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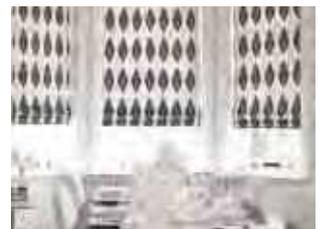
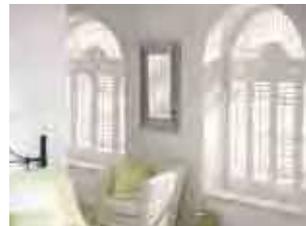
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EDITORIAL



There is much to be said for having an active social life; it combats loneliness by keeping us connected with other people; provides vital mental stimulation; makes us more physically active and really helps us to get the most out of life. Here in Stansted, we are very fortunate to have a socially dynamic network of clubs and community groups planning and running a variety of social events most days of the week. You need only to turn to this month's *What's On* on page 5 to get a flavour of activities that are happening in June. Local clubs and community groups are always reaching out for new members, so if your social life is in need of a boost, particularly at a time of such great uncertainty, turn to page 13. There is still time to sign up for this year's *Stansted Fun Run and Walk* on page 15. Have you heard about the *Orbis Flying Eye Hospital* - that's right a flying hospital! Find out why it was in Stansted back in March - page 27. June is said to be a month of joy and important dates; read more on page 37.

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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 June for the July issue or by hand/post by noon on 8th June to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

'Pray for your community and seek its welfare'

We go to the polling station again this month for a General Election. We are being asked to choose our Government. Casting our vote is an important way of expressing what we believe is needed for the welfare of our nation and community. We may be tempted to think that our vote doesn't matter, but it does - perhaps at this moment more than at any other recently. The Government we choose will have more to do than simply negotiate our future relationship with the European Union. This is important, but we are also electing a Government for the next five years. There are plenty of other things that need looking after as well as trade, including housing, health and social care, defence, education, transport, industry and farming, and the taxation regime that is needed to support all these services.

Who do we consider will best serve the welfare of all the people in our nation? We should all ponder this question carefully, and, for those of us with faith, prayerfully. The welfare of our community does not end with casting our vote. There is a role for all of us in caring for those around us. In the Bible, this is called loving our neighbour, who Jesus radically defined as the stranger near and far. All our lives are stronger and better when we look out for everyone and not just ourselves.



Roy Fowler
Stansted Free Church



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



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

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

Our @27 meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays 6th and 20th June 7.30pm coffee for 7.45pm start; please contact us for topic and venue. @27 is a house-church or homegroup-style meeting with modern worship music, a Bible-based *thought for the day*, discussion, prayer and more. If you are looking for Christians with a contemporary outlook, a desire to grow in our faith and a vision to benefit our community, why not join us? All welcome - you do not have to be a member of Family Church, or any church, to attend. If you would like to join a prayer walk, or have a prayer-request please contact us.



Ros Page

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

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

Preachers for June

4th 10.30am Richard Lewney – New Directions
11th 10.45am Revs Roy Fowler and Paul Wilkin
Note change of time
18th 10.30am Mike Dyer
25th 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins - Communion

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Lydia Rapkin, who was non-stipendiary minister of Stansted United Reformed Church from 1985–2000. Lydia was much loved and will be very much missed by all who knew her.

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

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

Meeting for Worship Sunday, 10.30am every week

ROMAN CATHOLIC St Therese of Lisieux

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ
www.sttheresasstansted.org

Priest Father John Garrett

Office Tel: 816889
Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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

Confessions

Saturday	10.00am
	and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

The winners of the last draws for 2016/17 held on 30th April were:

100	No 9	Sam Longbottom
50	No 197	Freda Nancarrow
25	No 187	Ethan Pelly

Congratulations to all 38 winners over the last 12 months, who all won a share of the total prize monies of 2,500. Many thanks to all those who have renewed their membership for another year and, to those who have just joined, thank you, welcome to the Club and good luck to you all! If you would also like to be in with a chance to win over the coming year, there are still numbers available at a cost of 2 per number per month up to a maximum of five per household. Please contact me for an application form or further details. The draw for June will be held on Sunday 25th June.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562

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)

Tuesday

9.15am St John's Tots

Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday

10.30am-noon The Coffee Pot

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

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.



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Many of you will not know me, but I have taken over the role of Chairman of the Friends. I have lived in this friendly village for over 25 years and I am passionate about helping to preserve this stunningly beautiful building which is steeped in history. If you have not been already, please do come and have a look, and remember to sign our visitors' book! The church is open daily 9.00am-4.00pm, but in addition it is open 2.00pm-5.00pm on the first Sunday of the month from May to September, when refreshments are served along with guided tours of the church. We have a number of special events planned for this year, starting with **Macbeth** presented by *This is my Theatre*, a travelling theatre group based in Sussex, on **Friday 28th July** 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets: adults 12.50, St Mary's Friends 10, under 16s 5, family of 4 30. For more information and to book please go to www.thisismytheatre.com. On the same weekend, **Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th July**, we have our **tea party** with stalls, homemade cakes, music, presentations plus fun and games for all the family. More details in next month's Link.

Calendar Competition

We invite all photographers and artists to get creative and submit photographs and artwork to be included in our 2018 calendar! Closing date is 15th August. Please email photographs to me (shortlisted finalists will be asked to provide a printed copy at a later date). Original artwork can be brought to St Mary's Church and left in an envelope for my attention. Please provide a stamped addressed envelope if you wish your artwork to be returned to you. In addition to being printed on next year's calendar, the winning entries will be displayed in the church during our **Heritage Week-end 9th and 10th September**.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474
Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com

From the Registers

April

Baptisms

2nd Rebeka Rose Wilkie
16th Ava Lucia Gray
Indiana Lyla Gray
30th Harriet Rose Lee
Sam Hywel Pritchard

Funerals

3rd Margaret Picken Raeside Gemmill,
age 91 - service at St John's followed
by private burial at Elms Farm
6th Katharine Kennedy Hurford, age 93 -
at Parndon Wood
10th Geoffrey John Peachey, age 68 -
at St John's, cremation at
Parndon Wood
28th Harold Ernest Thistle, age 92 -
at Parndon Wood

ST MARY'S C E FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk



<https://www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery>

Life continues apace here at St Mary's! To make sure we are fit, we have introduced the daily mile, where pupils and staff run or power walk a mile every day. We had an invasion by the Anglo Saxons, led by Beowulf, fully dressed in chainmail, helmet and scabbard. Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a day of quizzes, Anglo Saxon games and hearing about the life and lawlessness of the period. To finish there was a dramatic re-enactment of the fall of the last Saxon king. Our Reception pupils were made very welcome at the Fire Station. They loved trying on the firefighters' clothing and equipment, clambering into the vehicles and having a go with the hoses. A small group of Key Stage 2 children and staff went into London to visit the National Gallery. It was very exciting to see for real, actual paintings they had been studying by masters such as Van Gogh, Monet and Gainsborough. They also enjoyed spotting 'errors' the artists had made in their painting and drawing technique! After making sketches in the impressionist gallery they rounded off the afternoon with sandwiches and sunshine in Trafalgar Square and a double-decker bus ride to Liverpool Street station for the train home. Great fun had by all!



The children received an important lesson in how to behave around dogs: asking if you may pet someone's dog; what to do if you are afraid of a dog; how to recognise how a dog is feeling and if it wants to be approached. While the trees in the grounds are developing well, we have needed additional shade outside the school. The school and the PTFA have succeeded in saving/fundraising for good quality shading, installed during the Easter holidays. We now have four large and robust umbrellas, one in each house colour, plus an additional area of safety surface to extend our play area.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher
Tel: 812212

We recently welcomed Karen Reilly as our new nursery manager along with Carly Richards as nursery assistant, who both bring a wealth of experience and passion to our brilliant staff team. The AGM was well supported and we look forward to working with new Committee members and a dedicated fundraising team. The children have been busy exploring castles and enjoyed making some with cardboard boxes. This led to looking at princes and princesses, and during our Forest School sessions the children designed their own crowns from the natural resources they could find in the woods. Our weekly Forest School has been a huge success and the children continue to develop their understanding of the natural world in a fun, practical way.



Everyone took part in a sponsored scavenger hunt which raised over 170 and allowed us to purchase a new water table for our lovely garden as well as new computer tablets that the staff use to record the children's learning journals. These are available on an interactive online portal for parents to see photographs and read observations of their children carrying out a wide variety of activities in the nursery, and they are also a good way for parents to provide comments and pictures from home.

Birchanger Nursery is a preschool in the grounds of, but separate from, Birchanger Primary School. We provide a caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged two to five. We are currently managing a waiting list and advise parents to make contact as soon as possible if they are looking to secure a place. To arrange a visit please telephone 810800, email admin@birchangernursery.org and read more on our Facebook page.

Nadine Lloyd
Committee Member



SHALOM

Our next meeting is on Monday 12th June, followed by our Summer Party on Monday 26th June, when you are invited to bring finger food and a reading or piece of music to share. We hope to be in the garden so you are advised to bring a jumper! Both meetings are at 7 Blythwood Gardens and start at 8.00pm. All welcome.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



STANSTED U3A SINGERS

An evening of Light Hearted Song

Sat 3rd June 7.15 pm

St Theresa's Parish Hall

Tickets Adults £5 Under 16s £3
from 814190 (includes light refreshments)

All proceeds to Christian Aid



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Sun 4th Jun

* * *

St Mary's Church Teas
2 - 5 pm Sun 4th Jun

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STANSTED 10K
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Bentfield Green

All Abilities 1 mile Race 10 am
Adult Race 11 am

£12 advance (£15 cash on the day)

Register in advance by 7th June
at www.stansted10k.org.uk

1 mile Race £3 cash on the day
Register on the day from 9 am
More info tel 813938

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

2	Fri	Business Forum	Linden House 7 for 7.30 am
3	Sat	U3A Singers Charity Concert	St Theresa's Hall 7.15 pm
4	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
		St Mary's Church Open	2 - 5 pm
6	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
8	Thu	Stansted Evening W I AGM	Day Centre 7.45 pm
11	Sun	Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
		Stansted 10K Fun Run	Bentfield Green from 10 am
		Littlebury Fête	Littlebury Church 12.30 pm
11	Sun	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
11 & 25	Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
12	Mon	Ladies' Night	Tennis Club 7 pm
		Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
13	Tue	RSPB	Bishop's Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
15	Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 pm
17	Sat	Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
		Bouncy Picnic	Recreation Ground 1 - 4 pm
		Saffron Walden Symphony Orch	Saffron Hall 7.30 pm
18	Sun	Music for a Summer Afternoon	Littlebury Church 4 pm
20	Tue	CAMEO	Day Centre 7 - 8.30 pm
21	Wed	Quendon & Rickling Coffee Club	Village Hall 10 am - noon
		Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
24	Sat	U3A Seminar	Free Church Hall 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
26	Mon	Shalom Party	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
27	Tue	Hearing Help	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm



Holy Trinity Church Littlebury

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Saturday Seminar

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Stansted Free Church Hall

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10 am - noon Sat 17th June



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Knitting & Needlework*

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Holy Trinity Church Littlebury

Music for a Summer Afternoon

4 pm Sun 18th Jun

University of London Chamber Choir

*Tickets £12 (school children and students
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or on the door*

For more information call
01799 521312 ~ All Welcome



Sat 17th June 7.30 pm

Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Soloist George Harliono
Beethoven Emperor Concerto
plus works by Sibelius and Tubin

Adult £15, under 18s £3

S W Tourist 01799 524002
S Hall Box Office 0845 548 7650
www.saffronhall.com or on the door



Bouncy Picnic

1 - 4 pm Sat 17th June

Recreation Ground

FREE inflatables for all ages
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Marcel Morelli MSc (Chiro), DC.
And Associates

Registered Doctors of Chiropractic

BIRCHANGER CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL



OFSTED

In February the school was inspected by OFSTED and we are delighted that the school was judged *Good* in all areas. The inspection took place over two days and was a very thorough process - the inspector visited lessons; spoke to children, staff, governors and parents; reviewed documents and discussed the attainment of pupils. The quality of teaching and learning was recognised in the report as being 'good throughout the school'. The report also celebrated the children's positive attitude to learning and their good behaviour noting that "Pupils feel safe in this inclusive and welcoming school. The personal development and welfare of pupils has a high priority and pupils' behaviour is good". Achieving this *Good* judgement has been a whole school effort and we are very proud of the hard work and commitment shown by the members of staff, school governors and the children. The full report can be viewed on the school website.

Out and About

All our classes have been out and about recently on visits linked to their topics. Ladybirds Class had an outing to Boydells Farm, while Hedgehogs Class visited Daisy May's Farm as part of their *animals* topic. Children enjoyed collecting eggs, grooming the ponies and feeding the animals. Badgers and Squirrels Classes visited *Aerozone* at Stansted airport. This was a packed morning with children finding out about different aspects of the airport such as baggage handling and air traffic control. Children in Owls Class are taking a tour of the Houses of Parliament - with the election coming up this is an exciting time to visit and find out about our country's government. We always welcome families who would like to come and look around our school. Please telephone 812362 to arrange a visit.

Helen Coop
Headteacher



The summer term is well under way here at Bentfield and all classes are busy with their termly themes. Both the Nursery and Reception pupils are working on growing and new life; Year 1 are studying animals and Year 2 are learning about different famous people. *Why did they wear that?* is the theme in Class 3; Year 4 are studying *Romans*; Year 5 are exploring *Shakespeare* and Year 6 are completing their *Victorians* topic (whilst preparing for their end of key stage tests)! We have also set up our summer term extra-curricular clubs with the children having a range of choices, including cricket, athletics, rounders, archery, golf, chess, ukulele, band and an inclusion club. Some of the classes have also completed their summer term visits, with Class 3 attending Cambridge Arts Theatre to see *Fantastic Mr Fox*, Class 4 attending *Lullingstone Roman Villa*, and both Year 1 classes visiting *Linton Zoo*. There is, of course, a lot more to come as the term progresses!

In addition news we currently have an opening available for those interested in becoming a school governor. The

Governing Body is responsible for overseeing many of the strategic decisions of the school and this role entails supporting, challenging, and asking questions, ultimately to represent the school community. The Governing Body works in close partnership with the Headteacher, staff and the local authority. Whilst the Headteacher is, of course, responsible for the day to day running of the school, the governors are involved with such things as staffing, curriculum, school buildings and finance. It ensures the school functions well and maintains the proper range of academic and social objectives. School governors do not have to be parents of pupils at the school; in fact we always welcome interested parties from the wider community. If this is something which may be of interest to you please feel free to pop in to the school office or contact us on the number below. We will also be putting information on our website including further guidance on how to apply.

David Rogers
Headteacher
Tel: 813626



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

The children are having great fun outdoors, playing in our renovated mud kitchen and using the water wall to experiment with pouring water down different colour tubes. They have also been watching the fish in our secure garden pond and talking about how we look after them. For the Adventurers, this half term is the final one before leaving for primary school. Small groups have visited the mobile library to choose a book to look at before our PE session. We recently held a fancy dress day with the 'payment' being a donation for the Bottle Tombola stall for our Fun Day in May.



If you have any Sainsbury's *Active Kids* Vouchers hiding anywhere and if you are looking for somewhere to donate them, we would be very happy to receive them. We have to get our order into Sainsbury's by 30th June.

Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2 years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down, however young, to ensure a place.

Gill Pursglove
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BOUNCY PICNIC 2017

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This year's Bouncy Picnic will have bouncy castles and Inflatable obstacle runs for **under 5s** and **Reception to Year 6** as usual, and for the first time – a bungee run and other activities exclusively for **Year 7s up to adults!** The event is **free of charge** and for the entire community, so please invite family, friends and neighbours to come to the Recreation Ground on Saturday 17th June 1.00pm-4.00pm.



Please note there is no parking at Recreation Ground, so plan to come on foot or park at Crafton Green. As usual you are encouraged to bring your own picnic, and there will be hotdogs and squash available, as well as face-painting for younger children. This year volunteers from both Stansted Family Caf and Stansted Messy Church will be involved in running the event and we are very grateful to have additional support from the Parish Council and the National Lottery Celebration Fund. Why not join us for a fun-packed afternoon for the whole community?



Ros Page
Stansted Family Caf Tel: 810813



Marion Dyer
Stansted Messy Church Tel: 814059



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The April meeting was our annual *members' afternoon* – a meeting organised by a temporary Committee to give the usual Committee an afternoon off. The entertainment was provided by Jackie Lamberty and her husband John, who took us on an amazing visual tour of the Australian Outback. To prepare us for our trip, Jackie gave us some very interesting background facts and figures. It would be very hot and humid, they have no seasons as we know them, just wet from November to April and dry from May to October. The trip took place in the dry season and thanks to Jackie and John's incredible photography, we were able to view roads and rivers and go on a boat trip to Geike Gorge, formed by the Fitzroy River which flows through the limestone of the Napier Range. We were introduced to the flora and fauna of the area too – including eucalyptus and boab trees, crocodiles, kookaburra, dingoes and emus. From the comfort of our seats, we viewed some incredible examples of 40,000 years old ancient rock art, depicting extinct animals, plants and the Wandjina Spirit. Our journey ended with a river cruise on Lake Argyle – a massive lake equivalent to 21 Sydney Harbours! A delicious tea, produced and served by members of the Committee brought a very enjoyable afternoon to a close. **Lucy Allen, professional stunt woman**, will be the speaker at our next meeting on Wednesday 21st June at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall. Why not come along? Visitors and new members are always very welcome.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



www.stanstedu3a.org

The April Bus Pass Group travelled to St Ives from Cambridge (15 miles) on the Busway guided bus. St Ives is a beautiful town, full of history and old architecture. Naturally, there was time to go shopping while some of the group walked across the meadow and sat by the river doing a bit of bird watching. Lunch was at the riverside caf, sitting outside on the river terrace in the lovely, hot sunshine. Perfect! At the **monthly meeting** on 20th April, the speaker was **Paul Clancy** who, as a member of the Magic Circle, gave a short history of the organisation and then proceeded to entertain, enthrall and confound everyone, with amazing tricks and mind reading skills. The next meeting will be on Thursday 15th June and the speaker will be informing the members about 'Canine Partners'. Doors open at 1.30pm.

The **Art Appreciation Group** will meet on Wednesday 21st June to see some of the sculptures sited in central Harlow. Email Lilian on stanstedartappreciation@btinternet.com. The next **Saturday Seminar *Reimagining theatre - a director's perspective?*** is on 24th June 9.30am in Stansted Free Church Hall, when Gailie Anderson of Contexture Theatre Company gives an insight into the choices facing a director; from choosing plays and the right actors, to incorporating music into productions and using alternative ideas when planning scenes. Tickets are 4 members, 5 non-members. Email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com or call Alan on 07790 213510. The **Ukulele Group** now has 28 members, meeting on Mondays at the Day Centre from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. The repertoire of songs can be heard on Sunday 2nd July at the Bandstand on Sworders Field, joining other groups for a *Picnic in the Park*. Contact Pat Cooper email: jumpingflea2@gmail.com.

U3A contact details via the website or telephone: Helen (Chair) 812945, Liz (Secretary) 813270.



Suzanne Parra

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: NEW PHARMACY

I think the whole situation with the proposed new pharmacy next to the new Surgery in Lower Street, Stansted, needs clarifying. I understand that a new pharmacy would not be allowed within a three-mile radius of an existing pharmacy - that is Boots on the Cambridge Road. Boots appear to be unwilling or unable to move next door to the new Surgery in Lower Street. If a new pharmacy is allowed, does it mean that Boots would close? Also, would it provide a comprehensive delivery service to house-bound or people unable for other reasons to get to a pharmacy? If Boots does close, it will, of course, put all the residents in the western half of Stansted in exactly the same disadvantaged position that Ray Woodcock wrote about in last month's Link. Parking will be just as difficult in the Lower Street car park as on the Cambridge Road. Of course, two pharmacies may be considered ideal, but it must be made clear if this is possible.

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

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DANCE COMPETITION CONGRATULATIONS

Pupils at the Mitchell School of Dance entered the UK Children's Cecchetti Choreographic Competition on 5th March which was held at Cecil Sharp House in London. Poppy Clarkson, Olivia Stokely and Olivia Rnjak choreographed and performed their dance *On the Go*, a lively ballet dance portraying the in-flight work of air hostesses. To everyone's delight they were awarded winner of the Junior Group Section of the competition and also runner up for musicality.



More success was to follow when our pupils Mimi Broughton, Kitty Lees, Dot Sowter, Amelia Stokely and Francesca Wee performed their dance titled *Caught in the Net* which was awarded runner up. Congratulations to all the children.

Wendy Mitchell
Mitchell School of Dance
Tel: 01992 812781



Summer Term is in full swing at the Huw Johnson Club. Over the past month, we have had another fiercely contested quiz night, have been to the pub for supper and had an evening enjoying a number of different activities and games. In the coming weeks, we have a Film Night, our annual Sports Evening and a ukulele evening all to look forward to. We have been very fortunate over the past few months to have received a number of generous donations. The Huw Johnson Club relies entirely on voluntary funds, so we are always very grateful for any support (either cash or volunteering). A huge thank you to the following supporters; Vicky Steadman, who ran her 40th half marathon! raising 600 for us in the process; Helen and Rob Deering who generously asked for donations to be made to the Club in lieu of wedding presents; and to everyone who supported us via the Co-operative Local Community Fund, which raised a whopping 727 for the Club!

We are looking forward to the Stansted 10km Fun Run, which this year is supporting the Huw Johnson Club as one of its charity partners. We will be there to cheer all you runners on, so do come and say hello; thank you so much to everyone involved for their support and hard work in setting this up. We are always seeking volunteers to help out on Thursday evenings, as well as car and bus drivers and bus escorts – the latter opportunities only require about one Thursday a month commitment. We are also a great place to do your Duke of Edinburgh Award community volunteering. Please contact Sandra (812627) or myself for more information – we would love to hear from you!



Katharine Collis
Tel: 461270

WHAT'S IN A NAME!

I am sure if you ask any vet they will tell you that they enjoy a straightforward morning's operating session. I was just looking through my morning's list recently, when I was pulled up short by number three, a cat called *Gandalf Moominflower III*! There are many questions that go through a vet's mind when presented with an animal with an unusually elaborate name; the first one usually being "why?". However, my initial thought this morning was *Gandalf Moominflower* the 3rd, does this mean there have been a 1st and 2nd? It then got me musing on the significance of naming your pet. I have lost count of the number of cats called *Lucky* that have crossed my path, clearly not very lucky if they've ended up at the vets. In fact, one particularly unlucky *Lucky* was in two separate road accidents and had his tail amputated after the first, a leg after the second and I feared was rather running out of spare parts. One of the slowest Labradors I've known was called *Jet* and one of the puniest poodles, *Rambo*. I have also treated a guinea pig called *Ricky Martin*, a tortoise called *Bolt* and, I kid you not, a rat called *Danny Dyer*! Anyway, back to *Gandalf Moominflower III*. He was treated with the utmost respect as was deserving of an animal with such a name and all his belongings were clearly labelled so he didn't go home in 'Sooty's' cat carrier - how demeaning would that have been? I am pleased to say he made a speedy recovery from his little op and is now out and about in his neighbourhood once more. Encountering slightly more unusual names always reminds me how important every single pet is to their owner and how each pet is an individual and unique to its own family. We recognise this at the surgery; we all have pets of our own and once you start working at a vets, you always end up with a few more. So we always treat our patients as we would our own, whatever their name!

Our exciting news this month is that we are going to be running the dog show at Saffron Walden Carnival. The carnival is a fantastic event in the town and runs for eight days with various events from 9th-15th July. We will be on the Common on Saturday 15th July with lots of fun classes for your dog to enter. I think *Broccoli* may be in the best pensioner class so come along and have a chat! For more details visit their website www.8dayweekend.co.uk.



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons

FARNHAM BLUEBELL WALK



Thank you to everyone who took part in our Bluebell Walk on Sunday 23rd April. We had a wonderful day; the sun shone, the bluebells were in full bloom and we had approximately 130 people walking with us. Many were Link readers - so nice to see them. We had kind donations of Broad Oak sausages and Dorringtons' rolls for our BBQ, which were all sold. Thanks to everyone's generosity we made a profit of 640 which is fantastic and also up on last year. We now have architects drawing up plans for the WC and Servery so we are really getting somewhere. Once again many thanks from the Committee members of Friends of Farnham Church.

Barbara Stubbings

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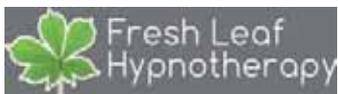
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DOES YOUR SOCIAL LIFE NEED A BOOST?

If you are fed up sitting at home on the sofa instead of getting out and about in Stansted, meeting lots of lovely new friends - then how about joining **Stansted Social Life**?



This Facebook-only group was set up at the beginning of the year and already has 170 members - solos and couples of all ages. There have been more than a dozen events held so far from Saturday coffee mornings to Friday night drinks at different hostelrys in the village; meals out as well as band nights at the Social Club. For those nervous of turning up on their own, group organiser Lois Prior has set up a buddy system, so anyone can chat online beforehand and be met outside the event venue and encouraged to take those first steps through the door. The group has already run its first survey, with positive feedback and ideas for more events. Events this summer include taking part in the **Fun Run, band night at the Social Club, Music in the Park and S Club/Steps** at Saffron Walden Carnival. Children, work, shift patterns, family responsibility, divorce, money – there are dozens of reasons people's social lives are not what they could be; but I hope the group will encourage people to get out more and enjoy some of the great things going on locally. You can find the group by typing **Stansted Social Life** into the search bar on Facebook.

Lois Prior

VOLUNTEER CHAPERONES NEEDED

www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk

Uttlesford Citizens Advice urgently needs volunteer 'chaperones' to support the advice service in Stansted, which operates on Tuesday mornings from the Children's Centre. Advisers are required to work in pairs, so the presence of a chaperone is vital. As a chaperone, you will be asked to welcome clients while the adviser works through the morning's appointments. It could be the perfect opportunity to read a book and be useful all at the same time! This is an important, but stress-free role for kind and discreet individuals - confidentiality is paramount to the service. Citizens Advice welcomes all applications. No training is required, but a DBS check will be necessary.

If you are interested in joining the rota of chaperones please download an application form from our website or call 01799 618840.

Jo Hancock

STANSTED SOCIAL CLUB AT HEART OF THE VILLAGE

www.smsc.uk.com

Stansted Social Club is at the heart of Stansted. Geographically the Club is located very centrally in the village in a historic building on Lower Street (by the roundabout), but also aims to be at the heart of the village



socially. Although we are a members' club, the staff and members are very happy to welcome new people. We aim to provide a high quality, value-for-money, friendly social experience for all our members. Each week there is a variety of regular entertainment; including live music, bingo, a meat raffle, members' prize draws, discos, karaoke and televised sport from both Sky and BT. Our drinks

menu, which includes a range of beers, lagers and ciders, spirits and wines as well as non-alcoholic beverages is very competitively priced; and probably is the cheapest pint in town. We can offer two separate bars on our lower floor and a three-table snooker room on our first floor. Please also remember that we are a family club and welcome well-behaved adults as well as well-behaved children. Details about the Club and what entertainments we are offering in the near future, are available on our website, or you can call us on 812992.

Future developments

We are always working hard to improve our facilities and increase the offer to our members. Plans are in place which will see both the front and rear of the Club being improved, as well as developing our bars and communal areas. We are also hoping to increase our range of entertainments and opportunities open to members with wine tastings, quizzes, first aid courses and much more. The Club's management and staff are always welcoming, friendly, relaxed and inclusive and are looking to be responsive to our members' needs; our aim is *Members first in everything we do*. Please do come in to the Club and see what you think; hopefully you will feel like joining us as a member once you have been in for a drink as a guest.

Stephen Fanthrope

RED CROSS TEA PARTY

Thank you to everyone who supported the Tea Party on Wednesday 10th May. Over 60 of us had a very enjoyable afternoon and the sun came out, so some could sit in the garden. A marvellous total of 575.00 was raised for the work of the Red Cross and for the Essex Red Cross *Wheels in Motion* appeal. This would not have been possible without all the donations of cakes and help from so many people.

Christine Stiles
Audrey Rodgers



Stansted
Cricket
Club

April saw a radical overhaul of the pavilion and dressing room areas with the installation of seven new double-glazed windows; two new WCs with tiled floors; the walls of the bar tiled and the acquisition of two new drinks chillers. The Committee was so pleased with the new tiled floors that we have decided to extend the tiling to the adjacent area in front of the showers. A new 'Good Neighbour' letter with a list of senior home fixtures has been delivered to all properties that are adjacent to the cricket pitch.

Home matches for June

Thu 1 st	Under-12s	Dunmow U12s	18:00
Sat 3 rd	1 st XI	Aspenden S&P	13:30
Sun 4 th	Sunday XI	Stansted Hall & Elsenham	14:00
Wed 7 th	Under-15s	Dunmow U15s	18:00
Sat 10 th	2 nd XI	Ilford Catholics III	13:30
Sun 11 th	Sunday XI	Fyfield	14:00
Wed 14 th	Under-12s	Saffron Walden U12s	18:00
Sat 17 th	1 st XI	Theydon Bois I	13:30
Tue 20 th	Under-15s	Stansted Hall & Elsenham U15s	18:00
Sat 24 th	2 nd XI	Wormley I	13:30
Sun 25 th	Sunday XI	Touring Indian XI	14:00

Please note: the junior coaching days in last month's Link were incorrect. Hardball cricket coaching for children in years 5 and 6 who have prior experience of cricket, and for all children in years 7, 8 and 9 takes place on **Mondays** from 6.30pm-8.00pm. Softball cricket coaching for years 3 and 4 (and for any year 5 and 6 children new to cricket) takes place on **Fridays** from 4.00pm-5.15pm. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis 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

UNDER 14 GIRLS' FOOTBALL

The U14 Girls of Bishop's Stortford won their nine a-side League Cup Final on Saturday 6th May, beating Ruislip 3-1. Massive congratulations to all the girls. You deserved the win after beating the League winners, Harpenden (who had not lost a game all season) in the semi-final. Four weeks of effort, determination and stamina building alongside fun games has paid off with this fantastic victory.



Sharing in this wonderful cup final success are Sarah Miles, manager of the team and players Jess Roberts and Tally Miles, who are all residents of Stansted.

Sarah Miles
Tel: 07986 546582

STANSTED SUPERS HANDBALL CLUB

We have had a busy few months with a couple of friendly mixed matches with London GD at the Copper Box. Although we have had some well-fought matches, Supers have come off on the losing side, 27-19 and 20-17. The Club continues to attract new members and all have made an encouraging start to their handball careers.



Although the handball season has finished, we continue training sessions through the summer from 8.00pm-9.30pm at the Romeera, open to all. One of the highlights of the season is the August Beach Handball Tournament in Poole. We are sending a men's, and (for the first time) a women's team and hope to stream their matches via Facebook. We are looking to run handball courses for children in August. We can provide after-school clubs, courses for GCSE students or PE lessons. Our coaches are qualified and DBS checked. For details email: flawless1376@yahoo.com.

Ali Bell

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com

The Club has now begun the ECB *All Stars* cricket programme with five to eight year olds. So, fun and games on a Friday evening have commenced with the youngsters donning their *All Stars* kit and playing equipment. Parents are encouraged to join in and some useful cricketers have emerged – all ladies!! Sorry dads. The U10s and U11s will be playing their matches at the Molehill Green ground this season as the Elsenham Place ground has no facilities. U13 and U15 matches will be played at the SHG. The managers will be busy as the Club has over 40 Junior fixtures this season. The Club is looking to raise funds over the coming months to build a new pavilion at Elsenham Place. We will be approaching various organisations for funding and we are also hoping that funding will be forthcoming from individuals. The Club will also be holding special events to encourage people to come into the Club. The senior section has made a reasonable start to the season and once again it is nice to see so many youngsters in the teams. The Club tour will be going up the road to Cromer once again – we will be playing Overstrand, Happisburgh and Bradfield, beginning on Sunday 30th July. New members are very welcome; please contact me or go to our website.



David Brown
Tel: 831011 or 07788 999663
Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Saturday 22nd April Captain v President Day

Lovely weather, lots of competitive bowling, once again the President's Team won, congratulations to you all. Nice to see lots of visitors around the green. This day was topped off with a fish and chips supper; many thanks to all the organisers.

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th April Open Weekend

We opened our doors to all over this weekend. On Saturday and Sunday we welcomed some potential new bowlers, this is a promising start to the season. Thanks must go to all those who donated cakes/biscuits etc, also their time to help over these two days, lunch ably provided by Margaret. We look forward to a good season. If you were not able to pop in over that weekend, call in any time we are open and you will be made very welcome.

Sunday 7th May we hosted the first leg of The Daniel Robinson Cup – a good close game where Stansted have a lead of six shots to carry over to the next leg in July; well done everyone.

Weekend Friendlies

Friday 9th June 6.00pm Cawkell Cup (Club Competition)
Saturday 17th June 2.30pm Bert Grub (Club Competition)
Sunday 18th June 2.30pm Oulton Broad

Herts & Essex Seniors

Tuesday 13th June 2.30pm Bishop's Stortford
Tuesday 27th June 2.30pm Much Hadham

Ladies' Friendlies

Thursday 8th June 2.30pm Buntingford
Thursday 22nd June 2.30pm Bishop's Stortford

Doreen Scraggs

Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 or 07812483178

Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net

Stansted Tennis Club



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Wimbledon Tickets

Stansted Tennis Club held its Wimbledon ticket ballot on 26th April just before the Adult Club Session. Congratulations to the 16 members who were drawn out as winners.

Ladies' Night

Monday 12th June from 7.00pm. All lady members are welcome to come along and play.

Coaching

If you are currently in school Years 2 or 3 and are interested in starting group tennis lessons, please contact me to find out more.

Used tennis balls

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

Contacts

Jon Budd (Secretary) 647020. Chris Hollis (Chairman).



Chris Hollis

Tel: 319155



www.stansted10k.org.uk

The Stansted Fun Run first took place over 30 years ago and continues to provide a fun and healthy day out for the local community as well as providing much needed funds for local good causes. The one mile run at 10.00am on Sunday 11th June starting outside the Rose and Crown on Bentfield Green, is for all people of all abilities, including children, (under 12s must be accompanied by an adult), mobility impaired people, wheelchair users, babies in pushchairs and those not feeling very fit. The cost is **£3 cash on the day**. All participants will receive a medal and the winner will receive a trophy. At 11.00am the 10k Fun Run and Walk starts. The route is a mix of road and track across some beautiful countryside, much of it private and usually inaccessible to the public. The cost is **£12 in advance and £15 cash on the day**. You can register through our website; closing date for advance entries is 7th June. Medals available to all finishers. Chip and Pin will be used to supply accurate finishing times with a printout available immediately after crossing the finishing line - be sure to collect it for your own records. For further details please email Alan on info@stansted10k.org.uk.



Many thanks to those who have offered their practical help on the day and the local businesses who have sponsored the event in all kinds of ways. Your support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing you on the day. Even if you are not taking part in the runs/walk there will be plenty going on throughout the day for the whole family to enjoy.



Caroline Bore

Stansted Fun Run Committee

Tel: 813938

Email: carolinebore@gmail.com

STANSTED TAG RUGBY

Tag Rugby takes place on the Recreation Ground every Thursday from 7.00pm until dark. Open to all men, women and children over 16, no experience is necessary and it is free so just turn up and play! After the session we go to the Cock pub for a few warm down drinks. Please join us!

Steve Berry

Tel 07727 525828

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DID YOU KNOW THAT?

In 1887 Joseph J Green of Green's Stores wrote *Two Hundred Years' History of a Country Business*, relating the differences in the grocery trade:

"In 1687 tea and coffee had only been introduced into the upper circles about 25 years, and were sold as liquor, taxed by the gallon. It was sweetened with sugar candy; a century later tea was still a luxury to the poor. Since 1787 nearly all articles sold by the grocer have become infinitely cheaper thanks to Free Trade. In 1815 the firm produced about twenty tons of tallow candles a year, now superseded by petroleum, mineral wax candles and gas. The indispensable match compared to the old tedious tinder box. New Butterine styled margarine is sold as low as genuine butter used to be sold, six pence per pound. Another feature of the trade is that a few years ago rancid butter and greatly decayed cheese were bought eagerly, they now may go begging, showing the improvement in the position of the working classes. Tobacco had to be cut by the retailer and sugar arrived in unwieldy hogsheads, now it is brought in two hundred-weight bags and sold in cases and barrels cut by machinery. Again the dressing of plums and currants was the grocers nightmare, they now arrive 'off the stalk'. Another great saving for the grocer is packing, by wholesale houses, of almost every description of article, paper bags formerly had to be made by the retailer. The biscuit business was confined to just two or three expensive kinds but we now have only to name Huntley and Palmer to show an enormous trade, and the Italian Warehouse; pickles, sauces, jams, and marmalades, tinned meat, and fish, preserved fruit in tins or bottles. The important changes are the penny post in lieu of expensive parcels post, railways instead of the stage coach. A century ago, newspapers were almost unobtainable in a country village, print and paper alike expensive. Changes in drapery have been greater, a few years ago certain goods held their own from generation to generation; now fashions change incessantly, 330 years and change is now a way of life."

The photograph below is of the London and Stansted Furniture Company who purchased Green's Motor and Transport Company after WWI.



Left to right: R Messrs W Banks, Camp, Jim Phillips, Andrews and Sweet.

Ralph Phillips

FILM QUOTES QUIZ



For each quotation, name the film from which it is taken and the actor who spoke it.

1. "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."
2. "I coulda been a contender."
3. "Here's looking at you, kid."
4. "All right, Mr de Mille, I'm ready for my close-up"
5. "Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy night."
6. "You talkin' to me?"
7. "I love the smell of napalm in the morning."
8. "Love means never having to say you're sorry."
9. "The stuff that dreams are made of."
10. "They call me Mr Tibbs."
11. "Made it Ma! Top of the world."
12. "There's no place like home."
13. "Why don't you come up sometime and see me?"
14. "You know how to whistle, don't you, Steve?"
15. "We rob banks."
16. "Oh, Jerry, don't let's ask for the moon. We have the stars."
17. "Well, nobody's perfect."
18. "A boy's best friend is his mother."
19. "Wait a minute. You ain't heard nothing' yet."
20. "Mother of mercy, is this the end of Rico?"
21. "Nobody puts Baby in a corner."
22. "I'm king of the world."
23. "Mrs Robinson, you're trying to seduce me, aren't you?"
24. "Nature, Mr Alnutt, is what we are put in this world to rise above."
25. "Greed, for lack of a better word, is good."

Quiz by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 39.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

From July this year, there will be a new event in the beekeeping calendar – the *International Meeting of Young Beekeepers* (IMYB). This is an initiative to encourage young people to take up beekeeping, which would make a huge contribution to the sustainability of bees and a much more constructive way to help rather than just signing petitions on social media. Each local branch has been asked to contribute financially to this event, and I am pleased to say that the Bishop's Stortford branch has donated double the amount suggested. An interesting contributor has been The Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers who have donated the last bit of money needed to ensure that the British Beekeeper's Association (BBKA) can stage the event. Master Peter Tompkins handed over a cheque for 8,000 to BBKA President John Hendrie at the Spring Convention Dinner. The opening ceremony of the IMYB takes place at Marlborough College in Wiltshire on 6th July. Master Peter Tompkins will be in attendance. We at Bishop's Stortford BKA also encourage young people to take up the hobby and give talks and demonstrations to a range of young people's organisations, whilst also encouraging them to take part in our annual Beginners Course in the spring of each year.



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

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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

SPRING LITTER PICK

A big thank you to all those who turned out for the Spring Litter Pick. It was encouraging that a number of volunteers commented on the fact that the village seemed to have less litter to pick than normal. This is testament to the efficiency of Levi and Lucy, our two hard working Environmental Rangers.



Our picture shows the Presland family ready for action.

We are very grateful to Churchill's for their continued support of the Litter Pick and I am sure our volunteers enjoyed their well earned complimentary award winning fish and chips.

VILLAGE POND

Another thank you, this time to the four volunteers who supported the Spring Pond Working Group and to Francis Braeckman from Walpole Farm for the use of his trailer to move all green waste off site.

We spotted tadpoles, which is encouraging, and moorhens have been nesting on the pond. The very dry spell of weather has resulted in the water levels being lower than normal at this time of year; this is a concern as the pond virtually dried up last summer and it looks likely to do so again this year. We will be having another working group on Sunday 24 September and as there is generally more vegetation to clear at this time of year, it would be nice to see a few more volunteers!

DISRUPTION DUE TO NEW WATER MAIN

You may well have already experienced some frustration due to road works on Bentfield Road. Affinity Water has been carrying out site investigations ahead of the installation of a new water main between Stansted and Manuden. They plan to start work on the project at the beginning of July so you need to be prepared for road closures for the duration of the project. The existing water main goes up Bentfield Causeway but they are also looking at the possibility of re-routing it around Bentfield Road, past Bentfield Green up to the pond and then across the fields to Manuden.

The contractor will be posting full details to all residents who are likely to be inconvenienced and they also hope to hold a drop-in session where residents can seek further information.

SUCCESSFUL LOTTERY BID

As a result of a successful bid to the National Lottery we have secured funds to support events that bring the community together. We are very pleased to announce that we will use the money to support the Bouncy Picnic to be held on the Recreation Ground, Chapel Hill on 17 June (see page 9) and the Windmill Fete on August Bank Holiday Monday. Both events will have additional attractions for all the family to enjoy - watch The Link and noticeboards for further details.

SKATEPARK JAM

Planning is well underway for the the third Annual Skatepark Jam which will be held on Sunday 3 September. We have received backing from a number of sponsors so this year's event will be bigger and better than ever; please make sure you have the event marked on your calendar! We are particularly grateful to Yeoman's Cafe and Mix Wine Bar for their generous support. As well as watching some spectacular 'tricks' from skaters and BMX riders, there will be attractions and refreshments for all the family.

VISIT BY RUNGIS REPRESENTATIVES

The Parish Council was pleased to host three representatives from the French village of Rungis which has



approached us about a possible twinning arrangement. Our picture shows Parish Clerk,

Ruth Clifford, flanked by Jessica Toper and Patricia Korchef-Lambert from Rungis who, with Cllr Geoffrey Sell, walked parts of the village trail to build up an appetite for a traditional British Sunday lunch. Any twinning arrangement would involve our Business Forum, and the Head of Forest Hall School is interested in pursuing the possibility of exchanges for pupils. Your thoughts on this potential twinning would be appreciated.

VILLAGE GATEWAY

Every main entrance to the village by road is from countryside into the built-up area, a reminder that Stansted Mountfitchet has a rural setting. The Parish Council is committed to maintaining our community as a separate village and ensuring any developments do not result in us merging with neighbouring villages.

We have six main entries which are:

- From the south, Pines Hill, the B1383 from the Forest Hall Road junction to Windmill Close
- From the west, the road from Bentfield Bower junction with Lime Kiln Lane to Bentfield Upper Green
- From the north, Cambridge Road, the B1383 from the Walpole Farm entrance to Clarence Road
- From the north, High Lane from the junction with Cambridge Road to the Dog and Duck Public House
- From the south east, Church Road from the M11 motorway bridge to the railway bridge.
- From the B1051 Elsenham Road to Grove Hill

Each road is very attractive. They often have a change in level sweeping up or down into the village; overhanging trees, views of the countryside, spring bulbs and grass verges are evident. They are not cluttered with signs, some do not have urbanising highway kerbs and they provide an attractive entry to the village.



Village Gateways: Proposed policies within our Neighbourhood Plan are:

- Designate the Village Gateways as important landscape features that contribute to green infrastructure and the special character of the village
- Encourage the highway authority to carefully consider proposals along the Village Gateways to maintain rather than erode the character
- Any development alongside the Village Gateways should demonstrate how it will contribute rather than harm the character
- Maintain the open views of the countryside.

Do you agree with the observations and proposed policies? – do let us know.

ELECTIONS

This edition of The Link will have dropped on your doormat a week or so before the General Election. It will be the first election for many years that won't feature the name of Sir Alan Haselhurst on the ballot paper. Whatever your political persuasion, you have to admire Sir Alan's longevity as our MP and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

The Essex County Council election saw Ray Gooding being re-elected as our County Councillor. We have to share him with 8,000 other voters in neighbouring villages but the Parish Council will ensure he is kept abreast of the big issues that impact on our community. Cllr Gooding always tries to attend meetings of the Parish Council to report on matters that impact on the village and takes questions from Parish Councillors. You can find Ray's contact details on page 22 if you want to contact him about any aspect of County Council responsibilities.

You may be relieved to know that you still have a couple of years before the next Parish Council elections but as we go to press there is a vacancy we need to fill. If you are interested it might be worth contacting us or looking on our website to check if the vacancy has been filled.

FLORAL DISPLAYS

As most of you know, Stansted Mountfitchet did not have the best summer last year with its planting. With new contractors we have some new ideas that we hope will show the village in its true glory.

This year, after much consideration and advice from our new gardeners, we have decided to try some new ideas and will be mixing perennials with annual bedding plants. The Memorial Gardens will have memorial roses planted as centre points in each of the four beds.

We hope that you will enjoy the summer season and floral displays. We would love to hear your comments and feedback in due course.

IDENTIFY YOUR LOCAL GREEN SPACES

The Stansted Mountfitchet Neighbourhood Plan has to include identification of Local Green Spaces.

The contradiction is Local Green Spaces do not necessarily have to be just a 'green' space. It includes woodlands, cemeteries, bowling greens, skate parks and others - if in doubt, include it at this stage!

1. A place where informal social interaction can take place
2. Pitches and facilities for sport or physical activity
3. A network of paths and spaces
4. Paths which are important - including Public footpaths/bridleways/tracks
5. Areas which provide a habitat for wildlife
6. Places you enjoy with your dog
7. Natural corridors and spaces through housing areas
8. Spaces which add or enhance an area
9. Areas and views which form part of the character of the village or surrounding countryside
10. Ponds and flood alleviation.

To formally identify a Green Space within the Stansted Mountfitchet Neighbourhood Plan, is so important.

We therefore need you as a resident of the village to help provide the necessary Evidence for Inclusion of a particular Green Space.

A Green Space may be important to you, your family, and friends of whatever your age and ability, for recreation, leisure, fitness, health, access to shops and services, or solace. They can provide areas in which flora

and fauna thrive, and provide food and sanctuary for the birds and mammals which inhabit them.



A Green Space can help to achieve social benefits, economic benefits, environmental benefits and quality of life. The Quality of Green Spaces is important as it attracts investment, jobs and growth, and can enhance an area making it an attractive place to live and work in.

We have an initial listing, however as part of the background supporting documentation we need your input to ensure that all aspects of the village are included.

If you live in Stansted Mountfitchet, or are a user of, or obtain pleasure from a particular 'Green Space' within Stansted Mountfitchet, please list them all, together with a brief reason why these areas are important and/or useful to you, your family, and our community.

1. Where is it?
2. What type of green space is it? e.g. allotment, cemetery, path, woodland, view etc.

3. What is the present condition and quality of the space? e.g. excellent, good, poor, overgrown etc.
4. What is the value and benefit to you, or the Community - why is it important?

Remember you are looking only at Stansted Mountfitchet parish. Please send your responses to Cllr

Wallace-Jarvis by email at dwjwj.444@gmail.com or written responses can be submitted via the Parish Council office.



ESTATE AGENTS SALES BOARDS

A number of residents have contacted us to complain about estate agents boards being placed in inappropriate locations, well away from the property they are marketing. We have written to all the estate agents in Stansted and Bishop's Stortford and asked them to take a more responsible approach and not spoil some of our most attractive street scenes with for sale boards. We have instructed our handyman to remove any signs placed on land owned by the council.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

From Cllr Alan Dean, Uttlesford District Council

Pavement obstruction by parked vehicles continues to annoy many residents. They expect the authorities to do something about it. Of course, the annoyance is caused by many residents and visitors who don't seem to mind blocking the way for pedestrians and people with child pushchairs and adults with mobility vehicles. I can't understand the habit today of parking halfway on the pavement when this does not make the road wide enough for two vehicles to pass; no one gains. The Essex Police treat pavement obstruction as a low priority, so rarely take action. The council's parking partnership cannot take action unless yellow lines exist on the road. Yellow lines are enforceable not only on the roadway but on the adjacent pavement right up to the building line. I have asked for an investigation by Uttlesford's scrutiny committee into how public dissatisfaction with pavement parking can be more effectively addressed.

The snap general election on June 8th has impacted on the work of the long-awaited Local Plan. We had a 6-weeks' period of "purdah" – an Urdu word meaning 'curtain' or 'veil' – before the May 4th county elections.

This hang-over term from the Indian Raj means that no controversial announcements can be announced in the runup to an election. Purdah has now had to be extended until after June 9th. So, whilst officers are continuing to work behind the “veil” on the Local Plan, several important meetings have been postponed by several weeks. This is unfortunate because councillors do not want to be stampeded into making decisions in June without the time for making sure they are the best decisions possible. The key decisions needed by July 11th are to whittle down seven proposals for new settlements to two or three. Fingers crossed that public consultation on the council’s preferred options can begin on July 11th!

There is nothing to be said that is new and of substance about the Lower Street car park. It continues to be a mess and a muddle. Geoffrey Sell and I have repeatedly asked for a credible plan to sort it out, but of late council officers have been keeping their heads down. Maybe the excuse is “purdah” and the “veil” will be lifted in June!

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

June
 14 Full Council
 21 Open Spaces
 July
 5 Full Council

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford.
 Assistant to the Parish Clerk-Trevor Lloyd
 Administration Assistant-Emma Philbrick
 Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net
 Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10.00 am - 1.00 pm
 www.stansted.net

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	Prtvrt@btinternet.com
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	dwjjwj.444@gmail.com

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Terry Farthing	661555
	cllrfarthing@uttlesford.gov.uk
Thom Goddard	01371 879122
	cllrgoddard@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell	815925
	cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

As we go to press there is one vacancy on the Parish Council.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Ray Gooding	813103
	cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

We await the result of the General Election on Thursday 8 June. Look out for the surgery dates with our new MP in the next edition of The Link.

POLICE

Non-emergency 101
 James.graham@essex.pnn.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

PARISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Valerie Trundle - 813433 Joy Thomas - 813871

STANSTED LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Stansted Library operates from a temporary home in the car park at Crafton Green. The mobile vehicle is now here on the same days and at the same time each week, hopefully making it easier for us all to remember!

Monday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Mobile Library
 Wednesday 1.00 pm - 6.00 pm Day Centre - Click&Collect Service
 Saturday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Mobile Library

For more information contact
 Jenny.Salisbury@essex.gov.uk or
 Anthea.Wearn@essex.gov.uk

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: 07528 317907 Email: michelle.wrayj@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 10 -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 Caf	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 8-10	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	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	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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SEVEN TIPS FOR ASTHMATICS

Cold air, an increase of pollen and sudden weather changes can adversely impact health for asthma sufferers. However, people with asthma can act to reduce symptoms and risk of attacks. West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group is reminding people with asthma to stock up on prescribed steroids, reliever and preventer inhalers, as well as cough and cold remedies.

1 Keep stocked up with prescribed asthma medications

Ensure you have spare preventer and reliever inhalers and enough steroid medications if prescribed. Avoid running out and check they are in date

2 Don't forget over-the-counter medication

Cough and cold remedies are essential, as colds and flu can severely impact asthmatics. Avoid medications that are unsuitable for people with asthma

3 Keep warm

The weather might be brighter and warmer, but it can still be chilly, so make sure you wrap up when outside

4 Exercise indoors if pollen levels are high

Regular exercise can reduce asthma symptoms, but it is best to avoid exercising outdoors in extreme weather or when pollen levels are high, especially if these trigger your asthma

5 Check your filters

Heating systems and car air filters help keep the air you breathe cleaner and reduce dust levels. Change regularly to avoid them becoming clogged or ineffective

6 Keep dust at bay

Regular cleaning and dusting helps avoid particles entering your lungs, causing inflammation that can lead to asthma attacks. Bed sheets and duvet covers should be washed in a hot wash regularly. Find some cleaning help if dust triggers your asthma

7 Have an asthma action plan

Asthma action plans for adults and children are available at www.asthma.org.uk and can be filled in with your asthma nurse. Action plans help you monitor and manage your symptoms, and know when to seek help. More advice is available at www.nhs.uk/staywell.

West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group
Tel: 01992 566140
Email: weccg.comms@nhs.net

THE STANSTED SURGERY

www.thestanstedsurgey.nhs.uk

Booking appointments online

The online system is available for everyone. To take advantage of this very efficient facility, please come into the surgery (with a form of ID) to register. The last few months have been quite difficult due to increasing demand mixed with lower than planned GP availability but the position will start to improve in early June.

Weekend or evening service

Appointments with a GP or nurse in the evenings or weekend will still be offered in Dunmow and Saffron Walden to improve access and choice in general.

Health & Wellbeing guidance

There are many commercial options to help you control your weight but a combination of exercise and dietary control measures gives the best results. **Dieting alone will be unlikely to give sustainable results** for most people. There is an added benefit of any method which involves some social interaction and activity; it improves engagement and adherence.

Some things to consider when trying to lose weight include:

- Rapid weight loss is rarely sustainable; best to make long term lifestyle changes that affect diet and activity to be successful
- Fat is an essential dietary element and there is no evidence to show that eating fat is the cause of increasing weight of our population
- However, avoid eating foods high in saturated fat; these can contribute to the development of a variety of long term conditions, particularly when combined with inactivity
- High sugar content foods cause rapid surges in blood glucose levels, you may be surprised at what some of these actually are; Google the glycaemic index of cornflakes for example
- Whilst low intensity activity or exercise will utilise a higher proportion of fat as an energy source, higher intensity exercise, if you can do it, can ultimately improve fat utilisation resulting in greater fat loss. This is because its effects last longer than the duration of the exercise itself
- Portion control is crucial and eating foods which are more slowly metabolised really helps manage the feelings of hunger.

Practice Manager
Email: stansted.surgery@nhs.net

THANK YOU

Through The Link I would like to express my gratitude to the lady who stood behind me at the Co-op cash point where I was having difficulty retrieving my card on Saturday 30th April. Your spontaneous act of generosity is much appreciated, and so that I may say a personal thank you, will you please contact me on 813458.

Eddie Laird





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VISIT TO THE ORBIS FLYING EYE HOSPITAL

Back in February, I received an invitation for myself and my wife, Anita to join a tour of the **Orbis Flying Eye Hospital** in the Diamond Hangar at Stansted Airport on 11th March. The aircraft had arrived from Dublin on 9th March so that the Orbis staff could unpack the equipment and prepare for their visitors. On arrival, we were given name tags and taken for refreshments in the second-floor lounge and exhibition area. At the appointed time the tour was led down to the ground floor of the hangar. Passing by a few business jets, we emerged airside to view our **Third Generation MD-10 Orbis Flying Eye Hospital**.



Photos taken, we walked in small groups up a covered walkway on to the aircraft where we were provided with protective shoe covering before entering a classroom. Prior to the start of a short film, I was able to take some photos of the cockpit. After the film, we were led along the corridor (Aircraft Fuselage) to the audio-visual room. Here a member of Orbis Staff from Myanmar showed us where patients were assessed and there was a video link to the classroom area we had just left. The room also contained two laser machines used for training. We then moved to the **Operating Theatre** where a Chinese nurse explained the procedures involved. A male nurse called Leo from the Philippines was also there. The last area to visit was the **Recovery Room**. Here two beds with large teddy bears were laid out. There was also a small teddy with an eye bandage on one of the beds and as explained by our Chief Nurse Angela from Jamaica, it was for the benefit of children so that when they wake up from an operation, they found themselves in similar company. Returning to the lounge, we were escorted to another room where two Orbis staff members gave us a presentation on **Operation Sight**.

To find out more about the work of this global charity go to: <http://gbr.orbis.org>.

Tony Aldridge



STANSTED
MOUNTFITCHET
WINDMILL

The Mill open days so far have seen a good number of visitors. Our plants have sold well and we are grateful to John Salmon for providing these for us. When the Windmill is closed plants and Mill goods are still available from me. Many people sit on the seat by the Windmill and watch the Mill turning into the wind, the fantail going round, a lovely sight to see. However, unfortunately some of these people leave behind litter such as bottles, food, tobacco wrappers, etc. I would ask them to please put their rubbish in the waste bin at the beginning of the path. We are now arranging our **Afternoon Tea** for

Wednesday 26th July at 2.00pm. We are already planning for the Fete in August which this year will include some surprises. More about that next time. Next **Windmill opening**: Sunday 4th June 1.30pm- 5.30pm.



Molly Clark, Co-trustee
Tel: 816768



www.birchangerwoodtrust.org

The lack of rain in the past few weeks has meant a very short bluebell flowering season this year in Birchanger Wood, and the woodland pond is dry. Sadly, no tadpoles reached full maturity and therefore, we again have no frogs. This is where every pond, whether large or small in a garden, is so important to wildlife. It is absolutely necessary for their very lives that there are places where birds and mammals can come and drink water - a small pond and/or dishes of water, kept topped up with clean water are an absolute oasis. The Birchanger Wood ash trees and sweet chestnut are breaking into leaf - whilst the horse chestnuts are already doing well - you will see the sets of conical pink and white flowers. Oaks too, have also started to 'leaf-up'. However, a note of caution; the long period of drought experienced in our part of England will have a long-term effect on our trees, even if this does not outwardly appear to be an issue currently. The local buzzards are up there above the canopy and often at this time of year, a large group of parents and fledglings will be seen together, calling to one another when they soar out above Heath Row, the houses and open spaces in this part of Stortford. These large birds float seemingly effortlessly using the warm thermals to gain height. They wing their way over to Stansted and Manuden, and the countryside between. In addition, there are now red kites frequently to be seen floating overhead. They are also 'large brown birds' but can be easily identified from the buzzards by their pronounced forked tails. Kites do not kill other animals and birds, as do the buzzards, but they are searching for already dead animals and birds. They therefore tend to drift around much lower whilst looking for their food - road kill mostly and, because they often glide along at a lower height, when the sun is shining above them you will see the most beautiful red and brown colours of their feathers. Do enjoy summer.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Email : secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org

VIRTUAL REALITY IN STANSTED

In the Easter holidays a number of young people aged 11-14 attended a **Virtual Reality Experience**, held at the Youth Centre and organised by StanstedCAN. With a large screen and sound-system, plus Vive headset, friends and those waiting their turn were also able to view what the VR-enabled person was seeing through the headset. In an anonymous survey taken after using the experience, every single participant rated the experience 10 out of 10 and one participant wrote "It was amazing!" Job Simulator games were a firm favourite, as well as more traditional first-person shooter games in an outer-space environment, but some people also enjoyed virtual art - making amazing creations in the air with virtual paint and lights. We hope to be able to run another VR day in the Summer holidays; if your son or daughter would like to take part (aged 11 only) please contact me to be put on our emailing list so you will receive publicity and booking information when we have a confirmed date.



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The *What's On* section of our website shows a great many local activities throughout the Summer. As you travel about, I hope you will enjoy the vegetation along roadside verges that adds much to the overall vision of the countryside. The species present will vary throughout the seasons and reflect the underlying geology and cutting regime of a particular stretch of verge. For road safety reasons, some verges are close-mown but these may be speckled with the flower heads of common daisy, dandelion and other species which thrive under such treatment. On busier roads, often only the first metre is cut on a regular basis, allowing taller wild flowers to survive further back.



During early summer our verges are dominated by swathes of the white frothy flowers of cow parsley or the chunkier white flowers of hogweed. Both are members of the carrot family and, perhaps surprisingly, thrive on the extra nutrients released by car exhausts. Although many species of insects visit their flowers, their tendency to shade out smaller plants reduces the overall variety of wayside flowers and potential food for other insects. Similarly, increased roadside nutrient levels encourage docks and stinging nettles which also overshadow delicate species including blue-flowered speedwells. Splashes of pink are provided by clumps of red campion; and blue or purple by vetches and several species of geranium. Thistles and scarlet poppies appear where bare soil is exposed. The presence of a large expanse of ox-eye daisy, with its white petals and yellow centre, is usually due to its inclusion in seed mixes sown alongside newer roads. A number of verges have been identified as Special Roadside Verges or Roadside Nature Reserves.

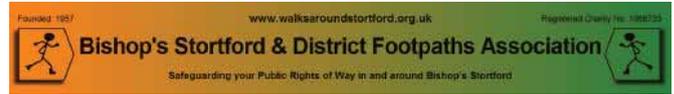


These are recognised for their floristic diversity or for the presence of rare species.

Tricia Moxey
Trustee

LINK DELIVERIES

The Link is delivered free of charge to all houses and businesses in Stansted. If you do not receive a copy, please let us know by telephoning David on 813680 or email: distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk. Due to a new delivery system starting last month, we apologise that some residents did not receive their copy of the May issue. If you did not receive a copy and would like one, please contact us.



www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

Sunday walks: 5-6 miles leaving at 10.00am
4th June Duton Hill Three Horseshoes PH. GridRef: TL605268. Postcode CM6 2DY
18th June Ugley Chequers PH - Park in BACK car park. GridRef: TL514306. Postcode CM22 6H
 Break for July and August

1st October - I need a friend to assist in 'sussing' the suitability of a walk in the Stansted or Henham area. Thank you.

So far this year, we have enjoyed almost every walk in good weather. The walk on 23rd April from Stansted had a good crowd and although we started off southward from the car park, we were soon turning north, and found ourselves looking down and across with a super view of the southern part of Manuden. Continuing northward, we then turned east, crossed the B1383, and took our half-way break sitting on the lovely green grass (with two seats) at Ugley Green. Then heading back into Stansted, we walked through a little of the Elsenham Alsa Woods, where the English bluebells were a glorious deep blue and beautifully perfumed. We returned via the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve, past the old fish ponds into Gall End, (formerly Gallows End), and back to the Stansted Lower Street car park. On 7th May we were 18 persons (and two dogs) who met at Allens Green wearing gloves, scarves and anoraks and one person in shorts! He was right of course, for the day turned out to be quite warm. We breezed over to Perry Green, enjoying the Henry Moore statues; walked the sheep meadows, and following the Ash Valley; looked down to Much Hadham. Again, we enjoyed the last of the English bluebells - this time in Hertfordshire, before climbing back up again and finally over the old airfield (now cornfields) for liquid sustenance at the Queens Head, which was also the destination for the Harlow Sunday Walkers that day.



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



CAMEO
(Come and Meet Each Other)

In April, the CAMEO group enjoyed a Passover celebration together. Lieutenant-Colonels Alan and Val Hart led those present in a time of reflection and teaching on what the Passover meal represents, before the group enjoyed sampling many of the delicious samples they had prepared. A good time of learning, food and fellowship was had by all. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 20th June at 7.00pm in Stansted Day Centre. The topic has not been confirmed but why not come along and share in the fellowship and cup of tea/biscuits for just 1? The Salvation Army also meets each Sunday morning at 10.30am in Markwell Pavilion, Castle Gardens, Bishop's Stortford if you would rather join us for worship. Hope to see you soon.

Lieutenant Megan Lowe
Tel: 507464
Email: megan.lowe@salvationarmy.org.uk

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MANUDEN SINGERS VILLAGE GLYNDEBOURNE

Our annual *Village Glyndeboune* Picnic Concert will take place in the gardens of Wilford House, 70 The Street, Manuden on Sunday 23rd July. The concert will feature a programme of music from the lighter choral repertoire plus the Corona Brass ensemble. Bring your own picnics for an enjoyable evening of musical fresco (or in the church if wet!). Gates open at 6.00pm, music from 6.30pm. Tickets: 10 adults, 5 children from Fiona on 812157 or on the gate. Proceeds in support of Manuden Church Roof Repair Fund.



Ian Priest



SUMMER SEASON CONFIRMED AT RHODES ARTS

The Rhodes Arts Complex line-up brochure for the summer is now available. There is something at Rhodes for everyone with a plethora of music, theatre and children's shows to keep the whole family entertained. June sees fantastic fun for all the family, kicking off with **The Little Mix Experience** and including a **Troll's Sing-A-Long** and CBeebies' **Sarah and Duck's Big Top Birthday**, whilst comedian **Mark Thomas** brings his pre-Edinburgh show to the complex on 6th June.

Cinema in Stortford ... in style!

A brand-new cinema experience has been launched with the highly anticipated **thescreen Stortford** at Rhodes Arts Complex. An independent cinema, **thescreen** launched its first programme on Sunday 14th May. Following a six-figure investment at the venue to completely redevelop the auditorium - including a new sound system, flooring and seating - phase one has reached its completion, allowing the early launch of the cinema. The phased project began in April, with the redevelopment of the balcony and installation of the 4K digital cinema projection system and surround sound. The flooring and main seating areas are on course for completion in August. **thescreen** will present a total of 61 screenings in just nine weeks with a wide range of genres to suit all tastes and in turn, complement the already diverse theatrical programme. The programme will include documentary and international films alongside more well-known titles and the best in live theatre screenings from the National Theatre, Royal Opera House and Royal Shakespeare Company. Tickets are on sale now for all films incorporating a 'Kids-for-a-Quid' pricing plan for all children's films including *The Lego Batman Movie* and *Smurfs: The Lost Village*.

Clive Edwards
Marketing Manager

LITTLEBURY CHURCH

Sunday 11th June from 12.30pm

Littlebury Fete and Teddy Dipwire in aid of the church. BBQ, games, stalls, teas - free admission.

Sunday 18th June 4.00pm *Music for a Summer Afternoon*.

University of London Chamber Choir. Tickets 12 (school children and students free) from Saffron Walden TIC and on the door.

Janice Rust
Tel: 01799 521312



music@stansted is delighted to announce that we will be holding another of our popular Summer Soirées of performances by talented young musicians on Saturday 8th July. This year's event is being generously sponsored by the Stansted Airport Passenger Community Fund. The concert in St John's Church will start at 6.00pm. During the interval, the audience will be treated to a buffet supper (included in the ticket price) in the grounds outside the church, while being entertained by local jazz group **The Minx Quartet**. Wine and soft drinks will also be available to purchase. If the weather should not co-operate, supper will be served in the



adjacent Church Hall, but the sun always seems to shine on us! Each of these Soirées provides a showcase for a number of award-winning local young people, some of whom have gone on to professional music careers. This year's line-up will once again include a varied mix of woodwind, strings, vocal and keyboard soloists. The Summer Soirée is a great opportunity to hear wonderful music, played by inspiring young musicians, in a relaxed and informal setting. It is also a great chance to get younger family members along to a musical event, perhaps for the first time. Attendance is always high so we ask you to buy tickets in advance of the day for catering purposes. Tickets are just 12 adults and 5 children (inclusive of buffet in both cases) and we even offer a family ticket (two adults, two children) for 25. Tickets are available from Sonia Levy on 815282, Absolute Travel, Chapel Hill or Nockolds Solicitors in Stortford. We look forward to sharing a wonderful evening of music with you!

Richard Allaway



Saturday 17th June 7.30pm Saffron Hall

Some Link readers will recall local piano prodigy **George Harliono's** recital in St John's Church in 2012. Now aged 16, he has won numerous awards both in the UK and internationally, and is already conquering the world with acclaimed performances in Europe and South America. He is pictured here with world famous virtuoso pianist **Vladimir Ashkenazy** who is his mentor. George first played with the SWSO in 2014



and we are delighted that he is returning to perform **Beethoven's Emperor Concerto** - which, in the dramatic interplay between orchestra and soloist, suggests the struggles and triumphs of a great and noble spirit. The concert also includes two Scandinavian works: Tubin's *Symphony No 3 'Heroic'* - a large-scale re-working of folk-like themes and *Lemminkainen's Return* - a masterpiece of windswept tone-painting from Sibelius. Tickets 15 adults, 3 under 18s from: Saffron Walden Tourist tel 01799 524002, Saffron Hall tel 0845 548 7650, online www.saffronhall.com or on the door.



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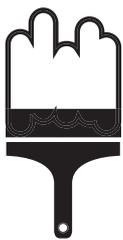
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We were delighted to welcome Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP for Saffron Walden, to our Stansted Business Breakfast held at The Ash pub, Burton End on 5th May. It was a busy and buzzy breakfast with Sir Alan, who spoke about his retirement from politics and commented in particular about the state of the political atmosphere in the UK. He reminisced about his 40 years as an MP and when asked what was his greatest memory, he said "Taking an individual case to the floor of the Commons". Sir Alan also commented on how difficult and uncertain he felt the world was with Trump and Putin at the superpowers' helms. He was presented with a 40-year old port from the SBF as a thank you for his service to the Uttlesford community.



Twining opportunity

We were also really pleased to be part of an initiative set up by the Parish. Peter James and myself from the Stansted Business Forum were invited to be part of a group to meet a delegation of three representatives of the Rungis local council who were over from France to hold preliminary talks about possible twinning opportunities with Stansted and the town of Rungis, which is situated in the greater Paris region. Discussions were lively and it was interesting to hear about the similarities between us, particularly about education and commerce. Rungis is also close to Orly Airport and therefore has good business connections to Paris. After a very pleasant lunch at The Vine, Linden House, Ruth Clifford and Councillor Geoffrey Sell then took the delegation on a tour of Stansted. So, watch this space for any future developments.

The next meeting will be on Friday 2nd June at The Vine, Linden House, 7.00am for 7.30am. Please phone Peter James on 813318 to book a place.



Iris Evans

BROOME END SUMMER FÊTE

Come and join in the fun at Broome End Care Home, Pines Hill, on **Saturday 15th July** from 1.00pm. We will have live music, line dancing with the *Shooting Stars*, a BBQ and bar. There will be outdoor games, tombola, a chocolate fountain and roasted marshmallows, plus a cake stand and local business stalls selling gifts and produce. If you would like to get involved by having a stall or donating to our tombola, please contact me.



Nicole Lenihan
Tel: 816455

Email: activities@broomeend.co.uk



GARDENING TIPS

Following the dry spring, many people have commented that their lawns are not looking as healthy this year and recovery of bare patches after the winter has been poor. The reason for this is simple, grass really does appreciate a good mixture of sunshine and rain. Between March and the end of May, we have had very little rain. If you have any bare patches, they are going to need some help:

- Buy yourself some nice fresh seed, as viability deteriorates significantly over time
- Dig out any deep-rooted weeds in the area to be over sown, and then scratch up the surface area of soil with a spring tine rake. If the soil is dry and hard, it will make the job easier to achieve by wetting the area a few hours before to make the soil workable. Grade the disturbed soil to be true to the line of the surrounding lawn, and then sprinkle about 30-50 grams of seed per square metre onto the patch
- Lightly rake the seed into the seed bed, then press them into the seed bed with a piece of board or the back of the rake
- Lightly apply water with a fine rose watering can, and if you have a germination sheet or even a piece of old polythene, keep the patch covered and moist for about a week while the seed germinates. Once germinated, you will still have to keep the patch moist until the roots of the grass plants are down deep enough to find their own water
- During prolonged dry periods, raise the cutting height on lawnmowers to 40mm, it reduces stress on the lawn and keeps it greener during the dry spell. If the lawn goes brown in a dry spell, it will turn green again once rain arrives. Do not fertilise the grass in dry spells.



On a final note, during hot periods is the ideal time to prune plants in the cherry family - peaches, nectarines, cherries, etc, as they have a much lower risk of contracting fungal diseases when it is nice and dry. Mulch all areas of bare soil with whichever form of mulch you prefer to help conserve all your valuable water in the soil, which is fundamental to plant health and growth. If you have pots that have become hydrophobic (water runs off rather than soaking in) by mistake, you can re-wet them by very slowly dripping water onto it from a butt or hose for at least an hour, preferably at dusk or dawn.

Paul the Gardener

RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP



The last evening meeting of our year will be on **Tuesday 13th June** at Bishop's Park Community Centre, Lancaster Way, Bishop's Stortford (next to Tesco) at 7.30pm. The official part of our meeting is kept to a minimum and will be followed by a few small presentations by members. Entry is 2.00 for Stort Valley members, 3.50 for visitors. We will resume our monthly meetings in September. Our walk on Sunday 4th June is a Bishop's Stortford **Birdwatching Day**, spending the whole day looking for the most bird species in the area; meet at Waitrose car park at 7.30am. For more information contact Lee Jaques on 07454 801894.

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The AGM on 4th May concluded with thanks all round and details of the 2017-18 programme which will appear in The Link in due course. Peter Sanders then talked further about his recently published book, *On the Beaten Track. A History of Stansted Mountfitchet*. Peter continued with the coming of the railway. This along with important and influential families arriving in Stansted was to have a significant impact on the growth of the village, coinciding with a significant increase in population. Ebenezer Fuller Maitland acquired Stansted Hall from the Heath family but never lived there. He acquired much of his wealth through marriage. His wife, Bethia, was the granddaughter of one of the wealthiest men in the country - William Fuller, a banker, whose death in 1800, aged 95, left an estate of over 500,000. Ebenezer's eldest son, William, settled in Stansted. He accumulated an enormous collection of paintings, many now in galleries around the world. Stansted Hall was re-built but he died in 1876 just before moving in. His son, also William, settled into Stansted Hall after his marriage to Evelyn Gardner, daughter of Lord Gardner. Others, referred to as 'New Plutocracy' by Peter, took their place amongst the influential families, Walter Gilbey, a wealthy wine merchant, along with his elder brother, Henry Parry Gilbey. Other Stansted families were connected to this company namely James Blyth and Charles Gold. These people mixed with the highest echelon of society including The Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. The Pulteney family arrived and were very influential in the construction of St John's Church. In a different social class, but otherwise influential, were the Green family. Of Quaker background, their 'Green's Stores' was at the heart of the village for generations.



Stansted now had schools including The Church and The National School. Acceptance to different branches of the Church was highlighted. Photographs of cricket teams and football teams from many years ago reflected the various social differences in both sports. The First World War brought a great rush to volunteer. The photo illustrated here shows cars, mainly from the wealthy local families, transporting volunteers from the then Working Men's Club, now The Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club, to Saffron Walden after a recruitment drive. After WWI changes came to the village; important families sold up and moved but new ones arrived. The most significant was The Findlays,

Arthur and Gertrude. They purchased Stansted Hall and bequeathed it upon their deaths to The Spiritualists National Union. Peter ended with the expansion of Stansted Airport from its use as a WW2 airfield and to the village which has continued to increase in population. We look forward to welcoming members old and new to our next meeting in September.

Roger M Barrett
(On behalf of Stephen Leaney)
Tel: 647177

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



For our April meeting we had a last minute change of speaker. Margaret Bale travelled from Epping to talk about *A Walk in Paris, 1920s*. Her late husband's hobby was photography and she told us how he once bought a box of glass photographic plates which turned out to be photographs of Paris, taken, judging by the fashions and the forms of transport, in the 1920s. So she and her husband visited Paris, identified the locations of these photographic plates, often enlisting the help of record office and museum staff, and took a modern photograph from as near to the same spot as possible. A task not always easy due to the modern day volume of traffic precluding standing in the middle of the road! It was a most unusual and interesting talk and she was sincerely thanked. Our annual draw for a bursary towards a visit to the WI College, Denman, in Oxfordshire, was held and two lucky members now have the chance to experience something special.

Our summer outing is nearly upon us and this year will be to the Beth Chatto Gardens followed by afternoon tea provided by Elmstead Market WI. We hope that some Stansted residents will have noticed our daffodil display around our cherry tree at the top of High Lane. It is its first year and was very pretty, as was the tree when it bloomed a short while later. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 8th June in the Day Centre at 7.45pm. Our speaker will be Ros Teague telling us about 'My Life as a 17th Century Spinner'. Please join us, visitors are always welcome. If you would like more information about this meeting or our WI, please contact me or Brenda Ryan on 812725.

Jenny Wraith
Hon Secretary
Tel: 816524

STANSTED IS WELL READ

Our book club meets on the first Tuesday of every month at the Dog and Duck in Lower Street and our next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th June at 8.00pm where we will be discussing *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. Apparently, this Pulitzer Prize winning book, a tale of escape from slavery in the American Deep South, was on Barack Obama's summer 2016 reading list, so comes highly recommended! You are very welcome to join us and don't worry if you have not read the book as we find plenty of other things to talk about!



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JOYS OF JUNE

Birthstone: Pearl Flower: Rose

The Latin name for June is *Junius* after Jupiter's wife Juno, the goddess of marriage. Consequently June has always been considered the best (and luckiest) time to get married. *Sera monath*, meaning dry month, was the Anglo-Saxon name for this month.

Morris Men Weekend takes place 2nd-4th June. Apart from the war years, Thaxted has hosted this annual event since 1927, when Morris Men from all over the country and beyond meet, spending the Saturday touring the area dancing outside local pubs – and having a drink or two! (Stansted has been on the itinerary in the past so look out for them.) In the evening they congregate in Thaxted's Town Street for a feast of dancing (very entertaining to watch) culminating in Thaxted Morris Men performing the iconic Abbots Bromley Horn Dance at 10.15pm. The sombre, stately dance with its haunting melody is quite an extraordinary spectacle. The weekend finishes with a procession and church service the next morning followed by more dancing in the churchyard, and both Morris and country dancing in Margaret Gardens.



Other Notable Dates include: 3rd National Doughnut Day in the US (worth remembering), 11th Queen's Official Birthday and 12th-18th is Bicycle Week. Fathers' Day is on 18th this year; Summer Solstice on 20th followed by the longest day on 21st traditionally marked by watching the sunrise at Stonehenge. As well as being Take Your Dog to Work Day and Bannockburn Day (in Scotland) 24th June is also Midsummer Day. Many superstitions have been associated with Midsummer Day including midnight rituals and 'magical chants' carried out by young girls to attract their true love.

Well dressing, which takes place throughout this month is an ancient custom popular all over Derbyshire. Large framed panels decorated with elaborate mosaic-like pictures made of flower petals and other natural materials are erected next to the well, which is then blessed in a short outdoor service.



Wimbledon, the oldest tennis tournament in the world, starts in late June every year and lasts two weeks. Held at the All England Club in Wimbledon since 1877, it is now the only major tournament still played on grass. The inaugural Championship started on 9th July 1877, the Gentlemen's



Singles being the only event. Spencer Gore, an old Harrovian rackets player, was the winner from a field of 22. Around 200 spectators paid one shilling each (5p in today's money) to watch the final; if only it still cost five pence to attend a Wimbledon Final now!



Yvonne Ayres

FLOODING UPDATE

Although it might seem that little has been happening following the Lower Street flood in February 2014, there has actually been a lot of activity going on behind the scenes. The Parish Council re-established its Flood Action team a few months after the flood; separate reports were written by two local residents; meetings have been held with Uttlesford District Council and the Environment Agency (EA), and agreed that a detailed study of our situation is needed; in January 2016 EA published a report proposing three possible solutions. A further meeting was held with the EA and included the newly formed Essex County Council, *Lead Local Flood Authority*. We agreed that a second but more detailed report be commissioned by the EA focusing on the three options and recommending one which would be fully costed. This is expected to be available by the end of 2017.

Also, in early in 2016 our Parish Council commissioned the installation of a temporary flood warning system close to the mouth of Ugley Brook. This sends a message to a few volunteers when the water level in the Brook reaches a pre-determined level. The team have responded to a few late night calls and have rushed to this location to prevent any flooding – and it has worked!

One of our Flood team was asked to attend a National Flood Forum in London in February. This was sponsored by District Councillor Terry Farthing from his community allocation. The Forum gave us the opportunity to learn much more and equally important, to network with experts and Local Authority representatives. The Parish Council then sponsored one of our team to attend another conference in London, *'Reducing the Risk and Impact of Flooding'*. Two key issues we learned at these conferences were: action must be taken upstream of our village, which means we will need to press for *'sustainable drainage systems'* to be put in place where new developments are proposed; many other towns and villages in our country flood more frequently than us and to a far greater extent. That is why we need to press for attention, but we cannot do it alone, we need help. Are you prepared to help? Will you volunteer to be a member of our Flood Team? Please contact Ruth Clifford, our Parish Council Clerk, or myself.

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Nature Notes

The Jackdaw

Is this bird beautiful or evil?



Jackdaws are the smallest member of the crow family, which also includes raven, carrion crow and jay. Like most of their cousins, jackdaws are just as much at home in farmland and woodland, as they are in urban landscapes. The latter is thanks to their adaptability and intelligence.

These small crows are

highly intelligent and social, and easily pick up tricks and new skills in the wild as well as in captivity. Jackdaws are colonial cavity nesters, and will use anything from a hole in a tree to a chimney. Their nests are usually constructed with sticks to form the outer section of the nest, and lined with wool or hair. You can encourage them to nest within your garden by putting up tawny owl boxes. Jackdaws form strong pair bonds with their mates and are renowned for their devotion towards their partner. Even if they suffer from a few years of unsuccessful breeding, they still stay together. An easy way to identify jackdaws is by their light grey nape and pale white iris, which stand out against the black plumage; juveniles, however, lack the grey nape and are born with blue-grey eyes. Their irises change to brown in the first winter and white once they gain their adult plumage. The collective noun for a group of jackdaws is a *clattering*.

The jackdaw got its Latin name, *Corvus monedula*, owing to its fondness for picking up coins. Monedula is derived from moneta the word for *money*. The European jackdaw can be trained to imitate human speech and in some cultures, a jackdaw on the roof is said to predict a new arrival; alternatively, a jackdaw settling on the roof of a house or flying down a chimney is an omen of death, and coming across one is also considered a bad omen. A jackdaw standing on the vanes of a cathedral tower is said to foretell rain. The jackdaw was considered sacred in Welsh folklore as it nested in church steeples and a nineteenth century belief in the Fens is that seeing a jackdaw on the way to a wedding was a good omen for a bride. Keep an eye out for them in the village as they are quite prolific, especially along Woodfields.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

QUENDON AND RICKLING COFFEE MORNING CLUB

The Coffee Club is held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month 10.00am-noon, the next one being on 21st June. Come and enjoy cakes, tea and coffee, fun bingo, quizzes, raffles and friendly company. Proceeds to village hall repairs. All welcome.



Carole Downes
Tel: 01799 543807



Mountfitchet Garden Club

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

May meeting

The first meeting of the new season was well attended and members welcomed back Brian Wickenden from St Osyth to talk about *The Spring Garden*. Brian's half acre garden is home to over 2000 different plants, and using photographs taken from around the garden, members were guided through the various trees, shrubs, bulbs and plants that can be found flowering throughout the different seasons of the year. Advice was given on where to site the plants; their growing habits; whether they needed winter protection or were hardy and could withstand below freezing temperatures; pruning schedules and whether they had scent or unusual flowers/colours. Mr Wickenden is also the holder of the national collection of *Corydalis* and opens his garden in aid of various organisations and charities.

Next meeting

Wednesday 7th June at the Day Centre, doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Topic: **Growing and Showing Roses** by Heather Horner. Everyone is welcome - day visitors 2.50. Membership available. Refreshments prior to meeting.

Coach outing

An outing has been organised for the autumn to a private garden in Danbury and then onto the RHS Hyde Hall Garden. The outing will coincide with the Heritage Plant Fair. More details at the next meeting.

Maralyn Harris, Chairman

Tel: 07919 478144

or via contact link on website

ANSWERS TO FILM QUOTES QUIZ

1. Gone With the Wind - Clark Gable (1939)
2. On the Waterfront - Marlon Brando (1954)
3. Casablanca - Humphrey Bogart (1942)
4. Sunset Boulevard - Gloria Swanson (1950)
5. All About Eve - Bette Davis (1950)
6. Taxi Driver - Robert de Niro (1976)
7. Apocalypse Now - Robert Duvall (1979)
8. Love Story - Ali MacGraw (1970)
9. The Maltese Falcon - Humphrey Bogart (1941)
10. In the Heat of the Night - Sidney Poitier (1967)
11. White Heat - James Cagney (1949)
12. The Wizard of Oz - Judy Garland (1939)
13. She Done Him Wrong - Mae West (1933)
14. To Have and Have Not - Lauren Bacall (1944)
15. Bonnie and Clyde - Warren Beatty (1967)
16. Now Voyager - Bette Davis (1942)
17. Some like It Hot - Joe E Brown (1959)
18. Psycho - Anthony Perkins (1960)
19. The Jazz Singer - Al Jolson (1927)
20. Little Caesar - Edward G. Robinson (1931)
21. Dirty Dancing - Patrick Swayze (1987)
22. Titanic - Leonardo di Caprio (1997)
23. The Graduate - Dustin Hoffman (1967)
24. The African Queen - Katherine Hepburn (1951)
25. Wall Street - Michael Douglas (1987)

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