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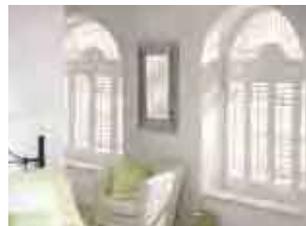
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EDITORIAL



This time of year, as we get closer to Spring, we are greeted earlier and earlier by the wonderful dawn chorus of birds outside our windows. One such early bird is the wren, featured on this month's front cover and also on page 39. I am told wrens live life at a fast, restless pace and sing that way too! So, as we march quickly into March (page 7) there is a touch of spring optimism dotted throughout this issue. Why not get your cameras out and capture Mother Nature at work as she brings the surrounding areas back to life once again? We would welcome your favourite Spring images for the next issue of The Link. Speaking of leading busy lives, did you know the Stansted Surgery offers special extended hours service for busy working commuters? More on page 14. How confident are you driving at night time? Test yourself with this simple exercise on page 14. Finally, if you would like to have your say on local village issues, don't miss the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 22nd March, see further details on page 19.

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

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

When I think back to Lent as a child, I recall struggling with deciding on what I was going to give up. Invariably, I made the easiest choice, something that I was relatively sure I would be able to do without, causing me the minimum of suffering. I was clearly missing the point, as when Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days, he did so with the full knowledge that he would face all manner of temptation in preparation for the beginning of his public ministry. A ministry which would ultimately end on the Cross on Calvary. He didn't take the easy route but the most difficult of paths.

At this time of year we begin to emerge from the darkness of winter into the colour and splendour of Spring-time. A time for all of us to stop and try to take stock of the things that matter in our lives, setting aside quiet time, prayer time to listen to God and experience the

inner calmness and closeness we miss when we get caught up in our busy schedules.

This month, as we prepare for the season of Lent, it offers us the opportunity of repentance and renewal, spiritual regrowth and a deepening of our personal relationship with God. A time of fasting and almsgiving, sharing the good gifts we have been given with those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Lent is a time of expectation, and just as we emerge from the darkness of winter, it brings us from the sadness and sorrow of the Cross to the joy and hope of the Resurrection.

This year I will try to pick something to give up that will test my determination and, please God, emerge better for it.

Des Connors
St Therese of Lisieux

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux

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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

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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

Light Group 10.30am-11.30am 11th March.
This is a guided meditation for personal enlightenment. You are warmly invited to attend.

National Quaker Day of Healing

Saturday 18th March 11.00am-4.00pm

Healing is love in action ... perhaps as never before, what the world needs is healing (www.quaker-healing.org.uk). Join us for an extended *Meeting for Worship* with a specific focus on Healing. You may wish to focus on family or friends, sickness, tragedy, starvation, homelessness, world conflict, the environment and all life on our fragile planet. Stay for as long as you wish, but please respect the silence within the building. We will be including Light Group sessions at 11.30am and 2.30pm. Hot and cold drinks will be available throughout the day and do bring a packed lunch if you wish. Further details from Anthea Lee 656707 or Sue Moloney 771405.



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 3rd March 2.00pm Quaker Meeting House

The theme of this year's service is *Am I Being Unfair to You?* It has been written by the Christian women of the Philippines and focuses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard: Matthew 20 v 1-16. The Day of Prayer is not just for women. Everyone is invited to attend the service, followed by refreshments and a Traidcraft Stall.



Brenda Veitch
Tel: 815819



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 on Tuesdays 14th and 28th March 7.30pm coffee for 7.45pm start. @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. Please contact us for more information about topic and venue. Looking forward to Easter, our recommended book for Lent this year is *God in my Everything* by Ken Shigematsu. We also have a lending library, open to everyone, which includes titles examining the evidence for God, and the historical basis for the Christian faith as well as aspects of spiritual growth and Christian life.



Ros Page

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: stjohs.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.



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

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

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

Preachers for March

5th 10.30am John Banks
12th 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins
19th 10.30am Rev'd Jan Bisschoff
26th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler – Communion



CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other)

On Tuesday 21st March 7.00pm-8.30pm at the Day Centre we look forward to welcoming a member of The Salvation Army Anti-Trafficking team to hear about some of the ways they are tackling modern-day slavery in the United Kingdom. We hope to see you then, or on another occasion when there is an event that you would like to join us for!

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

From the Registers January

Funeral

10th Mary Elizabeth Nicholas, age 88 -
at Parndon Wood

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the holders of the winning numbers in the January draws, who were:

£100 No 138 Matthew Jessup
£ 50 No 150 Derek Poole-Adams
£ 25 No 272 Brenda Ryan

The March draws will take place on Sunday 26th March following the 9.30am service in St John's Church.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562



SHALOM

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



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



Food Bank

Once again, I would like to express the very grateful thanks of CTS and their Food Bank team for the generosity displayed by various residents of the village in enabling us to help those members of our community who find themselves in extreme difficulties. In particular at this time, a big thank you to the following:

Anabela Hardiman, who, together with her friends and family, provided us with a marvellously generous and bountiful supply of food just before Christmas.

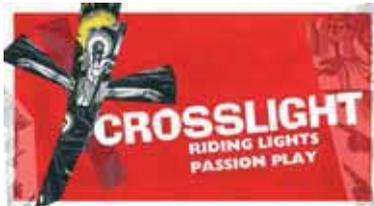
McAleer and Rushe Ltd, the contractors working on the new hotel at Stansted Airport, who, through their site manager, John Duggan, and the site operatives, arranged a similarly very generous donation of food in January as they wished to support the local community.

The local Co-op and Tesco stores who kindly put in boxes for the Food Bank last year and to their customers who regularly donated to the cause,

Carole Gray and her team who organised a quiz at the Dog and Duck which raised over £200 for the Food Bank, and to the patrons who so generously supported it.



Thanks to the kindness and generosity of the community, such as those listed above and the many other individuals who have contributed over the last four years, we are well stocked to assist those in need for several months to come. Anyone who finds themselves in severe financial difficulties and needs assistance with a food parcel, should contact the Citizens Advice Bureau on 01799 618840 who will make the necessary arrangements with our team and provide the advice and support to "get things back on track".



Riding Lights present Crosslight by Paul Burbridge and Les Ellison on **Friday 24th March 7.30pm** in the Charis Centre, Bishop's Stortford. Crosslight

draws us into the events of Jesus' passion in worship and especially into the experience of Peter, the disciple chosen to lead the church, but who failed, in spite of everything he so passionately believed in. This is a moving play written to encourage the audience to reflect and respond to Jesus' passion, during short periods between the acts and at the end. It is suitable for

adults and young people aged 12 and upwards. Riding Lights is a professional Christian theatre company based at Friar-gate Theatre in York. Tickets: £12 adults, £10 concessions from 659988 or 816142 (after 6th March).

Lent Groups

Our groups will be led by four of the Stansted churches, on a topic of their choice. Meetings will begin with coffee at 7.45pm, followed by discussion until 9.00pm. Dates (all are Wednesdays in March) and venues are as follows:

8th led by St John's at the Rectory, St John's Road

15th led by St Theresa's at the Parish Centre, High Lane

22nd led by the Family Church at 27 Spencer Close

29th led by the Free Church in the Free Church Hall

Everyone is most welcome. Please join us.

Francine Cope
Secretary
Tel: 814562



STANSTED U3A

www.stanstedu3a.org

The well-attended Saturday Seminar on 8th January was entitled *Post-Cold War, Where Are We Now?* David Morson and David Richardson delivered the second talk on this subject leading up to the present situation. The stage is set for Vladimir Putin, Nigel Farage, Marine Le Pen and President Donald Trump. We are in for an exciting if not worrying rest of the year!!

Group Leaders' Meeting

Wednesday 15th March 2.00pm in the Day Centre.

Members' Monthly Meeting

Thursday 16th March 1.30pm in St John's Hall when the speaker will be Charlie Haylock, talking about the *History of Spoken English*.

Wednesday Walk

This will be on 22nd March, weather permitting. Details will be sent out about one week beforehand. To receive information, please email: tony.wellings@btinternet.com.

Saturday Seminar 1st April 9.30am Free Church Hall

We are very pleased that Peter Holden MBE is presenting *The World of Birds in Spring - an exploration of avian mysteries*. Peter worked for over 40 years at the RSPB and has television appearances and many books to his credit. Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members from Alan on 07790 213510 email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com.

Special offer

music@stansted is pleased to offer a special arrangement for officially organised U3A parties. The full door ticket price is currently £15 per adult. For parties of U3A members, the offer price is £12. Four concerts are performed per annual season and U3A members who are already music@stansted members, can of course attend all concerts free of charge. The annual subscription equates to considerably less than £12. Contact Helen Parrish for group tickets, tel: 812945 email: helencobbson@btinternet.com.

U3A contact details

Helen (Chair) 812945, Liz (Secretary) 813270. Email: stanstedu3a@live.co.uk.



Suzanne Parra

Women's World Day of Prayer 

2 pm Friday 3rd March
Quaker Meeting House

Am I Being Unfair to You?
written by the women of The Philippines

Followed by Refreshments and Fairtrade Stall
All welcome - Men & Women

 **Stansted Evening WI**

FLOG IT AUCTION

7 for 7.30 pm Fri 3rd March
Day Centre

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LENT GROUPS

Weds 8 - 9 pm (coffee from 7.45pm)

8th St John's Rectory, St John's Road
15th St Theresa's Parish Centre, High La
22nd Family Church, 27 Spencer Close
29th Free Church Hall

All welcome - please join us
Sessions led by the Stansted Churches

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
2	Thu	Stansted Local History	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer W I Flog It	Quaker Meeting House 2 pm Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm
4 & 25	Sat	Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
7	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
8	Wed	Churches Together Lent Group	St John's Rectory 7.45 pm
9	Thu	Big Brew Stansted Evening W I	Free Church Foyer 10 am Day Centre 7.45 pm
11	Sat	Link copy due in today Lib Dem Tea St Clare Quiz	before 12 noon Day Centre 3.30 pm Forest Hall School 7 for 7.30 pm
12	Sun	Messy Church	St Mary's School 3.30 - 5 pm
15	Wed	Ugley W I Churches Together Lent Group	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm St Theresa's Parish Centre 7.45 pm
16	Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 pm
17	Fri	Handball Quiz	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
18	Sat	Quaker Day of Healing Music@stansted	Quaker Meeting Hse 10 am - 4 pm St John's Church 7.30 pm
21	Tue	CAMEO	Day Centre 7 - 8.30 pm
22	Wed	Churches Together Lent Group Annual Parish Meeting	27 Spencer Close 7.45 pm Free Church 8 pm
24	Fri	Windmill AGM	Day Centre 7.45 for 8 pm
28	Tue	Hearing Help	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
29	Wed	Churches Together Lent Group	Free Church Hall 7.45 pm
31	Fri	St Mary's Friends AGM & Quiz	Day Centre 6.45 pm

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www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch

 **BISHOP'S STORTFORD CHORAL SOCIETY**

Spring Songs

7.30 pm Sat 18th March
B Stortford Methodist Church

Rutter ~ Vaughan Williams ~ Tippett

Tickets adults £14, conc £12, students &
under 16s free from Tourist Information
Centre, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford
tel 715001 or on the door

Collection for B Stortford Night Shelter

 **music@stansted**

7.30 pm Sat 18th March

St John's Church
Cello Tim Lowe
Piano Andrew Brownell

Beethoven ~ Tchaikovsky ~ Fauré

Tickets adults £15, under 18s free
from Absolute Travel, Chapel Hill;
Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;
Richard 814118 or at the door

 **Stort Valley Rotary**

QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 pm Sat 18th Mar
Charis Centre, B Stortford

Tickets £10 incl Ploughman's
from Derek on 832580

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FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Captain Alan Gardner Memorial Service

Many of you will have seen the film *Zulu*, starring Michael Caine and Stanley Baker. On 22nd January, the anniversary date of the Battle of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, St Mary's Church hosted a memorial service and presentation for Captain Alan Gardner. He served with the 14th Hussars, was one of only five out of 67 officers to survive the 1879 Anglo-Zulu war in South Africa, and went on to become a Member of Parliament. The memorial service had the same hymns and readings as the original funeral service in 1907.

We are grateful to Kate, a local historian, who found Captain Gardner's grave in our churchyard, and has paid for the restoration of the gravestone at her own expense! Kate is very knowledgeable and her passion for the topic was clear. She gave an excellent presentation, telling the story of his early life and the part he played in the Anglo-Zulu war, using original historical artefacts, including a Zulu shield, an *ikwala* (stabbing spear) and an *iwisa* (a cudgel fashioned from dense hardwood). British Army weapons included a Martini-Henry rifle, bayonet, spent bullets and even a used rocket casing! The red British Army tunic and uniform was on display. Keith Ayres provided a sound track of Zulu chanting, which added to the atmosphere. It was a very moving, informative and interesting afternoon. Special thanks to Kate for donating the takings on the day to the church. Thanks to all for helping make this a successful event.

Lynda Dale
Vice-Chair

AGM and Quiz Friday 31st March at the Day Centre

AGM 6.45pm, quiz 7.15pm, half-time supper 8.15pm. Tickets for fish/chicken and chips supper must be ordered by 27th March from Keith on 814471 or Lynda on 812688 or 07716 099474. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Project to restore the Hill Norman and Beard Pipe Organ

Information packs explaining the project have already been sent to our members asking for their help to raise the necessary funds to renew parts of the action that are worn and failing to work. These are now available to all interested parties.



Some people may remember that the organ was rebuilt in 1940 and moved from the Lancaster Chapel to the west end of the church. The action was changed from tracker to electric, allowing the detached console (from where it is

played). All of the original pipework was kept and a trumpet stop was added to the great manual. The reason for the move was the desire to greatly improve the beauty of the Lancaster Chapel. (The organ had been blocking the view to the stained glass window and consequently making the chapel very dull.) This re-organisation was kindly financed by The Hon Rupert and Mrs Blyth in memory of their daughter Juliet, so it was not necessary for the parish to raise the funds and the cost will never be known. The original organ by Hill was built in 1874 and cost £400. Now we are taking on a challenge to raise at least £15,000, and we need your help. We are asking supporters to sponsor one or more of the 752 pipes, in your own name, or for a family member or friend, at a cost of £20. If you would like to help please contact one of our Committee members: Keith Ayres (Chairman) 814471, Lynda Dale (Vice-Chair) 812688, Stella Rodgers 814814, Carol Clements 814568. Every sponsor will receive a certificate with details of the pipe(s) sponsored and it will be signed by our Chairman and Treasurer. We look forward to hearing from you.

Keith Turner
Tel: 01487 823512

MARCHING INTO MARCH

March: Birthstones - Aquamarine and Bloodstone *symbolising courage*: Flower - daffodil

In the earliest Roman calendar March (or *Martius* named for Mars, the Roman god of war and guardian of agriculture) was the first month of the year, and the Ides of March would have been the first full moon of the month, a day of religious observances. Although March is only the third month of our calendar it does still have some significant dates. On 1st we celebrate St David's Day and this year Ash Wednesday is on 1st March. (It is also Beer Day in the country of Iceland.) The 3rd is Women's World Day of Prayer for 2017, 9th is a designated no smoking day and 17th is St Patrick's Day followed by World Sleep Day on the 18th (fortuitous perhaps for those recovering from the celebrations of the previous day?). The first day of Spring is on 20th, 26th is Mothering Sunday and also the start of British Summer Time this year.

Sometime during this month the March *March march* took place. It was an annual walk from the fenland market town of March to Cambridge. Organised by and for students and academics of Cambridge University, it was conceived by Jonathan Partington in 1979 - because it seemed like a good idea at the time. The last recorded March *March march* was in 2012. The March Hare, as well as being one of Lewis Carroll's famous characters is also the name of Atlantic Canada's largest poetry festival. The name is intended as a pun on the words *here* (celebrating a sense of place) and *hear* (since its focus is the spoken word). Started in 1987/88 as an evening of poetry and entertainment at a Golf and Country Club in Newfoundland, it still takes place each year and has evolved into a moveable feast of words and music that travels nationally and internationally. In 2007 The Hare visited seven centres in Ireland including Dublin and Waterford. Whatever you are planning to do this month - be it celebrating St David's Day with an Icelandic beer or just admiring the profusion of daffodils in and around Stansted - enjoy!



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St Mary's C of E Foundation Primary School



At St Mary's we are very proud of all our pupils and have a number of systems in place to recognise and reward their effort and achievement in their learning and in their personal and social development. We also enjoy hearing about the children's achievement in activities they pursue outside school, whether it is sport, music or creative activity ... So parents - and proud grandparents - do let us know if your youngsters have had successes outside of school, so that we can congratulate them. Huge congratulations to **Mason Teese** and **Bobby Madigan** who recently won bronze medals at the National Karate Championships in Sheffield! This is an amazing achievement and we wish the boys well in future competitions.



Year 5 pupils enjoyed an overnight stay at the Science Museum, taking part in science workshops and sleeping with the fossils! Years 5 and 6 took the train for a very interesting and worthwhile trip to the Harlow Synagogue. The Reception children had an exciting evening, returning to school after dark in their pyjamas to look at the stars and explore trails through the school with torches, followed by cocoa and bedtime stories. The Reception children also had a trip to the theatre to see David Walliams' *The 1st Hippo in Space*. Years 3 and 4 are following a local history theme this term and have been on walks in the area gathering information and sketches for work back in school.



The school is lucky to have a busy PTFA raising funds for all those extras which are hard to afford from the school budget. Through discos, fairs, cake sales, uniform sales, tuck shops and various other events, they have enabled us to purchase some very handsome and robust shades for the school grounds which should be installed during the Easter holiday. We have recently set up a Buddy System between Year 4 pupils and Foundation Stage. Early indicators show that all the children are enjoying this partnership and it is our intention that this will continue until our current Year 4s leave for secondary school, giving our Reception children an older and constant buddy throughout their KS1 school life. St Mary's is recruiting a **Learning Support Assistant**. You must have some experience of working in schools and be interested in developing your career working with pupils

with Special Educational Needs. Details are on the school website and also at www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher
Tel: 812212
Email: admin@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk

STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch



Sixty people of all ages came to our January Messy Church, when the theme was *Hope* and included the story of Noah. Activities included making shakers (later used in the celebration to represent the storm), origami doves and fruit kebabs; colouring rainbow pictures (illustrating the story of Noah); wordsearches and puzzles; reveal pictures; pinning our hopes for the year to a special tree; and face painting.



See our website for more photos

Our next event is on **Sunday 12th March 3.30pm-5.00pm at St Mary's School**. This relaxed and lively style of church for all ages has activities, celebration and food, and plenty of **FUN!** Children and adults can try out a variety of craft activities linked to a theme that we also explore with songs, stories and games. After the celebration, everyone has tea - sandwiches, drinks, cakes, crisps, snacks, and fruit. We particularly welcome families with children aged under 12; however, older children are also welcome as long as they come with an adult. **Stansted Messy Church** is arranged by Churches Together in Stansted and there is no charge. See our website for more information, and to find out what makes Messy Church 'messy'.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



STORT VALLEY ROTARY CLUB

Quiz Saturday 18th March at 7.30pm in the Charis Centre, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford. Proceeds to Life Education (see www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk). Tables of eight maximum. Tickets £10 from Derek on 832580 email: john.crowther2@ntlworld.com.

Martin Budzinski

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Chris **01279 817111** info@mvcc.manuden.org.uk



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

Last month we forgot to mention we had taken part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church. All the children had taken part in painting and creating the baubles for the tree. It looked very effective. The children who joined us in January are now happily settled into the Rainbow Family.



At Chinese New Year, everyone enjoyed the prawn crackers, but not so much the spring rolls! The children enthusiastically played their musical instruments to wake up the dragon and join in the dancing. We are doing lots of counting, number songs and activities to practice number recognition. Valentine cards were made and the children have been thinking about winter; we even managed to create some fake snow, which they have loved playing with. To celebrate Shrove Tuesday everyone helped to make pancakes, which were enjoyed at snack time, followed by everyone taking part in pancake races. The school is saving Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' Vouchers. If you are looking for somewhere to donate them, we would be very happy to receive them. Rainbow takes children from 2½ 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
Administration Manager
Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net



Easter Craft Specials

Come and join in our Easter Crafts on Monday 27th, Wednesday 29th and Friday 31st March. The Place will be open as usual from 9.30am, with planned activities for all ages between 10.00am and 11.00am.

The Place on the Hill is a free drop-in held at and organised by Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, and is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Do come and join us - all ages are welcome.



Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059
Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



Investigators is a lively, fun group for children on Fridays 6.15pm-7.45pm at the Free Church Hall near Millway Stationery. Sessions include a regular mix of games, activities, stories and various different topics. Recently we did a torch walk in the dark and sent messages to one another in Morse code. Some weeks we do craft, drama or music-based activities, and sometimes we split into smaller groups for some games or activities in order to cater for everyone effectively. We are affiliated to **Churches Together in Stansted**, but most children do not attend church or have a connection to a church and we make no assumptions about children's or families' beliefs when we use Bible stories – everyone is welcome. All leaders are CRB/DBS-checked, experienced in working with children, and trained in best practice. We cater for 7-11 year olds but there is some flexibility over the age-range, particularly for younger siblings, as long as they are over 6 and confident enough to mix with a group which is predominantly 7-11 years old. There is no cost for attending and children are welcome to come and try it out one Friday, if they have not been before. Please contact me for further information.



Ros Page
On behalf of the Investigators team
Tel: 810813
Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com



www.farnham-school.org

So far this term the children have enjoyed several sporting trips, with KS2 children competing in the tag rugby tournament at Joyce Frankland Academy and years 2 to 5 taking part in the athletics tournament at RA Butler School in Saffron Walden. Farnham is a small school, which means that all our children get to enjoy the benefits of taking part in competitive sports. New KS2 teacher, Mrs Trantum recently started a lunchtime netball club, which is proving very popular. Farnham and our federation partner school, Rickling, will be coming together for Science Week to learn about robots and robotics. They are hoping to have fun with a visit from Boffin Martin, make elephants' toothpaste, learn about static electricity, attend a workshop on plasma and polymers and launch a rocket from the school garden. Back at Farnham, Willow Class children will be making their own junk robots while Horse Chestnut students will be learning about Japan, the home of robotics, meet Aibo, the robotic dog and have a go at controlling MIP - a remote control robot. Farnham is a small village school graded *Good* by Ofsted. We have small class sizes, good results and happy children. The school is growing rapidly but there are some places available and Stansted children are eligible. Several Stansted families send their children to the school and would be happy to talk to any parents. For information call the school reception on 771339 or see our website.

Katherine Aiken
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Harry Potter Book Night

On Thursday 2nd February, over 90 KS2 and KS3 students and families attended **Harry Potter Book Night**. An annual event celebrated across the country, which is hosted by Bloomsbury publishers, saw this year's theme *Hogwarts Professors* come to life. Students in 7C entered a competition to design their own Hogwarts Professor with the chance of winning a class trip to Harry Potter Studios in London. Several students from the FHS Book Club came together to plan and design eight different stalls from



Wand-Making and Potions Class to Pin the Sock on Dobby. There were even a few successful scores at Table Quidditch! Upon entering the Library through Platform 9¾ and past the floating candles, young witches and wizards took part in the ultimate Harry Potter quiz.



School Librarian, Mrs S Wedgbrow said "It was brilliant to see so many families teaming up to win. The butter beer proved popular as well as our own Year 11 magician Robert Cox who kept the crowds entertained. All in all, it was a successful night of fun, magic and promoting reading. Many thanks to Sawbridge Words for coming along with a range of books for sale and the PTA for all of their support. Students enjoyed the night so much that they have started their very own Harry Potter club. We're all looking forward to next year!"

Adam Smith
Burnt Mill Academy Trust

Each term we spend a few days where children across the school work on the same cross-curricular topic and this spring we held a whole school art project. **Take One Picture** involves choosing a work of art and basing work across the curriculum around the content of the picture. Our chosen picture was *'One of the Family'* by Frederick Cotman. This is a Victorian picture showing a traditional farmhouse scene, quite different from the kind of art children may often be drawn to, but offering a wealth of opportunities in English, maths, science and technology as well as art. Looking at the food on the table, children baked bread and made pastry to cook mini-apple pies. This involved lots of maths in weighing and measuring as well as cooking skills. Measuring capacity can be quite a challenging concept and we took the opportunity to compare all the different vessels and containers in the picture. In English children looked carefully at the picture and used inference and deduction skills to understand what was happening and predict the next few minutes. This visual literacy can be just as challenging as working from a written story. Children then wrote descriptions, stories and playscripts using the characters in the family. Art work provided many opportunities to use different materials and skills. Across the school children made clay pots, models of knitting, 'through the window' silk painting, willow pattern plates, sketch studies and models of the 'Bleeding Heart' plant. One activity involved every child in the school - creating a still life picture observing a collection of pots, vases etc. It was amazing to see the development from our youngest children's careful drawing of shapes to the accomplished shaded sketches made by our oldest children.

Helen Coop
Headteacher



GIRLGUIDING NEEDS YOU!



West Uttlesford District desperately needs **more regular adult volunteers** to help at units in Clavering, Elsenham, Takeley, Stansted, Manuden, Newport, Widdington and Quendon. We need people to get involved with Rainbows (girls 5-7 yrs), Brownies (7-10 yrs) and Guides (10 yrs+), and even if you cannot help all the time, you can still be a valuable team member. Volunteering at our units is a good opportunity to give something back to the community and can be an incredibly rewarding experience as you help shape the futures of girls across the district. You don't need to have been involved as a child or know how to tie a dozen different knots! What we're looking for are team players ready to take on a challenging but rewarding commitment to work with us and maintain our village units into the future. Whilst there is no monetary gain we can offer limitless opportunities for personal growth, friendships and fun for life! If you feel you could give some of your time to help at an established group, and would like to see not just what you can do for Girlguiding but what Girlguiding has to offer you, please contact me.

Jennifer Jarvis
District Commissioner
Tel: 814434 or 07900 123917
Email: pajemiki@tiscali.co.uk

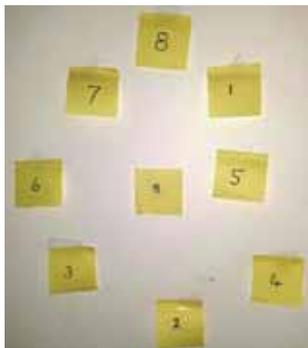
HEALTH AND WELLBEING

IMPROVE YOUR NIGHT DRIVING

Improve your night driving and sports performance with this simple nose/finger exercise.

1. Get some post-it-notes, write a letter on one and number the rest from 1-8. Put the post-it-note with the letter on a wall straight in front of you, with the rest of the post-its in a circle around it, arranged randomly
2. Test your balance before you begin. Stand on one leg, close your eyes. How stable are you? We'll return to this after the exercise
3. Now, stare at the post-it with the letter on it, touch your nose, then touch the letter
4. Whilst still staring at the post-it, find number one, using your peripheral vision – don't move your eyes or your head - then touch number one. Touch your nose, touch the letter, touch your nose again, find and touch number two, and so on. Try not to cheat – keep staring at that letter
5. Having worked your way through all the numbers, retest your balance. Has it improved? If it has, it's good to do this exercise every day.

Why would an exercise like this make our balance, pain, squat or flexibility better? Everything we do comes from our brain; it receives gigantic amounts of input every waking



moment. Doing this exercise works the rods in the vision – 95% of vision is rods. They see stuff in the periphery and they work at night. They are not good at seeing colours or definition. Apart from night driving – and safe driving, good peripheral vision is critical in playing any sport. I would love to know how you did with this exercise. Feel free to contact me if you have any

questions or comments. I am a *Z-Health Master Trainer* – I improve movement and lower pain using applied neurology and am as rare as a hen's tooth in the UK.

Clare Harding
Tel: 07802 872919

Email: fun@clareharding.com

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Parents will be taken through a series of checks, including yes or no and multiple choice questions, relating to their baby's health. Checks include difficulty breathing in, vomiting, temperature and drowsiness. On completion, the parent will be given a score but if at any point during the checks, the score reaches 20, the parents will be directed to seek urgent medical attention. You can download this free app from the Lullaby Trust website www.lullabytrust.org.uk/baby-check-app

Psychological benefits of exercise

Six potential psychological benefits from regular exercise:

- 1 Reduced anxiety
- 2 Decrease in mild to moderate depression
- 3 Improves cognitive behavioural capability
- 4 An adjunct to professional treatment of severe depression
- 5 Improvement in mood self-esteem
- 6 Reduction in various indices of stress

When starting any exercise programme you should ensure that you are capable of doing it. If in any doubt ask your doctor.

Barry Chandler
Practice Manager
Tel: 813200
Email: Stansted.surgery@nhs.net

BRITISH RED CROSS QUIZ EVENING



Manuden Community Centre was packed for this fundraising event on 14th January. Thank you so much to the many people from Stansted and surrounding villages who helped to raise the wonderful amount of £3980!

Christine Stiles and Rosina Kirkwood

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

HYPNOTHERAPY- IS IT TIME TO GIVE IT A TRY?

For many people the thought of hypnosis conjures up images of swinging watches and people dancing around like a chicken, but our understanding of the brain and the mystical 'trance state' has increased greatly as a result of advances in neuroscience, so that there is now a distinct field of therapy dedicated to the application of hypnosis, called hypnotherapy. Many of you have heard that hypnotherapy can help someone overcome a fear or phobia, or even stop smoking, but a new branch *Clinical Hypnotherapy* can help with irritable bowel syndrome, acne, eczema, nail biting, phantom-limb syndrome, tinnitus, fibromyalgia, PTSD, chronic pain management, weight loss and anxiety and mood disorders.

What does it feel like to be hypnotised?

For most people, trance will feel like a state of very deep relaxation; for others, it resembles daydreaming. Some people describe their experience like they have had a lovely massage. People react as differently to trance as to other life experiences, but most find it relaxing and pleasant.

Will I lose consciousness?

Generally people do not lose consciousness and are fully aware of the smells and sounds around them.

Will I lose control and do something I don't want to do?

No. A hypnotherapist cannot and should not make you do anything you would not normally do. You still have control, even when in a trance, and can come around at any time.

I would like to be rid of my debilitating fear of spiders but could not face holding one. Is this necessary for treatment to work? No. There is a methodology called The Fast Cure for phobias and traumas which does not involve any physical contact with the feared stimulus, only visualisation. After 3-6 sessions people are encouraged to test their reactions to their previously feared stimulus, outside of the session, and in most cases find their discomfort or fear has greatly reduced.

Is the profession recognised and regulated?

In the UK, hypnotherapists do not have to join any organisation or have any specific training by law; this means someone can attend a weekend seminar or complete an online course and call themselves a hypnotherapist. When choosing a therapist, ensure you chose one that is qualified and has studied to a high level such as a Higher Professional Diploma. Check they belong to a professional organisation that is regulated by the Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council such as the National Council for Hypnotherapy or the Association for Solution Focused Hypnotherapists.

Finally, ensure your therapist is fully registered and insured to work with adults and children.

Elizabeth Newton
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CASTLE MALTINGS PHARMACIST

The opening of Stansted Surgery in Castle Maltings in November 2016 was an event many in Stansted and surrounding villages said would never take place. When the NHS dentist came to our village, this was a welcomed service which so many had been asking for. Now an independent pharmacy will open in Castle Maltings very soon. The ceiling has been installed and as I write, shop fitters are installing cabinets and other fittings. This business is owned by Professor Ash Soni, OBE FFRPS, FRPharmS and it does work for the NHS. I first met him 16 months ago, when he was President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. A pharmacy close to the Stansted Surgery is welcomed, but much more important is that it will be so convenient for those in our community who live in the southern part of the village in Foresthall Park and the Mountfitchet Estate. Many in our community find the steep Chapel Hill difficult to walk up, including those who have to struggle up with pushchairs. This will come to an end, as soon as this pharmacist is licensed to dispense NHS prescribed medicines, and I believe he will need our support. We now have a Health Centre offering so much in one building and in the centre of our village; a real asset for us and the surrounding villages.

Success to them!

Ray Woodcock
Tel: 816468

PET ALLERGIES

A client came in to see me last week complaining that her dog was 'digging and shuffling'. The first thing that went through my mind was perhaps it was a new dance craze in the canine community, but it turned out that the dog was scratching itself! Scratching in dogs and cats usually indicates that they either have an unwelcome visitor or two, or they have had an allergic response to something. Allergies in cats and dogs seem to be on the increase just as they are in the human population. There have been many theories as to why this may be, but no firm evidence one way or the other. They can get food allergies, contact allergies or allergies to environmental things like house dust mites or pollens and grasses. This is a bit like people with hay fever, but cats and dogs do not sneeze when they are allergic to pollen, they scratch. Itchiness can manifest itself as chewing or biting, licking paws, rubbing the ears or bottom on the floor and of course, digging and shuffling! Some allergies are so severe that the animal can end up with sore bleeding patches. Allergies usually start when an animal is between 1- 5 years old and can get steadily worse year after year. The good news is that there is a lot that can be done to help including testing to see what the animal is allergic to and then working out a regime of treatment to lessen the effects of the allergy. As a holistic practitioner as well as a conventional vet, I usually use a combination of herbal products and supplements which I find works really well in many cases. Of course, we must not forget those 'visitors' and as Spring is on its way and the weather is warming up, all those fleas will be waking up too, so don't forget to pop into the surgery and top up on flea products and ask our lovely receptionists what the latest advice is for staying on top of the little critters!



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Rising West End star **Rebecca Freckleton** stars in *Whitney - Queen of the Night* on Saturday 4th March, taking us on a magical rollercoaster ride through three decades of classic hits including *I Wanna Dance With Somebody*, *I'm Every Woman*, *Greatest Love of All* and *That's What Friends Are For*. *The Matt Monro Story* follows on Friday 17th March, starring the legend's son, Matt Monro Junior, charting the history of his father. *Broadway and Beyond* a selection of scintillating song and dance hits the stage on Saturday 18th March. Tickets are available for all shows from the Box Office on 710200 or via our website.

Clive Edwards
Marketing Manager
Tel: 710206

Email: cedwards@rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk



Saturday 25th March 7.30pm at Saffron Hall
Saffron Walden Choral Society performs *There Was a Child* by Jonathan Dove and Poulenc's *Gloria*. Tickets from Saffron Hall Box Office 0845 548 7650, Tourist Information Centre 01799 524002, from our website, or on the door.

Helen Sterling

THE MANUDEN SINGERS

Brahms Requiem Sunday 9th April 7.30pm
The Manuden Singers and Players with soloists Emily Yarrow and James Priest. Adults £10, children £5 from 812157 or on the door. Proceeds to Support4Sight in support of their work for the blind and partially sighted in our district.

Ian Priest



www.musicatstansted.co.uk

To bring our current season to a close Tim Lowe (cello) and Andrew Brownell (piano) will be giving a concert on Saturday 18th March at 7.30pm in St John's Church. Tim enjoys a busy and varied career and is one of the new generation of outstanding young British cellists. He appears regularly in festivals throughout the UK and Europe. He has played as a soloist in all the main concert venues in the UK including London's Wigmore Hall, the Purcell Room, Cadogan Hall, St John's Smith Square – and, next, St John's Stansted! Tim was a chorister at York Minster and still has an association with the city, being Artistic Director of York Chamber Music Festival. Andrew was born in Portland, Oregon and began playing the piano at the age of four. He, like Tim, has made many solo appearances in Europe and the USA with the Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Slovak Philharmonic and the Russian Hermitage State Orchestra. He has been described by *Musical Opinion* as "potentially one of the most significant pianists of his generation". Tim and Andrew will be performing classics of the piano and cello repertoire by four favourite composers: a set of variations by Beethoven, two sumptuous works by Tchaikovsky (the familiar Nocturne and Andante Cantabile), and two great romantic cello sonatas by leading French composers Fauré and Franck. Tickets: adults £15, children under 18 free from Absolute Travel; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Richard Allaway 814118; or on the door.

Alan Corbishley



Spring Songs Saturday 18th March 7.30pm at Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church, South Street.
The concert includes a range of folk songs and spirituals by Rutter, Vaughan Williams and Tippett. Tickets are available on the door, or in advance from Bishop's Stortford Tourist Information Office, Market Square tel 715001, email: tic@bishopsstortford.org. There will be a collection for Bishop's Stortford Winter Night Shelter, which closes its doors for this winter at the end of February but is aiming to continue supporting its vulnerable clients. For more information about the concert or joining the Choral Society go to www.singwithbscs.org.uk.

Jill Goldsmith



You are invited to tea with Baroness Shirley Williams on Saturday 11th March at the Day Centre. Doors open at 3.30pm and afternoon tea will be served at 4.00pm. Shirley will then share some thoughts about recent events. Tickets are £10 and preferably should be purchased in advance from me.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

Email: catherinemarydean@btinternet.com

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

For

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

to be held at

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

On WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2017 at 8.00 pm

A G E N D A

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2016
- 3 To introduce Sue Belo, Neighbourhood Development Plan Co-ordinator, to talk about progress with the Plan and forthcoming Community Engagement.
- 4 To receive the Parish Council's audited accounts to 31st March 2016
- 5 To receive the Parish Council's Financial Review
- 6 Chairman's Report
- 7 To receive a report on Neighbourhood Watch
- 8 Proposed resolutions
- 9 Open Forum
- 10 Refreshments

Ruth A Clifford
Clerk to the Council

Tea and coffee will be served in the foyer.

NOTE

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

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

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

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MARCH 2017

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Year ended 31 March		2013	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017	2,018	
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget *	
Item									
1	Village Maintenance and Cleaning	60,935	64,402	63,693	76,825	61,214	84,423	93,184	A
2	Recreation and Play Areas	2,983	4,504	1,184	3,699	515	2,699	2,699	B
3	Street Lighting	10,984	17,754	9,897	16,348	17,976	17,584	17,584	C
4	Administration and Office Costs	64,341	107,282	77,527	98,206	83,876	99,762	108,789	D
5	Members Expenses and Training	706	1,929	568	1,000	526	1,000	1,000	E
6	Discretionary projects	18,906	1,512	-5,801	7,500	7,210	5,500	12,500	
7	Christmas Fayre	4,137	1,473	-468	750	1,206	0	0	F
8	Day Centre	- 4,275	- 931	-2,018	8,380	8,065	2,380	3,370	
9	Windmill	4,000	4,650	1,720	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	
10	Crafton Green rental income	- 27,500	- 27,500	-13,000	-18,500	-13,000	-18,500	-14,375	G
11	Crafton Green Car Park	- 3,836	- 4,801	-7,606	-7,111	-7,205	-3,927	-5,927	
12	Capital projects	- 2,894	4,771	-8,953	2,750	27,967	15,750	7,750	H
	Total net expenditure	£ 128,487	£ 175,045	£ 116,743	£193,847	£192,350	£210,671	£230,574	
13	Council Tax Precept	£ 187,000	£ 198,000	£ 212,000	£217,000	£217,000	£222,000	£255,000	
	Average per Band D	£ 65	£ 65	£66	£66	£66	£68	£78	
	Net surplus or (deficit)	£ 58,513	£ 22,955	£ 95,257	£23,153	£24,650	£11,329	£24,426	

BALANCE SHEET at 31st March

	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Bank, cash and investments	158,434	212,836	277,445	265,045
Due to Council	48,117	33,921	48,112	89,695
Total current assets	206,551	246,757	325,557	354,740
Less: Owed by Council	9,965	27,217	10,623	14,996
Total net assets	£ 196,586	£ 219,540	£ 314,934	£339,744
These assets represent . . .				
Reserves for specific projects	104,946	108,640	166,379	192,897
Accumulated general reserve	91,639	110,900	148,555	146,847
	£ 196,585	£ 219,540	£314,934	£339,744

EXPLANATIONS OF WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE FIGURES

- 1 Grass cutting, gardening, maintenance litter and garden waste skips.
- 2 Maintenance of all play areas less rents from tennis and bowls clubs.
- 3 Lighting maintenance and energy costs.
- 4 All costs related to the function of the Parish Council and running of Crafton Green office.
- 5 Parish councillors' expenses and training.
- 6 Includes part-funding the Youth Service, CCTV, Bonfire night, Parish Grants (1% of precept).
- 8 In 2015/16 UDC renewed our grant, for a further three years, at £11,600 pa plus inflation.
- 10 Rents from clinic and library.
- 11 50% of income from Crafton Green car park (UDC retains 50%) less business rates.
- 12 Includes contribution to unadopted roads, lighting and IT.
- 13 Precept is the element of Council Tax collected by Uttlesford specifically for this parish, inclusive of LCTS grant.

* NOTES REGARDING MAJOR VARIATIONS BETWEEN BUDGET AND ACTUAL FIGURES FOR 2016

Note A Expenditure on salaries, green waste skips, memorial testing and materials lower than expected. Cemetery income higher.

Note B Maintenance costs lower than expected - surplus taken to allocated reserve.

Note C Increase in energy costs.

Note D Savings on salaries, administration costs and elections. Increased income from unexpected donations.

Note E Saving made by group sessions rather than individual attendance on courses.

Note F Some sponsorship received in following year.

Note G Clinic rent not received until 2016/17 financial year.

Note H Difference between expenditure of £269,225 on skatepark, Bentfield play area, Crafton Green Project, and income of £241,258 from grants and UDC S.106 fund. Net cost to Parish Council.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Council tax (parish share) will rise by 15%. This increase is higher than planned, or anticipated, and reflects an increase in net expenditure and a reduction in the district council grant.

Net spending trends are discussed below:

2016/17 - Net spending in the current year is estimated at £196,000, 6% below the original budget. Savings on staff costs (interregnum after two staff retirements), the unsuccessful gardening contract, library rent (for one quarter) and lower spend on Recreation Ground lights outweighed higher costs at the Day Centre, increased professional fees and some timing differences.

2017/18 - Net expenditure is estimated at £240,000, a rise of £44,000. This substantial increase reflects several factors:

Staffing returns to full level for the year with the office appointment cost reflecting a changed job specification. This element accounts for about £14,000.

The new gardening contract, which is itself £6,000 more expensive, will run for a full year.

The possible move of the clinic from Craffton Green House (assumed for budgeting purposes to be from June 2017) would cost the parish approx. £14,000 in lost rent and cost contributions.

A year ago, the indicative budget was £226,000 with most of the difference reflecting the office appointment and the new gardening contract.

Trend in general reserves:

	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17
General Reserves (£'000)	111	129	97	110

The increase in general reserves reflects the surplus projected less specific commitments to the Memorial Gardens project, funding the Neighbourhood Plan and higher professional fees. In normal circumstances this would represent a satisfactory position but the outturn of the legal issues surrounding the new building may materially worsen this outturn.

Precept and Council Tax

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Precept (£'000)	187	198	212	217	196	240
Council Tax (Band D) £	64.83	64.69	65.77	66.38	67.9	78.1
% change	-0.4	-0.2	1.7	0.9	2.3	15

Uttlesford District Council will reduce the LCTS grant by 50% in 2017/18 and by 100% in 2018/19. This will, over the two years, reduce parish income by £13,000. Over the five years to March 2018, council tax (parish share) will have increased by 20%. To put this in terms of hard cash, it equates to £13 or an increase of £2.60 per annum. In a broader context, for Band D properties in 2016/17, Saffron Walden raised £160.02 and Great Dunmow £128.14.

Cllr Peter Jones, Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017

Parish Offices and Library: At the time this report was required to be available there has been no agreement reached between ourselves and the third party who has legal easements on the site. We hope to be able to report on a resolution by the time of the meeting as we are aware of the impact of the loss of the library building raised by residents.

We have calculated the approximate cost of the delay in building resumption to be approximately £45,000 at the time of writing this report.

Council Precept: The Parish share of the Council Tax is to rise by 15% this year. This is fully reported and explained in the Financial Report presented by the Chair of the Finance Committee and will be further reported on by him at the meeting.

Car Park Issues:

Crafton Green - we are reviewing car parking on this site with the intention of creating additional spaces for which funding is available – we will keep you informed of any proposed developments in the future.

Lower Street - layout and signage, and a safe pedestrian route through the car park and a proposed crossing from the Social Club to the Maltings have been raised in consultation with UDC and the developer by the Parish Council. All long term parking will be beyond the skate park and there will be no parking permitted along the access road.

The consultation by UDC on the costs of parking has now closed and we are awaiting the outcome from UDC who are also looking at responses from Saffron Walden, Dunmow and Thaxted. We are still pursuing with UDC and a resident the purchase of a small area of land to create more car parking spaces.

Again, at the time of compiling this report, and despite chasing, we are still awaiting the consultation on the siting of the new pedestrian crossing on Lower Street following the police concerns in relation to the previous proposal. We are told HG consultant's approval is awaited – as they are funding the crossing as part of the overall scheme.

Castle Maltings: The surgery, dentist and retail store have settled in the new build.

Questions were raised with the UDC CEO (Dawn French) when the Parish Council considered issues of non-material amendments were material amendments, in relation to revised planning applications which were agreed in relation to Castle Maltings. The Parish Council is not a consultee on non-material amendments and it is important we are clear on the differences between the two categories of amendment. To date we have not received a response.

14 Cambridge Rd: An application from FOE Developments is proposed to be presented to UDC Planning Committee. The Parish Council raised reiterated concerns re the safety of the ingress and egress on to Cambridge Road by this development. The outcome may be known by the time of the meeting.

The Parish Council was also approached by a third party developer who offered to support their financial ability to purchase the land on 14 Cambridge Road. Following discussions with the Full Council it was agreed that "The Parish Council should not borrow money from any private developers."

Cambridge Road: The Parish Council proposals for parking and traffic flow on Cambridge Rd are still sitting with Essex Highways technical dept. We shall display our representations in the foyer on the night of the meeting.

Elms Farm/ Walpole Farm Developments: The commencement of work at Walpole Farm is scheduled for March this year. We have raised concerns with planners in relation to the SUDS and potential flood risk on the development. We also are maintaining regular contact with the Environment Agency and await their professional report on the 3 options proposed to minimise the flood risk from Ugley Brook. Demolition of the old buildings at Elms Farm is expected to take place soon following the completion of the sale of this site.

Uttlesford Local Plan: The Local Plan continues to be delayed for further consultation with neighbouring districts and to seek further information. Our Neighbourhood Plan is developing and Sue Belo our Project Manager will update the meeting on our progress and proposed community engagement.

Retirement: Anne, one of our assistants to the Clerk, and Steve our handyman, both retired this year after a loyal and conscientious service to the Parish for which we thank them. We hope that their successors will continue their good work for the Parish.

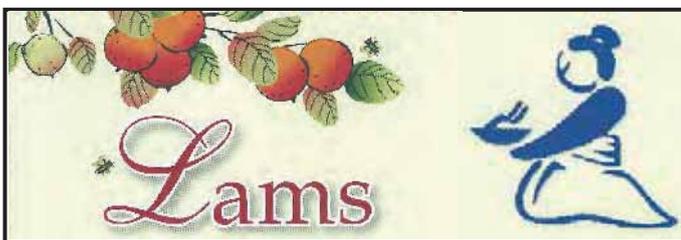
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Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK	Vivian Falk, Chairman
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Arts Club	Michelle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

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

What do I need to wear?

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

Who leads the course?

Sessions are supervised by qualified running coaches.

What happens after the course?

At the end you will have the chance to take part in the Bishop's Stortford five mile race at Hatfield Forest on 2nd July, and later the Takeley 10k in September together with the others on the course. Beyond this, the Running Club has groups for all abilities and you can continue your running in one of those groups. You can attend Club events and regular coaching sessions free of charge until 31st March 2018. The course costs £75, and includes Club membership to March 2018 and free entry to the five mile race.

How do I join?

This year, we will be taking course registration via the new England Athletics RunTogether web system, see <https://groups.runtogether.co.uk/BishopsStortfordRunningClub/Beginners> or search for RunTogether.co.uk, then search for runs in Bishop's Stortford to find us. Please pay by internet banking if possible or send a cheque - details are on the web page. Entry is on a first come, first served basis and the course fills up quickly, so be sure to get your entry in early! For further information please contact me.

Lorraine Evans

Tel: 814360

Email: membership@bsrc.org.uk

DON'T FORGET!

The clocks go forward at 1.00am on Sunday 26th March.



Sunday 11th June

Bentfield Green 10.00am start for Children's one mile run and 11.00am start for 10km undulating, multi-terrain run. Registration: £12 in advance at www.stansted10k.org.uk or £15 on the day. The current Committee would like to thank the original Committee who started the Fun Run, all those years ago, for laying the foundations for such a great event. The present Committee agree that the organisation of the Fun Run has been made so much easier by their previous hard work and are grateful for their support. Thank you to Eileen and Brian Quinn, Helen Baker, Ruth Rawlinson, Lorraine Evans, Alan Wheeler, Catherine Dean and Marion and Mike Dyer. Jim Collins continues as a Committee member, sponsor and participant. Three charities will benefit from the funds raised from the event this year:

St Clare Hospice - Harlow

Providing the highest quality of care and support for patients and their loved ones during one of life's most difficult journeys continues to be the driving force behind everything we do. Our Community Team is now caring for more people than ever before, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in the comfort of their own home.

Huw Johnson - Stansted

The Huw Johnson Club is a social group for adults with learning difficulties, founded 42 years ago by Stansted residents Tom and Marion Johnson in memory of their son Huw, who had died of muscular dystrophy a few months before. The Club started as a group for children and their parents and has evolved, as the members have grown up, to a weekly social group for adults with a whole range of abilities.

Grove Cottage - Bishop's Stortford

Grove Cottage is the home of Bishop's Stortford Mencap, providing social and educational activities for people of all ages with learning disability: to develop their potential, avoid social isolation by supporting lifelong friendships and to provide respite for their families.

As our dates clashed with the Henham 10km we will also make a donation to the Henham Fun Run which was unable to re-schedule this year's event. Please come along and support this great family event and help to provide much needed funds for our chosen charities.



Caroline Bore
On behalf of the Stansted Fun Run Committee

ST CLARE HOSPICE QUIZ



Saturday 11th March 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Forest Hall School. Tables of eight people maximum. Tickets £10 (includes ploughman's) from Christine on 815007 or myself. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.



Caroline Bore
Tel: 813938
Email: carolinebore@gmail.com



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Stansted Tennis Club



Membership

If you are thinking of joining the Club, why not act quickly and take advantage of the discounted rates for annual membership during March? It's quick and easy - just download a membership form from the website or contact a Committee member.



February Social Tournament

Fourteen players took part in this adult social doubles tournament on 3rd February. Congratulations to the eventual winners, Diane Brown and Fiona Pye, who beat Lisa King and Caroline Mott 6-2 in the final. The consolation prize winners were Debbie Lane and Tudor Owen. A bring and share lunch was enjoyed by the players after the

tournament. A sum of £30 was raised for Cancer Research with the profit from the tournament.

Ladies' Night

Monday 13th March 7.00pm. All lady members are welcome.

Boyd Trophy

This adult doubles tournament will take place on Friday 17th March at 9.00am. The entry fee will be £5 per player, plus a contribution to a bring and share lunch.

Coaching

I have restarted the adult and junior coaching groups, so please get in touch to either join in an existing group or find out about the possibility of starting up a new one.

Used tennis balls

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

Contacts

Jon Budd (Secretary) 647020, Chris Hollis (Acting Chairman) 319155.



Chris Hollis



Stansted Cricket Club

We are pleased to announce that Stansted Junior Cricket Club has been awarded £250 towards the cost of five junior batting helmets by the Stansted Airport Passenger Community Fund (which is financed from the unwanted foreign currencies that passengers deposit in the collection bins around the airport). Winter nets at Birchwood School have been arranged for a 10 week block on Sunday mornings from 5th February to 9th April (**please note: due to a prior booking, the nets will not be available to us on 25th March.**) The Club's 2017 AGM will be held on Thursday 2nd March 7.30pm for 8.00pm at Stansted Football Club. All members (senior and junior) are invited to attend. A working party is planned for Friday 14th April from 10.00am to prepare the ground and pavilion for the coming season. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact me. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



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

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

The cricket season has begun. The Senior Section started indoor nets in early February (Wednesday evenings 7.00pm-8.00pm at HECC) and the Junior Section in early March (Friday evenings 6.30pm-8.15pm at BS College). The Club held its AGM in November and the Presentation evening in December. Both were well attended and successful affairs. Most officers within the Club remain the same, with the exception of Rory McGurk becoming Club Vice-Captain. Rory has come all the way through the junior ranks – well done the coaches - the plan is working! The Quiz Night in January was attended by 175 people and £1,800 profit was made. Thomas Snelling and Joe Radley, two of the Club's junior players, got through to the Essex CCC U15 final trials and others have been selected for West Essex squads. The Club begins the outdoor season with the NatWest Cricketforce day on 22nd April. On 23rd the Club plays against Dunmow. On the following weekends, Stansted, Thorley, and Farnham Harlequins are our opponents. We continue to look for new members, boys and girls aged five and above. Please contact me for details.



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



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

The sudden change in the weather at the end of January, and early February saw a period when games for both sides were postponed. Our team management used this period as an opportunity for some of the players to recuperate from minor knocks and strains. For the other players, it was a matter of using the Thursday night training sessions to work on maintaining a level of fitness. Fortunately, by completing more league games in the first half of the season, we are in a great position, unlike in previous seasons, when a backlog of fixtures meant the teams were having to play three times a week. Although our First Team went out of a cup competition for the second time this season by the dreaded penalty shootout rule, our league position remains in the top half of the table. For the Reserve Team the opportunity of reaching an end of season Cup Final still exists, as their semi-final against Hullbridge Sports was lost to a waterlogged pitch and has been rearranged for 11th March, at our opponent's ground.

Home league games in March

11th Barkingside 3.00pm
14th Thurrock Reserve 7.45pm
18th Bishop's Stortford Reserves 2.30pm

For all the up-to-date news on the team please see:
<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/stanstedfc2011>
<https://twitter.com/fcstansted>
<https://en-gb.facebook.com/stansted.fc.9>



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842

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STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Work will be starting in earnest over the next two months to get the Green and Clubhouse ready for our first game. A list will be posted on the board seeking volunteers to paint the Clubhouse internally - so don't be shy! Many hands make light work, be it painting or making refreshments. Carpet Bowls continues on Tuesday afternoons and Friday evenings during the closed season, all welcome.

Captain v Presidents Day Saturday 22nd April 2.30pm - this is the first game of the season, and you can be assured of a warm welcome if you would like to come as a spectator and join us for a cup of tea.

Doreen Scraggs
Hon Secretary
Tel: 815036 or 07812483178
Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net

STANSTED SUPERS HANDBALL CLUB

The year 2017 has seen a fantastic amount of new starters to the Club including many women. It is really encouraging to see the Club continuing to go from strength to strength and it is still the only village handball club in what is the country's fastest growing team sport. The aim for this year is to continue to increase female and U18 participating. We are still looking for someone to learn the art of goalkeeping. Handball is a physical game but played in good spirits and is fantastic for fitness. The Club now has a resident Coach, the



Hungarian Ildiko, who has really been able to structure the sessions. We have played several matches this season against Essex, London GD and Cambridge with further matches scheduled at the Olympic Venue, The Copper Box Arena and Barking. We continue to look for new talent and will again be sending a team to the Beach Handball Competition in Poole in August, which is a fantastic weekend event in the sun, both on and off the beach.

Come along and try something new: Mixed Training is at Romeera Leisure Centre Wednesdays 8.00pm-9.00pm.

Quiz Night

Friday 17th March 7.30pm in St John's Hall. Tickets £10 to include a Churchill's supper **must be purchased in advance** from Stuart on 07789 555843. All welcome. See our Facebook group for more information about the Club.

Ali Bell

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



Our January meeting coincided with the one day when we had some snow and ice which depleted our numbers; but those who managed to come really enjoyed a talk by Linda Ketteridge outlining the **history of Audley End House**. Linda has served as a Volunteer Guide at Audley End for some years and was able to give a talk full of facts and dates without any notes! Before it became a house, Audley End was a monastery founded by Geoffrey de Mandeville, in 1190. When Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries in the 1500s it was given to the Lord Chancellor, Sir Thomas Audley, who transformed it into a mansion. His tomb is in Saffron Walden Church. His son, Thomas Howard spent an enormous amount of money on its refurbishment, which was later discovered to have largely been obtained from the Treasury. It became a place to accommodate Royal visitors, and Charles II used it for a time because of its proximity to Newmarket and the Races. During the 18th century successive Earls of Suffolk reduced the size of the house; then it was bought by the Countess of Portsmouth and inherited by her nephew Sir John Whitwell, the 1st Lord Braybrooke. The House remained in the family until World War II, when it was used as the headquarters of the Polish Section of the SOE (Special Operations Executive). In 1948 the house was bought for the Nation and since 1984 English Heritage has been responsible for the repair and conservation of this lovely house and its gardens. It was also interesting to learn that Saffron Walden was first known as Chipping Walden, Chipping meaning a market town. During the 1400s the saffron trade developed, it being a very valuable commodity and growing well in the chalky soil; Walden became the centre of the saffron trade and so the new name.

We have six Resolutions put forward for our Annual Meeting in June. The one we would most like to be discussed concerns the problem of the accumulation of micro plastic fibres in our oceans. We are asking the Government and industry to research and develop solutions to this problem. Back in 1960 we campaigned about the toxic chemicals used in agriculture and in 1954 we famously came up with the **Keep Britain Tidy** campaign. Let's hope we can encourage research this year about toxins in our oceans.

Our next meeting is on 9th March 7.45pm in the Day Centre. This meeting is one arranged by members not on the Committee and the speaker is kept as a surprise. Visitors are always welcome. For more information please contact our president Brenda Ryan on 812725.



Judy Colliver



Fairtrade Fortnight is 27th February to 12th March. There will be a **Big Brew** Coffee Morning and Traidcraft Sale on Thursday 9th March 10.00am-noon in Stansted Free Church Foyer (not the hall). Everyone welcome. Entry **free**.



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Local Artists

It was another great turnout at our last meeting to hear **Roger Barrett** speak about his research on **Art and Artists from Stansted**. He gave us a background into his art interest and his research into The Fuller Maitland family (Stansted Hall) who had quite a remarkable art collection, including Ophelia by Everett Millais 1852; in fact, the Fuller Maitland family not only had a great art collection but were well known as artists themselves. With detailed illustrations, Roger showed us work by **Hendrick Danckerts** and **Humphrey Repton** of Stansted Hall. **Richard Crafton Green** the son of a successful local business man was noted in the 1871 census as an artist, living on Chapel Hill, whose style was a variety of landscapes and portraits, including *The Reading Lesson*, 1891 painted in Widdington. Roger spoke about **Violet Artah Bartlett**, who lived in The Thatch, but travelled to Australia and painted local flowers and birds.



Other past artists included **Kynnersly Kirby** who painted *The good Doctor* and *The Calf Buyer*, which hangs in Sworders, **C E Johnson**, known as 'Skipper', and **Durec Burnett** who painted *In Totmans Field* and *Elms near Stansted*. Current and recently active artists included **Carole Crosby**, **Brian Gough**, **Arthur Law**, **Ross Loveday**, **Martin Goode** and ceramicist **Karen Banks**. I would be pleased to receive any information on other local artists for the society.

The next meeting is on Thursday 2nd March at 8.00pm when **Tony Earle** will be giving a talk on the London Underground. All welcome at the Day Centre at the top of Chapel Hill - £2 for all that research and a cuppa.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177



A massive thank you to everyone who helped to spread the joy of Christmas for St Clare Hospice by supporting our Christmas concert in Thaxted, which raised a stunning £2,200. The choir will be appearing in another charity fundraising concert on 18th March at 7.00pm at St Andrews Church, Much Hadham in aid of Alzheimer's Research UK.

Ali Thompson, Publicity Officer
Tel: 816188



A mahogany tea table, a tea caddy, sugar tongs, a tea strainer and a silver teapot - not items from an auction house catalogue but items brought to our January meeting by **Tim Turner** of Sworders Auctioneers to illustrate his fascinating talk on *The History of Tea and Tea Drinking*. He explained that the restoration of the monarchy (1660) brought about a desire for new things, including new things to eat and drink. Samuel Johnson drank 16 cups of tea per day but it was not a popular beverage with everyone. Wesley noted that it "caused him a paralytic disorder". The new thirst for tea drinking created another demand in its wake - fine china to drink it from. This demand was supplied by the china factories of Bow, Chelsea and Derby, after the Plymouth based pottery factory had led the way in porcelain manufacture. Mr Turner ended his visit by judging and discussing the merits of the varied selection of teapots of all shapes, sizes and material brought in by our members, his favourite being a chocolate teapot! Our first meeting of the New Year was brought to a very fitting close with a good cup of tea!



Edith Piaf and her life in song is the theme of our March meeting to be held on Wednesday 15th March at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall. If this sounds like your *cup of tea* why not come along; listen to some wonderful songs and meet new friends! You would be most welcome.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

GARDENING TIPS

This month is the last chance you have to put in bare root plants. In fact, they will start to become scarce as local nurseries stop harvesting stock typically at the end of February. Pelargoniums can be sown from seed in the early part of March, as they require a fairly long period to reach a mature size to flower in the summer. Wait until the end of the month to sow tomato seeds, early sowings have a tendency to be unsuccessful. If you have not grown your own asparagus before, March is an ideal time for planting them. They are readily available to buy mail order if there are none in nearby nurseries. Prepare the bed by incorporating lots of organic matter into the soil profile. If your soil is particularly clayey, then incorporate plenty of horticultural grit to improve drainage. When the crowns arrive, give them a soak for a couple of hours to ensure they are fully hydrated. Plant them in a shallow trench with a ridge in the middle, about 45cm apart, with the roots spread down the sides of the ridge. When they grow, resist the temptation to harvest the asparagus spears in the first year, as it is better to let them become established in your garden first. As the weather warms up, mow regularly. All lawns, regardless of species, will benefit from frequent mowing where only a little grass is removed at a time. For the first few cuts, keep the mower on a very high setting, and then gradually reduce the mowing height throughout April. Make sure your blade is sharp for a nice healthy cut of the grass blades. Renovate an existing lawn by raking out any moss or excess thatch that escaped the autumn clean up.

Paul the Gardener

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RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP



At our next evening meeting on **Tuesday 14th March** the talk will be **East Anglian Highlights** by Brian Nobbs. Brian will introduce some of the less well known wildlife hotspots in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. He will show us the wildlife to be encountered, and the important management work such as coastal re-alignment projects in progress. By allowing tidal water to access vulnerable areas, developing salt marsh absorbs the power of storm surges, protecting fresh water marshes and villages alike. Brian will also detail differences in breeding success of those birds affected by cold, stormy, wet conditions and lack of sand eels. Entry is £3.00 for Stort Valley Members, £5.00 for visitors, and we meet at Bishop's Park Community Centre (next to Tesco).



Sunday 19th March Day Trip to Grafham Water

Meet at Waitrose Car Park, Bishop's Stortford at 9.00am with a view to car sharing. Grafham Water is an interesting site that is a birdwatcher's dream. The reservoir was created in 1965 to provide people with drinking water and was immediately colonised by wildlife. The nature reserve surrounds the western side of the reservoir and contains ancient and plantation woodlands, grasslands and wetland habitats such as reed beds, willow and open water. Grafham Water is one of the prime bird watching sites in the county. With nine miles of shoreline, and around 170 species of bird recorded each year, there is always something to see. Entry is free, but donations to the Local Group are welcome. Call **Lee Jaques** on 07454 801894 for more details. You might wish to bring along a packed lunch or snack.

Sheila Bowles
Tel: 814973

STANSTED 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 7th March at 8.00pm where we will be discussing *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan. You are very welcome to join us and do not worry if you have not read the book as we find plenty of other things to talk about!



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

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www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Whilst the *What's On* page of the Society's website has an extensive list of events, there is no forecast of nature's regular performances. At this time of year, twiggy platforms appear in the leafless canopy of tall trees. These bundles of sticks are the nests of rooks. Each pair will gather twigs from tree top branches to create a sturdy nest ready to receive the three to five eggs which are laid in late February or early March. The young hatch about 16 days later and will fledge in just under five weeks. Rooks forage for earthworms and other invertebrates in fields, but those living on the edges of settlements will scavenge in car parks for discarded take-aways. The black feathers of rooks glint a bluish purple in the sunlight and they are distinguished from other members of the crow family by the grey-white skin round the base of their beaks and their baggy feather trousers or plus fours. On the ground their walk is somewhat sedate, but once airborne they enjoy freewheeling in the March winds, often gathering in large flocks alongside crows and jackdaws in an aerobatic display. *Ringing Records* have shown that they can live for at least 20 years and they have a strong affinity for family groups. Collectively called a clamour or a parliament, rooks are a gregarious species communicating with a variety of harsh calls. There may be as many as 1.4 million pairs in the British Isles. The majority of colonies are found in rural areas although within the Hundred Parishes there are some still to be found in the outskirts of smaller towns. They seem to favour ash, beech, oak and sycamore trees or, more rarely, Scots pine.

Tricia Moxey
Trustee
Tel: 01277 364522



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Our **AGM** this year will be on Friday 24th March 7.45pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre. There will be wine and nibbles as well as soft drinks for, as always, a very sociable evening. Following the formalities there will be a short quiz that will test your local knowledge. We are having an **Information/Teaching Session** for people who would like to learn more about our Windmill and perhaps become a steward. This has been arranged for Sunday 9th April from 10.00am, under the guidance of our experienced Miller/Co Chairman, Ted Pretty. Coffee and tea will be provided so do please come along.

Windmill Openings 1.30pm-5.30pm

Easter Sunday 16th April; Bank Holiday Monday 17th April; Sunday 30th April; Bank Holiday Monday 1st May. At our Easter openings, all children will receive a windmill badge and a small Easter egg. If anyone wishes to purchase our mill goods/souvenirs when the Mill is closed, please feel free to give me a ring and I will be happy to oblige.



Molly Clark
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PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE A120

On 18th January, I joined a large number of local business representatives from across the A120 corridor at the Houses of Parliament, for the consultation regarding the proposed expansion of this important road. There was also a large gathering of MPs, including the Transport Minister and Sir Alan Haselhurst, together with Essex County Councillors, all contributing to the consultation.



The A120 links Stansted to Harwich International, via Braintree and Colchester. Many of you may be aware of the ongoing congestion at Marks Tey to the A12; I have certainly been caught, more than once, in the delays caused by the sheer volume of traffic. The MP for Braintree noted that people do not use the bypass for Braintree - they prefer to go through the Town Centre as it is quicker! Stansted Airport is increasing in popularity, especially with the new additional services and routes, and we appreciate that the airport and businesses do provide jobs for 12,000 people. There is undoubtedly a strong argument which can be put forward for faster and more convenient access between the airport, Harwich and Felixstowe. The latter is by far our busiest sea port, handling up to 40% of the entire traffic going through UK ports. If the expansion gets the green light it will surely help with the creation of more jobs and subsequent wealth for our local economy.

Peter James
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Make Your Voice Heard – Stansted Night Flights Consultation

Following the publication of Government proposals for the regulation of night flights at Stansted Airport over the next five years. **Stop Stansted Expansion** (SSE) is urging local district, parish and town councils, and local residents to make their voice heard and help reduce the noise impacts of night-time flights in and out of Stansted. Stansted currently has permission for 12,000 night flights a year, more than twice as many as are permitted at Heathrow. SSE has long argued to the Government that night flights have a far greater impact on local residents around Stansted because of its rural location, where background noise levels at night are generally very low. Furthermore, the 12,000 annual limit applies only to the 6½ hours 11.30pm-6.00am whereas the normal definition of 'night' is the eight hours from 11.00pm-7.00am. Moreover, a large number of Stansted's night flights are large, noisy cargo aircraft, many of which are very old. Unsurprisingly, these give rise to a disproportionately high level of noise complaints. The Government proposes to maintain the present night limit on aircraft movements at Stansted, whilst at the same time removing the current exemption for less noisy aircraft and adjusting the movements limit accordingly. SSE's main criticism of the latest proposals is that they do not go nearly far enough to tackle the very serious impacts of night flights in terms of sleep disturbance for local residents. SSE is calling for:

- An unequivocal Government commitment to phase out all night flights at Stansted by 2030, except in the case of genuine emergencies
- In the meantime, for the annual limit on Stansted night flights to apply, not just from 11.30pm to 6.00am, but from 11.00pm to 7.00am, so that 'night' truly means 'night', as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Guidelines on Community Noise
- A radical overhaul of the current 'averaging' method for measuring aircraft noise, so that the official Government noise statistics start to represent what people actually have to endure
- An immediate ban on all night time aircraft landings at Stansted from using reverse thrust, except in the case of genuine emergencies.

Martin Peachey
Tel: 870374 or 07803 603999
Email: martin@peachey2002.freemove.co.uk

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March Sunday Walks 5-6 miles leaving at 10.00am

5th St Andrews Church, Much Hadham SG10 6DH Tel: 430197
19th Nags Head, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5HP Tel: 500211

AGM 18th March 2.00pm Rhodes Centre Bishop's Stortford. BSDFA is 60 years old in March - wow! Walks and other historic documentation stored and collected over these 60 years have been placed on display at the Rhodes Centre, by very kind permission of the Bishop's Stortford Museum, and will be available to view immediately after the AGM and thereafter for a further two weeks.

Anniversary Walk 19th March 10.00am from the Nags Head Car Park, Dunmow Road CM23 5HP. **Boots are a must.** Most of the route is fine, but you will need to negotiate some short muddy sections and several stiles. If you use the pub car park, do not forget to visit the pub after the walk, but please have some clean shoes with you. To further celebrate these amazing 60 years of our existence, our Anniversary Walk will follow as reasonably as possible the very first walk included in the 1960 BSDFA Booklet of Walks. Some of the photographs taken along the route are as follows:



The Nags Head is the beautiful eclectic art deco pub sign. The pub is distinctively individual, and unashamedly art deco having been designed as such, circa 1936, by the architect Ernest Brander Musman (1888-1972).

The Hop Poles is on the edge of Hatfield Forest at Bedlars Green, and has been in existence for some time. In a census of 1840 it was listed as a beer-sellers and blacksmiths, owned by the Griffin family. Hops at that time were grown on the nearby Harps Farm and at Hallingbury Hall Farm.



Bedlars Green telephone box is a series K6 designed in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V, sometimes referred to as the Jubilee kiosk, and it went into production in 1936. The post box carries the insignia of King George VI whose reign commenced December 1936.



The commemorative walk was reconnoitred in January by our Chairman Dave Webber and Walks Co-ordinator Peter Hales, and current-day photographs were taken.



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



For the first meeting of 2017, the Club invited Clare and Gary Matthews to talk about the on-going restoration of Easton Lodge's gardens by The Gardens of Easton Lodge Preservation Trust. After a brief history of the Lodge and its past owners, especially *Darling Daisy*, the Countess of Warwick, members were told about how the estate had evolved from a hunting lodge park to a Grade II listed garden. In 1902, Harold Peto redesigned the gardens for the Countess - with a 'free hand and unlimited budget'. The land around the house was transformed and became a series of skilfully-linked gardens. After years of neglect, the Trust and its team of helpers are slowly bringing these gardens back to their full glory and members were shown 'before and after' photographs - the most dramatic being after the donation of 100 tons of gravel! The current project is the 1.9 acre walled garden which is slowly being 'tamed'. The gardens are only open on specific Public Open Days throughout the spring and summer (see www.eastonlodge.co.uk). The owners of Warwick Lodge are very supportive to the Trust and open their adjoining parkland for visitors on these days so that they can appreciate how the estate looked in its heyday. To encourage more visitors, refreshments are available at Daisy's Tea Room and there is a dedicated children's area for the younger visitors.

Next meeting Wednesday 1st March 7.30pm for 8.00pm when our speaker is John Dockerill of the Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association - do come along and find out how to have *A Bee Friendly Garden* and help this very important insect. Everyone welcome - visitors £2.50. Meetings are at the Day Centre, adjacent to the public Car Park. Refreshments are available prior to the meeting.

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Nature Notes

The **wren** is a tiny brown bird. It is dumpy, almost rounded, with a fine bill, quite long legs and toes, very short round wings and a short, narrow tail which is sometimes cocked up vertically. Wrens were first recorded in Anglo-Saxon times though there is fossil evidence that they were present in the last Ice Age. Wrens eat spiders and insects which they find in crevices with their long thin bill. Their scientific name, Troglodytes, means cave dweller, which could refer to their delicately constructed nests which have only a small opening. According to the dictionary, Jenny Wren was first used in 1638 as Jinny, which over the years became Jenny.



In certain parts of Surrey the bird was known as a Juggy Wren and in Yorkshire the Jenny was/is Jenner. Another North Country name was Chitty or Kitty Wren. In Britain the wren population can be devastated by a severe winter, but the species' high egg productivity means that numbers usually recover after a few years. Wrens will use open-fronted and tit nest boxes for nesting and winter roosting (up to 60 have been recorded in one box). The wren lays between one and nine eggs which only the female incubates, though both adults will feed the young chicks. There are an estimated seven million wren territories in Britain, making it one of our most abundant birds. In proportion to its size, the wren has the loudest song of any British bird. The cock builds from six to 12 nests, but only one is used by the female. The oldest recorded wren was at least nine years old, when it was recaptured and re-released during banding operations in New York in 1993.

Bird weights compared with British coins:

Goldcrest	20p
Long-tailed tit	50p
Wren	£1
Blue tit	£2
Housethrow	£2 x 2



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 18th March

Ugley Village Hall

10.00am-12 noon

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Refreshments with cake and bacon rolls



BEEKEEPING

Regular readers of my column will be aware we are facing a national crisis of reducing bee numbers. As a result, Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association has taken on the mission to increase the number of bee colonies in the area, by encouraging beekeeping through training courses and education. To this end, I have some very good news! BSBKA is planning to open an apiary for the Bishop's Stortford area. In discussions with the Town Council, an area of Council land will be made available for the project which will open in time for the summer. The land does need to be cleared, fences and gates erected and a storage facility built. So BSBKA has launched an initiative to enable members of the public to support this project, even if they are not bee keepers, but simply want to support the increase in the numbers of this important pollinator. All you need to do is register on our website <https://membermojo.co.uk/stortfordbees> and pay £5 to become an Associate. This will entitle you to visit the apiary on open days (with your children as well) and attend the BSBKA programme of monthly talks held throughout the year. Or if you just want to make a donation go to <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/BSBKA>. So please, support this initiative as it will make a real difference to our mission, and come along and see what beekeeping is all about - you might even decide to keep some of your own!



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

PLEASE STOP SPEEDING!

The Stansted Mountfitchet Speed Watch Team was out on 31st January. They were operating close to where a young school girl was killed by a speeding driver a few years ago. Many thanks to Moia, Warren and Ken; they booked 42 drivers exceeding the speed limit. One was travelling at 53mph and all were exceeding 35mph in this 30mph zone. Some were using a handheld mobile phone. All have been sent letters by the police; **you might be one of them!** The Police have told the team, "You are winning for the most letters sent from any one Speed Watch activity." That's quite an appalling accolade.

SPEEDING vehicles KILL and some drivers, including mothers with children in their cars, continue to drive dangerously. Again, are you one of them? If you are driving a speeding vehicle which harms a member of your family, then it's too late! To all drivers particularly residents of Stansted Mountfitchet, **DO NOT EXCEED THE SPEED LIMIT, it saves lives.** Have you thought about volunteering? We need more help. Please contact me.

Ray Woodcock
Member of Speed Watch Team
Tel: 816468

Email: raymond.woodcock@btinternet.com

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	Dog & Duck	24			Orion Heating	30	
	Lams Chinese Takeaway	24			Stansted Gas Services	30	
	Mayflower Chinese	IBC			Printing	CZ Design & Print	30
	The Bean House	24			Property Maintenance & Improvement	Aaran Glass	28
	The Cork House	24				Do-It-4U	38
	Bishop's Stortford Cooperative	26				DT Bedroom & Kitchen Designs	36
	Daniel Robinson & Sons	26				Elite Windows & Doors	28
	Stort Blinds	IFC				Fairweather Windows	IFC
	Cox Farm & Forestry	38				Finch and Son	OBC
Garden Services	Crystal Clear Ponds	16			Lambert Building Maintenance	36	
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC			Herts & Essex Window Doctor	28	
	Leisure Plan Garden Furniture	12			Retailers	Family News (Londis)	10
	Lawn Supremacy	38				Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts)	IFC
	Logs Logs Logs	38			Spiritualists	Arthur Findlay College	18
	Mowtivated	38			Stonemason	J Day & Son	26
	The Secret Gardener	38			Travel	Absolute Travel	IBC
	Tree Management Company	38				Variety Holidays	24
	Uppercut Trees	38			Will Writing	Herts & Essex Wills	10
						The Will Practice	IBC
	Hairdressing	Barnet Fayre	12				
		Lino Thomas	OBC				
Ironing	Dunmow Ironing Parlour	16					

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