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Inside St John's porch.

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by **noon** on **11th March** for the April issue
or by hand to:
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Stansted CM24 8HG
by **noon** on **8th March** for the April issue

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EDITORIAL



For those who enjoy outdoor pursuits, this month's Link contains several articles that will be of interest. Taking part in any form of exercise be it physical or mental is good, and jogging or walking are relatively inexpensive hobbies that can also be a great way to meet people. (Joining in the 'Clean For The Queen', details on page 23, has the added benefit of helping the community too.) Most walkers, especially dog walkers, are very friendly and willing to chat - and even joggers have been known to pass the time of day. Stansted has lots of places available for refreshments, both of the alcoholic and non-alcoholic variety if fatigue sets in; it's probably possible to stop at a different 'watering hole' every day of the week! Essex Highways recently installed a Traffic Counter on the B1383 Cambridge Road, near Five Acres, to monitor traffic performance. Hopefully, this is a step in the right direction to finding some sort of solution to the village's traffic problems - before the Walpole Farm development adds to the current chaos. More information on traffic/parking issues may be available at the Annual Parish Meeting, see pages 5 and 22.

CONTENTS

Thought for the Month	2	Elsenham Village Fête	17
Church News	2-4	St Clare Hospice	17
Stansted Mountfitchet Baron's Association	4	Stansted Network	19-23
Big Brew	4	Directory of Local Clubs	25
Village Events	5	Local History Society	27
Inner Wheel	7	Beekeeping	27
Clarification	7	Microchipping	27
Stansted Evening WI	7	Film Review - The Revenant	29
The Place on the Hill	7	Stansted Cricket Club	29
Birchanger Wood	9	Bishop's Stortford Running Club	29
Mountfitchet Garden Club	9	Defibrillator Launch	31
In My Head	9	Can You Help?	31
Stansted Mountfitchet U3A	11	Stansted Surgery	31
Stansted Bowling Club	11	West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group	33
Forest Hall School	11	Warning - Bogus Builders are About!	33
The Gardens of Easton Lodge	11	Stop Stansted Expansion	33
music@stansted	13	Stansted Mountfitchet Windmill	33
Stansted is Well Read	13	Nature Notes	35
Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club	13	Bishop's Stortford Footpaths Assn	35
Footpath Closure	13	The Hundred Parishes Society	35
Saffron Walden Choral Society	13	Rainbow Pre-School	37
Messy Church	14	Stansted Tennis Club	37
Alphabet Quiz	15	Gardening Tips for March	37
Ugley WI	15	Huw Johnson Club	37
Birchanger Nursery	15	Rhodes Centre	39
Farnham Primary School	17	RSPB Stort Valley	39
Saffron Hall	17	Did You Know?	39
The Crafton Room	17	Clocks go Forward	39
		Index to Advertisers	40

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Stansted Network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Yet again we have a very early Easter this year. If I understand it correctly Easter comes on the Sunday after the full moon that follows the spring equinox. The equinox is the date when day and night are the same length. After the equinox the days start to get longer than the nights. All of this means that Easter can fall anywhere between 22nd March and 25th April. This year it is 27th March. There is a move to 'fix' the date of Easter because all the moving around is rather inconvenient. I can understand why people want to do this but I kind of hope it doesn't happen as I rather like the uncertainty. Not everything in life needs to be convenient.

When Easter falls is far less important than what Easter means. Christians believe that God entered his creation as a human being - the man Jesus, who did not simply have the appearance of humanity, but was truly human. So truly human that when subjected to death by torture he truly died. Two days later he was alive again and appeared to many witnesses; not as a reanimated corpse but as a resurrection body no longer subject to the limitations of our present human existence. And that is not all. Christians believe that because he did that, we will as well; that the pattern he established - living, dying, rising again - will be the pattern for us all. But it gets better still. This pattern is not just for human beings but for the whole of creation. And that will happen when Jesus comes again. Jesus will be seen on earth again and when that happens the whole of creation will be renewed. No more pain, no more suffering, no more decay, no more death. That's the meaning of Easter.



Paul Wilkin
Rector of St John's



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Stations of the Cross

Fridays 4th, 11th and 18th March 7.30pm

Palm Sunday 20th March 10.00am Mass

Maudy Thursday 24th March 8.00pm Mass

Good Friday 25th March 3.00pm Liturgy

Easter Vigil Saturday 26th March 8.00pm

Easter Sunday 27th March 10.00am Mass

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Palm Sunday 20th March

8.00am Holy Communion **9.20am** Procession and Eucharist

Maudy Thursday 24th March

8.00pm Holy Communion and Watch

Good Friday 25th March

1.00pm Good Friday Liturgy at Birchanger Church

6.00pm The Cross of Christ - a devotion for congregation and choir

Easter Sunday 27th March

8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Sung Eucharist

FREE CHURCH

Good Friday 25th March 10.30am Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday 27th March **10.45am** Easter Communion

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Easter Sunday 27th March 11.00am Meeting for Worship



ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ

www.sttheresasstansted.org

Priest Father John Garrett

Office Tel: 816889

Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Masses	Saturday	6.00pm
	Sunday	10.00am
	Holy Days of Obligation	8.00am and 7.30pm
	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	9.30am

Confessions

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

Baptisms

By appointment

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill

Stansted CM24 8AE

www.saffronquakers.org.uk/stansted.html

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Jane Mitchell

Tel: 503024

Email: sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com

Lettings

Richenda Whitehead

Tel: 07773 603618

Email: richendajw@live.com

Meeting

Sunday, 10.30am

Light Group

10.30am-11.30am 12th March and 14th May. This is a guided meditation for personal enlightenment. You are warmly invited to attend.



All enquiries The Church Office, St John's Hall,
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
Tel: 815243
Office hours: Mon 9.00am-12 noon Mon,
Wed, Fri
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com
Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btik.com

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Tel: 812203
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Director of Music Anne Brooks
Email: anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk

Church Hall Bookings Simon Wilson
Tel or text: 07582 856689
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St John's Diary

Sunday
8.00am Said Holy Communion
9.30am Choral Eucharist (1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays)
9.30am Family Communion (2nd Sunday)
Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
8.30am Morning Prayer There are services of
Holy Communion on
Tuesday the first Tuesdays and
9.00am St John's Tots Wednesdays of the
Wednesday month in Norman
9.00am Morning Prayer Court, Hargrave
10.00am Holy Communion House and Broome
Monday-Thursday and Saturday
5.00pm Evening Prayer End Nursing Homes.

From the Registers

January

Baptism
10th George Hutchinson Graham

Funerals
7th Marion Donaghy, age 88 - at Three Counties
Crematorium
8th Robert Alfred Parker, age 86 - at Parndon Wood
14th Elizabeth Woodham, age 90 - at Parndon Wood,
ashes interred at St Mary's
20th Marion Graham Van Terheyden, age 88, service
at St Theresa's, burial at St Mary's
25th John David Crombie Rodgers, age 74 - service at
St Mary's, burial in cemetery
26th Ronald Samuel Howes, age 83 - service at
St Mary's, burial in cemetery



Mothering Sunday The March Family Service will be held on 6th March and will be a special service for Mothering Sunday.

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the holders of the winning numbers in the January draw:

£100 No 103 – June Winter
£ 50 No 11 – Malcolm Lloyd
£ 25 No 52 – Nicola Ward

The draws for March will be held on Sunday 27th March in St John's Church following the 9.30am service.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562



www.stanstedfamilychurch.com

Contact Howard and Ros Page
Tel 810813
Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com

Our **@27** meeting is on Wednesday 23rd March (including contemporary worship and a Bible-related talk). Refreshments 7.30pm for 7.45pm start. For more details and venue, please contact us. Anyone who has been reading our recommended book for Lent this year (**What's So Amazing about Grace?** by Philip Yancey) is invited to join us for coffee and a short discussion based on this book on **Thursday 17th March** 10.30-11.30am at 27 Spencer Close. If you would like to borrow or buy this book, there are still a couple of copies available. It is a light read with plenty of real-life anecdotes and relevance for everyday life. A great way to explore God's greatest gift to us as Easter approaches. We look forward to participating in this year's Lent Course on Wednesdays, and Messy Church on Sunday 13th, as we celebrate the significance of Easter for Christians and for the whole world, in many different ways. See elsewhere in The Link for more details.



Ros Page



STANSTED FREE CHURCH
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Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AG
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Minister Rev'd Roy Fowler
Tel: 814809
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for March
6th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Fairtrade Service
13th 10.30am Rev'd Charles Martin
20th 10.30am Mike Render - Palm Sunday
25th 10.30am Worship Leaders - Good Friday Service
27th 10.45am Rev'd Roy Fowler – Easter Communion



SHALOM

We are not meeting in March as we are supporting the Churches Together in Stansted Lent Groups.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



www.stanstedchurches.com

Quiz Evening Saturday 16th January

I would like to wholeheartedly thank everyone who supported the quiz in aid of Churches Together in Stansted community projects; the response was overwhelming. Ticket sales and the Raffle made a wonderful £792. The only disadvantage of so many people attending was that we did not have enough food to go round – but everyone was very understanding about the ‘light refreshments’ which were somewhat ‘lighter’! Unfortunately we did not have the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 (or 120 in this case), but we did have the miracle of community love, generosity and forbearance. Thank you again.

David Morson
Tel: 850209

Lent Groups - Hope Actually

The remaining sessions are on Wednesdays 24th February, 2nd and 9th March 8.00pm-9.30pm in the Free Church Hall. Each session will be led by one of the Stansted Churches and has a mix of discussion, bible study and video stories, ending with suggestions for prayer and ideas for action. Coffee will be served from 7.45pm. All are welcome and you do not have to attend all the sessions – just come when you can.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Concert Sunday 20th March 2.00pm

There will be a concert in the church by Bishop's Stortford Band. Many will have enjoyed the band when they played for the Magna Carta Songs of Praise last year and the Friends are very pleased that they are making a return visit to St Mary's. Tickets: Adults £5, under 18s free, from Stella Rodgers on 814814, from me, or on the door. Refreshments will be available. The Annual General Meeting will follow at 4.15pm and all visitors to the concert will be most welcome to attend. Should there be an election of officers, only subscribing members will be entitled to vote.

Audrey Rodgers
Tel: 812162

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



The theme of this years' service is *Receive Children – Receive Me*, and reflects Mark chapter 10 verses 13-16, which is the focus of the service and a reminder that everyone is a child of God and equally worthy of our love and respect. The service has been prepared by the women of Cuba, and is on Friday 4th March at 2.00pm in Stansted Free Church, followed by refreshments. There will be a Traidcraft Stall. All welcome – men and women.



Brenda Veitch
Tel: 815819



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET BARON'S ASSOCIATION

Our final Committee meeting was held on 27th January. Looking back over the last year, we wish to acknowledge the help of our sponsors. **Stansted Airport Community Trust** and the **Stansted Airport Passengers Community Fund** each gave in the region of £1,000, to help with the costs of the Heritage Embroidery, and the accompanying booklet. The Medieval Fayre was our most adventurous event. Help came from the Board of **The Arthur Findlay College** who offered their fabulous grounds, and generously met a great many of the hidden costs of the day. **Mountfitchet House Care Home** generously covered the costs of the Falconers.

The Committee came up with the idea of creating merchandise in the form of postcards, colouring books, jigsaws and bags to bring in much needed funds – these items are still available to purchase – please contact me. Mr and Mrs Wallace-Jarvis kindly donated Magna Carta Bookmarks for every school child. The three Cultural Evenings broke even. They were a success, but larger audiences would have made a difference. There have been costs to do with the embroidery which meant we exceeded the figure given by the Stansted Airport Community Trust. By using only the finest materials we were able to create a very vibrant image of Stansted Mountfitchet and its early history. Overall, the events accrued a small surplus. From this we have given a sum to the Parish Council for the care of the embroidery, and its insurance, until there is space for its permanent display. A further amount will be used for the transport of the embroidery whilst waiting for the permanent home. The balance of the surplus, about £1,875, is gifted to the new fund set up by the History Society to enable authors of material relating to Stansted to have funds to meet publishing costs. Separately, monies raised from the sale of booklets will go to Forest Hall School and the new Magna Carta Primary School. Thank you to all who supported the 800th anniversary of the Sealing of the Magna Carta.

Leila Riddell
Email: leilariddell@gmail.com

BIG BREW



Fairtrade Fortnight is from 29th February to 13th March, when we are being encouraged to 'sit down for breakfast in support of the farmers who grow the food we have every morning, such as coffee, tea, cocoa and bananas'. There will be a **Big Brew**

Coffee Morning and Traidcraft Sale on Thursday 10th March 10.30am-noon in Stansted Free Church Foyer (not the hall). The event will also be running on Wednesday 9th March alongside the Free Church *Place on the Hill* drop-in. Everyone welcome. Entry **free**.



Brenda Veitch
Tel: 815819



Hope Actually

A Church Urban Fund Lent course

Discussion - Bible Study - Video

Weds 24th Feb - 9th Mar
8 - 9.30 pm (coffee from 7.45 pm)
Free Church Hall

All welcome - please join us

Sessions led by the Stansted Churches

Women's World Day of Prayer



2 pm Friday 4th March
Stansted Free Church

Receive Children - Receive Me

written by the women of Cuba

Followed by Refreshments and
Fairtrade Stall

All welcome - Men & Women



Stansted Millers

AGM with Wine & Nibbles
7.30 for 8 pm Fri 4th Mar
Day Centre - All Welcome

Stansted Windmill Open Days
1.30 - 5.30 pm

Easter Sun 27th March
Bank Hol Mon 28th March

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

1	Tue	Stansted Seniors Group Stansted is Well Read	Day Centre 1.30 - 3.30 pm Dog & Duck 8 pm
2	Wed	Mountfichet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
3	Thu	Stansted History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer Windmill AGM	Free Church 2 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
5	Sat	Clean for the Queen	Crafton Green 10 am - noon
5 Sat & 20	Sun	Family Café Music@stansted	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am St John's Church 6 pm
6	Sun	Snowdrop Sunday	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 4 pm
8	Tue	Dementia Café RSPB Talk	Quaker Meeting Hse 10 am - noon Bishop's Park 7.30 pm
9/10	Wed/Thu	Big Brew	Free Church Foyer 10.30 am - noon
10	Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.45 pm
11	Fri	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
12	Sat	St Clare Quiz	Forest Hall School 7 for 7.30 pm
13	Sun	Messy Church	St Mary's School 3.30 - 5 pm
16	Wed	Annual Parish Meeting	Free Church 8 pm
17	Thu	Stansted U3A Patient Participation Group	St John's Hall 1.15 pm Stansted Surgery 7 - 9 pm
19	Sat	S W Choral Society	Saffron Hall 7.30 pm
20	Sun	B Stortford Band Concert	St Mary's Church 2 pm
22	Tue	Hearing Help	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
23	Wed	The Place Easter Event	Free Church 10 - 11.30 am
27/28	Sun/Mon	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
27	Sun	Easter Trail	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 3.30 pm



CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

Spring Litter Pick

10 am - noon Sat 5th March

Meet 10.00 am at
Crafton Green, Chapel Hill
Bring strong gloves - equipment provided

FREE FISH & CHIP LUNCH
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Organised by Stansted Parish Council
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20th Anniversary Concert

6 pm Sat 5th March

St John's Church

Wells Virtuosi String Orchestra

*Tickets adults £15, under 18s free
from Absolute Travel, Chapel Hill;
Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;
Sonia Levy 815282; or at the door*



Friends of St Mary's Church

*Spring Concert
with Bishop's Stortford Band*

2 pm Sun 20th March

Tickets Adults £5 Under 18s free
from 812162 or 814814

followed by **AGM** at 4 pm

*All welcome to both events but only
members may vote at the AGM*



Easter Fun Trail & Open Day Sunday 27th March

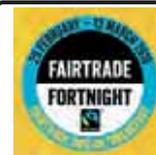
11.30 am - 3.30 pm (last entry 2.30 pm)

Solve the clues & claim your prize

Adults £3 Children Free (£1 for trail)

Homemade Soup, Bacon Baps
Cakes & Drinks until 3 pm

All Welcome Tel: 01371 876979



BIG BREW

& Sale OF FAIRTRADE GOODS

10.30 am - noon
Wed 9th & Thu 10th Mar

Free Church Foyer

All are warmly invited



Annual Parish Meeting

8 pm Wed 16th March

Stansted Free Church

Come, listen & speak!

All welcome

More information tel 813214



Stansted Messy Church

3.30 - 5 pm Sun 13th March

St Mary's School, Hampton Rd

Activities - Celebration - Food

An exciting and informal style of church for
families, particularly with children under 12
Older children also welcome - bring an adult!

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch



ST CLARE
HOSPICE

QUIZ NIGHT

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 12th Mar

Forest Hall School

Tickets £10 incl Ploughman's
from Caroline on 813938
Tables 8 or individuals

All Welcome - *BYO Drinks & Nibbles*

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And Associates

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INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD

Our year got off to a good start when we held a coffee morning on 9th January at the Methodist Church in Bishop's Stortford in celebration of International Inner Wheel Day. A total of £250 was raised for the Parkinson's Charity. The photograph shows a cheque being presented to Michelle Henderson, the Parkinson Regional Fundraiser by June Milne, Inner Wheel President and Val McGregor.



Our January meeting was an informal Knit and Natter night - but there was a good deal more nattering than knitting! The year ahead was planned and discussed, and as our current president lives in Dunmow, she explained about arrangements in hand for our April open meeting, to be held at the Dunmow Maltings, about the history of the Dunmow Flicht, and the Flicht Trials - 2016 being a 'Flicht Year'. Any married couples who have been wed for at least a year and a day, can apply for The Trials which are on 9th July, whereupon they have to prove to a Judge and Jury that they have never wished themselves unwed. The prize - a flicht of bacon! New members are warmly welcomed at our monthly meetings - further details from June Milne on 01371 875370 or myself.



Brenda Cox
Tel: 812191

Email: brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk

CLARIFICATION

For those residents concerned by the proposal to close St Mary's Churchyard (page 9 of last month's The Link) Stansted Parish Cemetery, adjacent to the churchyard, is not included in the proposed closure and is still open for burials.

Editor

STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



The talk for our January meeting was entitled 'A Walk with the Admiral' which led everyone to believe that we would be hearing about the sea, if not actually walking on water! Not so; in Hoddeson there is a road off Upper Marsh Lane called Admiral's Walk, at the bottom of which is the river Lea. Richard Thomas lives there and has traced the history back 600 years, when it was known as Four Leas Meadow and was rented out for agricultural purposes. Richard has looked at the rentals as far back as 1399 and found that 200 years later the land was still being rented at 13/4d - known then as a Mark. In 1855 E F Whittingstall, an ancestor of the first owner, split it into smaller parts. Alex Mackenzie, an estate agent, wanted to develop the land which was near Broxbourne Station, with easy access to London. Cheffins, a name still familiar in this area, a Mr Peake and a woman called Mrs Rowley bought the land and small villas began to be built. Thomas Harknett built one called Thrift House in 1885 and we learnt at the end of the talk that Richard has lived in this house for many years. The road became known as Admiral's Walk because a retired Irish sea-captain used to walk his dogs along there, and was also famous for having walked hundreds of miles through Europe many years before, when escaping from imprisonment. The history of this area was illustrated with pictures showing the many owners and the gradual development of the houses. It was a fascinating piece of research.

In January we enjoyed our New Year dinner at the Chequers. Two of our members have recently been on cruises where they have enjoyed impromptu WI meetings on board ship, complete with tea and cake I believe!! We look forward to the County AGM in March at Southend, and we are planning another boat trip in the summer. Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th March 7.45pm in the Day Centre when Lucy Allen will be talking on 'The Highs and Lows of a Stuntwoman'. Please join us, visitors are always welcome.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470



Easter Event Friday 23rd March

Following the success of our Christingle event, we are planning an exciting Easter Event. The Place will be open as usual from 9.30am, with planned activities between 10.00am and 11.30am. There will be various Easter craft-work activities for you to try, which will become the focus for a short time of reflection on why we celebrate Easter.

The Place on the Hill is a free drop-in held at and organised by Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, and is open every Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Do come and join us - all ages are welcome. Please note that we will be open throughout the school holidays, but **not** on Good Friday 25th March.



Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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On 7th February there was a BBC Essex Quest that concluded in Birchanger Wood, and our Warden, Pat Forrest, was invited to present some of the prizes! From 7th-11th March, the Woodland Trust has very kindly promised to deliver 105 trees for planting in our ancient Woodland. Check this out with Pat Forrest, as I am sure he will be looking for some help with the planting. Although the best time to plant a deciduous tree is October/November, it is usually okay at this time of the year for them to be dug and mulched into the ground, as they are normally still dormant. Last year I over-wintered two trees in pots and I am trusting that they will transplant successfully in my front garden. If you are thinking of planting trees, do remember that apart from bulbs, not many flowers will grow under a tree once its leaves start to 'come out' and deciduous trees do shed leaves in Autumn which unless collected up and composted, can be an issue. Our two 'under-weight' hedgehogs are currently hibernating, and it depends upon the temperature, as to whether they will be up and about by late March. This year's wet weather has meant that the ground remains pretty 'squidgy'. However, it has remained really mild; daffodils and wild blackthorn are flowering along with many other garden shrubs and bulbs. Could the wood anemones in Birchanger Wood be out in March?



The local blackbirds and great tits are singing lustily in the mornings and chaffinches are coming into mating plumage much earlier than normal. We need to monitor our wild bird behaviour and study the effect of the mild winter. Should the weather take a late cold turn, animals and birds will need a helping hand - seeds, fats, protein - and some (non-frozen) water for them to drink.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Email: secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org

**Bishop's Stortford Antiques
& Collectables Fair**

9.30am - 4.00pm Sun 6th March

Bishop's Stortford Football Club, Woodside Park,
Dunmow Road CM23 5RG
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Admission £1 Refreshments & snacks available

February's speaker was Michael Perry, the New Plant and Development Manager of Thompson and Morgan. The talk began with a brief history of T and M which was started over 150 years ago. William Thompson grew flowers and herbs in the small garden behind his father's bakery shop in Ipswich and was soon known as the 'Baker Botanist'. Preferring botany to baking, he moved from the back garden to larger and larger nurseries and eventually there were three Thompson Nurseries in the town. As the seed firm expanded he entered into a partnership with John Morgan, a businessman rather than a botanist, and Thompson and Morgan was formed. The first catalogue was produced in 1855. William Thompson died in 1903 aged 80 but he had lived to see T and M become one of the country's greatest seed firms with a reputation for introducing new species to the British gardening public – a tradition that, Mr Perry was proud to say, continues to this day. Members were then shown slides of this year's new introductions and told about the trials (and tribulations) of finding these and future additions to the catalogue. To cater for the increased volume of orders for mail order plants etc, the Poplar Lane site is now an administrative centre only. The trial gardens have been moved further into the countryside and are not open to the public. The show gardens are now located at Jimmy's Farm in Pannington Hall Lane, Wherstead, Ipswich IP9 2AR. Entry to the show garden is free, but there is a charge for visiting the farm.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2nd March, when Maiké Windhorst will be telling us about 'Growing for the Flower Arranger All Year Round'. Everyone is welcome – visitors £2.50. Meetings are at the Day Centre (adjacent to Library and Chapel Hill Car Park). Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Refreshments are available prior to the meeting.

Maralyn Harris
Tel: 07919 478144

IN MY HEAD

In my head I'm in my 20s; fit as a flea
No flabby bits, waist just where it should be
I leap from the shower with the grace of a gazelle
(Eschewing the use of both grab rails as well!)

Landing as light as a summer breeze
With barely a grunt barely a wheeze

I step on the scales feeling light as a feather
And quickly get off feeling under the weather
Those digits are wrong, how can it be?
That Twiggy has turned into Mohammed Ali
But the mirror reflects indisputable proof
That it's time to man up and face the truth

No more eating and drinking to excess
But low-fat meals from M&S
Off to the gym come rain or shine
To exercise body parts back into line
Soon there'll be no middle-age spread
I'll be 20 something again - in my head

Loki

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

At the January meeting members were entertained by the Matching Hand Bell Ringers. The group have been ringing their bells for many years now and have participated in local events and church ceremonies. A commentary on the history of hand bells and how their particular bells were found stored away in an old cupboard in Matching Church was most interesting. The group played many familiar tunes to which we all sang along. Some brave members took advantage of the invitation to have a go which was great fun and the result was very 'appealing'!



The next Saturday Seminar in the Free Church Hall on 16th April at 9.30am sees a welcome return for David Morson. He asks "Why Do I Live the Way I am Living?" and he will be exploring how the way we live is underpinned by social processes, looking at Functionalism, Marxism, Social Action Theory, Feminism and Post Modernism. Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members from Alan Wheeler on 07790 213510 or email stanstedseminars@gmail.com. A reminder that membership renewal will be at the March and April meetings, payment by cheque for £13.50 (stamp available for payee line). Doors open at 1.15pm for those two months. The next meeting is on Thursday 17th March 1.15pm in St John's Hall. The speaker is Robert Dresner, musician and historian speaking about King Richard III. Contacts: Helen (Chair) 812945, Liz (Secretary) 813270. For more information see our website or email: stanstedu3a@live.co.uk.



Suzanne Parra



**STANSTED
BOWLING
CLUB**

Opening of the Green

Working parties to be organised in preparation for the opening of the green which will only be a month away as this goes to press. Please check notice boards for dates or telephone as below to check with John when help is needed.

Bowling for beginners

Sunday 1st May 10.00am-4.00pm and every evening that week from 6.00pm. Please come along and have a go - you will be made very welcome. Contact me for further details.

Carpet Bowls

We are looking forward to away fixtures at Quendon and Takeley before the outdoor bowling season starts.

Doreen Scraggs
Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178
Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net

FOREST HALL SCHOOL



A group of 15 students are busy raising money for their trip to Greece in July, when they will visit a Corfu Orphanage that 37 children aged 2-19 call home. They are hoping to gain an insight into the way of life in Greece and the way their peers live around the world. The orphanage residents are from around the world, including Syria and the UK, and have found themselves living in care due to a number of reasons ranging from parents' deaths, poverty and hardship. Students will not only support with reading, writing and conversational English but will also visit a local hospital, water-park, olive farm and local cultural attractions. Working alongside Emily Konstantas of Aspire, the students are aiming to raise £12,000 to support the orphanage in installing new windows. She hopes the students will understand what social enterprise is and how to get involved with charity work, giving them an understanding of the wider world and an appreciation of how lucky they are. People may not think of Greece as a third world country, but at the moment it is, with families searching bins for their dinner. It is hoped that the trips will continue for the next ten years and that a few Greek students will visit England to develop their social awareness. Students' fundraising events have included a non-uniform day, cake sales and stalls at the school's Christmas Fayre; and a Greek Night with traditional Greek music, dancing and food is planned. Headteacher Mr Hehir said that the school challenges students to ensure they reach the highest standards in academic success, and to develop as citizens of Europe and the world. The opportunity to give something back to the children in the Corfu Orphanage, who are less fortunate, will ensure that they develop as well-rounded citizens of humanity, who understand that giving is important.

Miss Jones

Head of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural



www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Easter will be a double delight this year. Not only will children be able to take part in their very own Easter Fun Trail on Sunday 27th March but at the same time they will be raising money to help restore a historic tree house which was designed and built for the Countess of Warwick by Harold Peto at the turn of the last century. We need to raise thousands of pounds for restoration. Our young visitors can work their way around the gardens, finding and solving the clues to the Easter puzzle and then claim their prize from the Easter Grotto. There will also be an Easter croquet challenge and the chance to 'be a bunny'. The gardens will be open from 11.30am-3.30pm (last entry 2.30pm). Entry is adult £3, children free and there is a £1 charge for the Easter Fun Trail. Daisy's will be open until 3.00pm selling homemade soup, bacon rolls, hot and cold drinks and delicious homemade cakes. Please note that the part of the Gardens belonging to Warwick House, the Italian Garden and the Walled Garden will not be open during the event. For more information, visit our website, call 01371 876979, or email enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk.

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STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

If you are a six-year-old girl or boy and want to try cricket, then come and have a go with us. Starting this season, we are welcoming a younger age group on Friday evenings from 5.30pm - more details in next month's issue. The Club juniors will be visiting Lord's Cricket Ground this summer to visit the museum and to tour the ground, which is possible because of funding received from the Jack Petchey Award Scheme. Emily Smith will return again next season from Australia to play for Essex and help the Club with coaching. Emily has been playing in Australia over the last month in the Women's Big Bash League for Hobart Hurricanes - they lost in the semi-final at the MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground). Jason Brown, Andrew McKinlay, Ryan Cunningham, and Matt Hyam will continue to lead the Friday evening sessions. Matt is not only manager and coach of the Essex Women's team but he is also coaching the county boys U15s at Chelmsford.

The Club had a successful Presentation Evening in November and once again a very well attended quiz in January. On the cricketing front, 14-year-olds Ed Catton and Thomas Snelling have both had a trial for Essex, as has Thomas's sister Anna. Numerous boys have had trials for West Essex. Nets for all ages started in February at HECC (Herts and Essex Cricket Centre). The adult indoor league team have finished mid-table and the U13s likewise. The seniors were promoted to Division 2 last season and hope to consolidate in that league. The Club continues to welcome new members of all ages - please contact me.



David Brown
Tel: 831011
Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com

Saturday 5th March at 6.00pm 20th Anniversary Concert
A Professor at the Frankfurt Music Conservatoire said recently that the internationally famous Wells Virtuosi was the finest school orchestra in the world. Matthew Souter, a former pupil at the Wells Cathedral School, is head of the String Department and trains the Wells Virtuosi chamber orchestra. Matthew's connection with *music@stansted* comes from his membership of the Alborni String Quartet **which has performed at St John's on several occasions.** Matthew says that the incredible response his students receive from audiences teaches them that music-making is all about communication. He and the students work hard as a team, and feel like they are professional colleagues. They aspire to great excellence, but have a lot of fun doing it!



Most members of the orchestra, which tours regularly across Europe and the Far East, go on to become professional musicians. Their ages range from 14 to 17, and there are currently 28 young people in the ensemble. For the orchestra's visit to Stansted, Matthew has put together a glorious programme called *A Spring Serenade*, comprising Elgar Serenade for Strings, Finzi Romance, Holst St Paul's Suite, Suk Meditation, and Dvorak Serenade for Strings. Tickets adults £15, under 18s free, from Absolute Travel; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy tel 815282 or, if still available, on the door. For further information please visit our website.

Alan Corbishley

FOOTPATH CLOSURE

Walkers who may venture in the Elsenham direction are warned that the footpath from Alsa Street over the motorway is closed at the eastern end of Alsa Wood because of construction work on the new Wilson Homes development. The right of way is due to be closed until June. There is currently no signposted alternative route and no easy way to reach the B1051 from this point. For further information, contact Essex Highways on 03456 037631 and ask for Public Rights of Way.

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book group will be on Tuesday 1st March 8.00pm at the Dog and Duck in Lower Street, where we will be discussing *Executioner Pierrepoint: An Autobiography*. Please phone or email if you would like to join us or just come along on 1st March, you will be very welcome and don't worry if you have not read the book as we find plenty of other things to talk about!



Anne Watson
Tel: 898693
Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com



Puccini *Messa di Gloria* and Rossini *Stabat Mater*

Saturday 19th March 7.30pm at Saffron Hall. Conducted by Janet Wheeler, the choir is joined by a superb quartet of soloists and the Chameleon Arts Orchestra. Tickets adults £12-£20, seniors £18, students £10, under 18s £2 from the Box Office 0845 548 7650, Tourist Information Centre 01799 524002, from our website, or on the door.

Helen Sterling

STANSTED MESSY CHURCH 31st JANUARY

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch



Cutting and colouring friendship dolls



The playdough is always popular

Nearly 70 friends new and old gathered at St Mary's School for the Churches Together in Stansted third Messy Church. The theme of *Friendship* was explored in craft, storytelling and drama. The adults and children (aged between six weeks and 12 years), together with 20 adult helpers, all took part in a variety of activities and had tea together. The craft activities included making a tree banner with words describing what makes a good friend; decorating gingerbread men; making friendship bracelets and cutting out and colouring paper dolls.



I bet I can build my wall higher than yours!

As well as a core of people from the churches in Stansted who planned the event, many others contributed to the preparation, including food for the tea - all helping to make this a free afternoon for the families in Stansted. Thanks again to St Mary's School for supporting us. The next Messy Church is on Sunday 13th March 3.30pm-5.00pm. For more information, please visit our website or contact us.

Marion Dyer Tel: 814059
Richenda Whitehead Tel: 813875
Publicity Team



What makes a good friend?



Weaving friendship bracelets

Photographs by Howard Page
For more photographs visit www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch

ALPHABET QUIZ

Each single word answer is a different letter of the alphabet. Spot the link!

- 1 Aye, Ken is an American (6)
- 2 Take an old Ford car to Nevada mountains (6)
- 3 Start with a drive, flog it on return (4)
- 4 And Lo, the star shone above the Savoy (5)
- 5 This guy's a winner (6)
- 6 Well done! (5)
- 7 Give him a trophy (5)
- 8 That guy's me darlin' (7)
- 9 ... and gets mail from Peru (4)
- 10 Men over Board, its cold this time of year (8)
- 11 Vulpine left t'rot (7)
- 12 I've heard it all before (4)
- 13 Call for him, twice, he's lost! (5)
- 14 She did, according to Shakespeare (6)
- 15 Weight of the khaki loads (4)
- 16 Soldiers dress all the same (7)
- 17 Palin diamond found in the country (5)
- 18 Take two for fizzy drink (5)
- 19 And a wee dram! (6)
- 20 At the end of the Ganges or Nile (5)
- 21 Top man! (5)
- 22 Tribesman (4)
- 23 Soundman (4)
- 24 Papageno's the daddy (4)
- 25 I can see right through you (4)

Tiebreaker: Where do you send the leftovers? (6)

Answers below

Roger Wardle



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our January meeting began with the singing of 'Happy Birthday' to Judy Colliver who had recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Our President presented her with a beautiful basket of flowers and some delicious birthday cup-cakes made by Betty Francis. Our speaker was Peter Vince, an entertaining, engaging speaker who, with the aid of some beautiful slides including one of Linnett's Wood, told us of the very necessary work of the Woodland Trust. Founded in 1972 it is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity. He explained that just 13% of the UK is covered with trees and that since the 1930s over half of our ancient woodland has been destroyed; a destruction that has had a devastating effect on our wildlife. Sixty percent of our animal and plant species have declined in the past 50 years; many are now endangered and some face extinction, but thanks to the Woodland Trust, which has 500,000 members, 31,000,000 trees have been planted and damaged woods have been restored. More information about the Trust and its work can be found on their website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or by phoning them on 0330 3335301. The entertaining thought-provoking afternoon ended with a cup of tea and a birthday cup-cake. Our March meeting will be members' day and in April we will be enjoying a return visit from Rex Freeman and his accompanist with songs and readings celebrating our maritime history. Why not come and join us? You would be most welcome. We meet in Ugley Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



A much anticipated topic this term was centred around dinosaurs. The children each enjoyed creating their own dinosaur mask by cutting and pasting different textured



materials, and reading a selection of fiction and non-fiction books all about dinosaurs. This enticed some reluctant book users to really engage with books, spending much time poring over pages and asking staff to read and re-read info about their favourite creatures. We had an exciting dinosaur hunt with our intrepid explorers following footprints outside

all through the school grounds to discover a giant standing 6ft dinosaur looking after some dinosaur eggs. Everyone was enthralled to watch them over the subsequent days and speculate what might hatch! They were introduced to new words including fossil, carnivore and herbivore. They used little brushes to gently uncover dinosaur 'fossils' set in plaster of paris and hidden in sand, and were amazed to see a vinegar and bicarb soda volcano 'erupt' before making 'volcanic rocks' to eat at our snack cafe.

We continue to play outside in all weathers and have had great fun in the sand, pouring and measuring water and caring for our plants, whilst observing changes as the bulbs emerge and other plants in our beautiful surroundings grow and change. We are fortunate to have received a grant giving the children access to two new mini PCs plus a comprehensive set of equipment for our future cookery sessions. Birchanger Nursery is a highly respected local preschool facility in the grounds of, but separate from, Birchanger Primary School. In our rural setting and well-equipped building we provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2 to 5. To arrange a visit please email admin@birchangernursery.org or telephone 810800 and read more on our website or Facebook page www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery.

Nadine Lloyd
Birchanger Nursery Committee

Tiebreaker: Quebec
Link: NATO phonetic alphabet

1	Yankee	2	Sierra	3	Golf	4	Hotel
5	Victor	6	Bravo	7	Oscar	8	Charlie
9	Lima	10	November	11	Foxtrot	14	Juliet
12	Echo	13	Romeo	17	India	20	Delta
15	Kilo	16	Uniform	19	Whisky	22	Zulu
18	Tango	25	X-ray	23	Mike		
21	Alpha						
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The spring term is going by quickly and the children are busy with sporting events, new literacy schemes and pancake eating. Some of our older children took part in an athletics tournament at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport (JFAN), where they particularly enjoyed the javelin and speed bounce events. Years 5 and 6 attended a tag rugby competition, also at JFAN, where they did very well and got third place overall. Tag rugby was a big hit with everyone and the children are hoping for the chance to play in some more tournaments. Before half term we had science week and the big event was a visit from a mobile planetarium. Both classes have been learning about space and found it very interesting. Later in the week the staff set up a round robin exercise with five different experiments and the children had a lot of fun trying all of them out. Willow class studied the significance of Shrove Tuesday to Christians and the reasons why we eat pancakes at this time of year. They looked at recipes, practised making some and everyone enjoyed eating the results! Both classes have been taking part in a new writing scheme called Talk 4 Writing and have enjoyed looking at the story of Peter and the Wolf.

Farnham is a small school achieving excellent results which is open to children resident in Essex and Hertfordshire. Several families in Stansted send their children to school at Farnham and are available to discuss the advantages with anyone who is interested. For more information, call school reception on 771339 or see our website.

Katherine Aiken
Friends of Farnham



Chief Executive Angela Dixon wins Award

Saffron Hall Chief Executive, Angela Dixon, has been named Concert Hall Manager of the Year at the prestigious Association of British Orchestras/Rhinegold Awards, which honour the backstage heroes of the classical music industry. Classic FM's Margherita Taylor presented Angela, Chief Executive at Saffron Hall since March 2014 with the award at the ABO conference dinner in January.



Angela said that it was a great honour to receive the ABO award after such a short time in post and paid tribute to the wonderful staff at Saffron Hall, the inspirational funder at Yellow Car Charitable Trust, the pupils and staff at Saffron Walden County High School and all of the artists and orchestras who had made her first two seasons such a success. The ABO is the national body representing the collective interests of professional orchestras, youth ensembles and the wider classical music industry throughout the UK.

Its annual conference this year in Birmingham focuses on 'place makers' and takes a look at the role that culture plays in creating places where people want to live, work and visit.

Samantha Walker
Marketing Director

THE CRAFTON ROOM Stansted Day and Community Centre

Following a slow start to the year with many of our regulars extending their stay with family, or staying indoors rather than facing the elements, we are now back to business as usual with several upcoming events. Apart from our regular coffee, homemade cake and lunches which are served Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.00am (lunch at 12.30pm), we have successfully revived the Stansted Seniors group on Tuesdays 1.30pm-3.30pm. We are taking it slowly to gauge interest, but the programme for the next three months is as follows: **1st March** Games afternoon with Bingo, Scrabble, Dominos and much more; **5th April** general knowledge quiz; **4th May** a trip to historic Bury St Edmunds with its market, shopping centre, and Abbey Gardens.

There will not be a Fish and Chip Friday on 25th March as this is Good Friday and we will be closed, but on Friday 1st April we will be offering a special Spring Lunch Roast Lamb with all the trimmings, a glass of wine or soft drink, divine lemon pots for dessert and a treat to take home for tea, all for just £7.50. On Saturday 11th June we will be joining with the Parish Council to lay on afternoon tea celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday, with *Best of British* as the theme for the sing along entertainment provided by Mike and Lou, professional entertainers. Tickets are free but allocated on a first come, first served basis; transport can be provided for those who are unable to make their own way here - so why not come and join us? For information about any of these events please do not hesitate to contact myself or Jo. We look forward to seeing you soon.



Julie Beck
Manager
Tel: 815091
Email: juliebeck1989@gmail.com

ELSENHAM VILLAGE FETE & CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 11th June 1.00pm-5.00pm

Plans are well under way with many stalls booked but space for more. There will be the usual pony rides, Punch and Judy, bouncy castle, plants, have-a-go stalls for the children, and a small selection of crafters. We welcome any budding fundraisers who would like to try and sell some of their gifts, or have games for people to try. For more information, to book a pitch or donate a prize please contact me.



Jennifer Jarvis
Tel: 814434
Email: pajemiki@tiscali.co.uk



Saturday 12th March 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Quiz Night at Forest Hall School. Tickets £10 (includes Ploughman's) from myself on 773751 or Caroline on 813938 email:carolinebore@gmail.com. Bring your own drinks.

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

for

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

to be held at

**The Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill,
Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex**

On WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH 2016 at 8.00 pm

A G E N D A

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2015
- 3 To introduce our guest speakers:
 - a) Simon Thompson – Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Strategy Group
 - b) Peter James – Secretary, Stansted Business Forum
- 4 To receive the Parish Council's audited accounts to 31st March 2015
- 5 To receive the Parish Council's Financial Review
- 6 Chairman's Report
- 7 To receive a report on Neighbourhood Watch
- 8 Proposed resolutions
- 9 Open Forum
- 10 Refreshments*

Ruth A Clifford
Clerk to the Council

*Tea and coffee will be served in the foyer during which time there will be an opportunity to find out more about the Speed Watch and Flood Warden campaigns – each of which need more volunteers.

NOTE

The Parish Meeting may, by law, discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them. Such resolutions are not binding upon the Parish Council, but members usually consider them at their next available meeting and consider what action, if any, to take.

Anyone wishing to speak under the Open Forum must state their name and use the microphones provided. Please try not to repeat topics already discussed. The meeting will close at 10pm at the latest.

THERE IS SOME PARKING AT THE CHURCH FOR THOSE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY - OTHERWISE PLEASE USE LOWER STREET CAR PARK

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MARCH 2016

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

31 Mar *		2012	2013	2014	2015	2015	2016	2,017	
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget *	
Item									
1	Village Maintenance and Cleaning	60,310	60,935	64,402	73,045	63,693	76,825	84,423	A
2	Recreation and Play Areas	5,308	2,983	4,504	3,799	1,184	3,699	2,699	B
3	Street Lighting	17,224	10,984	17,754	14,450	9,897	16,348	17,584	C
4	Administration and Office Costs	72,487	64,341	107,282	86,102	77,527	98,206	99,762	D
5	Members Expenses and Training	624	706	1,929	1,500	568	1,000	1,000	
6	Discretionary projects	27,646	18,906	1,512	7,050	-5,801	7,500	5,500	E
7	Christmas Fayre	n/a	4,137	1,473	0	-468	750	0	
8	Day Centre	312	4,275	931	0	-2,018	8,380	2,380	F
9	Windmill	8,920	4,000	4,650	4,000	1,720	4,000	4,000	G
10	Crafton Green rental income	- 27,500	- 27,500	- 27,500	-27,500	-13,000	-18,500	-18,500	H
11	Crafton Green Car Park	- 4,337	- 3,836	- 4,801	-2,110	-7,606	-7,111	-3,927	I
12	Capital projects	5,331	2,894	4,771	3,750	-8,953	2,750	15,750	J
	Total net expenditure	£ 166,325	£ 128,487	£ 175,045	£ 164,086	£ 116,743	£193,847	£210,671	
13	Council Tax Precept	£ 163,000	£ 187,000	£ 198,000	£ 212,000	£ 212,000	£217,000	£222,000	
	Average per Band D	£ 65	£ 65	£ 65	£ 66	£66	£66	£68	
	Net surplus or (deficit)	-£ 3,325	£ 58,513	£ 22,955	£ 47,914	£ 95,257	£23,153	£11,329	K

BALANCE SHEET at 31st March

	2012	2013	2014	2015
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Bank, cash and investments	121,258	158,434	212,836	277,445
Due to Council	14,816	48,117	33,921	48,112
Total current assets	136,074	206,551	246,757	325,557
Less: Owed by Council	8,333	9,965	27,217	10,623
Total net assets	£ 127,741	£ 196,586	£ 219,540	£ 314,934
These assets represent . . .				
Reserves for specific projects	36,329	104,946	108,640	166,379
Accumulated general reserve	91,412	91,639	110,900	148,555
	£ 127,741	£ 196,585	£ 219,540	£314,934

EXPLANATIONS OF WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE FIGURES

- 1 Grasscutting, gardening, maintenance litter and garden waste skips.
- 2 Maintenance of all play areas less rents from tennis and bowls clubs.
- 3 Lighting maintenance and energy costs.
- 4 All costs related to the function of the Parish Council and running of Crafton Green office.
- 5 Parish councillors' expenses and training.
- 6 Includes part-funding the Youth Service, CCTV, Bonfire night, Parish Grants (1% of precept).
- 8 Responsibility transferred from Uttlesford to Parish in 12/13 with grant of £11,600 pa for 3 years from UDC.
- 10 Rents from clinic and library.
- 11 50% of income from Crafton Green car park (UDC retains 50%) less business rates.
- 12 Includes contribution to unadopted roads, lighting and IT.
- 13 Precept is the element of Council Tax collected by Uttlesford specifically for this parish.

* NOTES REGARDING MAJOR VARIATIONS

- Note A Higher than anticipated burial income and lower spend on general maintenance including Green Waste skips (subsidised by UDC).
- Note B Lower maintenance costs due to new play equipment.
- Note C No testing due in the year and lower maintenance costs due to recent bulk clean and change of all bulbs. Balance to committed reserve.
- Note D Lower cleaning costs, pension deficit lower than anticipated and large saving of £6,300 on insurance premium.
- Note E UDC paid their three years of contributions to the Youth Service in this year.
- Note F Lower maintenance costs this year, balance paid into Committed Reserve Fund.
- Note G Paid usual £4,000 into the Maintenance Fund but refund of revenue costs received in 2015-16.
- Note H Health Authority were late paying and the income was received in 2015-16.
- Note I Higher than expected income from the car park.
- Note J Unexpected income in the form of grants brought in £11,345 which offset expenditure.
- Note K The surplus, which for the reasons above was higher than budgeted, has been taken into reserves pending expenditure on various projects.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Council tax (parish share) for 2016/17 will rise by 2% with projections indicating a similar rise in 2017/18. Reserves remain satisfactory.

Net spending trends are discussed below:

2015/16 - Net spending in the current year is an estimated £193,000, 3% higher than the original budget. Savings on election costs and higher car park income were either offset by increased energy costs (new contract) or by investment in new litter barrows and improvements to the Day Centre.

2016/17 – Net expenditure is forecast to increase by 10% to £212,000 to allow for increased hours for litter collection and twitchel clearing and higher costs relating to the Day Centre (relative to the UDC contribution). New Conservation kits for street lights around the Recreation Ground have been partly funded by continued rental payments from the Clinic and a number of smaller savings.

2017/18 – The out-turn will be dominated by the move into the new Crafton Green complex subject to no adverse surprise once tenders are received. An additional contribution is being sought from Essex County Council. If the Clinic move is delayed, or does not happen, there would be a budget benefit of about £20,000. The cost of maintaining the service at the Youth Centre will fall to the parish should UDC not continue its contribution.

Trend in general reserves:

	31/03/14	31/03/15	31/03/16	31/03/17
General Reserves (£'000)	111	129	126	116

Despite projected surpluses, General Reserves are projected to decline given the following allocations to Committed Reserves:

- Cost of moving electricity cables for the new building (£17,000).
- Creation of a longterm fund to improve street lighting (£20,000 over two years).
- Funding the Neighbourhood Development Plan (£10,000).

Overall, reserves are considered satisfactory.

Projects - a year of advance

The re-designed play area at Bentfield Green was completed, the new skatepark was built and is operational, the ANPR cameras on Cambridge Road have been installed, new litter barrows have been purchased and investment in the Day Centre (new front door, path, blinds and crockery) have been made.

Precept and Council Tax

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Precept (£'000)	187	198	212	217	222
Council Tax (Band D) - £	64.83	64.69	65.77	66.38	67.90
% change	- 0.4	- 0.2	+ 1.7	+0.9	+2.3

Over the five years to March 2017 council tax (parish share) will have increased by 4% and in 2015/16 is 51% lower than Saffron Walden and 49% below the figure for Great Dunmow.

Cllr Peter Jones, Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2016

The year commenced with the elections and gave us a new intake of fresh blood - six out of the fifteen are new councillors. The Council debate is lively and promotes the interests of all the residents of our village. We have seen more people visit the Council Offices this year. The interest has largely been in local planning issues and the direct impact on quality of life.

Highways issues, (particularly Cambridge Road, Chapel Hill and Church Road), continue to be on the agenda with us chasing Essex Highways to secure the use of S.106 monies for improvements such as parking and a new pedestrian crossing on Cambridge Road, footbridge at Jordon Close, speed limit reduction on Forest Hall Road and waiting restrictions for the Mountfitchet Estate and Foresthall Park.

The car parking review continues with our own Parish Council working party taking the lead and the UDC review led by Cllr Susan Barker. The PC is pursuing a meeting with Cllr Barker to ensure our issues relating to the two car parks and local on-street parking issues are ameliorated as soon as possible. We have supported UDC to begin negotiations on the procurement of additional land at the Lower Street car park to enable space for about another 28 cars. The reviewed residents' parking scheme in Lower Street also seems to have worked well and bedded in.

The plans for Walpole Farm are progressing with the Parish Council submitting its views on the landscaping proposals. The Elms Farm development should see some activity, possibly in the late Spring. The 14 Cambridge Road proposal is currently lodged for its second Planning Appeal in respect of proposed development on the site. In parallel to this the Parish Council is developing a vision for the site to promote community benefits such as improved access to Crafton Green Car Park and highway safety. We will update on this at the meeting when things may have moved forward in relation to the appeal and the development of our vision.

The newly installed flood alert system is working, and a recent meeting of Flood Wardens clarified roles and responsibilities and a call-out priority system for supporters. We continue to await the report from the Environment Agency in relation to forward strategies. We also continue to chase the monies from Essex County Council that were allocated to the most affected areas of Uttlesford in the 2014 floods. A Member of the Flood Working Group will be in the foyer afterwards to talk about this and the SpeedWatch campaign which also needs new volunteers.

As we go to print we are looking forward to opening the tenders for our new Community building at Crafton Green. The health centre building has also progressed and the Parish Council has met with the new practice manager at the surgery and hopes to promote some good partnership working, especially in the new building.

The Magna Carta celebrations were a feature of the year past; and in support of promoting the history of our community, the Parish Council is assisting Peter Sanders to gain grant funding to publish the first recorded history of Stansted Mountfitchet. We look forward to the opening of our new "Magna Carta Primary School" in St John's Road in September 2017.

One of our biggest commitments is the Neighbourhood Development Plan and you will hear more about this from the Chair of the Strategy Group at the meeting. The Group has begun some local consultation exercises and these will become more extensive over the next year looking at how the village can reasonably, logically and sustainably develop. To assist the process, and the increased workload, the appointment of a Project Co-ordinator is being considered. The Parish Council is also undertaking a review of street lighting and signage and will establish plans to replace and improve. Our accounts are in good shape – see the Financial Review.

The skatepark and Bentfield Play Area are successful achievements for our Open Spaces committee this year. Thanks to my colleague councillors for their hard work and promotion of the needs of the community, also to our office staff. Thanks and good wishes to Gerard Frogley for a long and happy retirement after 13 years' service collecting the litter from our village. His post is covered temporarily until we can recruit a replacement.

Cllr Maureen Caton, Chairman



Spring Litter Pick – Your Village Needs You!

Volunteers are asked to meet outside the Day Centre at Crafton Green on **Saturday 5th March** at 10.00am. Please bring your gardening gloves. All other equipment supplied. This event is supported by Churchill's and all volunteers get a voucher for a free meal. Contact the Parish Council on 813214 for further details.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

March

- 2nd Full Council
- 14th Civil Protection
- 16th **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - at Free Church**
- 23rd Full Council
- 30th Open Spaces

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford. Admin Assist - Anne Court
 Assistant to the Parish Clerk-Trevor Lloyd
 Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net
 Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10.00am - 1.00pm
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Alheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	classical concerts	Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Vivian Falk, Chairman Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs, Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Brownies (Tuesday)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Brownies (Wednesday)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734	Rotary Club	Jan Durkin 01799 516186 Email: jandurkin94@gmail.com
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis, District Commissioner Tel: 814434	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	U3A	Helen, Chair Tel: 812945
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver, President Tel: 812945
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Inner Wheel Club	June Milne, President Tel: 01371 875370 Email: june.milne@ymail.com	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
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Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232		
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213		
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
music@stansted -	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282		

Note: This list will be updated as and when we learn of any changes. If you would like the details of your organisation to be added please let us know. (Contact details on page 1.)

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



Mountfitchet House Care Home

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LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Dr Richard Nunn - Early general practice

This was a very enjoyable and interesting presentation covering Dr Nunn's career as a GP from 1972-2000 at Dunmow, a locum for two years at many surgeries including Stansted, followed by ten years at Elsenham, retiring a few years ago. His talk was a mixture of early practice treatments and procedures, along with a number of true humorous stories from his local career. These included a story about a branch surgery at Leaden Roding where amazingly all medicines were left outside the building on a shelf for collection or delivery. He recalled on one occasion a gentleman asked about the results of his urine sample. Dr Nunn said that he had not received the urine test, to which the gentleman replied that he had left it outside on the shelf in a whisky bottle! No doubt, someone had a little shock there. There was also the time in the 70s when he did not lock his car due to emergency call outs. He remembered receiving a call in the middle of the night, and on the way to the call noticing a naked courting couple in the back of his car. He explained that he could not stop as it was an emergency, so they would have to wait in the car. After he had treated the sick person, he was offered a cup of tea, so he went and retrieved the couple from the car to join him for refreshments!

Summer Outing to Boughton House Tuesday 31st May



Photograph by kind permission of the Duke of Buccleuch
Tickets £45, to include coach transport, morning coffee, house tour, lunch and afternoon coach tour of estate and village, from Janice on 813226. The **next meeting** will be 3rd March 8.00pm in the Day Centre, behind the library, when Tony Morton will be giving us a presentation on Uttlesford Woodland - all welcome. Cost £2 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177



BEEKEEPING

I would like to think that I did not write for the Link last month because there was nothing going on with the bees, but it was just due to my inefficiency as I missed the copy deadline! In fact, there has been a lot going on. In an unusually mild winter the bees seem to be confused, as do beekeepers. Usually in winter bee numbers in the colony drop from 60,000 to about 3,000, and, having extracted the honey, beekeepers feed the colony on sugar solution in the autumn to make up for the loss of honey.

Bees do not over eat or over store, so they stop taking in the sugar solution when they are ready, and this is easily spotted by the bee keeper and he will stop feeding the colony. This year has been a bit different, in that bee numbers have not dropped as much due to the mild weather, and the colony has continued to take in feed to ensure the survival of the colony through winter. This has confused us poor humans, and most beekeepers have continued to feed their colonies for longer than usual. We do not know what will happen in the spring – will colonies be stronger due to higher bee survival rates? All I know is that my bees have continued to fly over winter, especially on mild days, and therefore must have needed the energy from extra winter feeding. Another plus factor this winter is that there has been little activity by the green woodpecker. These birds are ground feeders and tend to eat ants, but when the ground is frozen, they peck into bee hives to eat the grubs. With this mild winter, the woodpeckers seem to be able to find food in the ground, so have left bee hives to their own devices. Thank you to those who have booked on the April Beginners' Course which is now full, and welcome to the world of beekeeping. So all good news – let us hope the honey crop lives up to expectation.



John Dockerill
Chairman Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association
Email: training@stortfordbees.org.uk

MICROCHIPPING

You never know when you get a pet whether you are going to be a regular visitor to the vets or just a once-a-year-for-a-check-up kind of person. Dave is a regular visitor: he is a Lurcher with an eye for the ladies and a tendency to roam, so much so that he sometimes forgets where his home is! Dave often gets picked up by members of the public and brought into the surgery. The first time, we scanned him to see if he had a microchip – nope! Luckily for Dave, his owner thought to ring the local vets and ask if they had him and so we were able to reunite them. Dave's owner promised to get him microchipped. She forgot. The second time Dave was brought in, we scanned him to see if he had a microchip. Nope. This time we microchipped Dave when his owner came to collect him and now every time he comes in, he is scanned, we ring his owner and he is home within the hour! To be honest, we recognise him as soon as he walks through the door, but the point of the story is: be smart, don't be like Dave, get a microchip! From 6th April, all dogs will be required by law to be microchipped and registered on an authorised database. Mercer and Hughes has been offering free microchips for dogs in Uttlesford for over two years in preparation for them becoming compulsory, and we will do so until April. Microchipping is quick, painless and safe. Every dog – whether elderly or a farm dog – will need one. In addition, puppies will have to be microchipped before they are eight-weeks old. Over the next couple of months we are running microchipping events around Uttlesford in conjunction with the Dog Warden; you can ring us for advice or go onto Petlog's website for more details www.petlog.org.uk.



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons
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FILM REVIEW – THE REVENANT

I don't know how or why, but I am one of the very few for whom this movie did very little. Cinematically, it's brilliant, with 360° panning (despite the nausea-inducing effect that can have) and breathtaking landscape shots aplenty. Where it fails, I feel, is the lack of anything substantial plot-wise. Alejandro Iñárritu's strength lies in his ability to capture reality, evident in *The Revenant* during the horrific bear-mauling scene that has audiences gasping in wide-eyed horror. What makes Leonardo di Caprio's performance so compelling is the hardship he endured in the making of the film.



The raw liver he eats during his never-ending journey to recovery and civilisation is real; his gagging is real - something the director decided not to cut - not least because, being a vegetarian, it is something he would never do. It is

the harshest of survival-against-the-odds tales. No, despite the feeling that you are there with him, freezing, fighting off death, starving, and all the while hoping that he can just pull through just another adversity, it feels like it goes on for too long. It is a hefty 156 minutes; and as realistic as Iñárritu strives to be with his film, the truth is that there is a lot that is preposterous, making it far from believable. During a chase by a tribe of native American-Indians, Glass (di Caprio) leaps off a cliff edge on horseback. It's a substantial drop. The horse dies, but his fall is kind of broken by a pine tree and he survives, subsequently cutting the horse open, eviscerating it, stripping off and climbing inside for a warm sleep and some healing. It's a visceral film, full of gore and horror. It may have you on the edge of your seat but if you like something substantial, with a bit of 'meat', this isn't it.

Anna Nolan



Stansted Cricket Club

After nine matches the Club are fourth in Division 3B of the 6-aside HECC Sport Indoor Cricket League, having won three and lost six matches. Club nets are 11.00am-noon on Sundays at Birchwood High School until 10th April. There was a good turnout on the first week. We have four lanes available, so everyone has a good opportunity to bat and bowl. The Club's AGM is on Thursday 3rd March 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Football Club. All members are urged to attend, especially as we have a few vacancies on the Committee to fill. The HECL Spring Meeting is on Monday 11th April. As there have been a number of clubs leaving the League and new ones applying to join, we await confirmation of the make-up of the various divisions. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring next season on a regular basis to contact the secretary. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



David Hedge
Hon Secretary
Tel: 812509
Email: dchedge49@gmail.com



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The 10-week course has been developed over several years by our experienced coaching team, to introduce you to running in a safe and enjoyable way. We start with gentle walk/jog sessions, and by the end you will be able to run 10 kilometres. Along the way we give you advice on footwear, nutrition and clothing, and teach you stretches to help you stay injury free. The course is 20th April-22nd June 7.15pm for 7.30pm, at the Clubhouse, Beldams Lane, Bishop's Stortford, and uses the Club field and local off-road tracks.

Is this course for me?

It is suitable for absolute beginners or those who have not run recently. If you can walk at a brisk pace for 30-60 minutes, and can jog the distance between two lamp posts then you are ready for the course. You do not need to attend every session – most miss a few sessions - but you do need to practise another 2-3 times every week so that you are ready for the next session. If you can already run 10k, you may prefer to join the running club immediately.

What do I need to wear?

You do not need lots of kit, but it is important that you are comfortable. Special running shoes are not needed as you will not be running long distances just yet. Kit advice is given in the information packs before and during the course.

Who leads the course?

Sessions are supervised by qualified running coaches.

What happens after the course?

At the end you will have the chance to take part in the Bishops Stortford 5 mile race at Hatfield Forest on 3rd July, and later the Takeley 10k in September together with the others on the course. Beyond this, the Running Club has groups for all abilities and you can continue your running in one of those groups. You can attend Club events and regular coaching sessions free of charge until 31st March 2017. The course costs £75, and includes Club membership to March 2017 and free entry to the 5 mile race.

How do I join?

Visit www.bsrg.org.uk/join-beginners/beginners and email the completed forms to me. Please pay by Internet Banking if possible or send payment by cheque - details on the forms. Entry is on a first come, first served basis and the course fills up quickly, so be sure to get your entry in early! For further information please contact me.

Lorraine Evans

Tel: 814360

Email: membership@bsrg.org.uk

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DEFIBRILLATOR LAUNCH

Exactly two years since the pancake party, which started fund-raising for defibrillators in Stansted, a reception was held to launch the defibrillator, which you may have noticed



on the outside wall of the Day Centre, and to pay tribute to the first responder team. Wendy Risdale-Barrs of the East of England Ambulance Service started the evening with a few words about the importance of defibrillators to the community, and then the first responders told us what their role is - far more than using a defibrillator, which in many medical emergencies may not be necessary. It is reassuring

to know that if you dial 999 for an ambulance, a first responder may be the first on the scene, and can give assistance and reassurance. Matt Jessup, with his model Annie, then demonstrated how a defibrillator works.



The money for defibrillators came from an appeal of Churches Together in Stansted and from fund-raising by the customers of the King's Arms. A second fixed defibrillator will shortly be installed in the telephone box in Lower Street, which has been adopted by the Parish Council and refurbished. The picture shows Wendy holding the defibrillator with first responders Judy Lloyd, Danielle Mathias, Malcolm Lloyd, Steve Hockley, James Mace, Fran Richards, and Matt Jessup. It would be good if there were more first responders to share the load. Full training is given and the minimum commitment is only 6 hours per month. Please contact Fran Richards on 812748 for more details.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

CAN YOU HELP?

I am researching the history of Bentfield Close and have some quite good site plans up to 1933, and from 2000 to date, but ideally would like any available plans for the interim period. If you have any other details, or stories from people who lived or worked on the site before it was developed into housing that would be very helpful.

Keith Murdoch
Tel: 816086
Email: keithmurdoch@fsmail.net

STANSTED SURGERY



New Surgery

The building work is progressing well and we are planning to move during July. The premises will alleviate many of the challenges that patients and staff have experienced in recent years and will allow for substantial expansion to cater for the growing population. If you want to be involved or hear more about the surgery, please join our patient participation group (see below).

Improving our Service

Since last year we have taken significant steps forward in trying to improve the service offered at the surgery and whilst we recognise we still have some way to go, our achievements to date include:

- 20% increase in Flu vaccinations for the over 65s
- Double the number of health checks for 40-74 year olds than in the entire previous year
- Two new doctors, a primary care practitioner and a practice nurse
- 93%-97% of patients seen within 10 minutes of their appointment time
- 90% people get their requested appointment
- 7 hours of appointments between 7.00am-8.00am or 6.30pm-7.00pm – 2½ hours more than we are required to

Areas for improvement include

- Getting through to the surgery by phone more quickly (only 55% get through within 5 minutes at the busiest time of day)
- Being able to book more appointments in advance
- More flexibility on appointment slot time

In April we will be changing our surgery times to reduce the risk of delays and increasing the number of appointments available in the afternoon particularly at the end of school time period.

Barry Chandler
Practice Manager

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

The PPG is a very important means of communication between the surgery staff and patients. The aim is for the surgery to better understand the issues that are important to patients through the use of surveys, and make changes in response to identified needs. We would like the group to be representative of **all** surgery users and welcome new members. Your opinion matters, and surgery users are the best people to inform what does and doesn't work. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of alternate months at the surgery 7.00-9.00pm; however, you do not have to attend meetings to participate – you can contribute by posting comments on our Facebook page: Stansted Surgery PPG. The group is led by patients and any information will be handled in the strictest confidence and in accordance with the Data Protection Act. If you would like to join, please complete the sign up form on the surgery website or ask for a form at the surgery. Meeting dates for this year are 17th March, 19th May, 21st July, 22nd September and 17th November. For further information please contact me.

Fran Richards
Tel: 812748
Email: frannie.richards@googlemail.com

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Weekend GP appointments now available in Uttlesford

A new Weekend GP Service is being trialled in Uttlesford, and has received positive feedback. The majority of people who have used the service have been of working age and may not be able to access appointments during the week. The NHS service operates from Saffron Walden Community Hospital in Radwinter Road and Dunmow Community Centre. Appointments must be made through patients' own GP surgery; it is not a 'walk-in service'. All GP practices in Uttlesford are taking bookings for the new service to see a GP, healthcare assistant or nurse for routine appointments, health checks and treatments. People with long term health conditions such as asthma and diabetes can also access these appointments. To book an appointment, simply contact your GP in the usual way. The service is funded through a grant from the Prime Minister's Access Fund and is a pilot managed by two local GP companies, Stellar Healthcare and



Uttlesford Health, which have been set up by the GP practices in the area. Interim Chief Executive of Uttlesford Health, Liz Adams, pictured with Sir Alan Haselhurst, commented that they are incredibly proud to have launched this service allowing people greater access to GP appointments and providing greater choice to fit in with busy lifestyles. The demand for GP appointments is increasing and this service will help relieve that demand.

Kay Odysseos
 Communications Manager
 Tel: 01992 566140
 Email: weccg.comms@nhs.net

WARNING – BOGUS BUILDERS ARE ABOUT!

An elderly lady in the village had an unsolicited caller knock on her door. It was a builder claiming that her gutter needed repairing. Fortunately she did not allow the builder to enter her home and closed the door on him. She phoned her son who was able to immediately go to her house. There was no damage to her guttering - the builder was a CON man. **A warning to all, especially the older folk in the village; do not allow unsolicited builders or others into your home or to do any work on your house. Take their business card and contact the police.**

Ray Woodcock

Aircraft noise is bad for your health

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) welcomes the new report into Aircraft Noise and Public Health produced by the Aviation Environment Federation (AEF), launched recently in the House of Commons. Dr Tania Mathias MP, accompanied by Professor Stephen Stansfeld of Queen Mary College, London, and Tim Johnson, Director of the AEF, chaired the launch event. In 1999, the World Health Organisation (WHO) Charter on Transport, the Environment and Health, recommended that community wellbeing be prioritised in transport and infrastructure policies. The report provides clear evidence that detrimental effects on health already exist in the vicinity of all major airports and under their flight paths. Increasing the number of flights at Stansted would add to the burden for local residents, including the elderly and school children. There is now considerable evidence that adults disturbed by aircraft noise suffer sleep loss, fatigue, and accidents from concentration failure. Furthermore, interruption in teaching from low-flying aircraft has a detrimental effect on learning in schools. In this context, Professor Stansfeld drew attention to the multi-national RANCH study that showed that primary school children living in the airport vicinities suffered impaired cognitive development.

There is increasing evidence that noise from aviation may adversely affect cardiovascular health. Poor sleep may cause endocrine and metabolic disturbances. The AEF report highlights the 'HYENA' studies (hypertension and exposure to noise near airports) that showed increases in blood pressure and risk of cardiovascular disease. These studies accounted for other compounding factors like age and lifestyle. The WHO intends to produce new community noise guidelines later this year. This new report highlights the importance of health impacts in aviation planning but it is essential that the Departments of Transport, Environment and Education all have an input.

Professor Jangu Banatvala CBE
 SSE Aviation Health Issues Advisor
 Tel: 870558

Email: info@stopstanstedexpansion.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The Windmill will be open on Easter Sunday 27th March and Bank Holiday Monday 28th March, and all children who visit the mill on those two days will receive a Windmill badge and a small Easter related gift. We will also open on Sunday 3rd April. Opening hours are 1.30pm-5.30pm. January saw our first visit from young people staying at Gorsefield and we understand that more visits are planned shortly. We are looking forward to our AGM on Friday 4th March at the Day Centre 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Membership forms will be delivered before then.



Molly Clark
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Nature Notes

Among the least often seen of our local wild creatures are our local reptiles - grass snakes, common lizards and slow-worms, which are legless lizards. In my younger days they were fairly common and I used to come across them much more often. They are cold blooded animals which have been around since the age of the dinosaurs and their species must have survived climate changes vastly more extreme than we are experiencing at present. One can assume, therefore, that their apparent decline in numbers has more to do with other factors than any change in the weather. Our own impact on their habitat is obvious, but another cause could be the arrival of new predators on the block. To

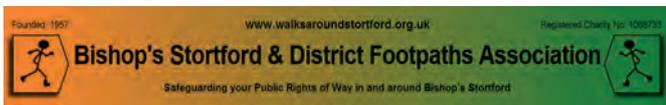


give an example, this photograph shows the head of a grass snake which I picked up by the River Stort near Stansted a year or two ago. Snakes and lizards occasionally slough, or shed their skins, as they grow and the skin includes the eyecaps, thin layers over the eyes which are shed with the skin. This

snake has a bluish misty eye which indicates that it is about to slough. At this time its vision is impaired which is probably why I was able to pick it up quite easily, but also while it lies sunning itself on the grassy riverbank it is easy prey for the buzzards and red kites which now patrol our skies. Grass snakes will rear up and hiss when threatened but do not bite, and when first picked up they exude a smelly liquid but they soon calm down because they like the warmth of a hand. When we were boys a good trick was to put snakes or slowworms inside our shirts and they would be quite happy to curl up in there. For some reason, when girlfriends appeared on the scene they seemed reluctant to share in these activities!



Felix



www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

Walks for March and April

6th March: 5/6 miles 10.00am Eastwick War Memorial.
G/Ref: TL434117. SatNav: CM20 2QY

20th March: 5/6 miles 10.00am Furneux Pelham Church.
G/Ref: TL432279. SatNav: SG9 0LH

10th April: 5/6 miles 10.00am Twyford Lock C/Pk Pig Lane
G/Ref: TL493193. SatNav: CM22 7PA

23rd April (Saturday) 5/6 miles 10.00am Cricketers Arms,
Rickling Green G/Ref: TL509299. SatNav: CB11 3YG

Please note our walk on 23rd April is on a Saturday

Thank you to all our Super 'Newbies' for joining us. It is really great meeting a whole new group of people on our Saturday or Sunday fortnightly walks, and we hope that you

have enjoyed stretching your legs and taking the air. The alternative - well yes, you could just curl up in a warm comfy chair, with a book and relax - but it has to be better for your lifestyle to swing your arms and legs for just a couple of hours a fortnight, and, you still have the afternoon free. Well done!! The Footpaths Association has been checking its archived newsletters and photographs. We are looking forward to working with the Bishop's Stortford Rhodes Museum to have these records digitised and included in a small exhibition at the museum in time for our 60th Anniversary next year! The Curator will be holding a meeting in March for existing and new volunteers to discuss and assist in future projects, so check the Rhodes museum for further details on this. There is a local farmer who is looking at rationalising the footpaths and bridleways on his land, so that some paths will link more meaningfully, whilst others will take less muddy routes around the field edges. This could benefit both him and walkers, and we are watching progress.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Publicity Officer

Email: secretary@walksaroundstortford.org.uk

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Spring is on its way! Lengthening days indicates the approach of spring with increasing numbers of birds singing, twigs bursting into leaf and flowers opening. With the recent unseasonably warm weather many flowers are already blooming; some are stragglers from last autumn, others are spring flowers opening early. Members of the Botanical Society of the British Isles recorded 612 different species in flower at the start of 2016 compared to 368 at the same time in 2015. Many spring flowers have yellow petals which are highly visible to passing insects but also help to lift our spirits on dull grey days! They include colts-foot, cowslips, daffodils, dandelions, lesser celandines, primroses and winter aconites. Another with yellow petals is the rare oxlip which is only found in a few localities within west Essex, south Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. This is a perennial plant with a rosette of leaves from which arise short stalks, each topped with a cluster of 10 to 30 pale yellow primrose-like flowers, all facing in the same direction. Sadly, this rather rare woodland plant is a threatened species as deer find its flowers very tasty. However, colonies of this beautiful plant can be seen in two of the nature reserves managed by Essex Wildlife Trust - Shadwell Wood near Saffron Walden and West Wood near Thaxted. Coppice management provides ideal conditions for oxlips as well as many other springtime species, so these woods are well worth a visit in the coming weeks. Further details of these and other reserves can be found on the Essex Wildlife Trust website: www.essexwt.org.uk. The What's On page on our website lists opportunities to help in conservation work there and at other local nature reserves.

Tricia Moxey
Trustee
Tel: 01277 364522



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This term the Explorer group children have carried out science experiments with water, seeing what happens when it is left outside in the cold. They also created a winter themed picture that all of the children contributed to. They have been looking at the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', studying the maths and language of size – big/little, small/large. The home corner was turned into the Three Bears' house and all the children have been able to re-enact the story. We have welcomed ten new children into the Explorers group, who have all settled well. Both groups have been busy celebrating Chinese New Year, making a dragon and doing the dragon dance.



For Pancake Day, they enjoyed pancake races and eating pancakes at snack time (not the same ones as used in the races!). We are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers; the scheme runs until 5th May at all Sainsbury's stores, petrol stations, online orders and Sainsbury's Local stores. The vouchers enable us to claim a number of items from equipment for fun activities to educational items to promote healthy eating. We would be grateful for any vouchers – please drop them in our letterbox. Our **Rainbow Fun Day** is on **15th May** at St Mary's School. Stalls, rides and fun for all the family – book the date now! Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. To apply for a place, please visit our website. You need to put your child's name down now, however young to ensure a place. Contact Gill Pursglove our Administrator on 814242 or email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net.

Clair Rava
Parent/Committee Member

Stansted Tennis Club



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Boyd Trophy

Friday 18th March 9.30am. A sign-up sheet is on the clubhouse noticeboard for those who would like to play.

Ladies' Night

Monday 14th March 7.00pm. All lady members (especially new ones) are welcome to come along and play.

Tennis balls

£1 for a tube of 4 from Jan Hollis at 105 Cambridge Road.

Contacts:

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574 or visit our website.



Chris Hollis

GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

March is ideal for pruning many roses that were not pruned in Autumn. Cut to an outward-facing bud to encourage an open-centred shape, to the desired height for growth to branch from. Cuts should be no more than 5mm (¼ in) above a bud and slope away from it. This applies to all cuts, whether removing dead wood (back to healthy white pith), deadheading or annual pruning, cut to a branch, or thorn if no dormant buds are visible. Ensure secateurs are sharp as cuts must be clean. For larger stems, you can use loppers or a pruning saw. Remove weak, spindly and crossing stems. On established roses, take out poorly flowering old wood and saw away old stubs that have failed to produce new shoots. With the exception of climbing roses and shrub roses, if they have not already been done so by the supplier, prune all newly planted roses hard to encourage vigorous shoots. As the temperature rises on sunny days, aphids will congregate around new shoots and young leaves that are just opening. Aphids can be scraped off and squished with (gloved) fingers, and it is a good time for drenching any pots for vine weevil with parasitic nematodes. Slugs will aim for your new shoots too, so pick them off as well. Willows and cornus (dogwoods) grown for winter colour can be cut back in mid-March. It has been a terrific winter for worms who have been busily worming away underground creating tunnels for air to get down and improve the health of your plants and lawns. One area where they can be a slight nuisance though is where they cast their soil waste onto your lawn in little piles. Disperse worm casts with a hard brush once they have dried out, you can then mow the lawn as normal. Failure to disperse the casts can lead to ideal places for weed germination.

Paul the Gardener



I write this having just returned from the Huw Johnson Club's New Year's Party, which this year was very kindly hosted by the Inner Wheel Club of Bishop's Stortford. We were treated to an evening of magic, performed by Mr Jolley, which saw him make a drawing come to life and make objects disappear into thin air. We were then served a delicious selection of food, including many cakes! We really are very grateful to all the ladies from the Inner Wheel Club, not only for putting on such a lovely party but for fully funding it too – we all had a great time and really enjoyed being waited upon! Apart from two weeks off at Easter, we now run right through to 14th July. We have a packed timetable, from a Film Night, Music Night and Keep Fit Session, to crafts evenings and visits from several special guests. If you would like to come along and join in, please do give me a call. If you would like to support Ellen Brooks, a volunteer at the Huw Johnson Club for over 20 years, in her efforts to run the London Marathon in April in aid of the club, please contact me or log on to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/EllenBrooksLondonMarathon>. For more information about the club, please contact Sandra Embleton on 812627 or myself; we desperately need new mini-bus escorts and drivers so do get in touch!



Katharine Collis
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This March, the Bishop's Stortford Theatre has some fantastic theatre productions for you to enjoy.

Arabian Nights and Days 4th March 8.00pm

A hilarious and moving adaptation of this classic from the Shifting Sands Theatre Company. The Sultan summons a new wife every night; every morning she is killed. His victims mount; fear grows. Who will be next? Then Scheherazade, the daughter of the High Counsellor, demands to be his next wife! All are dumbfounded; has she lost her senses? A feast of physical theatre and clowning, a celebration of the power of stories to stir our imagination and make us laugh! Tickets £14 adult, £11 concession, £10 schools and youth groups.

Thoroughly Modern Millie 10th-12th March 7.30pm, Saturday Matinee 2.30pm

BSMT Juniors will be staging their production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Based on the 1967 Academy Award-winning film, the musical takes you back to the height of the Jazz Age in New York City. Tickets £15 adult, £12 concession, £48 family. All tickets are £12 on Thursday.

The History Boys 15th-19th March 7.30pm



Alan Bennett's multi-award winning play is brought to us by Phoenix Theatre Arts, and follows an unruly bunch of upper sixth formers as they prepare to take entrance examinations for Oxford and Cambridge in the mid-1980s. Along the way they are helped, hindered, enlightened and bemused by a maverick English teacher and two History teachers with very differing styles. Tickets £16 adult, £14 concession, £9 schools. For all tickets visit our website or call the Box Office on 710200.



RSPB STORT VALLEY

Our next talk at 7.30pm on 8th March in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford (next to Tesco) is by Ralph and Brenda Todd entitled *Operation Osprey - Loch Garten*. Entry £2, Visitors £3.50. The next morning walk will be on Sunday 20th March at Hatfield Aerodrome. Meet by Bishop's Stortford Waitrose at 9.00am Call 07814 680561 for more details. You might wish to bring a packed lunch.

Sheila Bowles
Tel: 814973

DID YOU KNOW?

Stansted's Market and Fair Day had for many years been 1st May until 1871 when order was made to abolish it by Mr Secretary Bruce of the Stansted Vestry quoting the Fairs Act of that year. As a result the Recreation Ground was used for the sale of cattle and horses on 18th May. Admission was: Horses 2d per head, Cattle 1d and sheep 3d per score. The Fair returned to the Recreation Ground on 1st May 1903 and the Herts and Essex Observer reported it as being well attended. By 1905, Messrs H A Gayford and Riches organised half yearly fairs for the sale of 120 cattle including some capital steers in forward condition, calf heifers, two fat bullocks, fat cows, fat calves, barren cows, seventeen lambs, store pigs, 20 horses, cart horse, cart colts, nags, goat, and harness, a large quantity of dead stock, tumbrels, carts, bicycles, battens, boards, posts, and wire. The following year there were only 50 head of cattle and a few horses for the May sale. Come 1916, in the depth of World War I, the council considered they should not cancel the May Fair, much to the annoyance of Mr Harold Smith, who wrote an unaddressed letter to the council; he possibly was a Special Police Constable.

Essex
April 11th 1916

To the Chairman

Re: Stansted Pleasure Fair

Dear Sir,

With reference to the company, here, (Troops?) may I be allowed to enquire if it is expected that the usual May Fair will be held in this village with the many evils attending the same. At this time surely these people might be better employed on the land and elsewhere.

I have no hesitation in stating that, were the village petitioned, a large majority would be strongly in favour of abolishing, or if this be impossible requiring the proprietors (pro tem) to hold these so called Pleasure Fairs some little distance outside the village as is done in other towns (Ware in Hertfordshire).

In the interests of the Parish of Stansted, I presume you, Sir, and your council have the power to move the matter, and if so desired, upon hearing from you, I will set to work and take the feeling of residential folk, trades people and other ratepayers.

Awaiting your reply,

Yours faithfully,
Harold J. Smith

Essex Spl C. 1397

And finally ...

The clocks go forward one Hour at 1.00am on Sunday 27th March (Easter Sunday)



Index to Advertisers

Animal Care	B Stortford Dog Training Club	10	Halls for Hire	Quaker Meeting House	10
	Debs Dogs	26		Ugley Village Hall	10
	Mercer & Hughes	OBC	Furnishings	Stort Blinds	IFC
Art & Craft	Millway Stationery	IFC	Household	D C Alarms	28
Building	A C Wright Building Contractors	36	Installations	Mediacomms	28
Services	Churchills General Builders	36		SDS Aerials	28
	D S Designs (Architects)	IFC	Hypnotherapy	Glynis Cheers	12
	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	36	Jeweller	John Wilson	10
	David Fortune (Builder)	OBC	Legal	Lever & Co Solicitors	18
	Vester Property Services	36	Leisure	Elsenham Golf Club	IBC
Carpentry	Furniture by Design	34	Motor	D Bonney & Sons	28
	Gillson Carpentry & Joinery	36	Services	Conway Chauffeur Drive	IFC
	Nouvelle Carpentry & Building	34		Hilton Rental	16
Cleaning	Clear Ovens	16		J & R Cars	16
	Domestic Goddesses	IBC		Stansted Airport cars	16
	Ecaterina Domestic Cleaning	16	Painting &	Ada Decorating	32
	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	16	Decorating	Brown's Painting & Decorating	32
	Herts & Essex Carpet Cleaning	16		CSC Plastering	34
	Oven Bright	16		David Duncan Decorating	32
Community &	Hearing Help	12		Lesley Anne (Decorating)	32
Care	Helpline	16		MWR Interiors	32
	Mountfitchet House Care Home	26		Prime decor	32
	Stansted Social Club	22		Ray on the Hill	32
Computing	MCM Computer Services	10		Shutes Painting & Decorating	32
Dance	Graham School of Dance	8	Personal	T F Plastering	34
	Mitchell School of Dance	8	Services	Bentfield Beauty Spa	12
Dental	Simply Teeth	8		Make Up Forever (Beauty)	12
Education &	Jan Rickwood (Baby Massage)	12		George Cooper (Physiotherapy)	6
Children	Music Lessons	10		R Handford (Chiropody)	6
	Rainbow Pre-School	18		Julie Golden (Chiropody)	12
	Tuition	10		Lower Street Clinic	6
Electrical	Albury Electrical Services	30	Pest Control	Stansted Chiropractic	6
	CK Electrical	30	Photography	Stansted Psychotherapy	12
	Dean Mason	34	Pilates	Williams (Osteopath)	6
	Stansted Electric	30		Pesteco	16
Fam History	Past Discoveries	18		Saffron Photo	18
Financial	Mansell & Co Accountants	IBC		Akasha (Pilates & Yoga)	8
Food	Crimson 8 Chinese	IBC		Back to Basics (Pilates)	8
	Dog & Duck	24	Plumbing &	Harpers Plumbing & Heating	OBC
	Lams Chinese Takeaway	24	Heating	JDW Gas Heating Specialist	30
	Linden House	OBC		Jones (Plumbing & Heating)	30
	Lower Street Brasserie	IBC		Knight Plumbing	30
	Mayflower Chinese	24		KS Group Heating & Plumbing	30
	Sonargow Indian	24		Newman's Home Services	30
	The Bean House	24		Orion Heating	30
	The Cork House	24	Printing	Stansted Gas Services	30
Funeral	Bishop's Stortford Cooperative	26		CZ Design & Print	28
Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	26	Property	Aaran Glass	36
Garden	Cox Farm & Forestry	38	Maintenance &	Do-It-4U	34
Services	Crystal Clear Ponds	34	Improvement	Fairweather Windows	IFC
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC		Finch and Son	OBC
	Lawn Supremacy	38		Gdn & Property Maintenance	36
	Logs Logs Logs	38		Herts & Essex Window Doctor	36
	Mowtivated	38	Retailers	Family News (Londis)	10
	The Secret Gardener	38		Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts)	IFC
	Tree Management Company	38	Spiritualists	Arthur Findlay College	18
	Uppercut Trees	38	Stonemason	J Day & Son	16
Hairdressing	Barnet Fayre	12	Travel	Absolute Travel	IBC
	Lino Thomas	OBC	Will Writing	Herts & Essex Wills	10
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