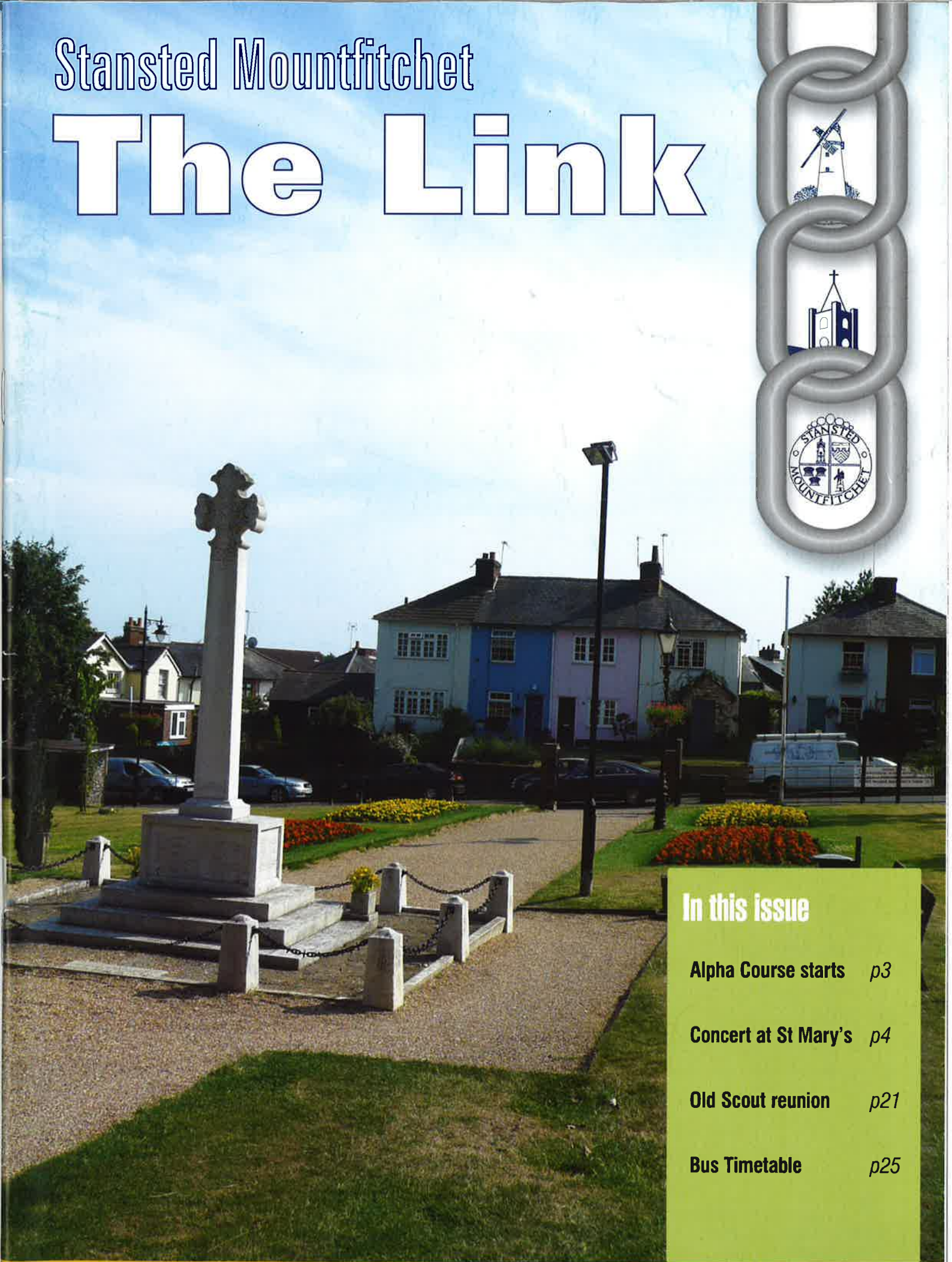


Stansted Mountfitchet

# The Link



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**Editorial**



In previous decades street parties occurred on big festive occasions like the Jubilee or Millennium. In more recent times Stansted has entered summer seasons when local residents have come together for a party. This year Bentfield Green and Loates Pasture have been joined by Greenfields in defying the economic downturn and perhaps the weather too. It appears that after more than a 30 year interval the village has moved from the fondly remembered carnivals to more localised expressions of home-spun entertainment. However, the motivation is broadly similar - a desire for simple enjoyment in the company of kindred and familiar spirits. It remains to be seen if the baton is taken up in other roads. These events can generate happy memories and be a source of lasting friendships. Congratulations to the organisers!

In this issue the Rector makes a case for village people to have greater involvement in St Mary's Churchyard. Many of today's residents have a bond with the place where their family members are laid to rest. A walk between the gravestones brings back memories of people whom many of us remember and it is somewhere that engenders a sense of belonging - no bad thing when life is changing at an ever faster pace.

The Parish Council has asked me to remind those who have not returned their Questionnaire to do so promptly as it will form the basis of its plans for the future. It is an ambitious project that deserves support.

Finally, can the 'Link' make an appeal for greater respect towards speed limits? Church Road and Silver Street seem particularly afflicted by speeding. Please slow down before, not after, the otherwise inevitable accident occurs.

**CIRCULATION:**

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

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

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

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

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

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

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Stansted Network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

On 6th August I attended a very different church service, and one which will stay with me for ever. It was the anniversary of the dropping of the first atom bomb on Hiroshima. Twenty-five years ago, two people met a Hiroshima survivor, and were so moved that they vowed they would hold a service every year on that day. This is now therefore an annual and ecumenical service, arranged by Essex Christian CND. They brought boards showing photos of previous services in places such as Chelmsford and Brentwood Cathedrals as well as URC churches. The 50th anniversary service was even held in Westminster Abbey and they would like to hold the 70th in Westminster Cathedral if at all possible. Photos of our service will be added for future years.

This year it was held in Bardfield Quaker Meeting House. It was a set service, but with a Quaker flavour – five minutes silence at one point. One hymn was the very beautiful ‘Dear Lord and Father of Mankind’ which was written by a Quaker. Various members of the congregation read prayers, which started off considering the seeds of conflict within ourselves and working towards praying for a world free of conflict and nuclear weapons. The most moving part, for me, was a form of communion. A candle had been brought from Hiroshima, and individually, we all went up to the candle and lit our own candles from it. (A candle had also been sent from Essex to Hiroshima.) The old wooden Meeting House looked magical in the light of these candles, and I think we all felt very close to each other, the people of Hiroshima and to God. During the silence, one Friend ministered (ie spoke) about the coincidence that this was also the day of the funeral of the last soldier to have fought for Britain in the trenches of the First World War. He pointed out that there was no-one left to be tortured by the memories of that awful experience, which is a sort of liberation. The 50 minutes of that service went by in a flash, and yet I was left feeling very moved and with so much to ponder in the following days. Indeed it was a service I shall never forget.

Jane Mitchell  
Stansted Quaker Meeting



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[minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

Rev'd David Mullins  
Tel: 654475  
[minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

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7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG  
Tel: 814059  
[lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Preachers for August

6th 3.30pm Church Anniversary and tea  
Rev'ds Allen Morton and David Mullins  
13th 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins - Holy Communion  
20th 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton - Harvest  
27th 10.30am Rev'd Martin Cressey

### WANTED for use in the church

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

**Confessions**  
Saturday 10.00am  
and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am

**All enquiries:** The Church Office, St John's Hall,  
 St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP  
 Tel: 815243  
 Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com  
 Office hours: 9.00am-12 noon, Monday,  
 Wednesday, Friday  
 Administrator: Mrs Elizabeth Jennings  
 Website: www.stansted.net/stjohns

**Rector:** Rev'd Paul Wilkin  
 Tel: 812203  
 Email: paulwilkin@iname.com

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

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

**St John's Diary**  
**Sunday**

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

**Monday-Wednesday and 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.
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	

**Tuesday**

9.00am St John's Tots

**Wednesday**

10.30am Holy Communion

**Thursday**

8.30am Morning Prayer

**Saturday**

9.00am Morning Prayer

Which box would you tick?  
 This is the question you will see on posters across the United Benefice of Stansted, Birchanger and Farnham during September advertising the Alpha Course we will be running. Similar courses will be running all across the UK. London commuters will see large billboard posters promoting the Alpha course with other questions such as: *Does God Exist? Yes [ ] No [ ] Probably [ ]*.

The questions on the posters highlight the purpose of the Alpha course, which is to encourage people to think about the big issues of life and explore and learn about the Christian response to these issues in a friendly and safe environment. The sessions are on ten Wednesdays 8.00pm to 9.30pm in St John's Church starting on 30th September. Each evening will start with light refreshments, a DVD presentation on a particular issue, followed by small group discussion. The subjects covered include questions such as *Who is Jesus?* and *How can we have faith?* The small group discussions allow people to raise any questions and doubts they may have in an open and friendly environment.

The course is for everyone, but it is particularly helpful for those who may not be regular church attendees, those who have not attended church since childhood but now feel they want to find out more about the Christian faith, those with no church background at all, or those who may be searching for answers to life's big questions and are just unsure. Everyone is welcome. Bear Grylls, the TV *Born Survivor* adventurer, has been on an Alpha course and is a big fan. He asks the questions "What have you to lose and what have you to gain by going along?" So if you feel that you would like to find out about the Christian faith please come along to the first session and see what you think. Alternatively please feel free to contact me on 817155 or Paul Wilkin, the Rector, on 812203 if you want to find out more. As Bear Grylls says, "What have you to lose?"

Rev'd Giles Tulk  
 Assistant Curate

**From the Registers**

**June**

**Baptism**

28th Lauren Amy Hitchmough

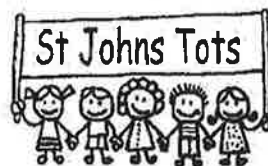
**July**

**Weddings**

11th Louise Victoria Towle to  
 Matthew Graham Morland  
 25th Emma Grace Dockerill to  
 David Vaughan Pritchard

**Funerals**

20th Elizabeth Ganderton, age 87 -  
 at St Mary's



**CALLING ALL  
 PRE-SCHOOL  
 CHILDREN!**

St John's Tots are meeting again on Tuesday 8th September after our summer break. We will be celebrating our first birthday in November. What a fabulous year we have had - with 65 tots registered! If you would like to come and join us, we meet on Tuesday mornings in St John's Church from 9.15 to 10.30 am. Bring Mum, Dad, carers, grandparents, aunties or uncles in for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat, while we play and enjoy our juice, biscuits and raisins. Fifteen minutes is taken up with a short service where we hear a Bible story and have the chance to sing, bang drums and shake our rattles! Just come along if you would like to come and play, or ring me on 814359 for more information.

Margaret Hill

**Farnham Festival 2009**

To celebrate the Sesquicentennial (150 years) of St Mary's Church, Farnham, a festival is being held with events across two weekends. See 'Village Events' page.

## Sing for St Mary's



Forty historic churches and 40 choirs sing together for the 40th birthday of the Churches Conservation Trust.

St Mary's will be alive with music and song at 7.30pm on Sunday 4th October, as it becomes one of 40 historic churches across England cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust taking part in a series of unique choir performances and workshops to celebrate the 40th birthday of the Trust - and encourage people to rediscover and enjoy these ancient and historically significant churches, no longer used for regular worship. De Merc Chamber Choir are celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) by singing choral settings of his poetry. Most of the music is unjustly neglected: gems by Stanford and Parry will be performed as well as a host of 20th century works by such luminaries as Holst and Bob Chilcott. Tennyson's poetry continues to inspire very recent compositions by Adrian Jolliffe and Russell Pascoe, all performed in de Merc's informal *a cappella* concert style. For more information contact Jane Fox 428967 or Audrey Rodgers 812162.

### Vote for the song you want to sing!

The Trust has listed ten of the best-loved songs for you to choose from on its website [www.visitchurches.com](http://www.visitchurches.com). Simply visit the website and choose the song you want to sing; options range from Swing Low Sweet Chariot and Jerusalem to Greensleeves and Clementine. The winning song, as voted for you by you, will be revealed at the concert!

### Sing to Save

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk, such as St Mary's, caring for over 300 churches and ensuring their future survival and protection by opening them up to local communities for everyday use. Anyone can use the charity's churches and examples of contemporary uses range from nursery groups to circus schools. However, the trust has an annual funding shortfall of £1.5m per year and urgently needs donations. Money raised through the concerts will go towards the conservation work, but the main aim of the concerts is to encourage people to discover the joys of these ancient buildings and help bring them back into the community.

Audrey Rodgers



### 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



# SHALOM

The Shalom group has been meeting regularly for nearly 25 years. At its peak, the average attendance was about 25. Our numbers have now dropped and we cannot justify inviting outside speakers to our meetings. This seems a good time to have a fresh look at Shalom, and how it should be for the future. We would like everyone who is involved with Shalom, however 'loosely', to contribute their ideas at an open meeting on 12th October. In order to give people time to think about this, we shall begin our term with our usual meeting on 28th September when we shall be watching a DVD entitled 'DNA - tracing our roots'.

The open meeting on 12th October will be preceded by a short reflection led by Ruth Rawlinson. Both meetings are 8.00pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens - do join us!

Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD?

What are we to do about St Mary's Churchyard in Stansted?

As Rector I feel a real sense of responsibility for this place where the dead of our village have been laid to rest for so many generations. Yet I'm also aware that it looks sad and unloved and really is not cared for in a fashion worthy of those who rest in it. For too many years its care has simply been allowed to drift with just occasional grass cutting and emergency work done to the trees. Is this to continue or can we do better?

The fact is that the people of St John's Church are not able, and have never been able, to appropriately finance the care of St Mary's Churchyard. That is at the root of the present situation. If the churchyard were to be declared closed it would then become the responsibility of the Parish Council, but that would mean that no further burials could take place in it. Is that what we want? Or is there another way forward? I believe that actually the people of Stansted Mountfitchet care about and value their ancient burial ground but have lacked real opportunities to express that concern. I have wondered about the establishment of a group of 'Friends of St Mary's Churchyard' who will seek to raise the finance needed to appropriately care for this much loved place and perhaps organise working parties to deal with some of its problems and make it more presentable and worthy of the village.

If you think this is a good idea, and are willing to be involved, please come to a meeting at St Mary's Church on Monday 21st September at 7.30pm; or if you are not able to attend the meeting please contact the church office on 815243 Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am to 12 noon.

Paul Wilkin  
Rector  
Stansted Mountfitchet, Birchanger and Farnham

## Public Meeting

Do you want to know what is happening to your GP surgery?

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**  
7pm – 9pm

Mountfitchet Maths & Computing  
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Involvement Network (LIN@)



Stansted Windmill  
Open 1.30 - 5.30 pm  
Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Sept

St Mary's Church

Open 2 - 5 pm

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Sept

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> & Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Sept



## SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE & STRIDE

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10 am - 6 pm

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churches

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### September

2 Wed Mountfitchet Club  
Mountfitchet Garden Club  
3 Thu Local History Society  
5 Sat & 6 Sun Skips  
6 Sun Windmill Open  
St Mary's Church open  
8 Tue St John's Tots resumes  
GP Surgery Meeting  
10 Thu WI  
12 Sat Churches' Ride and Stride  
Conservatives' Harvest Supper  
12 Sat / 13 Sun St Mary's Church open  
15 Tue Aircraft Noise Public Meeting  
17 Thu U3A  
St Clare's Fashion Show  
19 Sat & 20 Sun Skips  
20 Sun SSE Heritage Hike  
21 Mon Churchyard Public Meeting  
22 Tue Open Evening  
25 Fri Macmillan Coffee Morning  
25 Fri / 26 Sat / 27 Sun Macmillan Sale  
28 Mon Shalom  
30 Wed Alpha Course begins

### October

1 Thu Local History Society  
3 Sat SSE Race Night  
4 Sun De Merc Choir Concert  
10 Sat Music@stansted  
11 Sun Village Harvest Supper

Day Centre 2 – 4 pm  
Day Centre 8 pm  
Day Centre 8 pm  
Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm  
1.30 – 5.30 pm  
2 – 5 pm  
St John's Church 9.15 – 10.30 am  
Mountfitchet College 7 – 9 pm  
St John's Hall 7.45 pm  
10 am – 6 pm  
Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm  
2 – 5 pm  
OSCA, Henham 7.30 pm  
St John's Hall 2 pm  
Mountfitchet College 7 pm  
Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm  
Molehill Green 2 pm  
St Mary's Church 7.30 pm  
Mountfitchet College 6 – 9 pm  
Old Lane Hse, Church Rd 10.30 am  
3 St John' Lane 10 am – 4 pm  
7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm  
St John's Church 8 – 9.30 pm

Day Centre 8 pm  
Broxted Village Hall 7.30 for 8 pm  
St Mary's Church 7.30 pm  
St John's Church 7.30 pm  
St John's Hall 6 pm



Stansted Conservatives

## HARVEST SUPPER

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[www.stclare-hospice.co.uk](http://www.stclare-hospice.co.uk)

## Sing for St Mary's

De Merc Chamber Choir

**7.30 pm Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Oct**

Stanford ~ Parry ~ Holst & others

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More details from 812162

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David Turner Cert PFS CeMap  
Principal

'Greenways' Park Rd Elsenham CM22 6DF  
Tel/Fax 01279 816622

e-mail [dturner@greenways-financial-planning.co.uk](mailto:dturner@greenways-financial-planning.co.uk)

## Spangles\*

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**01279 815336**



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There was a lot of good science taking place in and around the school during the last half term of the year. This is always a good time of year to be studying the natural world, and with the beautiful weather we had we made the most of it! Essex Wildlife Trust has worked with all the children and we have planned a wildlife area for the front of the school and a nature trail through the rest of the grounds. Investigations of plants has led to some lovely artwork for Stansted in Bloom and such was the children's enthusiasm for 'mini-beasts', the Y2 classroom was alive with woodlice, centipedes, spiders and all sorts of creatures. Please note - they were returned safely to their habitats! There have also been some successful visits: the younger children went to Maldon to investigate a locality different from their own, and of course to enjoy the seaside; and Key Stage 2 travelled to Kentwell Hall and then back in time where they spent a day in the 16th century dressed in Tudor costume, practising the manner of speech and enjoying a range of activities and events.

This year we combined our Sports Day with Open Afternoon to make a real family occasion. Parents waiting for the sports to begin enjoyed bacon and sausage baps courtesy of the PTFA. We then had a fish and chips family lunch. The children showed their parents their work, gave them a tour of the school and the displays in all the rooms, and introduced them to their teacher for next year. Our summer Fair was again a great success, thanks to everyone who came on the day to join in the fun but most especially to the PTFA, helped by their wives and husbands, who worked to plan and set up the event. The school appreciates all the efforts on our behalf and the difference made by the funds raised. Thank you.

This has been a super year at St Mary's, starting with a successful Ofsted inspection; the children have achieved well, there is growth in the numbers on roll and we have made new staff appointments. We are all looking forward to continuing the good work next year! 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](http://www.st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk)

Christine Tonkins  
Headteacher



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Ruth Rawlinson

**IN MEMORIAM**

**PETER THOMSON**

**1935-2009**

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 was nanny to Doctor Wallace's family in North Street.

Peter 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, and also giving help with various theatrical and fund-raising events. When he was 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 was 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, Peter 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!

Rosemary Thomson

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## LOATES PASTURE AND LONGCROFT BEACH PARTY



Loates Pasture and Longcroft residents recently decided to continue a tradition of street parties with a Beach Party. The credit crunch has meant that many people have given up their foreign holidays and stayed home, so we decided to have our own stay at home party with a beach theme on Saturday 8th August. It was also an opportunity to welcome and meet new residents.



The party started at 4 o'clock and the weather was kind, with the bunting across the road and round the marquees making a cheerful backdrop. The barbecue had a willing rota of cooks while the salads and puddings were really quite splendid; the bar, of course, was well patronised. The seaside theme was set with deckchairs, sun umbrellas, windbreaks, an issue of sunhats and a visit from the ice cream van. The nearer houses were designated as different seaside towns and their front gardens each had a suitable display. Entertainments and games were wide-ranging and included treasure hunts, guess the famous face, shoot the cans, fancy dress, French cricket, beach volley ball and, of course, our speciality - the tug o' war. A masterpiece of construction was the stand for the Punch & Judy show which was put on by Chester and Katherine Hawkins and Max and Teddy Oliver. It was much enjoyed by everybody from the youngest to the oldest.



The 'saucy seaside postcard' was an artistic triumph with many people willing to put their heads through the holes to be photographed. We await the results! On clearing up next morning everyone agreed that it had all been very successful and a great boost for getting to know our neighbours.

Jacki, Jenny, Julie,  
Marion, Pearl and Val  
Organising Committee

## GREENFIELDS STREET PARTY

In July the residents of Greenfields held their first street party since the Silver Jubilee of 1977. Almost all residents attended, from Roy Helbert who moved in when the road was built 50 years ago to one year old Fletcher Bushnell. A splendid barbecue, games for children and lively chat amongst the adults ensured that everyone got to know each other much better.

Ken McDonald



## BADMINTON IN STANSTED

The Thornbury Badminton Club was established many years ago by a group of people who wanted to play regularly to improve their games. We have a regular booking of two courts at the Mountfichet Romeera Leisure Centre (next to Mountfichet Mathematics and Computing College) every Thursday evening from 8.00pm-10.00pm, and Sunday mornings 10.00am-noon. The club is open to all adult players (sorry, no juniors or beginners). It is friendly and informal and you do not need to be a leisure centre member to play with us. If you would like to join us, either telephone Shirley on 815871 or just turn up during a session and introduce yourself - but not too early, as we all tend to turn up a little late!! It doesn't matter if you can only make it occasionally.

Shirley Greenall

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## BEWARE OF SELF-MEDICATION ON THE (NOT SO) CHEAP

I hope you all had chance to have a break during the summer and are back at work refreshed and full of energy. My husband informed me that there's no point in my taking holidays any more, because the week before we go I am frantically trying to make sure all my ongoing cases are happy; that all test results have been reported to the correct owners; cases I ran out of time to deal with have been passed to other vets; and, of course, the mountain of paperwork has been reduced from at least the size of Kilimanjaro to Scafell Pike. When I come back, I find people with climbing harnesses bristling with karabiners looking at the mountain, at least ten owners to ring urgently, and at least one piece of practice equipment at each surgery in need of repair or replacement. I think I got to Wednesday before feeling like I needed another holiday! I hope you have had a more restful time.

One alarming scenario we have seen at least three times in the last two months is the inappropriate use of flea treatments. This has resulted in the death of two of the three animals concerned. What has happened in all cases is that a dog flea treatment has been used on a cat. This can happen accidentally, of course, but these recent treatments have been made by owners who have a dog version, and think that using a smaller dose on a cat must be safe. On first thinking about it, the idea doesn't seem too unreasonable; cats and dogs both get fleas, the product has the same name, just a picture of a cat or dog on it and it saves money to buy one product rather than two. However, the consequences are dramatic and often fatal as these owners have unfortunately found out. The reality is that cats and dogs have very different physiological reactions to some drugs. For example, paracetamol is very toxic in cats but safe to use in dogs - the same is true of their reaction to flea treatments. The cat products are especially formulated with much lower doses of the active ingredient for cats, and dosing them with the dog product can result in neurological signs, epileptic fits and eventually coma and death. If you read the small print, warnings are clearly written on the packaging about not using the dog product in cats.

The other sad fact of all these cases was the products were purchased from a supermarket, not a veterinary practice. When someone buys a worm, flea or any other product from us, they are given the correct advice on the correct product to use. Our staff are able to give you the right product for your particular situation and explain how to use it properly. If there are any contra-indications, they will be able to tell you, or ask one of the vets. All vets stock a variety of products, so if you don't like giving tablets, there are 'spot on' or liquid products as an alternative. The thought that supermarket products are cheaper is simply not true, and certainly not for these poor owners who ended up having to pay for emergency treatment but no cat to take home.

To make up for such a sad article this month I'd like to share a cartoon with you. If you go to [www.simonscat.com/flyguy](http://www.simonscat.com/flyguy) I'm sure it's a scenario many of you cat owners will be familiar with!

Ilse Pedler  
Partner  
Mercer and Hughes  
Veterinary Surgeons

## Stansted Noise Action Plan Public Meeting 7.30pm Tuesday 15th September at OSCA, Henham

Henham Parish Council invites people from its own and nearby parishes to attend a public meeting with SSE to learn more about the draft Noise Action Plan on which BAA is currently consulting and to show how local people can add their voices to the call for stronger action to bear down on noise than currently planned. Aircraft noise is a major problem across the area already and the prospect of more flights on the existing runway brings with it the threat of even greater noise nuisance. However, far from setting targets and limits, BAA is proposing little meaningful new action. The consultation runs until 2nd October and guidance has already been prepared by SSE to help with responses to the consultation questionnaire - available from SSE (see below) or at [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/noise.html](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/noise.html).

The meeting on 15th September will be helpful in explaining the problem in more detail and answering questions about how your response can bring pressure to bear on BAA to give teeth to the final action plan. The meeting is open to everyone. Further information from 870558 or from me.

Monica Pennino  
Henham Parish Council  
Tel: 851123

## MYTHS, LEGENDS, CUSTOMS

### YEW TREES *Taxus baccata*

The oldest living thing in Britain is said to be the yew tree in the churchyard at Fortingall in Perthshire. The legend is that the young Pontius Pilate played under it when his father, a Roman legionary, was stationed in Scotland. Many British churchyards have very old yews, sometimes apparently older than the churches themselves. The yews in the churchyard at Painswick in Gloucestershire are numerous but said to always number 99 because the Devil took exception to a round 100. There is a 'clipping' ceremony and celebrations each year. Clipping probably did not mean tidying up the yews as now but came from an early English word meaning 'to enclose'. In his poem *Trees* Walter de la Mare wrote, "Of all the trees in England, Oak, Elder, Elm and Thorn, The Yew alone burns lamps of peace for them that lie forlorn".

Peggy Honour

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**European Award for Languages**

The students from Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College made mini booklets in a foreign language as part of a collaborative activity with several Essex secondary schools and Bentfield Primary School to celebrate the European Day of Languages. Over 750 booklets were displayed in Chelmsford Library and the project has received an award. The award is a prestigious Europe-wide initiative supported by the European Commission and co-ordinated in the UK by CILT, The National Centre for Languages, to recognise 'creative ways to improve the quality of language teaching motivate students and make the best of available resources'. A special Award Ceremony took place on 30th June in Bristol, which Miss Foster attended and prizes were being awarded by Henry Bonsu, a renowned broadcaster and founder of Colourful Radio, the first black non-musical station. All the schools are part of the Quartier Rouge network in Essex set up by the Local Education Authority and led by Jane Breen from King Edward VI Grammar School. The students had fun making the booklets. They helped each other and enjoyed being creative. They were excited that the booklets were on display in Chelmsford, even if they hadn't been able to get there to see it for themselves and also that they were part of a bigger project. The project helped the students with their writing and reading skills.

Working with the primary students helped to strengthen the links we have between the two schools. The students said: "I liked it how my little book was somewhere in the library and someone might have picked it up and read it; I might have taught someone some French." "It is just nice to know that



you are part of something." "It was so much fun being part of it and knowing that my booklet was in a library being read!" One Year 9 student commented "I enjoyed doing these booklets because it was fun and also let me revise. I think it was good that we were involved with other schools and I would like to do it again." Year 7 comments included: "Making the booklets was really good because it helped me when revising and it was fun making it"; "It widened

my vocabulary which has helped me with my present work. I enjoyed the activity because I had to find different sources to search for the words"; and "It was nice to draw pictures to go with them and this was a good way to remember them."

Sheila Foster  
Head of MFL

**MMCC Sets up link with School in Ghana**

On 3rd July we were pleased to welcome Jon and Lesley Elphick to our College assembly. They told us about their visit to Ghana and showed us some images of Northern Ghana where our link school is situated. This gave our students an initial insight into the lifestyle of the people in this area of Ghana and the environment in which they live. Year

7 have already begun to find out more about Ghana in their geography lessons and have been thinking about how different their lives are to ours. Students have started to write letters to correspond with pupils at the school and this is a great opportunity to learn about each other's culture and way of life. The response to the assembly was very positive and it was very pleasing to see MMCC pupils showing awareness that there are many things in our life that we take for granted, which others have to cope without. Some members of College are already talking about fundraising activities to help improve the quality of life for people in Northern Ghana. We hope that the link will be strong and provide a real cultural exchange and opportunity for pupils from both schools to develop their global citizenship.

Janet Forbes  
Geography

**MMCC Open Evening Tuesday 22nd September** (see 'Village Events' page). Parents and students are also welcome to visit the College - telephone Ann Williams on 813384.

**Correction**

In our report in last month's 'Link' of the College's Annual Prizegiving, we referred to the impending retirement of Mr Andy Davies. Mr Davies has now retired as Assistant Head and his successor is Mr S Baalam. Mr Peter Smith, formerly Assistant Head at the Bishop Stortford High School, joined the College last January as Deputy Head. We are sorry for any confusion our original report may have caused.

Editor

**Congratulations**



Keli and Steve Mardell of St Mary's Drive, Stansted married on 3rd July. Congratulations to you both on your beautiful wedding, it was such a wonderful day. Lots of love from all your family and friends. XXX

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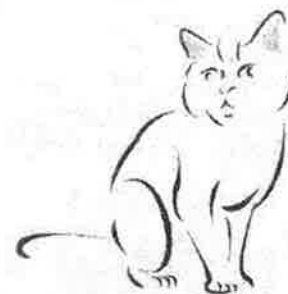
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## 494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

It has been a very busy summer for the Squadron with the cadets taking part in a wide range of activities. 494 joined with staff and cadets from other Essex units on a week's Summer Camp at RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire. Evidently a great time was had by all with many different opportunities and experiences on offer. The highlight of the week was a training flight in a C-130 Hercules Transport aircraft.



The Squadron would like to say another big thank you to Essex County Council and the Essex Youth Bank after we were successful in our application for funding under the Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Capital Fund Schemes. The £2,100 awarded will go towards all sorts of training equipment that will be a great benefit to the cadets.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is continuing apace with most cadets involved at either Bronze, Silver or Gold level. Practice and actual expeditions are planned for later in the year.

Our latest batch of new recruits have settled in well and are all enjoying life at 494; they have had the chance to take part in quite a few activities and it won't be long before they are fully fledged members of the unit. The Squadron have spent a lot of their free time this summer helping out in the community. We travelled to Colchester for the last of the five 'Race for Life' events that we have attended this year. The races are held in aid of Cancer Research UK and the organisers are always pleased to see the cadets whose enthusiasm, support and hard work is always very much appreciated.

A party of our cadets recently enjoyed a day's Air Experience Flying at RAF Wyton. During their 30 minute flights over the scenic Cambridgeshire countryside they were able to experience elementary aerobatics performed by their RAF Pilot Instructor and take over the controls of the two seater Grob Tutor aircraft, carrying out basic manoeuvres such as turns and climbs.

As summer draws to a close we are planning plenty of new activities for the autumn with another new recruit intake planned in October so ... if you are interested in joining the fun call us on 01279 681559 on Monday and Friday evenings.

Simon Stacey,  
494 Squadron ATC



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

The County Show duly took place at Towerlands, Braintree in early August; but sadly our proposed entry for the co-operative class consisting of five individual items had to be withdrawn. One of our members, Jenny Wraith, who was making a handmade embroidered box, fell and broke her hip a couple of weeks prior to the show and no-one else could finish it. The whole of the show was created around the title 'The Orient' and I am sure our entry would have stood up very well with those on show. Sally Smith made a Japanese doll and there wasn't another handmade one there! Seven of us went to see the show and it was extremely well staged with some really beautiful items displayed, including fans, origami and flower arrangements - many in Japanese style although the title did incorporate other Eastern countries such as India and Turkey. We are always amazed at the versatility of WI members and the high standard of the work produced. Towerlands is a very good venue, spacious and lots of easy parking places: it is hoped to be able to use it again for other events.

Our WI is planning to fill shoeboxes for our troops in Afghanistan as asked for by the British Legion in last month's 'Link'. Our county had already supplied us with a list of suitable items as we did this a couple of years ago at Christmastime. We are also planning an afternoon demonstration of flower arranging with tea at 2.30pm on Wednesday 21st October in the Stansted Free Church Hall. Tickets (available from the numbers below) are £4.50 which includes tea, and we will raffle the flowers. Inevitably Christmas will come, so we are planning a shopping trip by coach to Norwich on Saturday 14th November - further details later, all are welcome. We are also saying goodbye to Janet Townsend, who has been a member of our WI for many years. Janet and Brian will be missed by many organisations in the village.

This month's meeting is a talk by Roy Waters entitled 'Growing Up in the Dutch Quarter of Colchester in the '40s and '50s' and you may be like me and never knew there was one! It promises to be very informative and enlightening. The meeting is on Thursday 10th September in St John's Hall at 7.45pm. Do come along and remember to pick up a leaflet for free entry at the library or just appear and we will let you in!



Judy Colliver (Secretary)  
812470  
Brenda Ryan (President)  
812725

## THANK YOU

Margaret Meadows would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all their help and support after her recent accident.



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## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

\*\*\*\*\*

### RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRES

So far the number of questionnaires returned has been as follows:

Parish questionnaire	930+
Youth questionnaire	79
Business questionnaire	23

Although the closing date has officially past and analysis should be underway, late returns will still be welcome and will be included in the data considered in formulating the plan. **IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR VIEWS.**

If you have any influence with young people, please encourage them to complete the youth questionnaire. The on-line version has now closed, but we have plenty of hard copies in the office and can e-mail it.

Once the analysis is completed, the initial conclusions will be summarised and published after which a first draft of the plan will be prepared.

### STREET LIGHTING – NEW MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS

The contractors, who for some time have undertaken the maintenance of the parish street lights have withdrawn from this business. As no proper notice of the timing of this change has been given, there has been a period in which lights needing attention have not been repaired.

A new contractor is in the process of being appointed. Hopefully a good service will follow.

Meanwhile, the Council apologises for any inconvenience which parishioners have experienced but please do continue to report any lighting problems on 813214 or email [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net)

### BUS SHELTERS – STILL ON THE WAY

Although the three Bus Shelters were ordered at the end of April 2009 and we had hoped they would be in place at least by the end of the summer, due to a statutory requirement to

investigate the underground services BT, Water, Gas, etc at the sites of these shelters, there has been an unavoidable delay in their construction. We are following this matter with urgency.

### BUS NO. 7 – TO BENTFIELD OR NOT?

A very well-attended meeting held at the Day Centre on 23<sup>rd</sup> July registered strong objections for the most part to the decision to omit the Bentfield loop from the revised number 7 route (7A will disappear). Representatives from Essex County Council and the bus operators explained the logic behind the change but promised, in the light of representations made at the meeting, to look again at the decision. Other issues were raised including the revised timetables for the 7 and 301 which mean two buses four minutes apart at Stansted and then virtually an hour's wait (decision unlikely to change) and the delay in obtaining new bus shelters (see above).

A copy of the new time-table is on Parish notice Boards and on page 25 of this issue of The Link.

### YOUR DOG, YOUR MESS

Regrettably, a number of people who walk their dogs on the Recreation Ground still fail to clear up any mess (no blame on the dogs) which accrues. Not only is this unpleasant for other users but may create health dangers for children. **Please think of others and pick it up.**

### HEALTH CENTRE – GENTLE PROGRESS

In a response to a request for an update, the PCT sent an email on 21 July which gave the following information. Discussions on the detailed design of the facility planned for the site behind Chapel Hill and Silver Street are continuing with the local practice in St John's Road, the landowner and the planning authority. It is expected that this process may take another two months to complete at which point a planning application will be submitted. Assuming no undue problems during this process, action on site may occur in the early part of 2010. Essex & Southend Link will be holding a meeting between 7-9pm on 8<sup>th</sup> September at MMCC. Michelle Bassett of the Primary Care Trust will give an update on the

Health Centre. Meanwhile the Parish Council will seek to meet with the parties involved. There will, of course, be the usual opportunity to make comments once the planning application is out to consultation. Whilst it is intended to offer a wider range of medical services at the health centre, the only surgery on site will be that moving from St John's Road, ie this will not become a 'super surgery'. The Council will endeavour to ascertain and communicate further information as soon as possible.

### **MAKING THE WILLOW TREE AT THE FOUNTAIN SAFE**

Having received advice from several sources, the Council has decided to remove a dangerous limb and undertake works on the crown. Action will be taken as soon as possible and may require the road to be closed for a short period. The tree will be assessed at regular intervals to review safety issues. The willow is coming towards the end of its life but, given its prominence and given the longer term possibility that changes may be made to the junction, the Council believes that it is worth the effort to preserve the tree always providing that safety for pedestrians and motorists can be maintained.

### **ANOTHER NEW POLICE INSPECTOR**

The Council has been notified, that after only a short period in this division, Inspector Glen Pavelin is moving into a role at Chelmsford, a town which appears to devour our inspectors. His replacement is Inspector Mick Couldridge, who is, we understand, an experienced officer.

The Council is asking to have a meeting with Chief Inspector Wrigley and Inspector Couldridge to discuss policing in this parish.

### **NEWS FROM PCSO KELLY ROBERTS**

For all members of the community to be extra vigilant around our churches. Last week Broxted church was believed to have had its safe tampered with and the lock damaged by persons unknown. Nothing was taken at this time but churches like Broxted which are left open for the community to access 24hrs are unfortunately vulnerable. The concern is not the money value as very little is held but it is for the historic and irreplaceable documents and registers that are held in our church safes that are the worry. We have in the past suffered with a spate of church burglaries, and is something we do not want happening again. So if you do see anything unusual or suspicious please let us know.

### **SPANGLES CHILDREN'S CENTRE – AN EXTENSION IN LOWER STREET**

The success of Spangles has encouraged Essex County Council to propose an extension which will provide a much more suitable entrance, reception area and toilets as well as a new office. Not only will the space and access be better, but the appearance of the building will be enhanced as the poor addition to the listed building is replaced.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE**

We have now got our NhW Co-ordinators in place and are working on your behalf in order to bring your more information on the running of the scheme and the possible purchasing of NhW notice boards. This will be discussed at our next meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm in Stansted Free Church Lecture Hall. Please make the effort to attend.

### **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**

- 2 September - Open Spaces
- 16 September – Full Council
- 23 September – Finance & General Purposes
- 30 September – Full Council

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings, and may address the Council on any relevant issue at the start of Full Council meetings. These comments are noted but no discussion is entered into. Meetings are held in Crafton Green House at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated on the agenda. Agendas are posted on the Parish Council's website [www.stansted.net](http://www.stansted.net) under Publications.



## NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

### From Cllr Alan Dean

As I predicted last month, a report is now out (and can be found on Uttlesford's website at <http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/main.cfm?Type=PLCSD&MenuId=583>) called the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Any comments on the draft report are invited by Sarah Nicholas at [snicholas@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:snicholas@uttlesford.gov.uk) or by post to the council offices, London Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4ER by September 18, 2009.

The draft report shows some 17 sites around Stansted that have been put forward by owners for potential housing. Many other sites across Uttlesford district are included. They have all been assessed by a panel of 'experts' for their suitability. Some have been given the thumbs down and some the thumbs up. The panel was divided over one site just beyond St. Theresa's church. In my opinion the panel has done a reasonable job in the overall conclusions it has reached, though 'the devil will be in the detail'.

The report says that the total of homes that could be provided on suitable and available sites around the district exceeds the outstanding housing requirement without the need for a new town. The required homes total is significantly exceeded if sites for new settlements are accepted. If Uttlesford were to insist on sticking with a new town, the panel says that Great Chesterford has better access than Elsenham/Henham. In commenting on the A120 corridor around Takeley, the report says that no more road infrastructure would be required to accommodate around 1,000 additional homes there.

This debate has many more months to run. In September the council is intending to mount another consultation on where to put the outstanding balance of over 1,000 homes assuming that it sticks to its present policy of putting 3,000 at Elsenham in a new town. In the past month the government has decided not to push at present for the Elsenham eco-town but might resurrect the idea at a later stage.

In my opinion, it would be a waste of taxpayers' money for the council to proceed with a fresh consultation on how to distribute only something over a 1,000 homes on sites around Uttlesford's towns and villages when we now have a report that shows we don't need to start a new town to accommodate our legal housing commitment, regardless of whether Elsenham/Henham is the

right place (and increasing evidence shows it isn't). I think the next consultation should take note of this report and carry out a district-wide consultation on the evidence that this report has shown; that concentrating most housing in one place isn't necessary and, in my opinion, not desirable.

### From Cllr Geoffrey Sell

#### Difficult decisions ahead

When meetings resume in September we will be faced with some difficult decisions. Officers have advised us that we will have an effective budget shortfall of £1.387 million by 2013. In the interim we can use reserves to sustain service delivery. However, this is not tenable in the long term. Like many councils across the country in order to reduce costs and also to improve service delivery we are looking at partnership working with other councils. Although I am a little sceptical about financial projections, too often in the past they have proved inaccurate, I accept that local government is going through tough times which are not likely to get any easier. Whichever party forms the government after the next general election it is unlikely that local government will be looking at generous grant settlements. The majority of local government income comes not from council taxes but from central government grant. Any decisions on partnership working will have consequences for the staff we employ. It is perhaps not surprising that a survey conducted in late 2008 showed that staff morale was an issue. This can impact on the quality of services we deliver.

#### CONTACT US!

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

#### OTHER CONTACTS

##### Uttlesford District Council Members

<i>Alan Dean</i>	Tel: 01279 813579
Email: <a href="mailto:cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk">cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>	
<i>John Hudson</i>	Tel: 01279 814489
Email: <a href="mailto:cldrudson@uttlesford.gov.uk">cldrudson@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>	
<i>John Salmon</i>	Tel: 01279 814789
Email: <a href="mailto:cldr salmon@uttlesford.gov.uk">cldr salmon@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>	
<i>Geoffrey Sell</i>	Tel: 01279 815925
Email: <a href="mailto:cldr sell@uttlesford.gov.uk">cldr sell@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>	

**Essex County Council Member**

Ray Gooding Tel: 01279 813103  
 Email: cllrgooding@essex.gov.uk

**Member of Parliament**

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP  
 House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
 Tel: 020 7219 5214 Fax: 020 7219 5600  
 Email: haselhursta@parliament.uk

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**POTENTIAL SITES FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

Uttlesford District Council is analysing the possible sites throughout the district for housing development. The list for Stansted Mountfitchet is shown below – those marked \* already have planning permission.

Location	No of Dwellings	Recommendation
Braefield Engineering, High Ln	14-23	Include
Land east of High Lane, north of Croft House	88-146	Exclude
Almont House, High Lane	7-18	Include*
Mont House, High Lane	16-23	Include*
Land at Water Lane	5-8	Include*
Elms Farm, Church Road – farm buildings	54-90	Include
Elms Farm, Church Road – agricultural land	196-326	Exclude
Land east of Pines Hill, s. of Stoney Common Rd	50-90	Include
Land to west of Stansted (behind Blythwood)	1035-1725	Exclude
10 Cambridge Road	9-15	Include
14-28 Cambridge Road	11-18	Include
Works at Bentfield Road	11-18	Include
Bentfield Bury Farm	169-281	Exclude
Land btn Pennington Ln and Cambridge Rd	338-563	Exclude
Land north of Catholic Church on High Lane	32-54	Include
Avenue House, Burton End	14-23	Exclude

If all of the proposed developments (excluding Forest Hall Park – see below) recommended for inclusion were, over several years, to receive planning approval then the number of dwellings to be built would fall into the range 209-357. Once Forest Hall Park is fully built the parish plus the part of Forest Hall Park falling into Birchanger Parish would contain about 2900 dwellings. Thus the high end of the possible proposals above would add 12% to the number.

As parishioners will know, Forest Hall Park, which is under construction, currently has approval for 620 houses whereas the strategic land review considers that a target of 1050 may be achievable. If this higher number was achieved and built then the increase in the number of dwellings on the same basis would be 27%. The Parish Council has discussed this report and would make the following points:

- Green belt should in most circumstances not be breached which would lead to Pines Hill, land north of the Catholic Church and Elms Farm being excluded.

- Density levels are too high and if achieved would continue to change the character of this community. This is unacceptable.
- No more flats in the centre or ringing the edge of the parish.

More detailed comments will be drawn up by early September. If you have any views please contact the office on 813214 or write to Stansted Parish Council, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted, CM24 8AQ or email: parishcouncil@stansted.net.

The closing date for representations is 18 September 2009.

\*\*\*\*\*LATE NEWS\*\*\*\*\*

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## SCOUT REUNION



Regular readers of the 'Link' may remember an article about a group of men of senior years, who got together to celebrate the 65th birthday of former Scout Leader, choirmaster and organist, Keith Turner. Ten years later, to celebrate his 75th (how time does fly!) Keith and friends organised another nostalgic get together with old friends coming from as far as Ireland (John 'Spud' Murray). We all met at the Scout HQ and then made our way down Water Lane, past Wardies Docks and up to the windmill, where we had been entrusted with the key so that we could enter and re-live memories of when it was our Scout headquarters. What a wonderful job the Millers have done in restoring and maintaining this wonderful building! We marvelled at how we used to manage to play games and work in such a confined space but it was a great and unique HQ for years. We then made our way across the Recreation Ground (a source of many memories, some of which could not be related in the 'Link!'). An integral part of our nostalgia is the fountain, where the elders of the village used to sit and watch the world go by, marvelling at the dexterity and showmanship of our highly esteemed Police Constable Ayres on point duty.

After liquid refreshment and snacks at the Cock we made our way to Grippers, via Lime Kiln Lane. Grippers was a favourite haunt and play area for children of the village in years gone by and although it has changed a lot, you can still walk by the river where we used to swing over by a rope and watch the coal trucks being pulled up by chain to Rochfords Nurseries. Wending our way via the Black Bridge back to the Scout HQ, some of us took part in a knotting competition - well, we were all Scouts!

Then we drove to the beautiful St Mary's Church where Keith coaxed a tune from the organ and we all sang 'Jerusalem' with great gusto. We then remembered friends who were no longer with us. It was remarked that we had better not leave it for another 10 years to get together!

In the evening most of the group met at the Chequers for dinner and many nostalgic tales were told. It was a lovely day of nostalgia, meeting old friends and reliving our youthful days. As someone, not from the group, remarked, it was so nice that we should get together in the area which held so many memories for us. Stansted was, and still is, a good place to live in.

Dick Pollard



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

*'Through sharing our knowledge, skills and experience, we aim to offer a combination of opportunities to study, create, socialise and in general develop a fitter mind and body'*

We did not have an August meeting and most groups had a break for the month as members had other commitments. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 17th September in St Johns Hall at 2.00pm (please note all future meetings will now start at 2.00pm, not 2.30pm). 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 are always welcome. Our speaker is Martin West, whose subject will be 'A beginner's guide to the universe that starts with turning on a light'. Martin has been interested in the night sky since he was three years old. He has been speaking on space and space travel to groups from junior school children to adult evening classes, via the WI and lunch clubs, for over 35 years. He also writes a column in the Stansted 'Link'.

The outings for 'Jersey Boys' and 'Loose Women' are sold out, but there a few tickets remaining for Pam Ayres in Chelmsford on 24th November (contact Cherry on 817140). Hopefully by the end of September we will have our very own website, but for those of you that are not on the Internet we will publish a monthly diary with contact details on various groups and forthcoming events. This will be available to members at the monthly meetings and anyone else who would like a copy - please contact Cherry 817140, Jean 657807, Christine 817587, or Vicki 810985.

Cherry Venn

*music@stansted*

Our new season will be starting in October, and if you are an existing member now is the time to renew your subscription if you have not done so. If you are new to the village and are considering becoming a member, then perhaps a preview of the concerts we have for this season may tempt you:

Saturday October 10th at 7.30pm

Former Royal Harpist, Catrin Finch, makes a return visit.

Sunday 13th December at 3.00pm

Cambridge Chorale pre-Christmas Concert.

Sunday 17th January at 3.00pm

Guitarist Andrew Booth will be playing for us.

Saturday 6th March at 7.30pm

The well-known Coull String Quartet will be entertaining us.

All the concerts take place in St John's Church. Membership costs £32 (concessions £30), for the season, while tickets for individual concerts are £12 each. Accompanied children are most welcome and tickets cost £1 for each concert. If you would like to join, or renew your membership, please send a cheque for the appropriate amount, payable to *Music at Stansted* with your name(s) and address to The Membership Secretary at 105 Cambridge Road, Stansted CM24 8BY. For more information about *music@stansted* visit our website - [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com).

Alan Corbishley



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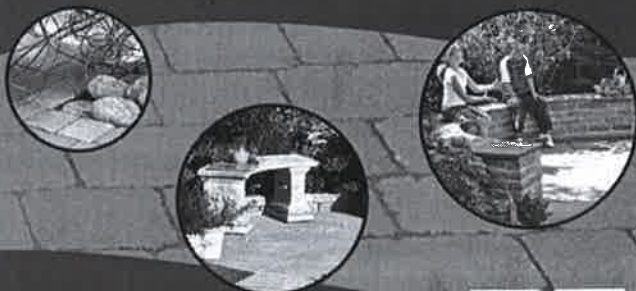
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## 1st STANSTED SCOUT TROOP

### Two competition wins in a row

Five of our Scouts went to the recent District fishing competition, held this year in Little Dunmow. An early 7.00am start saw them in position around the lake, and five minutes later one of our Scouts won the prize for the first catch of the day. Perryfield Lakes was a new location to us, which proved to be very good as we continued to catch fish all morning - in fact, one of the fish had a catch, pulling one Takeley boy's rod into the lake and towing it around for five minutes! Noon, and the competition finished, the fish are weighed and Stansted have won the team competition. Well done all you fishermen.



At the end of July we took part in the District shooting competition in Takeley. Many Scouts had already departed on their summer holidays, so only 15 from Stansted went. Each Scout had ten rounds standing, kneeling and prone, with the top five scores added together. To keep them occupied between rounds, archery was available on the cricket field, with many actually preferring the archery to the shooting! As we have been practising our shooting recently it was very pleasing to find that we came out as winners, beating the troops that traditionally win. We have to retain the trophy next year guys!

### Further News

We are finished now until the schools restart, then it's straight in to our backwoods weekend on the 12th/13th September, followed by our District 'Super Troop' sports weekend taking place on 26th/27th September, which we've also been practising for.

Whilst it is fantastic to have a Gold Award winning Scout (as reported by MMCC in the August 'Link'), it must be noted that the new 'Chief Scout's Gold Award' is equivalent to the old 'Chief Scout's Award'. It is not equivalent to the Queen's Scout Award. The Queen's Scout award was and still is the highest award in Scouting, and is gained at around 18 years of age. Apologies to any QSA holders that may have been offended.

Mike Byrne  
Scout Leader

## SKYWATCH



### A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky

When something gets out of control we might describe the situation as chaotic. In science, chaos is a particular situation where many apparently random events are taking place and the outcome(s) cannot be fully predicted. I have discussed before the vast volumes of gas, called nebulae, measuring millions of light years in all directions in which stars are formed over millions of years. In this instance, one area of the nebula was, by chance, denser than the surrounding gas and therefore had a little more gravity thus enabling it to accumulate more gas until, a few million years later, a star lit up. The procedure is chaotic because you cannot look at a 'lump' of gas and predict how each molecule will behave.

Yet once that star is up and running, we can predict a great deal of how the star's life will evolve, based mainly on how big the star is at birth, even when it is hundreds of light years away. So shouldn't we know everything about our Sun? The answer is 'no' because a ball of fire some 875,000 miles in diameter is a gaseous structure, and very chaotic indeed. There is, however, a very important branch of mathematics which tries to predict how some chaotic events will evolve. It is called Chaos Theory and it tries to predict the outcomes of all sorts of chaotic events by statistical analysis.

Much nearer to home, clouds are chaotic, especially one type called cumulo-nimbus. Such clouds are very violent indeed and from which any pilot will steer well away. An American air force pilot was once flying his jet and, having observed cumulo-nimbus ahead, flew above it, at least until his aeroplane's engine failed. He had to eject and fell in to the cloud where he was buffeted up and down for 40 minutes before he was thrown out of the cloud. He survived but was badly beaten up by ice and detritus hurtling around in the cloud. Very much nearer to home, you can observe chaos just by pouring a cup of tea, preferably in a clear glass mug, then adding the cold, denser milk. The swirling shades of brown are in a state of chaos as the two densities and their different temperatures clash; and you have created your very own nebula - at least, for 10 seconds or so!!.

Martin West  
Mooncraft Productions

## BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

For Madison Mardell, 2 years old on 12th September:  
Happy Birthday Darling, Lots of Love Mummy and Daddy XXX.

For Bethanie Burgess, 11 years old on 27th September:  
Happy Birthday Darling, Lots of Love Mummy and Daddy Steve XXX.





# Stansted Tennis Club



## Recent Tournaments

### Bristow Junior Doubles Tournament

Ten youngsters competed for this annual trophy, which this year was won by Matt Hollis and Conor Hutchinson, who defeated Thomas Horton and Zac Veitch 6-1 in the final. Unfortunately, Derek and Wynn Bristow were away on a cruise and were unable to present the trophy this year.

### Wilby Tournament

On Sunday 26th July, 14 players, both adult and junior, took part in this annual trophy. This was the 25th year the tournament has been competed for and once again the club was delighted to welcome back Honorary Member, Angela Wilby and her family. Angela presented very generous prizes to the winners and runners-up of this year's tournament. A truly exciting final was eventually won by John Bitten and Ben Taplin who recovered from being 5-3 down to take the set 6-5 against brother and sister team, Matt and Ruby Hollis.

### Dates for your Diary

Sun 13th Sept - Stansted Tennis Club Finals Day

Sat 19th Sept - Hospital Cup Finals at Stansted

Sun 27th Sept - Clower Girls' Singles Tournament 12.45pm

### Club Tournament and Hospital Cup

These tournaments are now at the semi-final stage and all those players still involved should attempt to arrange matches as soon as possible.

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

Chris Hollis



# STANSTED STORT VALLEY ROTARY CLUB

Firstly thanks to the 'Link' for enabling us to keep you informed about the activities of Stansted Stort Valley Rotary Club. July saw the start of our new year with President Peter Latham taking office and welcoming Mike McCook-Weir to Pearse House as our first guest speaker who enlightened us on the history of aviation. Our second meeting was hosted by Allan Dick, our vice-president, introducing Godwin Castaldi who gave us an informed insight into the development of naval heraldry. Wine was on the menu for our third meeting in July, presented by Ben Stephens from Wine2laydown. Ben provided samples of fine wines and gave an informed talk on wines and their variances. Rotarian Alan and his wife Pam Sutton hosted a splendid evening of air rifle shooting in the grounds of their house in Stansted. A buffet was laid on and members and guests tried their hand at creating a decent score with an air rifle, some more successful than others. The eventual winners were guests Andy and Lynn Crofts.

Last year our club contributed over £8,000 to local, national and international charities through our fund raising efforts, though a little less than the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Microsoft) who awarded US\$255 million to Rotary International in the global effort to eradicate polio, bringing the total committed by Rotary and the Gates Foundation to \$555 million. Rotary is a truly international organisation of like-minded people who want to contribute to the community and have fun doing it.

Stansted Stort Valley Rotary Club meets at Pearse House, Bishops Stortford every Tuesday evening to further the adage 'Service above Self' and promote fellowship. Next month will start with an insight into touring South Africa with the British Lions - should be revealing! If you are interested in finding out more about us or have a worthy cause you think we could support, please give me a call on 814554 or 07711 763647.

Allan Dick



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**Mondays to Saturdays**

Service number:	7	7	7A	7	7A	7	7A	7	7A	7	7	7	7
Bishops Stortford, Interchange	0639	0749	0849	0949	1049	1149	1249	1349	1449	1549	1649	1749	1849
Bishops Stortford, Herts & Essex Hospital	0646	0756	0856	0956	1056	1156	1256	1356	1456	1556	1656	1756	1856
Dunmow Road, Nags head	0648	0758	0858	0958	1058	1158	1258	1358	1458	1558	1658	1758	1858
Birchanger, Bradley Common	0654	0804	0904	1004	1104	1204	1304	1404	1504	1604	1704	1804	1904
Bentfield Green, Bentfield Road	-	-	0908	-	1108	-	1308	-	1508	-	-	-	-
Stansted Mountfitchet, Croasdaile Road	-	-	0910	-	1110	-	1310	-	1510	-	-	-	-
Stansted Mountfitchet, Opp. Bell & Feathers	-	-	0912	-	1112	-	1312	-	1512	-	-	-	-
Stansted Mountfitchet, Chapel Hill	0659	0809	0913	1009	1113	1209	1313	1409	1513	1609	1709	1809	1909
Stansted Mountfitchet, Maitland Road	0701	0811	0915	1011	1115	1211	1315	1411	1515	1611	1711	1811	1911
Stansted Mountfitchet, Lower Street	0703	0813	0917	1013	1117	1213	1317	1413	1517	1613	1713	1813	1913
Elsenham, Memorial Hall	0708	0818	0922	1018	1122	1218	1322	1418	1522	1618	1718	1818	1918
Elsenham, Rail Station	0709	0819	0923	1019	1123	1219	1323	1419	1523	1619	1719	1819	1919
Henham, Church	0714	0824	0928	1024	1128	1224	1328	1424	1528	1624	1724	1824	1924
Henham, Woodend Green	0716	0826	-	1026	-	1226	-	1426	-	1626	1726	1826	1926
Henham Green, Vernon Close	0718	0828	0930	1028	1130	1228	1330	1428	1530	1628	1728	1828	1928
Elsenham, Crown	0721	0831	0933	1031	1133	1231	1333	1431	1533	1631	1731	1831	1931
Elsenham Industrial Estate	0725	0835	0937	1035	1137	1235	1337	1435	1537	1635	1735	1835	1935
Molehill Green, Elsenham Road	0727	0837	0939	1037	1139	1237	1339	1437	1539	1637	1737	1837	1937
Stansted Airport, Coach Station	0732	0842	0944	1042	1144	1242	1344	1442	1544	1642	1742	1842	1942

Service number:	7	7	7A	7	7A	7	7A	7	7A	7	7	7	7
Stansted Airport, Coach Station	0649	0739	0849	0949	1049	1149	1249	1349	1449	1549	1649	1749	1849
Molehill Green, Elsenham Road	0654	0744	0854	0954	1054	1154	1254	1354	1454	1554	1654	1754	1854
Elsenham Industrial Estate	0656	0746	0856	0956	1056	1156	1256	1356	1456	1556	1656	1756	1856
Elsenham, Crown	0700	0750	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900
Henham Green, Vernon Close	0703	0753	0903	1003	1103	1203	1303	1403	1503	1603	1703	1803	1903
Henham, Woodend Green	0705	0755	-	1005	-	1205	-	1405	-	1605	1705	1805	1905
Henham, Church	0707	0757	0905	1007	1105	1207	1305	1407	1505	1607	1707	1807	1907
Elsenham, Rail Station	0712	0802	0910	1012	1110	1212	1310	1412	1510	1612	1712	1812	1912
Elsenham, Memorial Hall	0713	0803	0911	1013	1111	1213	1311	1413	1511	1613	1713	1813	1913
Stansted Mountfitchet, Lower Street	0718	0808	0916	1018	1116	1218	1316	1418	1516	1618	1718	1818	1918
Stansted Mountfitchet, Maitland Road	0720	0810	0918	1020	1118	1220	1318	1420	1518	1620	1720	1820	1920
Stansted Mountfitchet, Chapel Hill	0722	0812	0920	1022	1120	1222	1320	1422	1520	1622	1722	1822	1922
Bentfield Green, Bentfield Road	-	-	0921	-	1121	-	1321	-	1521	-	-	-	-
Stansted Mountfitchet, Croasdaile Road	-	-	0923	-	1123	-	1323	-	1523	-	-	-	-
Stansted Mountfitchet, Opp. Bell & Feathers	-	-	0925	-	1125	-	1325	-	1525	-	-	-	-
Birchanger, Bradley Common	0726	0816	0929	1026	1129	1226	1329	1426	1529	1626	1726	1826	1926
Dunmow Road, Nags head	0732	0822	0935	1032	1135	1232	1335	1432	1535	1632	1732	1832	1932
Bishops Stortford, Herts & Essex Hospital	0734	0824	0937	1034	1137	1234	1337	1434	1537	1634	1734	1834	1934
Bishops Stortford, Interchange	0741	0831	0944	1041	1144	1241	1344	1441	1544	1641	1741	1841	1941

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**  
**Buses 7 and 7a**  
**new routes**

As can be seen from the timetable, from 1st September passengers who need to access the Bentfield area for the Doctor's surgery, shopping facilities, etc. on the Cambridge Road, they will need to use the 7a bus and not the 7 as previously.

The 7a will still be running, for at least the next six months, when a survey will be carried out on the usage of the service. **Please note** that if people in the village do not use this facility we could be in danger of losing it.

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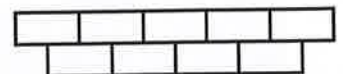
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## Nature Notes

The bridleway which runs westwards from Bentfield to Farnham Green passes through a spinney where a drainage ditch has been excavated and the work has unearthed a fairly large pudding stone. This is a conglomerate of pebbles and silica which lay in a river bed and hardened into rock eons ago and has the appearance of plum pudding. Our ancestors had a fascination with and sometimes a reverence for large stones such as this and local examples can be seen on Ugley Green, by the shell house in Hatfield Forest, and opposite the bus stop in Riverside in Bishop's Stortford. They would usually be found in stream beds and were often moved to places central to a community or perhaps to mark a cross-roads (hence: mark stone, market etc.). Where the stone mentioned above has surfaced on this ancient track is the high point between the River Stort and Bourne Brook by Savenend, which would indicate that someone at some time expended considerable effort to haul it up there from one of the river beds.

While on the subject of pudding stones, we know that the Romans used the stone to make quorns for grinding corn and numerous examples of these exist in museums. One was found in a garden in Silver Street in the 1970s and a broken one was seen in a small rockery outside a cottage at Bentfield Green.



We are fortunate in that this area is well provided with foot-paths and bridleways which give us access to the countryside for relaxation, exercise, the chance to enjoy the local scenery and wildlife, or just look for stones. The responsibility for keeping these rights of way open is shared by the County Council and the landowners. The path from Gypsy Lane along the bank of the River Stort was closed for some time due to erosion and unsafe bridges. The landowner arranged to move the fence back from the eroded river bank and Essex County Council installed two fine new bridges, so the path is now open to give a riverside walk right to the centre of Bishop's Stortford. In another case the hedge along a foot-path bordering a fenced paddock near Alsa Wood had got rather overgrown in recent years but a smart bit of hedge-laying opened it up again.

This promises to be a good year for fruits and nuts; already the blackberries are ripe, sloes and damsons are not far behind and hazelnuts and conkers are more plentiful than last

year. Late summer flowers are still adding colour to verges and open spaces and mixing with a variety of bright red berries. Have you noticed all the cuckoo pint berries? Let's take advantage of the fine weather and go out to see all there is to



see, at the same time remembering the work that goes into preserving our paths and treating them and the environment with due respect.

Felix



## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Hello to all the readers of the 'Link' from all of us at Stansted Football Club. Well, the season is with us again and the players have put in a lot of hard work during their pre-season training – the 1st team have won three out of their six friendlies losing two and drawing one, the reserves have played three friendlies winning one, drawing one and losing one. The 1st team started their League season on 8th August playing away to Eton Manor and winning 2-1 so this is a good start. Sunday 16th August saw us playing Royston Town in the FA Cup Preliminary round – this was played at Bishops Stortford's ground and we hoped for a good turn out.

September fixtures are as follows:  
5th September at home to Witham Town  
12th September at home to Takeley  
26th September away to Hullbridge

Please come and support us as we need big crowds to help us survive these hard times as recession has really hit us hard as I expect it has some of you.

Larry Woods  
Vice-Chairman

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## STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

Weston Business Centres and Daniel Robinson & Sons jointly hosted an excellent lunch for the benefit of St Clare Hospice; this was the third such event and was very well attended. The lunch provides an opportunity for members of the local business community to meet, network, exchange news and views and, on this occasion, to catch up with the activities and aspirations of St Clare, while enjoying a sumptuous meal. Tanya Curry, Director of Patient Care, gave us a flavour of the care that St Clare provides and an insight into its plans for the future. Clive Gillam, St Clare's Corporate Fundraiser and a member of the Lunch Club, spoke of the reliance that a charitable organisation has on support from corporate partners. To the surprise of some, he was able to suggest other means of support that do not necessarily involve the corporate chequebook.



Photograph by Tony Smith of St Clare Hospice

Bob Weston, Chief Executive and Chairman of the Weston Group, and Gary Neill, Managing Director of Daniel Robinson & Sons, Funeral Directors, have given unstinting patronage to St Clare since its very early years. Their help and generosity has contributed in large measure to making possible the delivery of Hospice Care in North West Essex and the East Hertfordshire border. As a Trustee of St Clare, I would like to thank all those who attended the Lunch for their interest and support which are so vital to St Clare's work and, in particular, Robert Lee of Marketing Kinetics, who so generously gave St Clare a stand at the Bishop's Stortford Means Business Exhibition in October. Lunch itself was the customary culinary delight that we have come to expect at the Stansted Centre and was delivered with great competence, courtesy and friendliness by the Weston team of charming waitresses. Well done and thank you!!

### Future Lunches

As can be seen below, we are currently well sponsored and there are now only three slots in the next year, so make your bids for these slots as soon as possible!!

23rd September 2009 – Pearse House

18th November 2009 – G E Sworder & Sons (sponsors)

27rd January 2010 – Sponsor needed

March 2010 – Sponsor needed

May 2009 – Savvy Business Community (sponsors)

July 2010 – Sponsor needed

Alastair Richardson

Tel: 07850 295109

Email: amg.richardson@gmail.com

## VOLUNTARY AND RECREATION PROFILES



### NO 4 HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Club was founded in 1974 by Marion and Tom Johnson following the death of their son Huw from Muscular Dystrophy. It began as a club for 'handicapped children and their parents' to provide a weekly meeting point for the youngsters to enjoy an evening with kindred spirits and for parents to meet in a social context.

Over the years the club has regularly met on Thursdays at 7.00pm in St John's Church Hall. Some of the early members still attend with the result that the 'children' now include many in middle age! However, the young seem to enjoy their evenings as much as their elders and there is no age divide. Its evening activities are many and varied, comprising the ever-popular discos run by Garry King, specialised versions of tennis and cricket that can compete in entertainment value with Wimbledon and Lords, bowls and bowling on our own artificial surface, quizzes, bingo, line dancing, curling and treasure hunts. Occasionally a magician or musical entertainers will drop in. The club has summer outings and a festive meal in January. The high point is the Christmas concert for which there are usually 'House Full' signs and rave notices. Mother's Day, St George's Day, Halloween and birthdays are celebrated with due ceremony!

As many of our members now come from the Saffron Walden area, the club provides transport each way thanks to a team of drivers and escorts. The stalwarts of the club are a loyal group of parents/helpers together with several teenagers/young adults whom Marion has justly praised in recent issues of the 'Link'. There are currently almost 40 members and there is often room for newcomers among those who have learning difficulties or a physical disability, with their carers if need be, but has to be subject to travel availability. A parent or carer wishing to know more about the club should telephone Marion on 812284. The staffing is entirely voluntary but it depends on donations from the community to meet its expenses. A great number of local folk have contributed to its success over the past 35 years, for which we and the village are immensely grateful.

Derek Honour  
President

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## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

**"Oh, didn't we have a lovely day - the day we went to ..."**



*Photo: Simone Harris*

Despite the thunderstorms and torrential rain of the previous nights, members and friends of the Mountfitchet Garden Club were blessed with sunny weather on Saturday 18th July when they visited Freda Davis' garden at Harcourt House in Bromley followed by Tim Hart-Dyke's World Garden of Plants in Eynsford, Kent. (For more photos see [www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk](http://www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk)).

Freda's garden has evolved over ten years and is an ornate Victorian garden, with routed walkways through flower borders, pots brimming with flowers, bulbs and shrubs, unusual statuary, hidden areas, and plenty of seating. The garden has a tranquil atmosphere which encourages visitors to sit, relax and enjoy the views. The garden won first place in the 2007 Bromley in Bloom competition (Premier Back Garden Category) and was also entered into the NGS's Yellow Book last year. Towards the end of our visit Freda gave a short talk on the house and garden. To date, Freda has helped to raise over £23,000 for the NSPCC through various open events held in her garden.

The second part of our trip to Kent was to Lullingstone Castle in the village of Eynsford. The trials and tribulations of transforming a rose garden into The World Garden of Plants were featured in two BBC series. In 2000, whilst plant hunting in the jungle region between Panama and Colombia, Tom Hart Dyke was kidnapped by guerrillas and lived under the threat of death for nine months. During this time, to 'keep him sane', he planned a garden in his diary that would contain plants collected from across the globe. Upon his release, he set to and transformed the one acre rose garden into a map of the world. The aim of the garden is to celebrate the plant hunter and show where the plants we grow in our own gardens today originate from. Throughout the garden there are stories/notices about the plant hunters and the specimens brought back to the UK. The garden is still evolving with new areas planned for future years.

Maralyn Harris



Thank you to all of the local residents, who took the time to come and have a look at the plans for the proposed extension to Spangles Children's Centre. A new build to the front of the building will improve the look of the building as well as give us some much needed space for a reception area and improve security for the children and parents who use the centre. The plans are being kept in the office if anyone wants to have a look at them. Some of the locals might have noticed that the old bus has finally been removed from the grounds, a vast improvement to the outlook already!

Even though this is only our second school summer holiday, the trend has been to see even more familiar faces attending the sessions. We operate throughout the year, closing only for Bank Holidays or extreme events. Thank you to all of our members who found an alternative to Spangles during our closure week in July. It is important that the staff are kept up to date with new legislation and practices, and sometimes group training is the only way to do it. We also had a cleaning blitz and in light of the current swine 'flu outbreak it was well timed. Our outreach sessions are spreading further around the Uttlesford district, with two sessions in Takeley currently running on Tuesdays and Fridays. Groups are also starting on 14th September in Elsenham and another in Hatfield Heath on Friday mornings from 28th August. Please call the main Centre for more information or have a look at our website [www.spangleschildrenscentre.org](http://www.spangleschildrenscentre.org).

Mandy Fitchett  
Children's Centre Co-ordinator  
Tel: 812348



## Stansted Cricket Club

The 1st XI have won 11 of their first 15 matches and are now 3rd in Div 4, just five points off a promotion place. The 2nd XI have won their last two matches and have climbed to 5th place in Div 6. The Sunday XI has had five wins and two draws from their 11 matches to date. Recent top individual performances have been C Kirby (120 and 81); F Kirby (79 and 55); N Porter (72); M Noori (61); C Bidwell (54) and D Scriberras (5-26). More details can be found on the club's website at <http://stanstedcc.hitscricket.com/home/default.aspx>.

Home friendly matches for September are:

Sun 13th Sep	Sunday XI v Takeley	1.00pm
Sun 20th Sep	Sunday XI v Little Bardfield	1.00pm

Groundwork and preparation of the square for next season will take place on the weekend of 26th-27th September. The club is holding an end-of-season Presentation Evening at the Stansted Hilton Hotel on Saturday 3rd October from 7.00pm until midnight. Tickets at £20 (for a three-course meal and entertainment) can be obtained from Ian Parsons (07809 723652), Keith Ayres (814471), Dave Roach (07712 040674), Bob Selby (01945 772587) and David Hedge (812509). If anyone would like to join the club, please contact David Hedge 812509 (Adults) or Keith Ayres 814471 (Juniors).

David Hedge





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My mum loved to read – she loved books and poetry. She would have read E M Forster's 'A Room With A View' many times dreaming of 'The Grand Tour'. This may have been a necessity, of course, living in a Midlands village, married to a carpenter and bringing up four children. I have recently lost my mum but not her vision of the world, how she loved life and people - her wellbeing. Many enjoyed my mum's wellbeing. She was only ever described as a lovely person. Despite living in an old house with little money and losing my brother, she possessed a great spirit and inner strength to love everyone around even when "They could do with a good smack!". I have always felt very close to my mum, yet puzzled. She protected a privacy; at times I have felt excluded, even a little resentful.

My mum's wellbeing was inspired by trips to the library (this being the only time that permission wasn't asked for nor denied). My father never read a book in his life. He was proud and slightly in awe of this cultured woman but his world was his workshop and the outdoors. Home life was dominated by my dad's likes and working patterns. I smiled as I sorted through my mum's books. In front of me was a copy of Virginia Woolf's 'A Room of One's Own.' I wondered, had my mum lived joyfully by creating an inner life? My mum generously loved others whilst understanding the need to create an inner emotional and intellectual support for herself.

Psychologists suggest that we may choose to construct something 'other' when a relationship or a life situation is lacking in some way. Identifying another space may allow us to continue in life by providing more feelings and experiences that are otherwise missing. To secure and maintain this new space the foundations, the walls are protected by self worth, an absence of guilt to attend to your own needs, to live knowing you deserve happiness. Happiness, spiritual teachers suggest is the purpose of our creation. I have recently changed my workshop (my music room.). From an argument with my lovely teenagers – I realised we all needed a little more space – by adding a discreet TV to the book shelves, and two large removable beanbags the girls claim their room within seconds of my singing pupils leaving the house. When the teenagers and the pupils have 'left the building', I have discovered a room of my own. The quietness and the potential of the room are prodding me to become my mother's daughter. It is my intention to create a room with view – a view of love and wellbeing.

Isobel

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## ST CLARE HOSPICE

The Day Therapy Services are developing rapidly and are being used by even more patients. A 12 week programme group of sessions are aimed at supporting patients with the multi-professional team. The purpose is to provide information, a forum to discuss patient concerns and issues in a safe environment, empowerment, by furnishing patients with skills to help themselves with the symptoms of their condition and, not least, amongst these an opportunity to reflect on life by sharing life memories and achievements, for a time taking them away from the focus of their illness. The recent Art Workshop, in which patients shared their memories through art, song and drama, generated a lot of fun, laughter and some reflective tears. However, it also generated a huge sense of achievement which was shared in a performance enjoyed by the patients' families, friends and Hospice staff. Additional groups are also being formed to support patients and their carers to promote independence with other conditions including MS and Motor Neurone Disease. If you or a family member feel that these services may be of benefit, please ask your GP for a referral to us.

The Stansted Friends of St Clare have had to re-schedule their Fashion Show to Thursday 17th September at the MMCC at 7.00pm. Tickets £6 include a glass of wine or soft drink on arrival. Popular high street names at bargain prices and generously supported by the village's Bada Bing!, Chiro Health, Fancy Fingers and Barnet Fayre.

Local talent, Peter Baker and his Crusty Jazzers, along with the committee of Jazz at St John's, are holding a Jazz Evening on Friday 23rd October at 7.30pm in St John's Church with the Stansted Friends of St Clare. Residents will already be very familiar with Peter's band so I hope you will come along and enjoy another similar event. Tickets at £14 are available from Alastair Richardson on 07850 295109 or email: [amg.richardson@gmsil.com](mailto:amg.richardson@gmsil.com). Please support this event - all funds will go directly towards patient care.



*L to Right Alastair Richardson, Carol Corbett, Ben Jones, Avril Branch and Caroline Bore at the first meeting of the St Clare Hospice Stansted Friends Group.*



Caroline Bore  
Community Fundraiser East Herts and Uttlesford  
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### **Have your say on noise, community urged**

SSE has published a step by step guide to help people to respond to BAA's Noise Action Plan consultation. BAA is required by law to publish a five-year plan to explain how it intends to reduce nuisance from noise and its impact on sleep disturbance, health and education caused by the airport's operations and overflying. SSE has criticised the way some information has been presented by BAA and gaps in proposals to address noise issues. This consultation is a start but there are no teeth in the guidance for delivering the plan that would ensure BAA did anything it wasn't already doing. The consultation closes on 2nd October.

### **Ryanair slashes winter flights**

Ryanair is to slash the number of aircraft operating out of the airport this winter. These will be cut by 40% compared with the summer schedule – 40 planes down to 24. This will result in a 30% drop in flights and the loss of 2.5m passengers between October and March 2010. Ryanair accounts for two out of every three passengers using Stansted. Like Stansted's other major customer, easyJet, Ryanair opposes BAA's second runway plans on which the airport has already squandered £200m. The resulting increase in airport charges at Stansted is the main reason that Ryanair has transferred flights to other airports.

### **Stansted passenger numbers plunge as BAA losses mount**

The continued fall in passenger numbers at Stansted Airport means that SSE's forecast that the total will drop to less than 20 million this year remains on course. Passenger numbers have fallen 10.5% compared with the preceding 12 months, while the number of flights has tumbled 12.8% over the same period, BAA reports. Stansted's passenger numbers have now fallen for 18 consecutive months and there are now fewer passengers than five years ago and fewer flights than six years ago. BAA's losses at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted more than tripled to £545 million in the first six months of the year, caused by the continued fall in passenger numbers and a massive deficit in the airport operator's pension fund. The losses were despite a rise in revenue from airport operations, which included increased passenger charges that airlines said were excessive. Retail turnover was also up. However, analysts say that without a sale of Gatwick, BAA will have difficulty repaying £1 billion of its £12 billion debt which falls due in the spring, says the Evening Standard.

### **Carry on regardless: Government will protect air travel 'for the masses'**

The Government will protect air travel 'for the masses' even in a so-called low-carbon Britain. This was the admission by Ed Milliband, climate change secretary, to coincide with publication of a white paper on climate change. In an interview with The Guardian he said the Government would find deeper cuts in emissions in other areas. Air travel would become more expensive as Britain tried to meet G8 targets to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% by 2050. It would be wrong to

impose the target on airlines, which would be covered by the European Emissions Trading Scheme from 2012 if they fly to and from the EU. "I don't want to have a situation where only rich people can afford to fly," he said. The average household income of leisure passengers using Stansted is £47,000, says Jeff Gazzard of Aviation Environment Federation, in a response to The Guardian report. Meanwhile, The Times has seen documents that say Britain's plans to cut emissions by more than a third by 2022 could be achieved by buying 'permits to pollute' from poor countries rather than reductions in domestic emissions – effectively overturning a commitment by Alistair Darling that the UK would not rely on carbon offsets.

### **Commuters urged to lobby National Express**

Train users are being urged to respond to a consultation by National Express East Anglia to ensure that additional capacity is not allocated to Stansted Express services at the expense of commuters. The train operator is to introduce an extra 188 new carriages but MP Mark Prisk is concerned that too many will be assigned to Stansted Express. Another key issue is the fact that for those commuting from stations that can only accommodate eight carriages, the new trains and probably all the fast trains will only stop at stations which can accommodate 12 cars whereas, campaigners argue, they should all be capable of taking the 12 car trains. The deadline for responses is 11th September. Residents should write to: West Anglia and Stansted Express timetable consultation, National Express East Anglia, Oliver's Yard, 55 City Road, London EC1Y 1HQ or email them at [nxeattconsultation@nationalexpress.com](mailto:nxeattconsultation@nationalexpress.com).

### **Books needed**

SSE needs books for its fundraising and information stall at this year's Countess of Warwick Show on the Bank Holiday Sunday and Monday – 28th and 29th August. Donations of good quality books are sought, as are volunteers to help on the stand - contact the Campaign Office on 870558.

### **Heritage Hike highlights runway threat**

A reminder of the Heritage Hike to draw attention to the threat to historic homes and the countryside on Sunday 20th September, starting and finishing at Molehill Green. There will be a barbecue from 1.00pm and the walk heads off after a commemorative photo at 2.00pm. The event is free but those who want to see sponsorship for their efforts are invited to use the special SSE form which also contains more details of the event.

### **Race Night and Supper Broxted Village Hall Saturday 3rd October, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start**

If you've never been to a Race Night before, try this one – it'll be great fun! Films are shown of horse races and you have the chance to bet on a Tote to win money. There'll be eight races, with eight horses in each. Entry by advance ticket - £7.50 per head to include a buffet. You can also sponsor a race for £25 or 'buy' a horse for £3 (with prizes for winning owners), whether attending the event or not. Licensed bar. Contact Roger Clark on 850638 or the SSE Campaign Office on 870558.

Carol Barbone  
Campaign Director  
Tel: 0777 5523091  
Email: [cbarbone@mxco.uk](mailto:cbarbone@mxco.uk)



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	N W Brown (Landscapes)	32		Copyzone	12
	Crystal Clear Ponds	8		Aldwych Construction	8
	Green Thumb (Lawn Treatment)	BC		Bareham Overy Partnership	28
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	22		Chris Osborn (Brickwork)	26
	H <sub>2</sub> O Plants	24		Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	28
	Selina Rankin Garden Design	16		HTM Scaffolding	34
	Steve Hall Garden Services	32		A C Wright Building Contractors	12
	J R Johnston (Trees)	8		M Wright Plant Hire	28
	Mayfair Ponds	22	Retailers	Family News	12
	Simplylawns	30			John Wilson Jeweller

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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](mailto: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.

Message \_\_\_\_\_

Sender's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

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