.

The Primary Care Trust has indicated that it is likely that further information will be released before the planning application is submitted and possibly another public meeting will be held.

HELP!!

Has anybody out there any knowledge of the Army Camp at Hargrave Park? A soldier who was stationed there in 1950-52 and now lives in Australia, has been in touch to see if there are any photos or history among the archives. If anyone can help me, I would be very grateful. You can leave any material at the Council Offices where it will be copied and then returned to you.

STANSTED YOUTH CENTRE

Well with huge thanks to Stansted Parish Council for their support of our summer programme it has been a summer of fun, activities and new experiences.

Early in August ten of our older members spent 5 days in Belfast in the first part of our exchange with young people who live in the Falls Road area. We linked with the Corpus Christi Youth Centre in Ballymurphy who put together the most amazing programme of events and activities for us. This included taking part in a BBC1 Youth Question Time with Gerry Adams, the Mayor of Belfast, the Chief of Police for Northern Ireland and the Head of Youth Service for Belfast, a visit to the Crumlin Gaol and the Republican Museum. The last 2 days were spent with 12 of the young people from Ballymurphy on the Antrim Coast where we visited the Giants Causeway, the Carrick – Rede Rope Bridge and Portrush. The Belfast young people are coming to Stansted next Easter when we hope to give them as good a time as we had in Belfast.

The second week of August we took 13 younger members and 2 senior members to the Brecon Beacons for 4 days of extreme activities. We stayed in a beautiful farmhouse at the base of

Tumpa one of the highest mountains in the Brecons which the young people climbed on their first evening after a long 5 hour drive. The next 4 days were spent caving, canoeing, climbing, orienteering, and best of all gorge walking!!! On the last day we had trouble getting the young people into the coach to come home, they wanted to stay!!!! The weather was fantastic, the scenery fantastic and the young people were fantastic!!!! The last 3 weeks of the holidays the youth centre was open 2 nights a week and although the numbers were low the young people who attended enjoyed the activities that were on offer and joined with the staff in pool challenges, basketball, arts and crafts and giving the centre a good clean and tidy up.

The skatepark and the MUGA (Multi use games area) on Mountfitchet Green have been very busy all summer keeping lots of young people entertained and out of trouble.

The centre is now back to its normal opening days and times.

Tues – DofE 6-9pm

Wed – Boxing Training and other sports 7-9.30pm

Thurs – Belfast Mural Project, Arts and Crafts and Cooking 7-9.30pm

Fri – Open Centre Drop In 7-9.30pm

All young people from school Year 8 upwards are welcome. Come along and give it a go!!

Linda Barnes

Youth Worker/Manager – 07920 466 923

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

30 September	Full Council
7 October	Open Spaces
21 October	Full Council
28 October	F&GP – Budget 2

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

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

From Cllr Alan Dean

Essex highways have now recognised that the controls for the traffic lights on Grove Hill are not functioning correctly after I sent them observations from residents about the gridlock that occurs from time to time. It seems that a control loop in the road that should detect the presence of traffic coming from the Elsenham direction is not working correctly. The result is that the lights often do not change to green when they should do. Vehicles parked close to the higher light have sometimes made the situation worse, but parking is not the sole, and maybe not the primary cause of gridlock. ECC have promised me they will fix the lights before moving forward with parking restrictions.

Last month I reported that Uttlesford Council was due in September to mount another consultation on where to locate future housing up to the mid-2020s. That is now delayed until next year. Members should have met on September 1st to consider reports on suitable land, on road access, on demand for new housing and on other technical areas. Unfortunately, the reports are not yet available so the meeting was cancelled and engagement with residents has been put back.

These reports have been in preparation for almost two years so it is a matter of great frustration both to councillors and to members of the public who have been following this saga before and since Elsenham was chosen for a new town exactly two years ago. Local members have complained at the lack of progress and at the lack of impetus by the council, particularly as we are aware that many residents of Stansted are concerned at the impact of a new town's traffic on local roads and wish to see an end to the uncertainty.

From Cllr Geoffrey Sell

The role of the enforcement team

The Council has a small team of staff headed by Paul Woolcott who are responsible for issues such as planning, licensing and street enforcement.

In the latter case they deal with abandoned cars. To give a flavour of some of the cases they are currently dealing with in Stansted at the moment:

- i) Garden land being extended into agricultural land. Creation of swimming pool
- ii) Houses constructed larger than permission
- iii) Possible airport related parking
- iv) Illuminated advertisement erected without express permission

The enforcement team play an important role in ensuring that when planning permission is granted that conditions are adhered to. It also deals with cases that have acted unlawfully without seeking planning permission in the first place. The council is responsible for granting licenses to all premises selling alcohol. The team ensures that the conditions granted by the licenses are adhered to.

It is my view that the team is under resourced and I will be raising this in future meetings.

Do you think you can influence the council's decision making?

I recently attended a conference on Community Empowerment. This is defined as the "giving of confidence, skills and power to enable communities to shape and influence their own development." Essentially it is about how people can influence the decisions being made on their behalf. In a survey done last year of electors across the East of England the question was asked 'Do you feel that you can influence decisions in your community.' Uttlesford's ranking came 18th out of 52 local authorities. However, only 31% of residents surveyed in Uttlesford thought they could influence decisions. This compares unfavourably with Cambridge City Council at 41% and favourably with Harlow at 26%.

Every resident has the right to attend council meetings and with prior notice address councillors. Residents are able to engage with the Council at the Community Forums which meet three times a year. The forums replaced the Area Panels last year. I made the request that the work of these forums be looked at to see whether they should be strengthened. I would like the council to consider adopting a Citizens Panel. This is composed of for example 1,000 residents who they would regularly consult with.

BUS TIME TABLES

These are now available in leaflet form and can be obtained from The Library, Day Centre, Y to Z Mini Market, Parish Council Offices, Redlands Doctor's Surgery, Joy Thomas (813871) and Valerie Trundle (813433). Large copies are available at £1 from the Library. Complaint forms also available from Joy and Valerie (Local Transport Representatives).

CONTACT US!

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

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members

Alan Dean Tel: 01279 813579
Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Hudson Tel: 01279 814489
Email: cllrhudson@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Salmon Tel: 01279 814789
Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell Tel: 01279 815925
Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cllr.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: haselhurst@parliament.uk

Police

PC Tom Bastendorff, Stansted Police Station,
Hargrave Close Tel: 01279 812211
0300 333 4444
Mobile phone carried by PCSO 07801 461666

******* STOP PRESS *******

Once again the Community Calendar in aid of Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) will be going on sale later this month and for the first time Stansted has been chosen to feature in it.

The full colour A3 calendars costing £6 will be sold door-to-door during the autumn as well as at selected stores including the Parish Council offices – go on line to: www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/sales_outlets.html for details. For further information call SSE on 01279 870558.



STANSTED WINDMILL

This year's Fête on August Bank Holiday was again favoured by a sunny afternoon and a bumper attendance. The usual attractions were augmented by three new stalls and a return of the Bouncy Castle (courtesy of David Kirby). China smashing attracted the more macho visitors and was alternated with catapults using crab apple ammunition, while the traditional bric-a-brac and book stalls proved as popular as ever.

The weather ensured that the refreshment tent enjoyed a brisk trade and the Mill itself again served as a launching platform for teddy bears on parachutes. This year the breeze, although not quite strong enough to turn the sails, enabled several teddies to make unscheduled visits to adjacent gardens, fortunately with a retrieval party at the ready. As before, live music was provided by two talented young people. All the stall-holders reported a steady flow of patrons with the takings amounting to a record £2500.

It is possible that the big refurbishment programme will start within a few weeks, so the Mill will not be opening on 4th October. The Millers are grateful for the support given by Stansted folk not only at the Fête but throughout the year. Next year promises to be an even busier one!

Stansted Millers



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Rather like the swallow in Spring, September heralds the new season for the History Society. The first of our new programme of speakers, Georgina Green, who proved to be a complete master of her subject, came to tell us about the large and influential Buxton family of Essex, before a very appreciative audience.

The story started in the 16th century when the family had considerable interest in cloth making in Coggeshall, living in the house now owned by the National Trust, Paycocke's. The family was non-conformist and it was their practice for an inheritance not to go to the eldest son but to be divided equally among the surviving members. This resulted in the family's prosperity being spread throughout the family and it thrived. In the 18th century, Charles Buxton decided to move to London as an oil merchant, living out of town in the village of Walthamstow. His son, Isaac, married Sarah Fowell, of a family even more successful in the oil trade, whose eldest son, Thomas Fowell Buxton, bore a name to appear in several generations of the family. Isaac built a house for Sarah in Weymouth, which was visited by, among others, George III - it could be said that the family had 'arrived'!

Georgina presented the appropriate family tree at various stages during her talk, which was very useful as the same names cropped up in successive generations. She explained the many interests held by the family members over the years, which included a brewery, Parliament, the welfare of the local community, anti-slavery (Elizabeth Fry, the noted reformist, was a sister-in-law), banking and education. More recently, Aubrey Buxton (later Lord, and known to several members) was a onetime equerry to the Duke of Edinburgh, a TV producer and very keen on wild life - the Nature Reserve in Stansted which bears his name was set up in 1976. Members recalled that when the Stansted Carnival was held, Aubrey used to arrange for celebrities to open the proceedings.

We were very grateful to Georgina for her most interesting talk and now look forward to next month when, at 8.00pm on 1st October, Peter Lawrence returns to tell us of 'London, 'remains' to be seen'. See you then.

Ian Seavers

Unbeknown to those attending the meeting, Lord Aubrey Buxton of Alsa had died two days previously at his Norfolk home. It is a compliment to Stansted that he used his former home for his title. *Ed*

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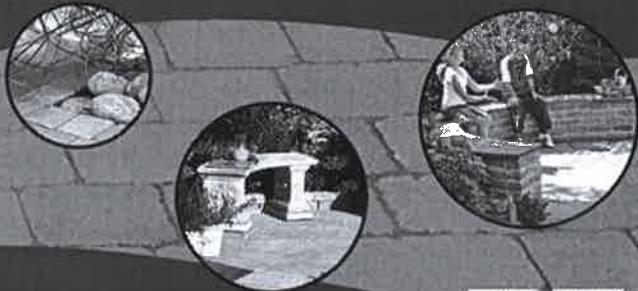
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MANUDEN GUIDES



Senior Section at WINGS 2009
1st-8th August, Windsor Great Park

Last year Manuden Guides went to the Essex Jamboree and two of the Senior Section went as Staff. The older girls who went are now in Senior Section. At the SS meeting last September they asked to go on another Jamboree. I said, "Find one then!" and they did! They researched on the Internet and decided that WINGS was the one, mainly because the sub-camps were divided into age groups, so they would be with people of a similar age. A request was made by the WINGS team for hosts for International groups. This was discussed, and the girls agreed to do this. We were 'twinned' with a 14-18 group from Seattle, USA. There were seven girls and two leaders. We provided equipment for them and we camped together, sharing cooking and meal-times. This proved to be really successful; we all enjoyed this international dimension, and learnt a lot about each other, as well as having fun. The American girls showed us how they made s'mores, having brought all the ingredients with them; and we showed them our way. Surrounding groups also joined in, and we had quite a party on the last night!

Activities were divided into ten zones, each covering a half day: Global Development Village, Water activities, Adventure & challenge, Outdoor skills, Craft, Physical, Eureka, Hot Air, Entertainment, and Windsor Exploration. Some were more popular than others. The girls really enjoyed the water activities, particularly going in bell boats; the bungee trampolines; spacehopper football; the rotating climbing wall; the trek cart challenge (dismantling and rebuilding a trek cart over an obstacle course); some of the science activities like the camera obscura (which surprised them!); and the visits to Windsor, a half-hour walk away.



The evening activities were very much enjoyed: live bands; a Neon night; a huge screen film; a WINGS Factor talent show; a disco party; and a closing ceremony with spectacular fireworks. These all took place in the central arena and on the main stage, and were very professionally produced: the whole camp really came alive. There were plenty of opportunities to socialise, meeting people from other countries and other parts of Great Britain. It was a great week, and we are already talking about next year!

Glynis Prothero,
Guide Leader



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

It does not seem possible that when we read this our outdoor bowls season has come to an end. We have had a most enjoyable season and I think our new bowlers are glad they joined as they have all played so well. The green has been hard work due to the varying weather conditions but Roy and his team have kept it well. Our friendly weekend games have gone well but unfortunately, along with one or two other clubs, St Chads had to cancel due to a lack of players so we did not play the Cowan Cup. The Men's league had only one team this year and they came third which is very respectable. The Ladies league did not do very well and the Seniors team came bottom – that's bowls! The Stansted team in the Daniel Robinson Inter-village competition won once again and a big thanks to DR for their support. Ro Turner and Jan Petchey were invited to Birchanger Bowls club early in the season to play in a competition sponsored by Colin Ferbrache. In a great final Ro and Elaine Wright were runners up, and Colin had to hand cash over to the two ladies – thanks Colin; it didn't hurt that much did it? We held our finals day on 29th August and the weather helped us have a super day. There was a lot of support during the day from other members. The day was finished off with a meal at the Cock pub.

Results:

Novices: John Pullin (finalist Edward Taub)

Ladies Pairs: Ro Turner/Kathy Francis
(Finalists Pat Perry/ Stella Rodgers)

Men's Pairs: Rex Turner/Jim (the legend) White
(Finalists Derrick Giffin/Peter Clements)

Men's 2 wood: Derrick Giffin (Finalist Derek Sharp)

Ladies 2 wood: Ro Turner (Finalist Ann Conroy)

Men's H/Cap: Derrick Giffin (finalist Mike Thompson)

Mixed Singles: Jim Rodgers (Finalist Keith Sutton)

Men's Championship: Derrick Giffin (Finalist Rex Turner)

Ladies Championship: Ann Conroy (Finalist Ro Turner)

Well done to all winners and finalists especially Derrick Giffin who will probably be banned next year!

On 6th September Rex Turner played the final of the North West Essex BA for the second year running, but this year was beaten by a player from Silver End. Rex along with Derrick Giffin and Derek Sharp managed to win the triples final against a team from Bocking. Thanks to Price Bailey Accountants for sponsoring shirts for the day.

On a personal note as Secretary and Captain, I would like to thank the members for all their support during the season; the new members have been welcomed by all and have joined in with both friendly games and competitions. As we individually or as teams take part in external games we become representatives of STANSTED bowling club and in doing so put the club on the map and gain respect from other clubs – so keep it up. As always I invite new members to our club, why not become a social member and find out all about bowls, and if you like what you hear become a bowler? You will not regret it – learn now, young or old - especially if you are retiring soon and want something to do. The club opens on Friday nights from September–April, and then every night during the season.

Rex Turner
Hon Secretary/Captain



The National Childbirth Trust
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STANSTED NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST

In August we celebrated reaching 100,000 members nationwide. Founded in 1956, NCT has been supporting parents through pregnancy, birth and early parenthood for over 50 years. With the help of our members we are able to offer services and support to expecting parents, new parents and beyond. This month the Stansted, Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth branches have pulled together to host a massive event called Bumper Bumps and Babes aimed at new parents and expecting parents (details below). The event will give parents a chance to find out about their local services such as health visitors, midwives, baby massage, sing and sign, and the local children service centres. There will also be a chance to talk to NCT members to find out what the NCT can offer too.

What's on in the next few months:

Bumper Bumps and Babes

Friday 2nd October 1.30pm-3.30pm

Havers Lane Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford

Family Photography Session with Yvonne Lorraine

Saturday 10th October 10.00am-12.00pm St John's Hall

NCT Nearly New Sale

Saturday 17th October 2.30-4.00pm St John's Hall. If you

wish to sell please contact Jane on 08442 436281 Option 2.

Halloween Messy Play

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

We are still continuing to focus on increasing our visibility within the local area, so if you are interested in joining the NCT or just finding out a bit more about us then please contact us on 0844 243 6281 or www.nct.org.uk.

Kim Taylor
Publicity Co-ordinator



BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel: 813626

School News

We would like to welcome all the children back after their summer holidays. A special welcome to the new nursery and reception classes, and to the new children in other years. We also have two new teachers: Mr Rogers joins us as our Year 3 Teacher and Deputy Head, and Miss Hobday is our new Year 5 Teacher. Welcome to you both, and hope you are enjoying the school.

PTA News

With all the children now back at school and settled into their new classes, we have a very busy term ahead. On 1st October at 7.00pm we will be holding a fashion show in the school hall - ex-high street stores' clothing for adults and children at half the original price. Tickets £2 (includes complimentary drink) from Janet on 815765. Children and parents from the school will be modelling the outfits and we would love to see as many of you as possible there.

Thursday 15th October at 8.00pm at the school is our PTA AGM. This is an opportunity to review our achievements from last year and plan the events for this year whilst enjoying some cheese and wine. If your children are new to Bentfield or if you have not come along before, then this is a chance to become involved in fundraising activities and also meet other parents in a social setting - nothing too formal! We are also starting to plan our Half Term Disco, Sparkler Party and Christmas Fayre - dates and details of these not to be missed events will be available in the next issue. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank those committee members who have left us because their children have moved on to secondary school. The help and support given by these parents over the last few years has been vital in ensuring healthy financial support to the school.

Kerry Freegard



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(National Association for Mental Health)

UTTLESFORD MIND

This month we have enjoyed welcoming back the older children at Rainbow and lots of new ones have settled in well to the routine of Pre-School. The first theme we have been looking at is 'Belonging', explaining to the ones who have already been here that they are part of the Rainbow family with photos from last term on the wall to reinforce this idea. The playleaders also extended the idea of belonging to the new starters as well to encourage them to feel as welcome as possible. As autumn approaches, we are looking forward to our annual trip to Hatfield Forest for the older children and walks around the village to collect all the colourful natural materials this beautiful time of year brings.

Rainbow has been chosen to take part in the Government's latest 'Every Child a Talker' campaign. The Pre-School is running a pilot scheme which encourages the children to learn different communication strategies and to emphasise to parents how important language development is and how this benefits the children when they start school. We are also pleased to report that our toilets have been renovated thanks to the fundraising of the committee! Our AGM will take place on Thursday 15th October from 7.30pm at Stansted Free Church Hall. You are welcome to come along and find out what we have been doing over the past year. 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 Pursglove on 814701 for further information. We do currently have a few places available.



Isabelle Page
Rainbow Committee

Uttlesford Mind provides a range of community based services for the people who are affected by mental ill health. All of these services support our aim, which is to 'work in our community to support people on their journey from mental ill health towards recovery'. To us a carer is anyone who takes it upon him/herself to support someone who needs help in maintaining a reasonable quality of life. There are an estimated six million carers in the UK. The role can be a time-consuming, draining and thankless one. Often seen as heroes, carers can in private experience frustration and guilt at the huge mental and physical impact caring has on their lives. Uttlesford Mind, in partnership with Harlow Mind, has now launched a new project that specifically aims to help carers.

The Carers Online Project aims to connect carers with the world, the web and each other. The internet offers huge possibilities for providing information and social contact for carers, and this project aims to help them discover those possibilities and make the most of them. Email, word processing, Facebook, blogging – all buzzwords to be demystified and opportunities to be opened up. Computer training and support, at whatever level, will be provided. Carers can keep in touch with each other too, and run discussions using a dedicated carers forum on the Uttlesford Mind website. Spanning Uttlesford, Harlow and Epping Forest, the project also aims to encourage carers to volunteer to support each other locally. Laptops are available for informal training and demos. Helping carers to connect more widely will also strengthen the links between local carers groups. Most of all however, we hope it will provide carers with some extra tools to help them cope with their important role. For more information please contact me on 07772 505251 or email carers@uttlesfordmind.org.uk.

Tim Matthews

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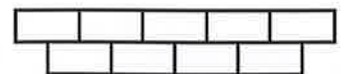
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Welcome back to a new school year! I hope all our pupils and their families had a happy and restful summer holiday before the challenges of the new term ahead. We have a full intake of new pupils into our Foundation Stage classes, and there are new pupils into all other year groups. As a result, we have expanded the school to six classes so it has been a



very exciting start to the year. At St Mary's we are proud of the level of pastoral care we offer, as well as curriculum, and the new pupils have settled in quickly and happily. We work hard with Rainbow Pre-School and parents on the transition programme

we have in place to ensure the children are very familiar with their new school and teachers. Pupils from other pre-schools and those who are joining older year groups have been able to have 'taster' days during the summer term so they know their classmates before the new term started. We also keep reviewing what we do, trying to make starting a new school happy for the children (and for the parents who have to hand over their children!). Parent feedback is welcome and always useful in this process.

Planning for the new school building is continuing according to schedule. There is a huge amount to think about and plan for, but it is really coming to life now that we are seeing drawings and models of the building, especially as all the features the school have asked for are there on the plans.

For Harvest this year the school is working alongside St John's Church to support 'Harvest for the Hungry', an Essex based charity which supplies staple foodstuffs to needy families in eastern Europe. The children are researching the production of the foods the charity collects, and how harvest is celebrated in different parts of the world. The Year 6 will decorate the church for the occasion and each class will make a presentation for our Family Harvest Festival on Friday 9th October.



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

SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect
of the Night Sky



The Earth, as with all planets, has, some four or five billion years ago, collided with random vast lumps of rock, all of which being leftovers from gigantic stars exploding. It is now believed that one of the Earth's early collisions was with something which knocked another lump off to become our Moon. Fortunately, such planet destroying collisions have become a much less frequent event these last three and a half billion years, as all these lumps have become planets themselves and other bits, all in stable orbits round the Sun. The last time we had a really catastrophic event it saw the dinosaurs off.

But the Solar System is far from empty. Many millions of lumps of rock, named asteroids, some pebbles, some measured in hundreds of miles, are left over from the violence of aeons past. Astronomers have for some years been searching for suspicious asteroids, and in the last five years have identified a particular one that could come a bit too close to the Earth for comfort in 2029-30. We cannot be certain of the time of this event because its path will wander as it is gravitationally influenced by thousands of other objects. In fact, the Earth is daily bombarded by thousands of tons of ancient rock, mostly in dust or pebble form, which heat to melting point almost instantly when they strike the atmosphere at speeds upward of maybe 50,000 mph. You may have seen one now and again on a clear night - we call them Shooting Stars or, properly, meteors. (If a piece of rock is big enough to get to the ground it becomes a meteorite.)

So how might we deal with a big one that is definitely coming in our direction? There are two possible answers, each of which assumes we have several tens of years to act: firstly to intercept it and shatter it with nuclear weapons; bizarrely the other option is to intercept it and, trust me, cover one side with white paint. Believe it or not, the solar radiation that dowses everything in the Solar System will bounce off the white side and will be absorbed on the dark side. This difference, over as many years as possible, will slightly bend the course of our naughty asteroid and, instead of a catastrophe, it will be an amazing sight in the sky.

Martin West
Mooncraft Productions



**STANSTED & DISTRICT
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

We will be holding our usual Quiz on Saturday 24th October, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Stansted Day Centre. The Quizmaster will be David Morson and the cost of £8 includes a ploughman's supper. There will also be a Bar and Raffle.

The Constituency Dinner will be held on Saturday 14th November, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the URC Hall, Abbey Road, Saffron Walden. The cost is £24 and the speaker will be Lyn Featherstone MP. Tickets and further information from me, Ruth Rawlinson 814222 or John Hudson 814489.

Ruth Rawlinson

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Our new season begins in October and will run through to March next year. *music@stansted* aims to bring high quality live classical music to the people of Stansted and the surrounding area, and, to this end, we have an exciting series of concerts lined up. All our concerts are held in St John's Church. The first concert this season is on Saturday 10th October at 7.30pm when we shall be having a repeat visit by Catrin Finch, the world famous harpist, who came to play for us in 2005. We are grateful for the generous support of The Rose & Crown, Bentfield Green towards the costs of this concert. This is greatly appreciated and we take this opportunity to welcome the new landlords, Chris and Christine, and their family to Stansted.

When Prince Charles revived the post of Royal Harpist in the year 2000, Catrin was his first choice despite still being a student at the Royal Academy of Music. Today she is a



Visiting Professor at the Academy, as well as at the Royal Welsh College of Music, and is an international performing and recording star. As one American critic put it, she "has such a mastery of her instrument, combined with deep musical insight that others pale in comparison". Another says "Finch can do

almost anything on the harp ..." Catrin has done more than anybody to popularise the harp around the world and carries out extensive educational work. She has revolutionised people's view of what the harp can do, working with everyone from John Rutter to brass bands. We are looking forward to hearing Catrin play and it should be a very exciting evening. Tickets - adults £12, children £1 are now available from Stansted Carpets, Chapel Hill; Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford; or Sonia Levy 815282.

If you are not already a member of *music@stansted* there is still time to join! Full membership for the whole season is £32 (concessions £30), while tickets for individual concerts are £12 each, children £1. If you would like to join, and we are always delighted to welcome new members, please send a cheque payable to 'music at stansted' with your name(s) and address to The Membership Secretary, *music@stansted*, 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted CM24 8BY. If you are not sure, and might like to try us first before joining you can join at the first concert. Simply buy a ticket for the concert on 10th October and then, if you decide to join, pay the difference (£32 - £12 = £20) and join on the night.

Alan Corbishley

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No 5 STANSTED TENNIS CLUB 1889-2009



In 1889 it was decided that a tennis club should be formed in Stansted and a site in Cambridge Road was found which was suitable for four courts. The Rev A McKinney was President. The club opened for play in May 1890. In 1893 a concert held in the Central Hall on Chapel Hill in aid of the tennis club, raised £11 19s 4d and a pavilion was provided. A number of people had played tennis on Green's meadows (the area from the top of Chapel Hill to the twitchel) in the 1920s. For a changing room, the club used the small brick summerhouse, still standing in the garden of 52 Chapel Hill. The club has been on its present site in the Cambridge Road since 1934 when it had two very rough grass courts. Some of the original members were Jim Kitson who lived at Potts Cottage and owned the land, Jack Stone, Connie, Dick and Len Sweet and Wilfred Turner. In 1939 play ceased as most of the male members were called up for military service during the War.

The club really established itself after the War in 1946. Some of the early members were Pat Clower, who is now an honorary member of the club and a tremendous supporter and has established several Junior Tournaments with trophies; Evelyn Mumford, a very strong and brilliant player; Susan Smith; and Doris Turner (Gill Robinson's mother). In 1948 the club invested in hard courts. Dances and jumble sales were held and £500 was raised. The atmosphere and camaraderie were wonderful and couples met and married. One of these was Eddie and Angela Wilby. Eddie sadly died in 1983 and Angela presented a shield in his memory. A tournament is played every year and his three grandchildren now compete. Eric Jenkins, who had been the Royal Air Force Tennis Champion, coached Cora Francis (Derek and Barry Francis' sister) who later played at Queen's Club and Junior Wimbledon. The Saffron Walden Hospitals Cup Tournament started in 1949 and is still played locally and raised money for the present hospital. In 1978 Stansted Parish Council bought the land the club now stands on but the club has always been run by volunteers. We pay rent to the Council and the club has to pay for court re-surfacing, netting and every expense involved in running and maintaining the club and clubhouse. It is the intention of the Parish Council and the club that this arrangement should continue in perpetuity. The club currently has 100 senior members and 100 junior members. Members of all ages and standards are always very welcome. Please contact Richard Mott (Secretary) 466348, Janet Hollis (Chairman) 812073, or Daphne Lunnon (Membership Secretary) 817574.

Chris Hollis and Martyn Taplin run coaching classes for all age groups, and tournaments are held throughout the year. Many matches are played against local clubs in the Essex Small Clubs League. Members play all the year round. We are right in the middle of the village and the courts have been floodlit since 2006. We hope to lay completely new courts this October 2009. The lovely garden next to the courts is owned and maintained by the Parish Council.

Janet Hollis
Chairman

ada

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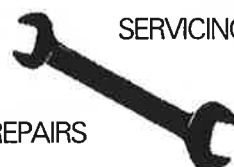
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JANET TOWNSEND

We are losing one of our Team

We said our farewells last month to a couple who have been at the centre of village life for decades and who have been particularly important for the smooth operation of this village magazine. At last, members of the gardening club will be able to claim those cherished prizes for the best daffodil cluster or the largest and most perfectly formed onion now that Brian Townsend has emigrated to the Midlands!

Back in the early '60s, if you were a Thaxted boy who wanted to come 'a courting' a Stansted girl you had to get on your bike and cycle. If you were dedicated you did it three times a week. For a tough kid like Brian you were already used to cycling over to Walton on the Naze for the day, so Stansted was a breeze! The girl in question was young Janet Camp who was raised in a house on Stansted's Recreation Ground. At the Congregational church youth group she was well in with a group of lads and lasses who are now some of the best known characters of Stansted of today. One of her girlfriends, Brenda Burford, suggested a night out at a Youth for Christ Rally at Stortford Methodist Church. The abiding memory of that evening was the image of the tall Thaxtedian Baptist. By the time he met her, the Camp family had already spent Janet's formative years on the new estate at Priory Drive and then, when Mr Camp started work at Mumford's the grocers at the foot of Chapel Hill, they moved in to the house next to the shop. It was from this old grocery store that Janet walked the twenty yards or so across Chapel Hill to get married at the Congregational Chapel (today's Free Church).

It wasn't long before Janet became a key figure in many of the activities in this village, whether it was as the driving force behind the highly successful shoe box campaign or in fielding just about every job at the United Reformed Church and later Stansted Free Church (her husband filled in the gaps of church organist and property manager!).

Brian provided stalwart service at our fire station as a volunteer fireman, and much to his displeasure missed Walden's famous Rose and Crown Hotel fire of Boxing Day 1969 because he had caught a bad dose of 'flu! In his working life he rose to a senior engineering position at Stansted Airport with BAA whilst Janet was for many years the friendly face



behind the counter at our village post office. Janet was one of the team that in 1980 initiated the 'Link' magazine, then produced on a duplicator and distributed by subscription to some

900 residents. She served as treasurer and distribution organiser for most of the ensuing 29 years and became adept at resolving any monthly hiccups. These roles brought out her qualities (doubtless honed by years in the post office) in book-keeping and, most importantly, maintaining harmonious relationships with a wide variety of people. Janet and Brian were dedicated in all that they did.

We shall miss them both but wish them well as they relocate to live near their elder son Andrew and his wife and their granddaughters, Jaz and Jayd.

Alan Wheeler and Derek Honour

FAREWELL TO STANSTED

At last our move to the West Midlands is complete and our retirement has begun. The last few weeks in Stansted were very hectic and we were sorry we were not able to say goodbye to everyone we would have liked but we do thank you for all the gifts, cards and good wishes we have received and for your friendship over many years. Stansted and all its people will always be very close to our hearts. We will miss you all. We are looking forward to exploring the Staffordshire/Worcestershire area to find our new home but in the meantime the rental house in Kingswinford suits us fine and we are settling in well. There seems plenty going on round and about but no village magazine - still I don't think I will start one!!!!. If anyone is in the area we would love to see you just give us a ring on 01384 400602 any time.

Janet and Brian Townsend



Royal British Legion
Stansted & District
Branch

THE POPPY APPEAL 2009

Although Armistice Day is 11th November, Remembrance Sunday will be on the 8th this year. Collections for the Appeal will begin on 24th October. In Stansted we have a very dedicated band of helpers and we thank them for their time and effort each year. However, with the development of Foresthall Park, I am seeking new collectors in that area. I do not ask anyone to cover more than say 50 houses, so you can appreciate that quite a few volunteers will be required. Please contact me if you feel that you can help or just want more information. The Maitland Road and Manor Road areas are not covered at present, so if anyone feels that they can help with that please let me know. The house to house collections raise over 25% of our District total which was just over £12,000 last year! The Legion needs all the support we can give. Besides helping the families of those servicemen losing their lives on active service, we also support the very much larger number who have been injured, many very seriously, some of whom will be permanently disabled. Please help if you can and give generously. We appreciate the support of all donors. Thank you.

John L Segar
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser,
Stansted & District
Tel: 813289



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ST CLARE HOSPICE

On Bank Holiday Sunday, Paul Moore, landlord from the Kings Arms in Stansted, set off at 7.30am, with several customers, to participate in their annual charity bike ride. Paul, his brother Gary and wife Lorraine, who cycled the route with Jackie Dale, had decided that all funds raised from the event were to be donated to St Clare Hospice. Fourteen members of the public took part supporting both the Kings Arms and the Hospice - therefore I felt it only right I should also participate. It was a very challenging 20 mile route from the pub into picturesque Hertfordshire and back into Essex via Bishop's Stortford, Molehill Green and Elsenham - not for the faint hearted. Even as regular cyclists, my husband and I found it a difficult ride - seemingly into a head wind whichever direction we seemed to take. Paul had had the gauntlet thrown down, and there was a substantial amount promised in sponsorship to return before the pub was due to open at noon. No problem; Paul and his buddies completed the ride in 4 hours 10 minutes! However, Paul, leaning over the railings at the end, a ciggie in one hand and a glass of something in the other, declared that "it was one of the hardest things I have ever done and would probably never do again"! Not forgetting those who walked the course setting off at 6.00am that morning and finishing in an amazing time of 5 hours 35 minutes.

All at the Hospice are most grateful to the Kings Arms and their customers for their wonderful support. If you can please support their charity day for the Hospice on Tuesday 20th October, when there is an all day tombola with an Indian meal and auction at 8.00pm that same evening with tickets at £10 a head, that would be great.

Thank you, too, for those who attended the Stansted Friends Fashion Show and to some who even participated by modelling in it: Marion Williams, Christine Morris, Kirsty Evans and Caitlin Bresden - all Stansted residents. No details as yet regarding the outcome of the event but I hope to let you know the amount raised for the Hospice in the next edition of the 'Link'. We have a Hallowe'en Walk on 31st October hosted by Spangles in Lower Street, Stansted. If you and your family want to take part in the walk with lots of fun activities please call me for further details.

We are also delighted that the Village Harvest Supper on Sunday 11th October (see Village Events page) is supporting us. As a charity we depend on most of our funding to come from its local community. In August our In-Patient Unit recorded its highest ever occupancy rate of just under 96%. The current national average occupancy rate for hospices is 74%. This trend would seem to suggest the demand for our In-Patient beds, providing specialist palliative care, 24 hours per day, is on the increase. St Clare Hospice is pleased to serve the people of Uttlesford and the borders of East Herts so efficiently and we are keen to ensure that we are highly responsive to patients' needs. If you wish to visit the Hospice to see where the money raised goes please do not hesitate to contact me for a visit.



Caroline Bore
Community Fundraiser
East Herts and Uttlesford
Tel: 773751



MOUNTFITCHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



GCSE success at Mountfitchet College

Four MMCC students are shown receiving their GCSE results in August. Former Head Girl, Helena, was the top performer with 4A*s, 4As and 5Bs and along with Elliott and Hayley is now studying A levels at Saffron Walden County High School. Oliver has opted to pursue his A level studies at Bishop's Stortford High School. We were very pleased that not only did the vast majority of our Year 11 students achieve the grades to enable them to continue their education at Sixth Form or College level but also that our early entry students in Years 8, 9 and 10 performed exceptionally well.



Left to right: Elliott Billings, Oliver Treend, Helena Berry and Hayley Carter.

Ruth Martin



STANSTED U3A

Our next meeting of the U3A will be on Thursday 15th October in St. John's Hall, at 2.00pm (not 2.30pm as previously advertised). Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available along with the opportunity to socialise, so even if you are not a member please come along and see what we are all about. New members always welcome. Our speaker will be Alan Williams talking about Stansted Windmill, built in 1787.

24th November - Pam Ayres in Chelmsford. A few tickets still available. Contact Cherry on 817140

7th October - Henry Moore Foundation at Perry Green with optional lunch at nearby pub - also suitable for the Art and Walking groups. Contact Maggie on 503848

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

Hopefully by the time you are reading this copy of the 'Link', we will have been accepted as full members of the U3A which means that our very own web site will be 'live' - details will be published in our newsletter and the 'Link'. Don't worry if you don't have a computer as we can send you details of all activities and how to become a member of the U3A in the post. Contact me or one of the Committee members: Jean (Vice-Chair) 657807, Christine (Secretary) 817587 or Vicki (Membership Secretary) 810985.

Cherry Venn (Chair)
Tel: 817140

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WELL FETED AND CALMING THE FRIGHTENED

One of the highlights last month was participating in the Bank Holiday Windmill Fete. Jo, our nurse, Angela, one of our receptionists, and Olivia, one of our evening helpers, set up an information table with plenty of games and fun things for children to do, as well as lots of information leaflets and goody bags to give away, and they had a wonderful (if exhausting) day! They said it was lovely to see so many friends, of the two legged and four legged variety and they were kept busy the whole afternoon giving out advice to people on a variety of veterinary topics, showing the children how to play the games, and sampling plenty of tea and cake!

It certainly feels like summer is over now as children have gone back to school, the evenings are drawing in, and we look forward to autumn activities. The next significant event for animals is Bonfire Night. As you may know from previous articles, my dog Broccoli spends most of Bonfire Night in our wine rack in the kitchen. He is a very small dog I have to say, but even so it is a bit of a squeeze! The reason he does this is not through any alcohol related eccentricities but because he is terrified of fireworks. We have tried all the usual tricks of turning the television up and drawing the curtains but as soon as he hears the first bang, into the wine rack he goes. All the animal behaviourists agree that trying to carry on as normal is the best approach to animals showing anxiety; however this isn't always easy if you have a terrified animal trying to jump on your lap or if you're trying to get to your next bottle of Merlot! One of the worst things to do apparently is to make a fuss of your pet when it is scared as this only reinforces their fear. I agree it can be quite hard *not* to comfort your pet if it is in distress, as this goes against your natural instincts. The other important piece of advice is to let your pet find the place where it feels most secure. If this is under your bed leave it there, if it is on your lap then that's OK too. Good luck if however you have a Great Dane!

We do have an advice and information sheet about pets and fireworks at the surgery, so please drop by and get one and have a chat with Jo. There are also many different products which can be used to help anxious or frightened pets. Most vets tend not to prescribe sedatives for anxiety these days, as research has shown that sedatives don't make an animal any less scared, they just make it unable to move. This reinforces the fear for the next time and so a nervous dog may become gradually worse over time. There are lots of preparations on the market that are advertised as reducing anxiety. Some of them work better than others. We have found the best results with a combination of a herbal remedy, Skullcap and Valerian and a pheromone product. These canine and feline pheromone products are available in room diffusers or sprays, and they release the 'appeasing' pheromones that cats and dogs release when they are relaxed. I also use homeopathic remedies, the particular remedy depends on the particular symptoms your pet displays, as with all homeopathic prescribing, and Rescue Remedy is always a great help in these situations. If you want more information about these complementary therapies, please give me ring.

Ilse Pedler
Partner
Mercer & Hughes
Veterinary Surgeons

Stansted Tennis Club



Cayless Chilli Tournament

The club was delighted to welcome back Honorary Life Member, Fran Cayless, for her annual Chilli Tournament. Originally planned for May, it was re-arranged for 9th August. Twelve players competed in round-robin and knock-out matches. This year's trophy was won by Joe Hollis and Kate Rutter, who beat Matt Hollis and Frances Rafferty 6-3 in an exciting final. Players and spectators then enjoyed a delicious outdoor chilli meal as well as a raffle.

Essex Small Clubs One Day Tournament

This took place on 29th August at Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club. Six teams took part: Stansted, Dunmow, Bishop's Stortford, Standon & Puckeridge, Clavering and Henham. The format for this strenuous day of tennis is that each club provides a Ladies' Doubles pair, a Men's Doubles pair and a Mixed Doubles pair. Within these divisions each pair plays seven games against all other teams within that division. Points are added up and at the end of the tournament the winners for each division and then overall winners are announced. Stansted was represented by Daphne Lunnon and Frances Rafferty (Ladies' Doubles), Chris and Joe Hollis (Men's Doubles) and Matt and Ruby Hollis (Mixed Doubles). Joe and Chris came top in the Men's Doubles Division, but overall Stansted had to make do with 2nd place as they were pipped at the post by this year's winners, Standon & Puckeridge.

October Dates for your Diary:

Sat 3rd 4.30pm President's Cup (with fish & chip supper)
Sun 11th 12.45pm Clower Girls' Doubles Tournament
Sun 18th 12.45pm Adult/Child Tournament

Chris Hollis

MYTHS, LEGENDS, CUSTOMS

BIRCH TREES *Betula* sp.

When the glaciers of the last Ice Age melted, birch trees were one of the first to grow. In early Celtic mythology this tree symbolised renewal. *Beithe*, the birch, is the first tree of the Ogham, the Celtic tree alphabet. Bundles of birch twigs were used to drive out the spirits of the old year during the festival of Samhain, the start of the Celtic year. This time is now Halloween (All Hallows Eve). Birch besoms, or brooms, were later used in Beating the Parish Bounds ceremonies and the besoms are the traditional witches' broomsticks. The birch had fertility connections with Beltane, the start of the second half of the Celtic year. The Northern goddesses Freya, Frigga and the Anglo Saxon Eostre (from whom the word Easter comes) were associated with this tree as a symbol of love and fertility. Babies' cradles were often made from birch wood as it was thought to protect them from being taken by fairies.

Peggy Honour

Don't forget

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 17th October
10.00am-12 noon
Ugley Village Hall

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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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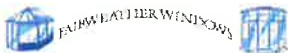


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