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Front cover:
 Stansted Skatepark Jam
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Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine
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The Link is produced by Stansted Mountfitchet Magazine Community Interest Company and supported by local churches, businesses and the Parish Council. It is delivered free to over 3000 homes and businesses in Stansted. Further copies may be purchased for £1 each or £11.00 per year, plus postage. Each edition is also available on our website.

EDITORIAL



The Link provides everyone in the local community with a voice; without your positive ideas and contributions there wouldn't be a magazine. With that thought in mind *Stansted Matters Teens* on page 7 makes it clear that young people in Stansted are passionate about where they live. They have a voice and would like to be heard on issues such as education and their future contribution to the village. One of the most precious things in life is good health, *My Weight Matters* on page 4 provides valuable information about a health and weight management consultancy being provided by the NHS for free – grab it while it's available! Are you, or someone you know, going through a difficult time due to a divorce or separation? Read about the *Divorce Recovery Workshop* initiative on page 4, this information could prove invaluable. Finally, *Tell your story of living in Essex* on page 29 is a writing competition aimed at older residents who like nothing better than telling a good story about 'back in my day'. Stay in touch with events in your community by reading The Link magazine.

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CONTRIBUTIONS Up to 300 words in Word format. Photographs to be sent separately (jpeg)
 By email (preferred) to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by noon on 11th November for the December/January issue or by hand/post by noon on 8th November to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The clocks have reverted to GMT and the evening twilight comes creeping earlier and earlier to herald the onset of winter. The month of November is strongly associated with Remembrance Day, the poppies, the parades and all the other services we hold to honour collectively, giving tribute to the brave men and women who have lost their lives in the last 100 years through armed conflict. They gave their lives so that today we could enjoy peace and a better world.

Alas the television and media bring daily updates of the awful consequences and the suffering in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. We can only imagine the suffering of the civilian populations as their homes, hospitals and schools are destroyed. Peace is elusive, even a brief truce, or day without bombardment is a much welcomed relief from their hardship, while the political groups argue and blame each other for the continuing warfare and the horrific humanitarian crisis which unfolds day by day.

As the days of November pass, whilst wearing our poppies with pride, we must continue to give thanks, but actively seek ways to aid and abet the work of the relief organisations and charities that strive to help those peoples in dire situations – remembering what Jesus said: "Whatever you do for the least of my brethren you have done for me". That is easy to remember but a really big challenge for us to fulfil.

Brian Quinn



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



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

Our Christian beliefs are conventional, we are just doing church differently.

Preachers for November

6th 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
13th 10.50am at War Memorial - Rev'd Roy Fowler
20th 10.30am Maureen Kendall
27th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

Our @27 meeting is a house-church or home group-style meeting with modern worship music, a Bible-based topic, discussion, prayer and more, and held on alternate Tuesdays (1st, 15th and 29th November 7.30pm coffee for 7.45pm start). If you are looking for Christians with a contemporary outlook, a desire to grow in our faith and a vision to benefit the wider community, why not join us? All welcome - you do not have to be a member of Family Church, or any church, to attend. Please contact us for more information about topic, venue, or any of our other activities. We also run other activities for different age-groups, some for those looking for Christian content, and other activities with no specific Christian content which are suitable for everyone – those of any faith or none. See article about Stansted Family Café (a regular community event for everyone, but sponsored by Family Church), elsewhere in The Link.

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AE
www.saffronquakers.org.uk/stanstedhtml

Clerk Jane Mitchell
Tel: 503024
Email: sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com



Ros Page

Lettings Richenda Whitehead
Tel: 07773 603618
Email: richendajw@live.com

Meeting for Worship Sunday, 10.30am every week

Light Group 10.30am-11.30am 12th November.
This is a guided meditation for personal enlightenment. You are warmly invited to attend.



Our next meeting is on Monday 14th November at 7 Blythwood Gardens when Margaret Silvester will be talking about *The Tennants of Orford House*. Our informal coffee and chat *At Home* is on Monday 28th November at 62 St John's Road. Both meetings start at 8.00pm. All welcome.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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www.sttheresastansted.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

Harvest Time

Last month, we took part in the village celebration of the harvest, enjoying a communal meal in appreciation of our farmers' work and to share in the abundance of the fields that they till. However for many countries, the experience of bringing in the harvest can be totally different. We were informed by our Aid Agency CAFOD of the need to help areas of the world where families who depend on farming are malnourished. One of the areas they work in is high up on the Bolivian Altiplano – a vast arid plain 12,000 feet above sea level on the edge of the Andes Mountains. It is one of the toughest environments on earth; burning sun and/or heavy hailstorms can destroy months of hard work tending their precious crops. If only they had the right tools and training they would be able to alleviate their situation. One of the projects CAFOD has set up means families can survive these hard conditions by building greenhouses - which have their own mini climate. The roof protects the delicate crops, and the soil can be kept watered and fertile, the air warm and humid. Imagine what having this one asset can do for a family on the Altiplano. CAFOD and its partners can train a family to build their own greenhouse, enabling them to grow a variety of vegetables and thereby improve their health. They are running a two-year project and we have been asked, if we can, to commit a small amount of money each month to help these families survive. They desperately need our help. See www.cafod.org.uk or www.youtube.com/c/cafod for more information. Donate online or by post to CAFOD, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB tel: 0303 303 3030.

Eileen Quinn

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the September draws:

£100 No 116 Edmund Wilkinson
£ 50 No 203 Christine Meachin
£ 25 No 173 Amanda Beresford

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

Francine Cope

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

Rector: Rev'd Paul Wilkin
Tel: 812203
Email: stansted.rector@gmail.com

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

Church Hall Bookings: Simon Wilson
Tel or text: 07582 856689
Email: stjohns.hallbookings@gmail.com

St John's Diary

Sunday

8.00am Said Holy Communion
9.30am Choral Eucharist (2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays)
9.30am Family Communion (1st Sunday)

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.15am St John's Tots
9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion
The Coffee Pot 10.30am-noon
5.00pm Evening Prayer

There are services of Holy Communion on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the month in Norman Court, Hargrave House and Broome End Nursing Homes.

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

From the Registers

September

Baptisms

4th Leo Dan Jordan
11th Paige Susan Jane Reed
11th Lydia Eve Bowen

Wedding

3rd Richard Hancock and
Heide Marie Farren

All Souls' Service Sunday 6th November 5.00pm

This is a simple service in St John's Church, which anyone is welcome to attend, when the names of the departed are read out, both to show that their memory lives on in their family and friends, and to commend them to the care of God. There is an opportunity to light a candle as a way of praying when words fail. If you are attending the service and would like to add names to those being read out, please write them on the list at the back of the church, or contact

MOUNTFITCHET HOUSE

Macmillan Cancer Support

Mountfitchet House had a very successful day, raising £371 for Macmillan Cancer Support. We had an open house coffee morning followed by a *Staff Cake Off* judged by our very own Mary Berry and Paula Hollywood, better known as Carol and Miriam. The picture shows all the lovely staff and two judges, who made this such a special day. Thank you everyone!



Understanding Dementia Seminar

We will be running another *Understanding Dementia* free training event at Mountfitchet House on Tuesday 29th November 10.30am-12.30pm with Dr Nori Graham, dementia specialist (booking essential). For more details or to book a place please contact me.



Sharon Butler
Customer Relations Manager
Tel: 818230

Email: sharon.butler@careuk.com



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

This event on 30th September at Old Lane House was so well supported. It was a lovely morning and the generosity of everyone enabled a grand total of £771.00 to be raised for such a worthwhile cause. **Thank you** so much to all those who attended or contributed, and special thanks to the little team who helped make it all go so well.

Christine and Bill Stiles
Tel: 813172

ARMISTICE DAY 11TH NOVEMBER



Armistice Day falls on a Friday, two days before Remembrance Sunday on 13th November. A small number of people gather at the War Memorial in the Memorial Gardens just before 11.00am on 11th November to observe the sacrifice so many people made while serving their country. It is an informal gathering, but everyone is very welcome to attend. I would like to thank, again, the many volunteers who arrange such beautiful flowers on the War Memorial from Easter to Remembrance Sunday.

Janet Hollis
Tel: 812073
Email: janhollis@btinternet.com

DIVORCE RECOVERY WORKSHOP

www.drw.org.uk

Are you finding separation or divorce challenging?

The local branch of national charity Divorce Recovery Workshop (DRW) is planning a workshop on Friday evenings and all day Saturday on 18th/19th and 25th/26th November in Bishop's Stortford. The self-help format, tried and tested over more than two decades, is designed to help anyone come to terms with the emotional turmoil experienced at the end of a marriage or significant relationship. In Britain, every year more than 300,000 people experience the irretrievable breakdown of their marriage or relationship and the depth of suffering not generally understood. Separation and divorce often result in the loss of home, job, financial security, pets, broken relationships with children and other family members, as well as the change of status from wife, husband or partner. Many also lose friends, who might feel helpless and not want to 'take sides' or distance themselves because of the emotional upset. Attending a Divorce Recovery Workshop helps an individual gain a better understanding of what they are going through and finds a way forward through the emotional roller coaster. Workshops are run by volunteers who have all previously attended the workshop. There are no 'experts', but all those present will have experienced the breakdown of a significant relationship. There will be some short videos and small discussion groups where participants are encouraged to share their experiences and learn from others. The workshop deals with topics such as: *Is this really happening to me? Coping with your ex, Assuming new responsibilities, Letting go and forgiveness, Family matters and Thinking about new relationships*. The workshop is suitable for people of any age, gender, sexual orientation, faith or background, and at any stage of separation or divorce. Please call Michael 07883 439498 or Janet 07549 495983, or email bishops-stortford@drw.org.uk in confidence.

David Sparrow

MY WEIGHT MATTERS - FREE NHS SERVICE

Your local Weight Management Service for adults in Essex, available **free of charge** to all patients in Essex registered with a GP. Call 0800 022 4524 to make an appointment and for more information on the programme. You will receive a **one-to-one** meeting with a fully trained NHS member of the *My Weight Matters* team, suggesting a twelve week programme for structured self-help through knowledge of food values and the advantages of keeping a daily food diary. Meetings take place on Wednesdays 9.30am-noon in St John's Church Hall but there are other venues and times available. Ring that number if you want to make changes in your dietary habits to benefit your health! Remember this is a **free** service. No group meetings and no confessional. Several of us in Stansted have followed or are keeping to this programme and we are leaner and fitter for the opportunity to benefit from it. One Stansted man has lost two stone and at the last count, a Saffron Walden lady is three stones lighter. But this is a **Use it or Lose it** notice - unless more members join up it will have to close down. See you there!

Audrey Rodgers



Stansted Millers

Coffee Morning

10 am - noon Wed 9th Nov

Day Centre

Mill Goods ~ Bric-à-Brac
Cake Stall ~ Raffle

Entry £2

incl refreshments

Shoe Box Packing for Operation Christmas Child

All welcome

7 pm onwards Wed 9th Nov

St Theresa's Parish Centre

Note change of venue from
previous years



More info tel 813579, 814865,
812109 or see Link article



Stansted & District
Liberal Democrats

QUIZ EVENING

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 12th Nov

Day Centre

Tickets £10 incl ploughman's
from 813579

Bar ~ Raffle ~ All Welcome

Please book in advance

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

1	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
2	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
3	Thu	Stansted Local History	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Fri	Business Forum Breakfast	The Ash, Burton End 7 - 9 am
5	Sat	Autumn Craft Fair	St James' Thorley 11 am - 3.30 pm
5 & 26	Sat	Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
5	Sat	Village Fireworks	Elms Farm 6.30 pm
6	Sun	All Souls Service	St John's Church 5 pm
8	Tue	RSPB Talk	B Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
9	Wed	Windmill Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon
		Shoe Box Packing	St Theresa's Parish Centre 7 pm
10	Thu	Stansted WI	Day Centre 7.45 pm
11	Fri	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
12	Sat	Lib Dem Quiz	Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm
		Harmonaires Concert	St Joseph's, B S 8 pm
13 & 27	Sun	Skips	Lower Street 12.30 - 4.30 pm
14	Mon	Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
15	Tue	CAMEO	Day Centre 7.30 - 9 pm
16	Wed	Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
17	Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 pm
18	Fri	Henham Christmas Market	Henham Hall & OSCA 1 - 8 pm
19	Sat	St John's Christmas Market	St John's Church noon - 3 pm
22	Tue	Hearing Help	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
25	Fri	Christmas Shopping Evening	St Mary's School 6 - 8.30 pm
26	Sat	U3A Seminar	Free Church Hall 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
28	Mon	Shalom At Home	62 St John's Road 8 pm
29	Tue	Understanding Dementia	Mountfitchet Hse 10.30 am - 12.30 pm



Fire & Light

8 pm Sat 12th Nov

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Henham Christmas Market

1 - 8 pm Fri 18th Nov

Henham Village Hall & OSCA

Candles ~ Chocolates ~ Jewellery

Cards ~ Toiletries ~ Decorations

Gift Ideas ~ Jams & Chutneys

Refreshments ~ Raffle



In aid of Gt Ormond St
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Free Event

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Tuesday 29th November

Understanding Dementia

with Dr Nori Graham

Dementia Specialist

All welcome but booking essential

Please tel Sharon 818230

Email: sharon.butler@careuk.com

Mountfitchet House, High Lane

St John's Church Christmas Market

12 - 3 pm

Sat 19th November

Gifts ~ Grand Raffle

Christmas Stalls ~ Mulled Wine

Homemade Cakes & Preserves

Admission Free ~ Refreshments



Green Waste Skip Dates

Lower Street Car Park
Sundays 12.30 - 4.30 pm

Last dates for 2016

Nov 13th & 27th

Dec 11th



Saturday Seminar

*The Early Netherlandish painting
in the time of Philip the Good*

by Joanna Brooks

9.30 am - 12.30 pm Sat 26th Nov

Stansted Free Church Hall

Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members
from Alan tel 07790 213510

Email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com

Limited places - advance booking only



St Mary's School PTFA

Christmas Shopping Evening

6 - 8.30 pm Fri 25th Nov

Outside Stalls ~ Refreshments

Santa's Grotto

Performance by School Choir

Entry £1 Children free



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Marcel Morelli MSc (Chiro), DC.
And Associates

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STANSTED MATTERS TEENS

In light of recent events, some residents in our tight-knit community of Stansted have started to feel that the area is becoming a less agreeable place to live. With constant conflicts and arguments breaking out on the main Stansted Matters Facebook page, the youth of the village are feeling



disillusioned with the fact that they are not being listened to within the community. This is why we felt it was time for that to change. As a group, we felt that our voices were not being heard; for instance, when a young person brought an issue to light in the main Facebook group he was shunned as a result of his age. Due to our love of the village we have lived in all our lives, we knew we had to do something. This is why we started our page

Stansted Matters Teens. In creating the page, we have started to address some of the biggest issues facing young people including not having a place to talk about our problems and having a group you can talk in without being disregarded on account of age or experience.

Another important issue many young people in Stansted face is the lack of education provision for those of us aged 16-18. The law now requires us to leave the village and travel to schools and colleges further afield to ensure that we maintain our education until we are 18. Yet, to do so, we are charged adult prices on public transport to get to the provider of our education! *Stansted Matters Teens* aims to give all young people living in Stansted the voice that they so rightly deserve, especially if like us, they've been in the village upwards of a decade. With the page gathering over 150 members in the first 24 hours of being established, it provides clear evidence of a need. We believe this page will continue to grow to become a vital asset to the village in the years to come. If you are under 20, feel free to request to join the page and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Marley Wright and Moray Crossan

BUS TIMETABLE CHANGES

Revised times from 16th October for the 301, 441 and 446 services operated by Stephenson's are:

301 B S to Saffron Walden 14.55 16.20 17.20 18.20

301 Stansted to B S 14.37 16.03 17.04 18.04 19.04 19.57

441 and 446 both leave S Walden County High at 15.30.

Valerie Trundle
Passenger Transport Representative
Tel: 813433

DON'T FORGET!

The next issue will be a double one, covering December and January.

PETS AND FIREWORKS



Firework season is here again! It used to just be 5th November when I was little, but nowadays it seems to last until New Year. I personally love the spectacle of a good firework display but I don't like the bangs. In a recent survey of pet owners 61% said their pets are scared of fireworks! This fear can show itself as panting, restlessness, cowering, hiding, barking, trying to escape or digging up the carpet. I should add to the list - hiding in the wine rack for my little dog Broccoli! A lot can be done to help frightened pets at this time of year, 'Build your pet a den' is one such initiative. A den is useful all year-round, but it is an especially comforting place for pets during the firework season. Try to prepare the den at least three weeks before the celebrations, allowing your pet time to get used to it. Locate it away from any windows in a room where your pet usually likes to hide and where they feel comfortable. Ensure the den is large enough for your pet to comfortably stand up, lie down, stretch out and turn around. Line it with used blankets, towels or old clothes to make it smell familiar, provide treats and toys in the den, to enable your dog to associate it with positive things and cover it with a blanket where appropriate to muffle the sounds further. For cats, think 3D - cats often feel more comfortable up high and also provide extra litter trays. There are also lots of anti-anxiety products at the surgery such as Feliway and Adaptil, the pheromone products, and Zylkene and Nutracalm to help relax your pet. Our lovely receptionists and nurses can help you find the right thing for your pet. Get building those dens! If you send a photo into the surgery, we'll put the best of them up on our website.



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



Swim 4 Act One makes big splash!



On Thursday 15th September, I swam 2.5K (100 lengths) at Grange Paddocks Pool in just under 2½ hours.

A huge thank you to all my family and friends in Stansted and far beyond. You raised £2000, making *Swim 4 Act One* a stunning and successful fundraiser that will help Act One to keep dancing!

David Richardson
Tel: 899157

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FOREST HALL SCHOOL



In September five Year 11 students visited Heart Radio headquarters in Chelmsford.



Morgan Rae, Sol Porter, Jae Sims, Lewis Greenway and Theo Saville met Managing Editor James Keen, and Regional Managing Director David Tighe, and sat in on the Breakfast show followed by a talk with hosts Martin and Su. They recorded their own promotional advert and talked to the managers about different jobs, and how the station generates money.

Adam Smith
Acting Media Co-ordinator

LITTER - WHY?

One beautiful, sunny Sunday morning in October I went for a walk around the village. Toiling up Chapel Hill (surely it is steeper than it used to be?) I looked forward to a brief rest on the seat by the entrance to the Memorial Gardens. To my relief the seat appeared to be unoccupied, but on closer inspection I found the remains of a takeaway meal strewn along its length. Although unacceptable, I understand that some might discard their leftovers in such a way if there is no bin nearby to dispose of them properly. But to leave rubbish on a seat for someone else to pick up (me on this occasion) when there's a litter bin just an arm's length away? What sort of person does that – and why?

Loki



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Well here we go again, another year nearly over, and before we know it, Christmas will be upon us! Our **Festival of Angels and Christmas Trees** will be held in St Mary's Church on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December 10.00am-5.00pm. Entry is free, but donations will be gratefully received in aid of the Friends of St Mary's Church. Refreshments will be on sale as usual. All Christmas trees and angels must be in situ in the church on Friday 9th December between 4.00pm-9.00pm. Please contact me for an application form. We shall be holding our usual **Carols for All** on Saturday 10th December at 3.30pm; please do come along and join us.



Sally Argent
Secretary
Tel: 01945 870919
Email: argent62@btinternet.com

THE WEDNESDAY LITERATURE GROUP THE END OF AN ERA

For many years what was known as *The Wednesday Literature Group* has been meeting in the Free Church Hall during term times. The class became established in its final form in 1997, with Judith Moss as tutor, and met in various locations in Stansted, including the Peter Kirk Centre before settling at the Free Church Hall. Three years ago current and former class members met to celebrate 15 years of continuous study. Some may recall details of an item in *The Link* which reported the event. That event was arranged by way of a *Thank You* to Judith, who had been diagnosed with cancer some five years before but was determined to continue teaching. This teaching was always of a high standard and academic in nature; it could not be otherwise, both because many of the students were literature graduates and because of Judith's dedication. It says much for the teaching that turnout was usually in excess of 90 percent – even during the worst winter weather. We were always amazed at the amount of preparation that must have been required. And what is more, the lessons were free! Judith refused any payment once the class found a home at the Church Hall.



June marked the completion of the class's 18th year. Sadly, Judith passed away soon after. She had expressed a wish that a celebration be held to remember her, in the Church Hall, by class members, past and present. This took place on 28th September. The venue was decorated with mementoes of class activities: production of plays; trips to Charleston (Virginia Woolf), Nottingham (D H Lawrence) and Bronte country. Videos were played which recalled events and many class members contributed by speaking about their memories of Judith. The 30 or so present were sad but also enjoyed meeting in the location for a final time. For us, Wednesdays will never be the same!

Percy Carvello



SHOE BOX PACKING

We will be packing on Wednesday 9th November from 7.00pm at St Theresa's Parish Centre, High Lane. Please note that this is a change of venue this year. Items for the boxes can be brought on the night, or given to one of us in advance. We have plenty of covered shoe boxes left over from last year. We look forward to seeing you.

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

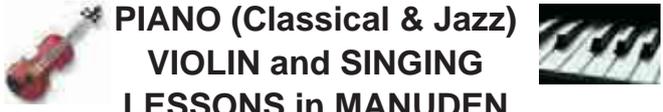
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UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived
The subject of our September meeting was Henry VIII and his six queens - a beautifully illustrated talk presented by Mr Gary Fisher, a very entertaining speaker with a degree in historical geography. He currently runs the living history project at Hatfield House and works as an historical interpreter at many historic sites including the Tower of London and Hampton Court. In the space of an hour, which flew by, he entertained us with anecdotes relating to the queens who by no means had easy lives. He kindly judged our competition and enjoyed a good cup of tea with us before departing for Hatfield House and the shades of Henry VIII and his six queens.

Barbara Doherty MBE, President of the Isabel Hospice, will be the speaker at our November meeting, which will be held in Ugley Village Hall on Wednesday 16th at 2.15pm. Her subject is the work and history of the hospice movement.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP

Our next talk, *The Shetland Isles* by Bill Coster, will be on Tuesday 8th November at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford (next to Tesco). Shetland is one of the UK's most spectacular locations for wildlife and this show is the result of a month spent on the islands photographing the birds and other wildlife, as well as the landscape of this most northern part of Britain. The show features many of the familiar British waders and seabirds in incredible action as they go about their business of rearing young in a British summer. Meeting fee is £3.00 members, £4.50 visitors.



The next day trip will be on Saturday 19th November to RSPB Rye Meads, our local reserve, which we often visit at different times of the year. In autumn, as leaves are changing and the berries bulging, the reserve welcomes back the winter migrants. Meet there in the car park at 10.30am. Call Lee Jaques on 07454 801894 for more details. You might wish to bring along a packed lunch or snack.

Sheila Bowles
Tel: 814973

STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meet Rosie

Wendy Branham came to the meeting in September with her profoundly deaf friend Jean and Jean's dog Rosie, a cocker poodle trained as a hearing dog for the deaf. We were able to make friends with lovely Rosie until her working jacket was put on, which meant she was on duty.



Wendy told us there are ten million people in the UK with a hearing loss and 800,000 of them are severely deaf. Being deaf is a very isolating experience and it has been found that a trained dog gives confidence and independence to the owner. The charity *Hearing Dogs for Deaf People* is very small and receives no Government funding. The idea for this came about at the 1979 Crufts dog show and with keen interest from the Princess Royal, a training centre was soon established. Dogs are now bred for this purpose, cocker spaniels, golden retrievers and Labradors being the most suitable. They live with volunteers for six weeks training and then progress to the socialiser for a year to learn how to cope with shops and traffic and attend training classes to learn household sounds. They learn where everything is in the house and what different sounds mean. It costs £25,000 to train each dog, whose working life is usually 11 years. It was so lovely to see Rosie with her 'owner' and I was very impressed how well Jean could lip-read, when I chatted to her after the talk.

We are looking forward to attending a performance of *Calamity Jane* at the Rhodes Centre in November and are busy planning our entry for the Festival of Angels and Christmas Trees at St Mary's. The Craft Group meets on the last Friday of the month in the Day Centre 2.30pm-4.30pm and we have been making poppies for Remembrance Day. Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th November 7.45pm at the Day Centre. The speaker is David Thompson - *Darling Daisy: the Countess of Warwick*. All are welcome. For more information please contact our president Brenda Ryan on 812725.



Judy Colliver

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

John Vigar *The Churches Conservation Trust*

Our October presentation was a talk given by John Vigar on churches, their history and the two main trusts that are set up to protect them after they have been deemed not sustainable. It was a very informative talk given by one of the country's leading church historians. His presentation gave us a little insight into church construction, a little history supported by photographs of some of our country's most beautiful preserved churches. We heard about how the *Friends of Friendless Churches* and the *Churches Conservation Trust* take care of Churches that are no longer of use, due to falling congregational numbers or funds, or others that are closed for political reasons. John explained what happens to Anglican churches when they are no longer needed for their original purpose; the way some are demolished, others are converted to houses, offices or shops, even circus training establishments. There are also a few that are so precious that none of these solutions is deemed suitable. Fifty years ago they would have been shut up and left to decay, but for *Friends of Friendless Churches* helping them to keep their doors open and lobbying Parliament to establish a mechanism whereby important buildings could be saved. This led to the establishment of *The Churches Conservation Trust* in 1969. Today more than 400 churches in England and Wales are cared for by these two bodies – preserved for today and for future generations. They may not be used for worship but they are still very much community buildings.



Photo of Whitby Abbey reproduced with permission

Next Meeting 3rd November 8.00pm at the Day Centre. The talk is by Martyn Lockwood on *Zeppelin Raids 1914-1918*, with a half-time break of tea and biscuits, all for £2. All are warmly welcomed - come and give us a try, you will be pleasantly surprised!



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday November 19th noon-3.00pm St John's Church
Christmas stalls, gifts, grand raffle, mulled wine, hot and cold refreshments, home made cakes and preserves. Free entrance. Everyone welcome.



Richard Lenton
Tel: 813208



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.stanstedu3a.org

Burnham-on-Crouch was visited by the bus pass group in September. Once a busy fishing and ferry port, Burnham, in recent years, has become a centre for sailing and yacht racing, with no less than four established sailing clubs. We all enjoyed the tranquility of this pretty coastal town. Thanks to Jenny Wraith.

At the September meeting Barry Kauffman-Wright came in place of *Canine Partners* who will come another time. He gave a very interesting and entertaining talk about his time as a young man working alongside Gerald Durrell at Jersey Zoo. Whilst caring for the animals, he learnt much about nature and conservation, which is still his interest today.

The **November meeting** is on Thursday 17th at 1.30pm and we will be entertained by the *Stansted Strummers* and the Italian and French clubs. The **Saturday Seminar** on 26th November 9.30am-12.30pm in the Free Church Hall will be presented by Joanna Brooks: *The Early Netherlandish painting in the time of Philip the Good*. Northern Europe was just as important as Italy during the Renaissance period and the Dukes of Burgundy were enthusiastic patrons, along with a large merchant-class, which developed in the rich industrial and banking centres of Bruges, Antwerp, Ghent and Brussels. Tickets: members £4, £5 non-members from Alan on 07790 213510 or email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com. U3A contact: Helen (Chair) 812945, Liz (Secretary) 813270.



Suzanne Parra



The Place on the Hill is a free drop-in held at and organised by Stansted Free Church (at the bottom of Chapel Hill) which is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except bank holidays) 9.30am-12.30pm. Do come and join us - all ages are welcome. Refreshments, newspapers, company, free wifi, computers, space for the children to play with toys and run around, plus a quiet area with comfy seating. Plus if you fancy keeping your mind active, we have a jigsaw 'on the go' which anyone is welcome to add pieces to! For more information or if you need transport, please contact us.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

LINK ADVERTISING

November sees the start of our new advertising year. We thank our renewing advertisers for their support and welcome a number of new ones - see index on page 40

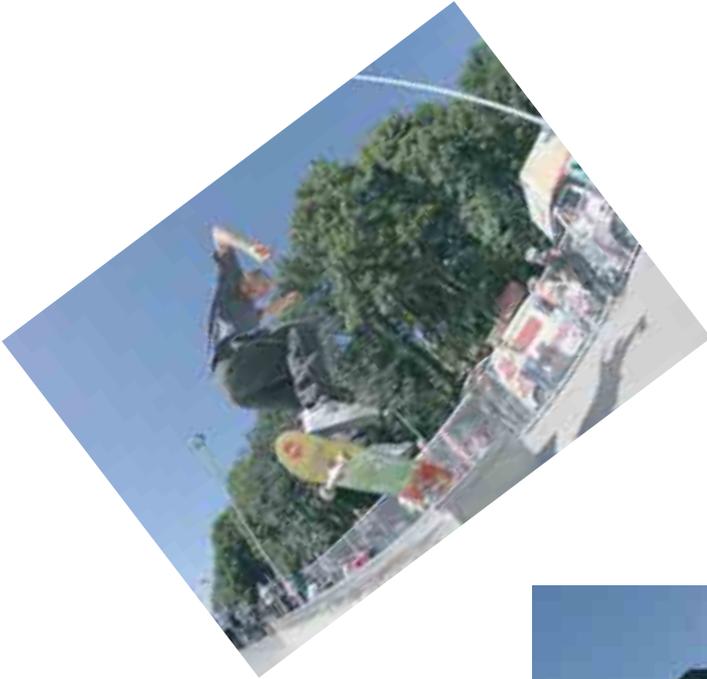
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STANSTED SKATEPARK JAM

The second Jam in our new skatepark took place on Sunday 11th September. The weather was fantastic which helped attract over 70 riders from as far afield as Cambridge, Chelmsford, Southend and Kent, as well as the hard core of local youngsters who are at the park on a regular basis. There is a competitive element to a Jam, but in roller sports you do not get the the histrionics you get in some sports, and the riders appreciate each others efforts and nobody goes home feeling like Tom Daley on a bad day. One of the nice things about a Jam is that riders of all ages can join in and show off their skills.

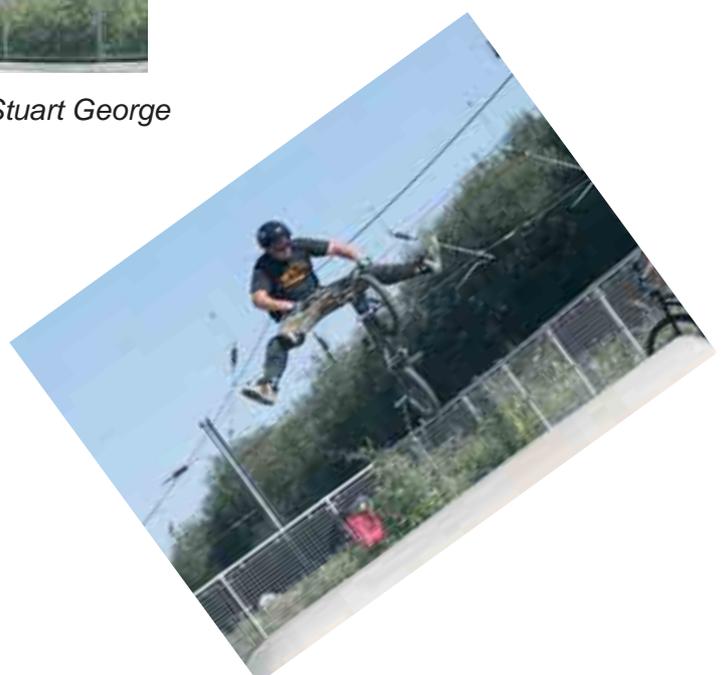


The photos show some spectacular tricks from the older riders, but there were also plenty of younger riders who got the chance to show off what they could do, and they get lots of support from the older riders.

A big thank you to Sean Tomson, the man with the megaphone who did most of the organisation on the day and secured most of the sponsorship.

Trevor Lloyd, Assistant to Parish Clerk

Photographs by Stuart George



DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Stansted was staunchly Lancastrian during the Wars of the Roses in England? Take the Battle of Towton, 29th March 1461, described as "... probably the largest and bloodiest battle ever fought on English soil". According to chroniclers, "... more than 50,000 soldiers from the Houses of York and Lancaster (some would have been Stansted conscripts) fought for many hours on that snowy day". A newsletter circulating a week later reported that 28,000 men died on the battlefield. After the battle, John, the 12th Earl of Oxford, Lord of the Manor of Stansted, was arrested and tried for plotting against the King. All his lands, including Stansted Hall, were confiscated. On 26th February 1462, Oxford was beheaded on Tower Hill. His eldest son Aubrey had been executed six days earlier. As a result of this war, feudalism declined into bastard feudalism, where the nobility acquired private armies for their own nefarious purposes.



Stansted's 'de Lancaster' line started with Sir Roger Lancaster de Howgill and Rydal (1285-1291), whilst son John, was of Grisedale and Stansted. Stansted's Church of St Mary the Virgin was built by Richard de Montfitchet (d1257), from whom Margery, the wife of Sir Roger was descended. Margery transferred this barony to the de Vere family after whom the Lancestere chapel is named. The de Veres came to Britain with William the Conqueror. Aubrey was First Earl of Oxford, his descendants were to hold that title and the office of Lord Chamberlain until the male line failed in 1703. It was the 13th Earl of Oxford who built the Chapel of Ease in the centre of the village. Robert de Vere was the penultimate 19th Earl of Oxford and the last member of that family to be involved in Stansted Mountfitchet.

After the Battle of Towton, the Stansted estates became the property of John Howard, 1st Duke of Norfolk, for 23 years.

To be continued

Ralph Phillips



Celebration of Christmas

I am delighted to announce that the Stansted Village Celebration of Christmas will take place once again at St Theresa's Church, High Lane, on **Saturday 17th December at 3.00pm**. Please put this community festive event in your diaries. As usual, everyone is warmly invited to be part of the special Celebration Choir, whether you are a church member or not, or whether you are a member of a choir or not. The music planned is easier to learn than last year and rehearsals are on Thursdays 1st, 8th and 15th December 7.30pm at St Theresa's Church, plus a final run through at 1.00pm on the day. Please join us!

David Morson
Tel: 850209

Carol Singing

This year's village carol singing is on **Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd December** at 6.30pm (venues to be confirmed in next month's Link). We will be collecting for Christian Aid projects (more details next month). There will also be a retiring collection for the same cause at the Celebration of Christmas.



Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059



THE SALVATION ARMY

C.A.M.E.O (Come and Meet Each Other)

In September the group enjoyed a talk delivered by a member of The Salvation Army, Andrew Harvey-Adams. The talk was titled 'My life through a camera lens' and he showed photos he had taken of transportation and places, and shared his life journey. Our meeting on Tuesday 15th November is a bring-and-share craft evening. We hope that people will come along with crafts that they have completed, enjoyed or been given by others that they would be happy to share with other members of the group. Maybe we can inspire each other to get crafty? We hope to see you then and also hope that there may be something planned for next year that you would like to come and join us for! We meet in the Day Centre on the third Tuesday of the month 7.30pm-9.00pm for ten months of the year. There has been a well varied programme so far this year and we hope to release next year's programme in the next Link!

Hope to see you soon.

Lieutenant Megan Lowe
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Nature Notes

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Kingfishers are small, unmistakable bright blue and orange birds that prefer slow moving or still water. They fly rapidly, low over water, and hunt fish from riverside perches, occasionally hovering above the water's surface. If you have been lucky enough to find a feeding perch and witness the striking colours of this beautiful bird, you will never forget it. My favourite location for watching kingfishers is at Minsmere in Suffolk. At the far end of the reserve there are very large sluice gates, one tidal, two river sluices. If you can get to these at the break of dawn you will certainly get a view of kingfishers. Our own Stort is a good place to watch them too especially the area from Bishops Stortford to Spellbrook (a beautiful walk, on a sunny day); just keep an eye out and you will soon see the flash of orange and iridescent blue pass you by.



There are 87 different species of kingfisher, the largest being Australia's laughing kookaburra. Our kingfisher (river kingfisher) can be found as far east as the Solomon Islands. Severe winters can lead to as many as 90% of Britain's kingfishers perishing and many young kingfishers die within days of fledging, their first dives leaving them waterlogged so they end up drowning. Because of the high mortality of young, kingfishers usually have two or three broods a year, with as many as 10 in a brood. Though fish form the main part of the kingfisher's diet, it also eats many aquatic insects, ranging from dragonfly nymphs to water beetles. In the winter, a kingfisher needs to eat around 15 or 16 minnows a day. The kingfisher doesn't have a song, though it does have a distinctive flight call, a shrill whistle. A pair of kingfishers work together to build burrows along the edges of streams or rivers, which may be three to eight feet long. It is highly territorial; if another kingfisher enters its territory, both birds 'display' from perches and fights may occur. One bird will grab the other's beak and try to hold it under water.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

BODY BALANCE

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Manuden Community Centre

Monday 9.15am

Tuesday 1.30pm

Thursday 6.45pm

Contact: Clare Harding 07802 872919

Email: eclareharding53@hotmail.com



We started the term with a games evening, and we've also had a curling competition and a British night with the whole group decked out in red, white and blue. We're looking forward to a pub trip to the Chequers' Pub in Ugley, a quiz and a Halloween Party in the coming weeks.

We were saddened to discover that our Resource Centre (or shed!) had been broken into a few weeks ago. Some of our games and sports equipment was stolen – which made curling and games nights quite difficult – and our CD player and some of the other games were damaged. However, nothing keeps the Huw Johnson Club down and we carry on regardless! Luckily we've been able to clear up most of the mess and we were pleased to discover that the wheelchair we have to help some of our less mobile members was abandoned in the church yard rather than stolen. We are delighted that the Huw Johnson Club has been chosen as one of the Co-op Local Community Fund partners. When Co-op members choose Co-op branded products and services and use their membership card, 1% of their spend goes to their chosen cause. If you are a Co-op member, please log into your account and choose us as your chosen cause.

Finally, please do save the date for our annual Christmas Concert on Friday 9th December 7.30pm in St John's Church. There will be a raffle and mince pies and tea/coffee afterwards – it is always a good way to get in the Christmassy mood, so do come along and join us! If you would like any more information about the Club, please contact Sandra Embleton on 812627 or myself.



Katharine Collis
Tel: 461270



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Our opening on Sunday 2nd October attracted a lot of visitors who were very interested in the Mill. They purchased souvenirs as well as plants donated by John Salmon, which raised a lot of funds throughout the season. Our thanks go to John and all the stewards for their wonderful help.

We are now preparing for our Autumn **Coffee Morning** on Wednesday 9th November 10.00am-noon at the Day Centre. Entrance fee is just £2.00 for coffee, tea, squash, mince pies and biscuits. We will also have a cake stall, bric-à-brac, mill goods and a raffle; do hope you can join us. We are also in the throes of arranging our big event in the Mill for the festive season on Saturday 10th December. We propose to open at 3.00pm so that the children can visit Santa in his grotto. They will receive a gift from him and there will be a prize for the best dressed Elf and the best dressed Fairy. There will also be drinks and sweets to make the children happy. For all of the above the cost will be £2.00 per child. At approximately 5.00pm a bar will be opened for adults with mulled wine, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks together with mince pies and nibbles, plus a raffle with Christmas themed prizes. Our souvenirs will be available for purchase, which might be suitable for Christmas presents. We do hope you will bring the children and come along to support us.



Molly Clark, Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768

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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

STREET LIGHTS

There are over 300 street lights in Stansted and they come in a variety of shapes and sizes. The Parish Council is responsible for most of the lights but Essex County Council is responsible for some, and those on Foresthall Park are mainly still the responsibility of the developers. If you want to report a problem with a street light you need to contact the Parish Council office. It is really helpful if you can give the column number which is on the lamp post, but failing that we need fairly precise details of the nearest property so we can identify the location of the light. If it is a Parish Council light we will get it repaired by our contractor. However, it is not economical to pay for a call-out for just one light so we normally wait until we have several lights in need of attention before we ask the contractor to pay us a visit. If the light is an ECC one or the responsibility of a developer, we will contact them and request action. In all cases it is likely to take a little while from when you report a fault to when it gets repaired.



We have recently replaced the old style lights on the Recreation Ground (on the left) with lights that are more appropriate for a conservation area (on the right). This is the last conservation area in the village to get an upgrade. We think it makes a significant difference to the environment of an area which many villagers value and appreciate.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

Does Stansted have an ASB problem? This is a really tricky question to answer for all sorts of reasons. The first issue is trying to define ASB. One person's "having a laugh" can easily be seen as ASB by someone who finds the behaviour offensive and threatening. Under section 2 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ASB is defined as:

- Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person;
- Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises;

- Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

This is all suitably vague and subject to interpretation. You might find the noise from a neighbour's 50th Birthday party a bit annoying but if it's a one-off event there has to be a bit of "live and let live". However, if a group of people regularly gather outside your property to consume alcohol, trade drugs and intimidate passers-by, most of us would agree that that constitutes ASB, if not more serious criminality, and you should expect the support of the authorities to deal with it.

Trying to quantify the number of incidents of ASB is almost impossible. Official statistics show 11 incidents were recorded in Stansted in June 2016, but there were almost certainly incidents of what could be considered ASB that went unreported because people are very sceptical about any effective action being taken by the authorities. To a degree this is one of those issues where it is all relative and although nobody is saying we don't get any ASB in Stansted, compared to many areas the number of incidents is fairly low. Having said that we have to recognise that for those people who experience ASB it can impact significantly on their quality of life and general feeling of wellbeing.

The Parish Council has recently had two situations that illustrate the difficulty of the issue. The first relates to dogs being let off their leads on the Recreation Ground. Dog owners feel this is reasonable as it is the only open space in the village where it would be safe to let your dog run freely, but other people find dogs running freely intimidating and complain about owners not cleaning up their dogs' mess.

The second relates to youngsters playing football on Bentfield Lower Green. The youngsters would argue, with the support of some parents, that this is the only open space where they can play without having to cross Cambridge Road to get to the Recreation Ground. Some local residents feel it is an inappropriate venue for ball games because of road safety concerns and balls being kicked into gardens, causing damage to plants and possibly hitting vehicles parked

on drives or on the road. Certainly it is unacceptable to leave the portable goals on the green. If you know who the goals belong to please let us know and we will



ask the individuals concerned to remove them. If you do want to report ASB, the Police and District Council have responsibility for dealing with different aspects of ASB, but sadly the authorities are often as frustrated as victims by their lack of resources to support residents who have to live with the effects.

RETIREMENT OF STEVE SUTTON

Steve officially retired on Friday 14 October. He has been the village handyman since 1998. It is a job which requires you to be multi-skilled and turn your hand to a



wide range of jobs from preparing small plots in the cemetery to mending staplers in the office and almost anything in between! We would like to thank Steve for his years of service to our community and wish him and his

wife Lesley a long and happy retirement together. Steve's retirement gives us an opportunity to review the job description for the village handyman. One possibility we are keen to explore is taking some of the gardening work in-house rather than using a contractor for everything. Hopefully this would give us a bit more flexibility and avoid some of the issues we have experienced this year.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The traditional Remembrance Day parade and service will be held on Sunday 13 November. We hope as many of you as possible will join us at the War Memorial at 10.50am to honour those who gave their lives for us. The Parade will leave Crafton Green car park just after 10.30am.

MEMORIAL GARDENS PROJECT UPDATE

The project got a big boost with a generous donation from City and Country Group who have offices in Bentfield Road so we are just about approaching the final hurdle with the funding for the project and we are very hopeful that work will start early in the new year. We appreciate that the Memorial Gardens have not looked at their best this year, mainly due to issues with our new gardening contractors. The borders in particular have been neglected; we are meeting the contractors and will be insisting they rectify the situation.

SAUNTERS AROUND STANSTED

Back in 2013 the Parish Council published the second edition of a booklet entitled *Saunters Around Stansted*. We owe a debt of gratitude to Bill Stiles, resident of this parish, who was chiefly responsible for producing the content of the booklet. 3,000 copies were printed and over the years these have been distributed from the Parish Council Office but we are now down to the final few copies. Details, descriptions and maps showing each of the eleven walks Bill suggests in his booklet can now be downloaded from the Parish Council website www.stansted.net.

The Parish Council is also hoping to republish an updated version of a *Village Trail* leaflet that was first published way back in 1987. The leaflet guides people round a circular walk of the village, lasting about an hour, and provides information on some of the places of interest that you pass on your journey.

VILLAGE POND

A small group of enthusiastic volunteers gathered to give the village pond its Autumn clean-up on the first Sunday in October. They were blessed with a perfect



Autumn day and the very dry weather had resulted in a very low water level, which meant we were able to clear a lot of reeds and other vegetation without the need for waders and other waterproof clothing. A big thank you to all those who turned out to help.

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE SERVICES

The Parish Office is no longer able to obtain supplies of the food caddy bags, so in future you will need to buy these from the Co-op or Tesco. We continue to offer trade sacks and green waste sacks.

We still get people coming into the office expecting to be able to renew their senior railcard. We haven't been able to provide this service for some time, but what we can do is obtain the Uttlesford discount code for you, so if you want to save £6.00 when you apply for your card we will be pleased to see you in the office. We have to ring through to the switchboard at UDC for this, so be prepared for a bit of a wait for them to answer the phone.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Alan Dean writes:

Since I last wrote in August there has been little tangible progress with both the Cambridge Road traffic and development saga and no conclusion to the ongoing development in Lower Street. One interesting initiative is a private offer of a two year, interest free loan for district and parish councils to buy and develop the vacant site at the rear of Tesco for a scheme that would include retirement accommodation and much improved public parking. It is a big challenge to both councils to venture directly into regeneration projects.

Much remains to be done to create a reconfigured car park at Lower Street. UDC is not finding it easy to sort out with the developer at Castle Maltings the management arrangements that have to go into the legal order that will be needed to operate the redesigned car park. Do not be surprised if the muddle continues into 2017.

By the time this hits the doormats, Uttlesford should have decided where it wants to locate the remaining 4,600 homes in the Local Plan that will run until 2033. There are four locations for new settlements that potentially are worthy of whittling down to two. At the time of writing, I am not able to say which I think are the more suitable ones, but I will say that I have been scrutinizing in depth the evidence put forward for and against them and have found much of the logic wanting. A public consultation on a draft Local Plan should begin in November and run until January, barring any difficulty by the council in reaching an agreement on November 8th.

Readers will be delighted to know that a planning application was received at the end of September for the restoration and redevelopment of the former Three Colts building and site on Cambridge Road. The old public house would be restored as a home and there is likely to be five additional homes in what was the car

park. I am keeping my fingers crossed that the details of the application prove acceptable and that one of Stansted's worst eyesores can be replaced by something useful and a credit to an entrance to the village.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

November

2nd Windmill 7.00 pm & Full Council 8.00 pm

9th F & GP (Budget)

16th Open Spaces

23rd Full Council

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

www.stansted.net

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
0207 219 5214 Fax 0207 219 5600
alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk

POLICE Non-emergency 101

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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PARISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Valerie Trundle - 813433 Joy Thomas - 813871

STANSTED LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Temporary service for our Stansted Library

Stansted Library has a temporary home for the coming months, while work is undertaken to create a new community hub at Crafton Green. During this period a mobile library will be available within the car-park adjacent to the site. For more information contact

Jenny.Salisbury@essex.gov.uk or
Anthea.Wearn@essex.gov.uk

or the Parish Council web site www. Stansted.net

The Baby and Toddler Time is suspended during construction work.

For Renewals and Enquiries tel:0345 6037 628
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A big thank you to the Stansted Scouts who have taken over the task of organising this year's event from the Parish Council

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK	Vivian Falk, Chairman
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Arts Club	Michelle Wray Tel: 007528 317907 Email: michelle.wray@gmail.com	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs, Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rotary Club	Martin Budzinski Tel: 07803 878961 Email: martin@voucherpacks.com
Brownies (Tuesday)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Wednesday)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Spangles Children's Centre	Sarah Mason Tel: 812348 Email: smason2@spurgeons.org
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Friends of St Mary's Church	Keith Ayres Tel: 07768 023830	Tennis Club	Chris Hollis Tel: 319155 Email: chris.hollis2@btinternet.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Grove Cottage	Andrea Charity Tel: 656085/ 07795 483674	U3A	Helen, Chair Tel: 812945
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis, District Commissioner Tel: 814434	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Brenda Ryan, President Tel: 812725
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Inner Wheel Club	Kate Muskett, President Tel: 850228		
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com		
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232		
Millers (Windmill) music@stansted - classical concerts	Molly Clark Tel: 816768 Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

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.

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GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER



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Never walk on a lawn in frosty weather, it shatters the living cells in the grass leaf when frosted. Equally try not to walk on the lawn when it is excessively wet; this causes compaction leading to difficult growing conditions. Avoid allowing leaves to remain/build up on the lawn, they suppress the light/air getting to the grass below and cause patches of die back; worms tend to grab them and part bury them in the surface too, making them hard to remove. If you wish to fertilise the lawn, use a dedicated autumn fertiliser designed to toughen the grass up through winter. It is an excellent time to roll a sarrel or spiker over the lawn providing an excellent form of aeration. Many flowers and grasses have passed their optimal appearance, but resist the temptation to clean all the old growth up throughout the garden, as many seed



heads act as a source of food for fauna, help to protect the base of the plant, for example hydrangeas, and some, like the plumes of miscanthus and other grasses, continue to look attractive throughout winter.

Bare root shrubs and trees start to become available sometime this month. This is a cheap and effective way of buying new plants, and a large range of varieties can be sourced through nurseries and mail order. Tulips can start to be planted later this month; you can still put in daffodils too. Improve the soil for next year by adding on a thick layer of organic matter, home made garden compost is ideal. Alternatively use well rotted horse/cow manure (or other herbivores if you have access to it), or composted bark. It's a good idea to alternate the type of organic matter you utilise from one season to the next. Patios, decks and hard areas can be cleaned this month, use a pressure washer or for difficult areas use a good quality algaecide, avoid using acidic products on your patios and decks, as they can damage many surfaces or at the least reduce their longevity.

Paul the Gardener



Our spotlight this month is on Anna Scanlan who can offer you a local personal training package. This includes a free consultation health screening, goal setting and a plan of action to improve your fitness. She also offers a revolutionary DNA fitness genetic test to assess your best response to exercise with great advice on nutrition

to suit your genes, plus a boot camp to help you slim down, improve your fitness and tone up. So contact Anna if you want to have a well-qualified and experienced personal trainer. See Anna's advert on page 8 for contact details.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 4th November at The Ash, Burton End 7.00am-9.00am. If you are interested in coming along please contact Peter James on 813318 to book.



Iris Evans
Treasurer

October Meeting

Dr Steven Dowbiggen OBE, the Principal and Chief Executive of Capel Manor College, returned to the Club to update members on the on-going developments at the College. The number of courses offered has expanded and Capel Manor is now working in collaboration with the Royal Agricultural University to offer a range of foundation degrees with students from both Campuses being able to expand their experiences by working in rural and urban environments.

Dr Dowbiggen went on to highlight several significant developments at the College, including the new Bartlett Arboricultural Training Centre and the Princess Royal College of Animal Management and Saddlery. The College has also carried out saddle commissions for Princess Anne and for other famous equestrians including the Aga Khan. We heard about the Princess Diana Meditation and Remembrance Garden which has been enlarged and redesigned.

The garden is planted with roses and flowers that have a connection with Princess Diana - including the new 'additions to the family' the Duchess of Cambridge, George and Charlotte, who have plants named after them. The garden was reopened on what would have been the Princess of Wales' 54th birthday and was renamed *The Diana Legacy Rose Garden*. The Old Manor House Gardens opened by The Queen has also had some improvements. This area has been designed to tell the story of Capel Manor during the 800 years prior to it becoming a college, with several themed gardens and a recreated 16th century manor house. The final development Dr Dowbiggen spoke about was the Forty Hall Vineyard. It is believed to be the biggest vineyard in London since the Middle Ages and has a claim to be bringing classic sparkling wine back home to where it first started. Making sparkling wine by secondary fermentation in a bottle was actually invented in England as recorded by Christopher Merret in a paper presented in London to the Royal Society in 1662. Dom Perignon, often hailed as the inventor, came much later.

Next Meeting Wednesday 2nd November Day Centre

Where did that come from? - an evening of flower arranging with Mrs Julie Pollard. Member's Photographic Competition for the Green Bowl Cup - the subject is *My highlight from a garden visit* - anything from a vista to a flower bed, bench or gate, whatever caught your eye! Everyone is welcome to our meetings; membership is available or come as a day visitor at £2.50. Refreshments are available prior to the meeting. Doors open at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman

Tel: 07919 478144

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Stansted Family Café

www.stanstedfamilycafe.org

Stansted Family Café celebrates its fifth anniversary this month with a special birthday-themed café at the Day Centre on Saturday 26th November 10.00am-11.30am. You are invited! Any families who have previously attended are welcome to join us, as well as our regular families and anyone who would like to check out the café for the first time - so everyone is welcome. As usual there are no charges for refreshments, entry or children's crafts activities/games. Toys and crafts are available for under-5s as well as 5-11s - and great coffee, children's drinks, cakes, sweet treats and healthy snacks await you too! Any donations given at this special event will be passed on to Wateraid. For more café dates see our website.



Ros Page
Tel: 810813

Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com



We welcomed several new starters, in reception and higher years, and are so pleased to see our wonderful school thriving. Girls in years 5 and 6 and all years 3 and 4 enjoyed the football festival at the Joyce Frankland Academy and did very well in their matches. Willow Class had a trip to the Cambridge Arts Theatre to see Judith Kerr's *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, a favourite for many of the children. Horse Chestnut Class have been studying ancient Egypt and visited the British Museum to see some of the magnificent Egyptian artefacts there. All children have been taking part in the innovative writing scheme *Talk 4 Writing* which has resulted in an improvement in writing attainment across the school. Our coffee morning for Macmillan raised over £400, an excellent amount for a small school. Children, teachers, parents, grandparents and villagers came together to enjoy fabulous cakes and take part in our school cake-off. Our Open Day for reception entrants was in October but anyone unable to attend is welcome to make an appointment to look around privately. Farnham is a village school near Stansted with small class sizes, excellent adult to child ratios, strong results and happy children. The school is graded *Good* by Ofsted. There are places available in some years and children resident in Stansted are eligible to apply. Several Stansted families send their children to the school and would be happy to talk to any parents. For information call the school reception on 771339 or see our website.

Katherine Aiken
Friends of Farnham



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Quiz Saturday 12th November 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Day Centre. Tickets £10 (includes ploughman's). There will be a bar and raffle. Please contact me to book or to let us know you are coming, so that you can join a table.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579



BIRCHANGER C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

Our 19 new children in Reception settled into their routine and are enjoying learning in Ladybirds Class. Our small school has a family feel and our youngest children quickly become part of the school, joining with friends and older siblings at playtime and taking a full part in assemblies and school events. So far they have explored *All About Me* and have started a topic on 'Castles' with a giant castle in the classroom, another in the outside area and lots of dressing up as kings, queens, knights and princesses as they develop language and imagination in role play. They enjoy learning outside the classroom in a canopied outdoor area for exploring construction toys, sand, water and messy play. Children also have a weekly Forest School session with a welly walk to nearby woodland where they learn independence and resilience as they challenge themselves outdoors. New parents are also getting to know our school; parents joined children for lunch to sample our school meals; our Reception Teacher and Literacy Leader are running a phonics workshop to explain some of the key skills children are learning, and the PTA have planned a social evening for parents to get together and find out about fundraising and supporting our school. For parents of children starting school in September 2017 we are holding an open morning on Friday 4th November at 9.30am. Please come along to this or contact the school on 812362 if you would like to look around at another time.

Helen Coop
Headteacher

St Mary's C of E Primary School



Christmas Shopping Evening

Friday 25th November 6.00pm-8.30pm, with outside stalls, Santa's Grotto, refreshments and a performance by the school choir. Entry adults £1, children free.

Angela Madigan
St Mary's PTFA

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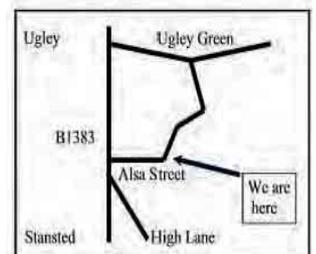
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STANSTED IS WELL READ

Words in Walden has just held its autumn book festival and members of Stansted is Well Read enjoyed spending an evening with Alexander Masters. He is an unusual biographer who chooses seemingly ordinary people as subjects for his books and the group was enthralled by his passion for teasing out their interesting stories.



After the event, he was happy to chat and sign books for us. We are excited to read his book *Simon: The Genius in My Basement* which we will discuss at our next meeting on Tuesday 1st November 8.00pm at the Dog and Duck in Lower Street. You are welcome to join us.

Anne Watson
Tel: 898693

Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com



"TELL YOUR STORY" ESSEX WRITERS PROSE AND POETRY COMPETITION 2017

This is a popular annual competition run by Essex Age UK for people over the age of 50 who live, or have lived in Essex. The competition was first held in 1955 in order to capture the reminiscences of the older residents of Essex, and each year a copy of every entry is given to the Essex Record Office. Entries must reflect your own experiences, and must not have been published elsewhere. You can submit one poem (on one side of A4) and one piece of prose (maximum 1500 words) on each of the following titles (maximum six entries):

- Is life better today?
- On the river
- An unexpected visitor.

Last year I submitted an entry and was awarded Third Prize in one of the categories. My reward was £20 and afternoon tea at Ingatestone Hall with Lord Petre, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex. So I am hoping this will inspire some of you to have a go. Sharpen your pencils, dig deep into your memories, and start writing. The deadline is the end of February 2017. For full details and an application pack visit www.ageukessex.org.uk or call 01245 207026. Good luck!!

Kathy West

ENGLISH COUNTIES QUIZ



Which English county...

1. ... has the longest coastline in England?
2. ... is considered the oldest in England? It contains the oldest recorded town.
3. ... has the HQ of the Royal National Rose Society?
4. ... has districts called Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Gedling and Mansfield?
5. ... has the point in Great Britain furthest from the sea?
6. ... has two distinct coast lines?
7. ... hosts the annual Benjamin Britten music festival?
8. ... boasts the largest parish church in England, St. Botolph's, known as The Stump?
9. ... houses the National Memorial Arboretum?
10. ... acquired Abingdon and Faringdon from Berkshire in 1974?
11. ... nicknames its own inhabitants "moonrakers"?
12. ... was home to the Tolpuddle Martyrs?
13. ... is the smallest of all?
14. Which river separates a Man of Kent from a Kentish Man?
15. What is the county town of Hampshire?
16. Who is toasted in Lancashire as "The Duke of Lancaster"?
17. Which county boasts the largest cemetery in Western Europe?
18. The Iceni, led by Boudica, revolted against Roman occupation in AD 60. In which modern county?
19. Cumbria was created in 1974 by the amalgamation of two older counties. Which two?
20. Which county's most successful football club is Kidderminster Harriers?

Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 31.



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

We had a lovely Harvest service led by Rev'd Paul, and the children have safely delivered their gifts to the residents in Norman Court.

They enjoyed the story of *The Little Red Hen* which linked with our Harvest theme, and encouraged the children to think about helping and sharing with others. They also had a go at making bread on the last day before half-term! We have talked a lot about why we must look after the elderly in the cold weather. Half term challenge was to fill an empty Smarties tube (we had given them a full one first!) with coins earned by doing jobs at home. Well done to everyone who took part. This half term we will be making firework pictures to take home and display in the classroom, and thinking about Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday, Diwali and Christmas. Our Nativity Play will be in St John's Church, and the children will be visiting Mountfitchet House to sing a selection of Christmas songs to the residents. Rainbow are taking part in the Festival of Angels and Christmas Trees at St Mary's Church.

Following our AGM on 10th November we would like to welcome all our new members and say farewell to those that have resigned with many thanks for all their help over the last few years. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place, please visit our website. You need to put your child's name down, however young, to ensure a place.

Gill Pursglove, Administrator
Tel: 814242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net

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www.birchangerwoodtrust.org

September and early October were warm windy and dry, so sadly, no opportunity of seeing fungi in Birchanger Wood. The weather has been so dry that we have not been able to plant out our donated Woodland Trust saplings and this may not now be possible until February next year. In September, we were fortunate to have the TUBS (Tidy Up Bishop's Stortford) volunteers who did a wonderful job litter-picking in the Wood. Wonderful indeed, because that particular Saturday had chosen to be unusually wet, windy and cold ... but, under the high leafy Birchanger Wood canopy, we were protected and unaware of the bad weather. *A big thank you* to Team TUBS. Thank you to Mark, his staff and customers at Caulfields of Snowley Parade for imaginatively and philanthropically regularly donating a sum to the Birchanger Wood Trust, towards the Hedgehog Fund, calculated at 4p from the sale of every plastic carrier bag.



Photograph by Roger Wilmot

In November, the Birchanger Woodland floor and the Wood itself will be 'asleep'. It is a time of rest and recuperation. Exercise, however, is a year-round need and to maintain your enthusiasm and assist you during the cold, damp, dark days preceding Christmas, our winding woodland paths will also keep your feet and your dog's feet relatively clean. Collection of cut and matured fire wood remains at £10 per wheelbarrow load, or £70 per cubic metre. Go to our Compound off the Heath Row footpath/track entrance, open **most** Saturdays 9.00am-10.00am and 2.00pm-3.00pm. We are making every effort to improve the entrance to Birchanger Wood for the collection of wood but the access to the Wood is not owned by the Trust and we are reliant on others for the maintenance of the track from Heath Row into the Wood.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The Society held its annual general meeting in September at the Forge Museum, Much Hadham. The formal business was preceded by a most interesting guided stroll around Much Hadham, led by museum curator Cristina Harrison. There is much to see all along the High Street and inside the church. Much Hadham became an important place almost a thousand years ago when the first palace was built there for the Bishop of London. It was used by bishops for hundreds of years and Edmund Tudor was born there in 1430. His son became King Henry VII in 1485, the first of the Tudor dynasty. The current palace, dating from the 16th century, still stands beside the church, however it has been converted into private houses. After the short formal meeting, members explored the excellent small museum, built around the forge which is still used. There was an added bonus as Cristina explained the museum's fascinating Elizabethan wall paintings. They have been there for some 400 years and were hidden beneath several layers of paint until their recent restoration. There are a surprising number of museums within the Hundred Parishes, covering a whole range of interests and all staffed by enthusiastic people. Most have now closed for the winter, but a few remain open. The Imperial War Museum, Duxford, and Saffron Walden Museum are open most days, whilst Linton Zoo, Great Dunmow Maltings Museum and Ashdon Museum have limited hours. For details see our website.

Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

ENGLISH COUNTIES QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Cornwall
2. Essex. The oldest town is Colchester
3. Hertfordshire (near St. Albans)
4. Nottinghamshire
5. Derbyshire. According to OS, at Church Flats Farm, Coton in the Elms
6. Devon
7. Suffolk. The Aldeburgh Festival is centred on Snape
8. Lincolnshire (known as the Boston Stump)
9. Staffordshire (near Alrewas)
10. Oxfordshire
11. Wiltshire
12. Dorset. Seven men were transported for swearing an oath in forming what is now regarded as a trades union
13. Rutland
14. The Medway. Kentish men in the west, men of Kent in the east
15. Winchester
16. The Queen
17. Surrey. Brookwood Cemetery - around 250,000 bodies
18. Norfolk
19. Cumberland and Westmorland
20. Worcestershire



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www.stclarehospice.org.uk

Takeley housebuilder and long-term partner of St Clare Hospice, Weston Homes Plc, has raised a record-breaking £90,000 for the charity at their 22nd annual golf day.



Weston Homes has been running this vital fundraising event for two decades and has generated well over a million pounds. On 9th September, golfers enjoyed breakfast before hitting the greens at Stoke by Nayland Golf and Spa Hotel, followed by an evening of fine-dining and entertainment. The event finished with a charity auction in which guests bid generously for top prizes – including a holiday in Dubai, and golf breaks. Weston Homes Chairman, Bob Weston, said: “The whole team at Weston Homes are proud to host this annual event for an exceptional cause. The work of St Clare is immeasurably important across Essex and it is imperative, as a local business to lend our support.” St Clare Chief Executive, Tanya Curry, said: “Words cannot express the thanks St Clare owes to Weston Homes for their commitment to our partnership.”

St Clare ‘fired up’ for Hospice Care Week

The annual awareness campaign in early October is organised by the Hospice UK, who aim to raise awareness about the work of over 200 hospices in the UK providing specialist palliative care to people with life-limiting illnesses and their families. On average, UK hospices receive just 32% of their funding from the NHS. It costs St Clare over £4 million annually to deliver their services, the majority of which comes from fundraising and the generosity of local communities. Last year more than 1,720 patients were cared for by the Hospice. One of the key ways we generate funds is through the support of local people taking on personal sponsored challenges. On 30th October 3.00pm-5.00pm, St Clare will be hosting its very own **Firewalk Challenge** at the Hospice in Hastingwood. This is your chance to take a brave barefoot walk over red hot wood embers, smouldering at over 800°F – no tricks or special effects, just you and the fire. No need to train in advance, you will be given expert guidance on the night. For more information visit our website or call Jade Clarke on 773756 email: jade.clarke@stclarehospice.org.uk.

St Clare’s Santa Dash!

It is already beginning to look a lot like Christmas here as the fundraising team prepare for the charity’s festive Fun

Run and Walk on **Sunday 4th December** at The Water Gardens, Harlow, with a family-friendly 5K route around the town, and a ‘mini mile’ for young families. Entry includes a free Santa suit for adults and an elf hat for children – so no need to worry about where to buy your fancy dress! Visit our website for more information and to register. The event is kindly sponsored by the *Grown Up Chocolate Company*.

Rebecca Hedges
Communications Officer

The **St Clare Stansted 10km Fun Run** was well received in the village, so by popular demand the next 10K Fun Run and children’s one mile run will be on Sunday 11th June 2017.



Caroline Bore
Stansted Fun Run Committee



BEEKEEPING ‘CHRISTMAS PRESENT’

It will soon be Christmas, and I am writing about an ideal present for your loved ones – a *Beginners Course in Bee-keeping* run by Bishop’s Stortford Beekeepers Association. At the end of the course the student will be capable of becoming a ‘hobby beekeeper’, knowing how to source bees, maintain a colony in a hive and extract their honey for sale, through the gaining of the following skills and knowledge:

- Understanding the life cycle and role of each type of bee*
- Being able to complete hive inspections competently*
- Understanding the reasons for swarming and carry out preventative measures*
- Knowing the different types of hive and understanding the advantages and disadvantages of each*
- Being able to build a hive and frames*
- Being able to identify common diseases and carry out solutions*
- Being capable of extracting honey hygienically*
- Being able to source a nucleus*
- Knowing how to use the basic equipment*

The course will consist of two-hour evening sessions on 7th March, 10th and 24th April, 15th and 22nd May at Hopley’s Garden Centre, Much Hadham, and at least one weekend practical live session at the Association apiary. The cost is £65, which includes course text book, refreshments and use of protective clothing. Even if you do not intend to keep bees, you will have fun and enjoy learning about them. Why not come as a husband and wife team and revive the fun of doing things together? Or bring the kids; juniors are welcome and we only charge half the price. Please email me, and I will put you on the list to receive more details in the New Year (without obligation). But hurry, places go very quickly and if you want to book now, let me know. For those who would like to ‘try before you buy’ we are running a Taster session on 21st November, which is absolutely free. If you would like to come, please email me – it should be fun!



John Dockerill
Chairman,
Bishop’s Stortford Beekeepers Association
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How better to spend an early December Sunday afternoon than in the comfort of St John's Church enjoying a piano recital by internationally renowned pianist, Riyad Nicolas? On Sunday 4th December 3.00pm Riyad brings us music from five favourite classical and romantic composers, with a sixth hovering in the background: a Mozart sonata, Schumann fantasy pieces, a Chopin waltz and polonaise, and not one but two bravura studies (Liszt and Brahms) on the famous theme by Paganini. A truly wonderful programme of music!



Tickets: adults £15, under 18 free from Absolute Travel; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy tel 815282; or on the door. See our website for general information or email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk for a specific enquiry.

Alan Corbishley

THE HARMONAIRES

The Harmonaires (the region's freshest choral group) are performing a concert entitled *Fire and Light* on Saturday 12th November 8.00pm in St Joseph's Church, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford. The concert will feature an eclectic mix of contemporary classical work (Gjeilo, Rutter, Chilcott) and popular choral settings (Adele, Duke Ellington, Snow Patrol, Coldplay and Katie Perry). Tickets £13.50 (students £5) email: chrishumph01@gmail.com or tel 07903 009569.

Liz Jennings



MANUDEN SINGERS

Sunday 11th December 7.30pm St Mary's Church, Manuden. Music for Saint Cecilia. Proceeds to World Child Cancer. Tickets from 812157, or on the door.



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www.rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk

Panto Time - Cinderella 10th December to 7th January
Tickets £16-£20 / £62 - £70 family tel 710200 or online.

Jennifer Austin



Holst *Planets* and Ive Burnet *Evolutionary Notes* Sunday 27th November 3.00pm Saffron Hall

Imagine a weather report from 2 billion years ago: 'Clouds, mainly of cyanide and ammonia, will block out the sun. Air quality will be appalling – particularly if you like oxygen.' Science educator Frank Burnet narrates his witty and amusing account of the history of life on earth (complete with plenty of exciting dinosaur action!) accompanied by a brilliant score from Joanna Ive. The programme also includes Holst's musical depiction of the solar system, *The Planets*, journeys from the thunderous violence of Mars, via the sweeping grandeur of Jupiter (including the tune *I vow to thee, my country*) to the strange, shifting chords of mysterious Neptune. Tickets £15 adults, £3 under 18s from: Saffron Walden Tourist tel 01799 524002, Saffron Hall tel 0845 5487650, online www.saffronhall.com or on the door.



Marion Dyer

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN

Contexture Theatre presented an updated version of Brecht's famous play written in 1939. This translation by David Hare was accompanied by some wonderful live music composed by Laurence Aldridge, a member of the cast. The play is set in the Thirty Years War and covers a period of 12 years from 1624. Mother Courage, with her three children, follows one army after another across war-torn Europe, with her canteen wagon. This is her means of survival and their only home. Both sons die as a result of the wars, leaving her and her daughter, who is dumb, to pull the cart and survive alone. Katrin is shot when trying to warn townspeople of approaching Catholic soldiers.



Every member of this cast not only acted with conviction but each played a musical instrument and sang! Mother Courage (Gailie Pollock) was outstanding in the lead role and special mention also to Darcey James as Kattrin, a wonderful sympathetic performance of the dumb daughter who dreamed of being married one day. Sad that there were not enough people in the audience to experience this truly interesting and accomplished performance of a play that has something to say to us all even today.



Judy Colliver
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Stansted Tennis Club



Club Finals

This year's finals' day was played in glorious sunshine on Sunday 11th September. The day was well attended by lots of spectators who enjoyed watching a feast of high quality tennis matches.

Results

Men's Singles: Chris Hollis beat Matthieu Glasson 6-4 6-4. This was Chris' 11th singles victory, his previous one being way back in 1999.

Ladies' Singles: Ruby Hollis beat Daphne Lunnon 6-1 6-4. This was Ruby's third consecutive year of being victorious in this event.

Men's Doubles: Phil Berry and Chris Hollis beat Jon Budd and Simon Fox 6-0 6-2

Ladies' Doubles: Ruby Hollis and Daphne Lunnon beat Lisa King and Fiona Pye 7-6 6-4.

Mixed Doubles: Ross Armorgie and Ruby Hollis beat Simon Fox and Lisa King 6-3 6-4

The Roger Loveday trophy, voted for by the Committee, for the most improved player of the year, went to Ash Huggonson.

Hospital Cup Finals 17th September at Thaxted

Simon Playfair and Ruby Hollis were pipped at the post in two very close sets by The Grove. A cheque for over £1,000 was presented to Saffron Walden Hospital to benefit patients on Avocet Ward.

Cayless Chilli Tournament

This popular annual tournament took place on Sunday 9th October. The Club warmly welcomed Fran Cayless, who made the journey down from Southwell to join her old friends in Stansted. Sixteen players battled it out in the round robin stage of ladies' and men's doubles. The knockout section followed with players pairing up for mixed doubles. This year's champions were Chris Hollis and Sue Simpson who beat Simon Fox and Carol Cook in a nail-biting final which went to a final score of 6-5, after having been 4-0



and 5-2 down. A chilli lunch was enjoyed by all the players afterwards.

Wilby Tournament:

The rearranged date is Sunday 6th November at 1.30pm.

Ladies' Night Monday 14th November 7.00pm. All lady members (especially new ones) are welcome to play.

Friday Social Tournament (adult doubles)

Friday 18th November at 9.00am.

Used tennis balls

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

Contacts

Jon Budd (Secretary) 647020 Chris Hollis (Acting Chairman) 319155. For more information please visit our website.



Chris Hollis

STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB



Last month saw both our First and Reserves teams managing to record victories in both League and Cup competitions; this has set up a very busy November with games on both Saturdays and Tuesdays followed by training and coaching on a Thursday. It's important that our managers and coaches have the teams both physically fit and mentally prepared for these upcoming games. The start of the month sees a very interesting Essex Senior Cup tie at home to Tilbury who play in the Ryman North League, which is a level above us. We last played Tilbury in an FA Cup tie in 2015; after a draw at home we subsequently lost the replay by nil goals to three. This game now gives us an opportunity to assess the level we currently are, and plenty of home support on the evening would be very much appreciated. Off the field recent good weather has helped to keep the pitch in excellent condition along with the hard work done by our ground staff. This has led to a number of favourable comments from both the League and Match officials when they have visited Hargrave Park.

Home games in November:

1 st First	v Tilbury	7.45pm Essex Senior Cup
8 th Reserves	v Waltham Abbey	7.45pm Shield
12 th First	v Haringey & Waltham	3.00pm League
16 th First	v Enfield 1893	7.45pm League
19 th Reserves	v Thurrock	2.00pm League
22 nd First	v Wadham Lodge	7.45pm League
26 th First	v Sporting Bengal	3.00pm League
29 th First	v Ilford	7.45pm Gordon Brasted Trophy

For all the up-to-date news on the team please see:

www.pitchero.com/clubs/stanstedfc2011

<https://twitter.com/fcstansted>

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/stansted.fc.9>



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 03842



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Finals Day a competitive day's bowling, results to follow. Congratulations to the **A team** who won the Final of their division at Witham on Sunday 18th September.

Last Bowl was an open fun day with proceeds donated to Shaun Whiter. Thanks go to all helpers before and on the day, in particular Margaret and John. It was a lovely sunny day with visitors enjoying home-made cakes, tea and coffee, bar and raffle. Various target bowls were available on the green; these were a challenge to all. Thanks also to those who so generously donated their prize money back to the fund, which stands at £900.00. As we are now in the closed season, Carpet Bowls are running on Tuesdays at 2.00pm and Fridays at 8.00pm; all welcome to come along and have a go - it is good fun. Thank you to all members for your good wishes, visits, gifts and cards following my recent fall.

Doreen Scraggs

Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178

Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net



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STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

The 2016 season was generally a good one for the Club. The younger players took centre stage and performed exceptionally well throughout the season with the 'older heads' making valuable contributions when needed. Henry Merrick and Rory McGurk won Division 2 League Awards for Most Runs and Best Bowling Performance respectively. Another highlight of the season was the addition of our new bat! More to follow on that. The wickets at both grounds have been put to bed for the winter by our groundsman and the pavilions have been cleaned and locked up. We leave nothing of value in either pavilion during these months. The Club's AGM is on 6th December and the Presentation Evening on 9th December at the Day Centre. The Annual Quiz will be held on 4th February at Bishops Stortford College. If you would like to join us for the Presentation Evening or Quiz you would be very welcome. We are hoping to recruit new members for next season so if you are interested in joining please contact me.



David Brown
Tel: 07788 999663
Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com



*Stansted
Cricket
Club*

Our congratulations go to first team captain Matt Cope, who has won the HECL Division 1 Best Bowling Award for his 6-25 against Hatfield Heath at home on 2nd July. The square has been seeded and dressed for its annual maintenance. We had a very enjoyable Presentation Evening in the pavilion in September. There was a marquee and band, excellent food and a gallant attempt to drink up the remaining beer from the season. The Club accepted an invitation to participate in a T20 competition in La Manga, Southern Spain from 7th-9th October. The team won their first match by six wickets; details of the rest of the competition will appear next month. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact me. 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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6th Nov B Stortford, Pig Lane C/Pk down by the canal/River Stort TL494193 CM22 7PA
20th Nov Sawbridgeworth, Pishiobury Park TL 475140 CM 21 OAL
4th Dec Allens Green - Park on verge along by the Queens Head TL 455169 CM21 0LS
18th Dec Manuden - Park on the road opposite Manuden House TL 489268 CM23 1DF
26th Dec Stansted - Lower Street car park (free on Sundays)

It is November now, traditionally a soggy grey and 'muggy' month. Do not despair, it is not always so, and you will enjoy yourselves. So, we start at Pig Lane. This is a good car park with loads of parking right down on the banks of the canalised River Stort. The next start is from Pishiobury car park, again part of the River Stort flood plain, off the A1184 and between the High Wych road and Pishiobury Drive.

Help! We are struggling to find walk leaders. Do you have a walk you would like to do? Maybe I can help - I cannot research a walk myself at the moment as I still only have one good hand, but I am willing to accompany you and assist you in researching a walk - talk to me. You need to physically walk the walk beforehand so that you are familiar with the ground conditions, have a suitable map, and compass and remember that a group is much slower than one person walking alone or with a friend, and that climbing over a stile takes an inordinate amount of time for a group to negotiate! To lead a walk is really not daunting.

Finally, the BSDFA was busy during the summer, challenging Network Rail's decision to close a huge number of public rights of way (PROWs) over the railway line from London to Cambridge. Should these closures happen and suitable quality alternative routes are not proposed or viable, this will severely curtail a large number of circular walks. Plus, cut off safe, easy access to local recreation areas resulting in hazardous diversions, often along public roads to school and work for many local residents.



Photo: River Stort taken by Sylvia Hayes of BSDFA



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis,
Publicity Officer
Email: dwjjwj.444@gmail.com

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