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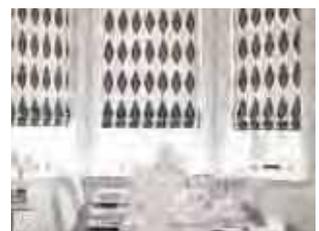
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Front cover:  
St Mary's Church December 2017  
by Susan Bone

# The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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## EDITORIAL



One of the most popular New Year's resolutions is to 'stay fit and healthy'; as we enter February I hope your resolution is holding up well. Sadly, there are many in our community with long-term health conditions, who do not have the option to make such a pledge. They are often left with little option but to seek appointments on a regular basis with pressurised GP surgeries. With that thought in mind it was disappointing to learn that Stansted Pharmacy's NHS Prescription dispensing licence appeal has been rejected (see page 27). Could this be an opportunity missed? Should the Government not be viewing pharmacies as one of the potential solutions to our healthcare crisis? A big Thank You to the fantastic volunteers of Stansted Helpline who are on call helping more people than ever, on page 35. The freedom to choose complementary medicine for your pet is under threat, on page 33. Stansted Business Forum have planned a number of events in support of the charity *Support4Sight*; read more on page 39. Finally remember that February is the month of the *snowdrop* – a symbol of hope and brighter days ahead, see page 29.

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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 9<sup>th</sup> February for the March issue or by hand/post by noon on 7<sup>th</sup> February to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

**DISCLAIMER** Opinions in The Link reflect those of the authors and contributors. Publication (on paper or electronically) of articles, advertisements or product/services information does not constitute endorsement by The Link nor is any culpability accepted for work undertaken by advertisers.

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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I am just about to have a new kitchen and bathroom installed so I have been decluttering in readiness. This has become a voyage of discovery, revealing long-forgotten artefacts acquired to make domestic life easier, but never actually used. Take, for example, the toasted snack maker designed for use over a gas burner on a boat. I don't have a boat and my home is all electric, so what possessed me to buy it in the first place? As I pondered this I came across a news feature about turning one's home into a sanctuary of wellness. Among topics highlighted was the latest decluttering trend from Scandinavia known as 'Swedish death cleaning'. This involves taking a long, hard look at all your 'stuff' and thinking about what will happen to it after you die. Will your nearest and dearest be happy to find it? We are encouraged to keep only those things that show our 'best self'.

This begs the question of what we really mean by 'best self'? What possessions might diminish our reputation in the eyes of others if they were found after we die? Could it be that what we are really doing is disguising our 'true self'? The idea behind 'Swedish death cleaning' appears to be that having managed our reputation in life, we should contrive to do so in death by ridding ourselves in advance of anything that might tarnish our carefully cultivated image. No life is a completely open book. We all have a need for our own private space. However, we deceive ourselves and others if we think that showing our 'best self' to the world tells anyone about who we truly are.



Jonathan Morrell  
Stansted Quaker Meeting



**STANSTED FREE CHURCH**  
Methodist / URC  
Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AG  
[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

**Minister** Rev'd Roy Fowler  
Tel 814809  
Email: [minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

**Lettings** Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059  
Email: [lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Preachers for February

4<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - New Directions  
11<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Julie Finbow  
18<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Charles Martin  
25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

Our collection on Christmas Day for the **Christian Aid South Sudan Christmas Appeal** amounted to £290. Thank you to all who contributed to this most worthwhile cause.



**SHALOM**

Our next meeting is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7 Blythwood Gardens when Margaret Silvester will be playing more of Phyllis Harrison's memoirs which she recorded for the History Society. Phyllis was a very active member of Shalom until recent years. Our informal coffee and chat *At Home* is on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 62 St John's Road. Both meetings start at 8.00pm. All welcome.



Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059

## THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill  
Stansted CM24 8AE  
[www.saffronquakers.org.uk/stanstedhtml](http://www.saffronquakers.org.uk/stanstedhtml)

**Clerk** Jane Mitchell  
Tel: 503024  
Email: [sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com](mailto:sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com)

**Lettings** Richenda Whitehead  
Tel: 07773 603618  
Email: [richendajw@live.com](mailto:richendajw@live.com)

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am every week

**Light Group** (Guided Meditation) 10.30am-12 noon 10<sup>th</sup> March. The 'Experiment with Light' is a process that helps people deepen their spiritual lives by discovering what it means to 'wait in the Light', as early Quakers did.

## STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

[www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch](http://www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch)



### Good Friday Special 30<sup>th</sup> March 3.30pm St John's Hall

As usual there will be a variety of craft activities linked to a theme that we also explore with songs, stories and games. Instead of our usual tea, we will be having drinks, hot cross buns and cakes. We particularly welcome families with children aged under 12; however, older children are also welcome as long as they come with an adult.



Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059



**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 normally held on alternate Tuesdays - 7.30pm coffee for 7.45pm start. This month we will be meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February only, reverting to the normal pattern in March. @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 get in touch? All welcome - you do not have to be a member of Family Church, or any church, to attend. If you would like to join a prayer walk, or have a prayer-request, please contact us.



Ros Page

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

### St Therese of Lisieux

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

**Priest** Father John Garrett  
**Office** Tel: 816889  
Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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

**Confessions**  
Saturday 10.00am and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment



**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 (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
9.30am Family Communion (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

#### Tuesday

9.15am St John's Tots

#### Wednesday

8.00am 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.

## From St John's Registers

### November

#### Baptisms

19<sup>th</sup> Charlie Jack Marchant Gear  
James Arthur Marchant Raw  
Alicia Summer Wildsmith

#### Wedding

4<sup>th</sup> Daniel Christopher Healy and Lisa Anne Maria Guy

#### Funerals

6<sup>th</sup> Margaret Patricia Clower, age 96 - funeral at St John's followed by cremation  
9<sup>th</sup> Ryan Emmanuel Ellis, age 23 - funeral at St Mary's followed by burial in Stansted Parish Cemetery

### December

#### Funerals

20<sup>th</sup> Kenneth Ernest Mullings, age 85 - at Parndon Wood  
28<sup>th</sup> Marjory Edith Tyler, age 97 - funeral at St Mary's followed by burial in the churchyard



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

December was very busy for us as we had several carolling events around the town and 16 carol services. In addition, we provided toys and food for around 50 families. Understandably our other programmes take a break at this time of year, enabling us to engage in the opportunity that Christmas gives us to reach out. After a restful January, our monthly Tuesday meetings resume again in February - the programme for this year is as follows:

February 20<sup>th</sup> DVD about The Salvation Army  
March 20<sup>th</sup> Passover celebration  
April 17<sup>th</sup> "What we used to do" memory evening  
May 15<sup>th</sup> Games Night  
June 19<sup>th</sup> Music eve presented by Don Jenkins (Trombone)  
July 17<sup>th</sup> Bring and share 'CAMEO Bake off'  
August 21<sup>st</sup> CAMEO Quiz of the year  
September 18<sup>th</sup> Interfaith interest evening (pending details)  
November 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Celebration

We meet in the Day Centre 7.00pm - 9.00pm. Annual subscription is £10.00, occasional attendees welcome for £1 per visit. After the visiting speaker or activity, there is a time of fellowship over tea/coffee and biscuits. If you have any questions or suggestions then please don't hesitate to contact me. We hope to meet you soon.

Lieutenant Megan Lowe  
Tel: 01279 507464

Email: [megan.lowe@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:megan.lowe@salvationarmy.org.uk)



## STANSTED FOOD BANK – A THANK YOU

The Churches Together in Stansted (CTS) Food Bank Team members (a merry band of eight volunteers) are pleased to say thank you to the community of Stansted for your continued support with kind gifts of food (and some toiletry) items throughout the year, thereby enabling the Food Bank to keep running. Donations also come to us regularly from our churches' congregations, as well as from shoppers at the Co-op, who generously add extra items to their shopping to leave in a donation box, located near the checkout. If you were not aware of this box, there is a list of most needed items on the box and donations are always very much appreciated. We have also benefited greatly at harvest time from our local schools' collections and donations from individuals.

The CTS Food Bank directly helps people in Stansted who are having severe financial problems, by providing some basic food and essential toiletry supplies to tide them over for a short while. This help is usually for families, but also people on their own. To receive a food parcel it is necessary to have a referral from Saffron Walden's Citizen Advice Bureau or Spangles Children's Centre. People can also talk to their GP or social services, if faced with a situation in which they are in genuine need of a food parcel. Once again, thank you to everyone who has donated and to those who will do so over the coming year. You make the Food Bank possible.

The Food Bank Team

## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the November draw:

£100 No: 134 Laura Higley  
£50 No: 271 Gina Thomas  
£25 No: 104 June Winter

And to the winners of the December draw:

£200 No: 184 Sandra Embleton  
£100 No: 59 Karen Coulthard  
£50 No: 65 Pamela Jackson  
£25 No: 75 Margaret Hill

The draw for February will be held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. Numbers are still available at a cost of £2 per month per number. Please contact me for an application form if you would like to be in with a chance of winning whilst helping to support the work of St John's Church.



Ann Lee  
Tel: 813310



## COME AND MAKE CHRISTINGLES!

During the week before Christmas a record 42 adults and 24 children joined our special three Christmas events at **The Place on the Hill**. The children and the adults all enjoyed making Christingles, and learnt what the Christingle represents. This was followed by a modern-day video of the Christmas Story. Then we welcomed Father Christmas, who gave a present to each child.



*There are more photographs on our website  
[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)*

**The Place on the Hill** is a free drop-in held at and organised by Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, which is open every Monday (except Bank Holidays), Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Do come and join us - all ages are welcome. **Please note we are not open on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** due to a funeral taking place at the church.



Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059

Email: [theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



**Film Music**  
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*Cards ~ Ceramics ~ Plants*  
*Skincare ~ Knitting & Needlework*  
 Refreshments with cake and bacon rolls  
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**18th & 25th February**  
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 Adults £4.50 Under 16s Free  
 Homemade soup, baps & bacon rolls  
 Homemade cake & drinks  
 Guided tours £1.50  
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**WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY**

1 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
2 Fri	Business Forum Breakfast	Linden House 7 for 7.30 am
4 Sun	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
6 Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
7 Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
8 Thu	Stansted W I	Day Centre 7.45 pm
<b>9 Fri</b>	<b>Link copy due in today</b>	<b>before 12 noon</b>
11 Sun	S W Symphony Orchestra	Saffron Hall 3 pm
12 Mon	Ladies' Night	Tennis Club 7 pm
	Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
13 Tue	RSPB	B S Comm Centre 7.30 pm
15 Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 pm
17 Sat	Farmers' market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
18 & 25 Sun	Snowdrop Open Days	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 4 pm
20 Tue	CAMEO	Day Centre 7 pm
21 Wed	Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
22 Thu	Tennis Club AGM	105 Cambridge Rd 8 pm
24 Sat	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
	Lib Dem Quiz	Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm
26 Mon	Shalom At Home	62 St John's Road 8 pm
27 Tue	Hearing Help	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Inner Wheel	Day Centre 7.30 pm



**Stansted & District Liberal Democrats**  
**QUIZ EVENING**  
**7 for 7.30 pm Sat 24th Feb**  
**Day Centre**  
 Tickets £10 incl Ploughman's from 813579  
 All Welcome in teams or not  
 Bar



**7.30 pm Sat 10th March**  
 St John's Church  
**Chenyin Li (piano)**  
 Rachmaninov - Beethoven - Stravinsky  
*Tickets: adults £15, over 60s & students £12, under 18s free from Absolute Travel, Nockolds, B S; Sonia Levy 815282; or on the door*



**QUIZ NIGHT**  
**7 for 7.30 pm Sat 24th Mar**  
 Day Centre  
**Tickets £8 incl Ploughman's**  
 From Caroline 813938  
 Email: [carolineebore@gmail.com](mailto:carolineebore@gmail.com)  
 Tables of up to 6 or individuals  
 All Welcome ~ BYO Drinks & Nibbles



**Stansted Messy Church**  
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[www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch](http://www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch)



**Stort Valley Rotary**  
**QUIZ NIGHT**  
**7.30 pm Sat 10th Mar**  
 Charis Centre, B Stortford  
**Tickets £10 incl Ploughman's**  
 from Derek on 832580  
 Tables of up to 8 or individuals  
*Proceeds to Herts Musical Memories*  
 All Welcome ~ BYO Drinks & Nibbles



**Annual Parish Meeting**  
 8 pm Wed 21st March  
**Day Centre, Crafton Green**  
*Note Venue*  
**Come, listen & speak!**  
**All welcome**  
 More information tel 813214



**Saturday Seminar**  
**Genetic Genealogy**  
 by Peter Calver  
*of Lost Cousins*  
**9.30 am - 12.30 pm Sat 17th Mar**  
**Stansted Free Church Hall**  
 Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members  
 from Alantel 07817275563  
 Email: [stanstedseminars@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedseminars@gmail.com)



**Stansted Evening WI**  
**AFTERNOON TEA**  
 2.30 - 4.30 pm Wed 14th Mar  
 Day Centre  
**Cake Stall ~ Raffle**  
*Proceeds to Day Centre*  
**Entry £5 ~ All welcome**



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[www.gcphysiotherapy.co.uk](http://www.gcphysiotherapy.co.uk)

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[www.hazel-williams.co.uk](http://www.hazel-williams.co.uk)

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**Shockwave now available**

# CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STANSTED CHRISTMAS EVENTS

[www.stanstedchurches.com](http://www.stanstedchurches.com)

The Churches Together Choir was joined by choirs from St Mary's School, St John's Church, and Forest Hall School plus St Mary's School orchestra for a very enjoyable **Celebration of Christmas** in St John's Church.



Churches Together Choir



St John's Church Junior and Senior Choirs



St Mary's School Choir

A very moving appeal by David Morson on behalf of Churches Together raised £482.31 for the **Christian Aid Rohingya Appeal**.



Forest Hall School Choir

There was a good turnout on both our **Carol Singing days** which raised £400.

A collection at **St John's Crib Service** added another £130 meaning that a total of **£1012.31** was raised for the **Christian Aid Rohingya Appeal**. Thank you to all who contributed to raising this magnificent sum.



Carols at Hargrave House



Carol singing on the Hargrave Estate

*Photographs by Anna Chester and Malcolm Lloyd - more photographs at [www.stanstedchurches.com](http://www.stanstedchurches.com)*

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## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS EVENTS



St Mary's Church was a hive of activity this Christmas. We had [thisismytheatre](#) put on a wonderful performance of 'A Christmas Carol' twice in one day. Forest Hall School attended the first performance in the afternoon and had a wonderful time. Then in the evening the cast put on another terrific show for the audience, which included visitors coming from as far as the Midlands. We are delighted that [thisismytheatre](#) will be back in June to entertain us again. Check out the St Mary's Church Stansted Facebook page for details which I will post as soon as available. Dates are Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Our [Christmas Festival](#) was magnificent and my thanks go out to all the very clever people who exhibited - the church looked simply stunning! Our carol concert on the Saturday was superb and we even had candlelight and bell ringing too. My thanks to Clive and the team of ringers, readers, the choir, and to Anne and Rev'd Paul Wilkin. Thanks also to my fantastic team. You all worked so hard; I know that I was a hard task master, but it all looked wonderful. St Mary's School had also treated us to a beautiful [carol concert](#) on 15th December.



And then the snow came! Sadly we had to cancel the [Stansted Strummers](#) on Sunday due to poor road conditions, but they have agreed to perform in the New Year. Even though the snow was on the ground, the church was the place to recharge with mulled wine and mince pies. Lots of walkers came in for refreshments and were made very welcome!



Lynda Dale, Chairman Tel: 07716 099474

*Photographs by Lynda Dale, Sue Bone and Yvonne Ayres*

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Christmas seems a long time ago now! The children had great fun with loads of Christmas activities, including a visit to see Father Christmas at the Audley End Railway, where great fun was had by all. A big thank you to everyone who came along to our Christmas Fair which raised over £580!



We would like to welcome the new children who joined us after the Christmas break who will by now be settled into and enjoying preschool. This half term we will be looking at *People who help us*; we have some fantastic things for the children to do around this topic, including a visit by a fireman which we are sure they will enjoy. If you are interested in a place at our setting please contact us via our website or give us a call on 810800. We currently have spaces available now and for September for children from 2½ years.

Clair Rava  
Administrator



[www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk](http://www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk)

The Nativity Play was lovely and well supported despite the weather trying to thwart us! The hamper raffle raised £200. The residents of Mountfitchet House loved the children visiting them to sing a selection of Christmas songs, which they joined in with great gusto. Unfortunately, the children's Christmas treat of a pantomime had to be cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions.

Everyone has returned excited for a new term of learning, we had several new children starting and would like to welcome them all to our Rainbow family. Subjects this term include making music and musical instruments; talking about change re the weather; cooking activities; science experiments; and of course, celebrating Chinese New Year. Rainbow Pre-School 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 now, however young, to ensure a place.

Gill Pursglove  
Administrator  
Tel: 814242  
Email: [admin@rainbowpreschool.net](mailto:admin@rainbowpreschool.net)



## HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Huw Johnson Club, a social group for adults with learning disabilities, is on its winter break at the moment, restarting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We have our New Year party on 2<sup>nd</sup> February to look forward to before then. We are just back from seeing the *Jack and the Beanstalk* pantomime at Cambridge Arts Theatre – it was brilliant! Lots of booing, cheering and laughter. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Club last year; especially the Rotary Club of Bishop's Stortford, who gave us a very large donation in December. We were delighted that the Singing Santas of Stansted, who you may have seen carol singing around the village in December, chose us as their charity of the year. They did a wonderful job raising a fabulous £516.04! All of these kind donations enabled us to take a group of 44 to the pantomime entirely for free! Thank you as well to everyone who came along to our Carol Concert in December – it was a freezing night but we still managed to fill the church. Sadly, the end of the year also saw us say goodbye to two of our members: **June Graves**, who along with her husband Harold and daughter Denise, was one of the founding members of the Club over 40 years ago, passed away on 15<sup>th</sup> December and **Stephanie Hughes**, a member for many years, passed away over Christmas. We remember them both very fondly and our thoughts and love are with their families. If you would like to volunteer for a local charity, then please get in touch – we would love to hear from you.



Katharine Collis  
Tel: 07759 157620  
Email: [kat\\_collis@hotmail.com](mailto:kat_collis@hotmail.com)

## STANSTED CAN!

Stansted Community Action Network (StanstedCAN) was established early in 2017 and is a registered charity dedicated to benefiting the local community here in Stansted. It has a particular focus on providing things for children and young people (and by extension, families), for those affected by social exclusion and for those suffering financial hardship. There are five local trustees, including me. We plan to develop new projects throughout the coming year, and have recently adopted Stansted Family Café (which has been running since 2011) as one of our community projects. By bringing it under StanstedCAN, the café and its resources will be more easily integrated with other projects and will have more potential for additional funding and development. We have a number of projects under discussion but if you have any questions, or a suggestion for something which might benefit local people (of any age), please do not hesitate to contact me.



Ros Page  
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Free professional music tuition is being given to primary and secondary school children in Stansted. Pupils in Reception and Year 1 at Magna Carta Primary Academy and students in Years 7 and 8 at Forest Hall School are receiving the fortnightly tuition. Younger children are starting to learn about rhythm using clapping, while older students are being taught music skills using the piano and woodwind instruments. Music teacher Julia Lysons, who has 20 years' experience of working with Essex Music Hub, said: "This is a great development for our young people. It is the first time Forest Hall School has had extra-curricular music provision for them and it's already having a very positive effect. Children who were keen to learn to play an instrument are now getting that opportunity and we are able to spot students who are showing real promise. It is also giving some students an interest they didn't realise they had. It is great to see the move towards a position where so many of our students now have musical skills. Starting that tuition from reception onwards will continue to have a huge impact in the future."



Students in Years 7 and 8 also study music as part of the curriculum and those in Years 9 to 11 can take music as a GCSE option. As well as the growth in musical ability and confidence, the regular tuition is seeing other benefits across the schools. Mrs Lysons said: "The tuition is helping students with their concentration, especially with more active children who are becoming able to concentrate for longer. It is also helping those who struggle with fine motor skills." It is hoped the sessions will soon include guitar tuition.

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## PLANNING APPLICATION PROPOSES MORE TRAFFIC IN STANSTED

The Fairfield Partnership has submitted a proposal for 350 new homes on land between Elsenham and Henham. They are clearly hoping to take advantage of the interval before Uttlesford District Council's Local Plan is ready for further consideration. In a previous application, Fairfield proposed that traffic would be encouraged to avoid Stansted in favour of the route via Hall Road, Elsenham, towards Stansted Airport. The new proposal has abandoned that strategy and now acknowledges that drivers will use the route via Grove Hill, Stansted. The Transport Assessment with the application claims that gridlock never occurs on Grove Hill, as drivers adopt 'courteous' behaviour and do not proceed if they would cause a blockage, even though strictly they have priority. Undoubtedly this is usually the case - the stretch of road above the lights could not function otherwise. But residents of Elsenham, and no doubt Stansted also, are well aware that serious hold-ups occur from time to time on Grove Hill, and along the whole route through the village. If you think that enough is enough for traffic through Stansted, please email: [planning@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@uttlesford.gov.uk) with the reference UTT/17/3573/OP as the subject. **You should say that you object to the proposal for 350 houses at Elsenham and indicate why.** You can be as brief as you like. It would be particularly helpful if you mentioned any experiences of gridlock, that is, a situation whereby traffic is unable to move in either direction. **The deadline is Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February.**

Graham Mott  
Tel: 812516  
Email: [motts@grahammott.plus.com](mailto:motts@grahammott.plus.com)



Investigators is a group for children aged approximately 6-11 years who meet at the Free Church Hall on **Fridays 6.15pm-7.45pm**. As well as the mixture of games, Bible stories, challenges, creative activities and other items of interest, this term we have been doing some puppeteering, thinking about what makes up our identity and celebrating the fact that we are all unique. Some children at Investigators attend a church, or a church school, but most do not and everyone is welcome. All leaders are DBS checked and have appropriate safeguarding training. We already have some new children who started this term - if your child would like to try out Investigators in **February**, please contact me as soon as possible. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Although most children attending are 7 years and over, we do accept confident 6-year-olds, especially siblings. We know many do not want to wait until their 7<sup>th</sup> birthday to join in the fun, so there is some flexibility after their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday has been reached.



Ros Page  
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# CHILDREN'S STORY

## Antonia's Three Birthday Wishes

It's traditional for a Fairy Princess, on the eve of her birthday, to find three needy children and grant each of them a wish. Antonia sets off with her two trainee bodyguards Biff and Boff and a special wand programmed with just three wishes.



Biff flies ahead carrying a twinkling lamp, but Boff lags behind with the brand new sat nav he's struggling to work. Antonia shouts at Boff to hurry up. She needs to get back to the Palace and complete her Birthday Present Wish List before midnight. The King and Queen's limit of six requests is a problem. Antonia can't decide whether

her last one should be for a pair of the latest silver trainers, as light as a pixie's whisker, or a new cloak lined with fluff from the wild furry fuzzball.

Two children's wishes are quickly fulfilled before it gets really dark and foggy. Antonia's shivering in spite of her thick woolly onesie and the elves, having trouble with the sat nav, have to fly closer to the ground to pick up a signal. They all hear a very loud sniffing noise - like the King makes when he's got what the Queen calls Man Flu. Antonia flies nearer closely followed by a nervous Biff and Boff.

They find a small child dressed in ragged trousers huddled in a doorway. Technically only sleeping children qualify for a Birthday wish, according to the Fairy rules (under 'Elf and Safety'). But Antonia's impatient to complete her duties, and lands as close to the child as she dares.

"Mum?" The loud wail startles Antonia and the elves, who bravely place their trembling bodies between the Princess and the child. "Let me in. Please." The boy starts banging on the door behind him, further alarming Antonia. But she has an idea. If she can get the child inside without using her Wand, she can make the boy's wish come true and still have one wish left to use for herself, so she can have both the trainers and the cloak. Looking up Antonia notices a small window that's slightly open and orders Biff to pick up the boy and push him through the window.

Biff looks at the child, his ears quivering with fright. Then he looks at Antonia with large brown eyes.

"I'm sorry your Princess-ship. I don't think I can. He's so - - big."

Antonia stamps her foot angrily. "Boff. You'll have to help too."

Reluctantly Boff creeps up to the boy, who's fallen asleep. Between them the elves haul him up to the window and finally manage to bundle the child through but dropping

both lamp and sat nav. Biff and Boff fly back to the Princess, their smart uniforms sadly crumpled.

Without lamp and sat nav they're stranded. Antonia screams at the two elves to find the equipment. Biff and Boff, afraid of loud noises flap about in a panic. Antonia realises she's in danger of not getting back to the Palace before midnight, and is forced to use her last wish to get them all back home. Just as she's finishing her List, deciding the new trainers should be number six, Antonia's sent for by the Queen. She skips to her mother's chamber clutching her List. But her smile fades when she sees how cross the Queen looks.

"So you've come back daughter, without the new sat nav and lantern. How did you manage that on such a dark foggy night?" Antonia shrugs, looks down at her feet and mutters,

"Just lucky I s'pose." Her mother shakes her head and roars.



"I think not. Look at me child and tell the truth." The Queen has very special powers. She knows when someone is lying, especially a Fairy Princess. Antonia tells her everything, not daring to leave anything out. "The new satellite navigation system will have to be replaced and someone has to pay for it," states the Queen. "I don't think Biff and Boff

were to blame as they were acting on your instructions." The Queen's raised hand stops Antonia's protests.

"You will pay by forfeiting one of the wishes on your List, and I shall remove one more wish for each of the Fairy rules you've broken tonight." She holds up her fingers one by one as she counts, "one, approaching a child who's awake and worst of all, two, misusing the last special Birthday Wand Wish. Perhaps that will make you think again if you're ever tempted to cheat a poor child out of their precious wish in the future. And you're grounded until further notice."

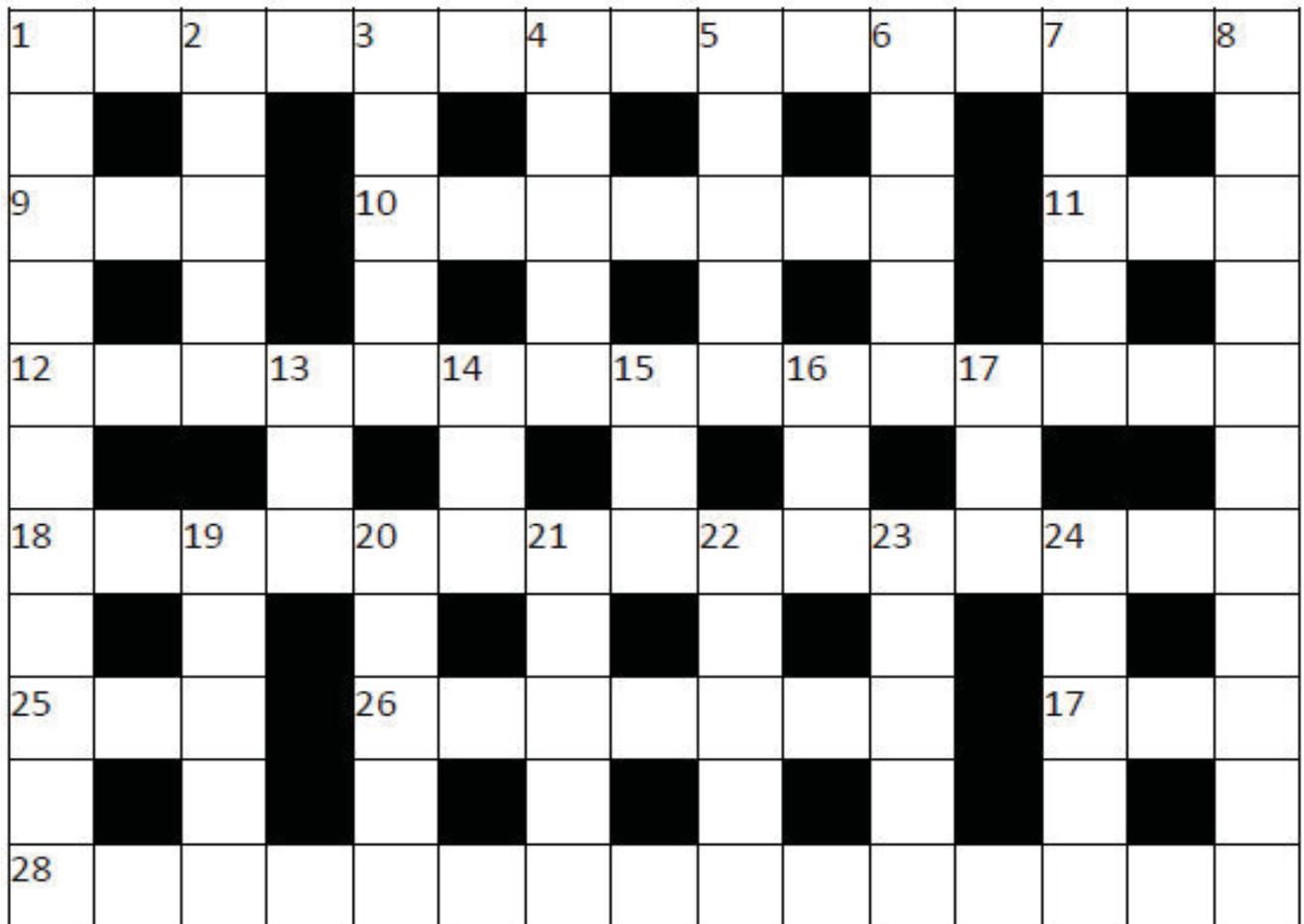
It's a quiet and sorry Antonia who unwraps her three remaining gifts the next day.

But, somewhere in the streets below, a delighted little boy opens an unexpected present; a pair of silver trainers, as light as a pixie's whisker.



Gwen Stuart

## FUN AND GAMES PUZZLE TIME



Compiled by Roger Wardle. Answers on page 25

### ACROSS

1. Laid ceremoniously at the start of a new build (10,5)
9. Spinach in Indian restaurants (3)
10. A stag might look forward to this season (7)
11. Our closest cousin (3)
12. One who plays a musical gadget (15)
18. Italian film director of La Dolce Vita (8,7)
25. Bigheads have a large one (3)
26. Element Ca (7)
27. Company for recorded music (1,1,1)
28. Supermarket carrier found in a canal! (8,7)

### DOWN

1. Oil, gas or coal for example (6,5)
2. Sudden desires, wants (5)
3. Albrecht, German artist (5)
4. Indigenous American pole (5)
5. Star group (5)
6. Greek letter (5)
7. African animal (5)
8. Power needing to be generated (11)
13. Definite article (3)
14. As one, college in short (3)
15. Band who recorded Mr. Blue Sky (1,1,1)
16. Golfer's support (3)
17. Text-speak for expression of amusement (1,1,1)
19. Italian cathedral, e.g. in Florence (5)
20. Go over again (5)
21. It's either : or semi (5)
22. Stone that made tools ages ago (5)
23. This dance leaves you in mid air (5)
24. It's just what is needed (5)

### LONDON UNDERGROUND STATIONS QUIZ

1. Part of a strange line
2. Ammunition store
3. Monks from Africa?
4. Quercus charcoal
5. River side
6. Colourful river crossing
7. GRAB DINKIES (anagram)
8. Entrance at eye level
9. Holmes lived at 221b
10. Cockney's beehive style, maybe
11. You may find a rhino praying here
12. Dover, perhaps
13. Elvis is angry
14. What the wedding dressmaker did
15. Roger Bannister after 4 minutes
16. Back room with 5 bars
17. Egg shaped
18. The vicar looks sick
19. Freddie always did it like this
20. Charles I hid here
21. Provide a full larder
22. Small house in Geneva?
23. Blowing ones horn on the Great White Way
24. ABBA's great success
25. Snowy church

Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 25

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## 494 SQUADRON – SHINY SHOES



Part of the responsibility of being an Air Cadet requires taking care of how we look, and keeping our parade shoes clean and well-polished is a cornerstone of excellent cadet practice. The best way to polish our shoes is to keep it simple, do it regularly and spend time being thorough. All we need is shoe polish, a bowl of water and a cloth. We wrap the cloth around our forefinger, take a small amount of shoe polish onto the cloth and make circular movements on the shoe, usually starting with the toe cap. It can feel rough and so we add a very small bit of water to the end of our cloth (never to the shoe) and keep up with the circular movements until any scratches or imperfections have disappeared. Then we keep adding very thin layers of polish using the circular movement of our finger until we start to get a shiny effect. We keep this going until we can see our reflection in our shoes! A great time to do this is that hour before bedtime when you have switched off all your screens. Pop some music on instead and make a start. It can take up to about three hours to do both shoes properly.



Would you like to be involved too? 494 Squadron meet on Monday and Thursday evenings and currently have a handful of vacancies for both girls and boys aged from 12 (and in year 8) to 17. Contact us through our facebook page – search 494 Squadron Stansted - and let us know you're interested. *You can always practise the shiny shoe technique on your school shoes too!*

Rachel Alexander

Email: Rachel.alexander@btinternet.com



## MANUDEN GUIDES

Manuden Guides meet on Tuesdays in term time, from 7.30pm-9.00pm in Manuden Village Community Centre. If you are a girl aged 10 and over, who likes doing a range of activities such as games, crafts, visits (including a Guides-only pop concert at Wembley Arena), cooking, sleepovers (in tents or not!), outdoor adventures, plus anything else you would like to do, then please contact me or any of the Guides for more information. We would love to have you with us.



Glynis Prothero

Tel: 814145

Email: glynisprothero@aol.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our January meeting was extremely enjoyable as we had four short presentations by our own members: The first was **Tony Wellings** who gave a demonstration on *sawing*. He brought with him a large pit saw and part of a tree trunk, giving us an insight into how planks were cut by sawyers using the saw and a pit. **Tony Crosby** then gave a talk on the new *Uttlesford Local Heritage List* and how he has put together a list of certain structures and monuments from the village that he hopes will make it on to the heritage list submitted to the council in November. Tony also gave us a summary of the historic areas, listed buildings and conservation areas in the village. Third was **Ralph Phillips** who gave a presentation in two parts. Firstly the history around the large black *ledger stone* in St Mary's Church on behalf of Thomas Ray and his wife Dorothy, whose families were substantial land owners, including Thremhall Priory, Stansted Mill, Park Mead, Hartishobury (Hassobury) and others. The second subject was *Stansted Park*, which included Elms Farm, a large area of land opened exclusively for the public. Ralph spoke to us about the history going back to the De Vere family, the Earl of Oxford, Sir Robert Rochester and Dorothy Josselyn. The fourth and final speaker was our Chairman, **Peter Brown**, who gave us part history of *Stansted Fire Brigade*. He explained how in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, villages were told to provide fire cover for its residents, which usually came in the form of a manual pump. In 1822 Stansted purchased a new pump at a cost of £83, a substantial amount of money back then. In 1894 The Parish took over the running of the station and subsequently bought a new pump and uniform for its firefighters.

The next meeting is on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 7.45pm for 8.00pm in the Day Centre at the top of Chapel Hill, when Ken McDonald will be giving us a presentation on *The Hundred Parishes*. All welcome, entry £2.



Steve Leaney  
Tel: 647177

## STANSTED DAY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

### Goodbye to Julie

Those of you who came into contact with Julie Beck at Stansted Day Centre or elsewhere will know how upset we are that she has stepped down as manager. Although she did not want any fuss, we were able to say goodbye to her at the Christmas lunch, and show our appreciation with a presentation, and a song written for her by the Stansted Strummers ukulele group. She will be missed.

### Hello to Stephanie and Angela

We are delighted to have made two new appointments. Stephanie Devine will cook on Tuesdays. Jo will continue to provide her delicious meals on Thursdays and Fridays. Angela Hall is taking over as manager. We are sure that the Day Centre will continue to be the welcoming place it has always been, with hearty lunches and a warm atmosphere. If you are over 55 come and give us a try - you will be sure to return. Telephone 815091 for more information.



Catherine Dean  
Chair, Management Committee

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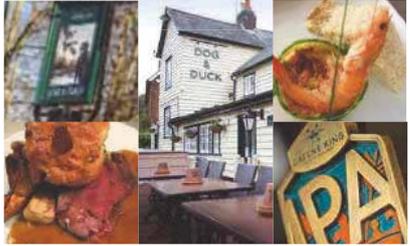
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All package and flight-plus holidays brought in the UK from an authorised ABTA member are financially protected. If your travel company fails, you will be able to continue your holiday, or get your money back. Be aware there are a few unscrupulous companies displaying the ABTA logo without authorisation. If you have any doubts check the ABTA website before you book [www.abta.com/find-a-member](http://www.abta.com/find-a-member).



### Get an ATOL Certificate

ATOL stands for Air Travel Organisers' Licence. A Government scheme, it is operated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Whenever you book a package holiday that involves flights and holidays including a flight plus accommodation or car hire, you must be protected under an ATOL Licence. You should receive an ATOL Certificate from your travel agent when you make payment - keep it safe.

**Note:** flights booked directly with most airlines are not protected under the ATOL scheme.

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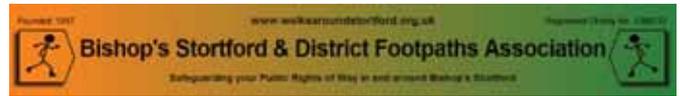
Paying for your holiday using a credit or debit card is your safest bet. If you are asked to make payments by bank transfer or cash - be very suspicious!

**Tip:** Before you book your holiday always ask your travel agent what level of protection you would receive.

Happy holidays.



Ken Whyne  
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[www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk](http://www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk)

**Sunday Walks:** 5/6 miles all leaving at 10.00am

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb** Little Hallingbury. Car park on the A1060 GridRef: TL503174. Post code **CM22 7RD**

**18<sup>th</sup> Feb** Standon Church. Park on road but **not** in front of the church GridRef: TL396222. Post code **SG11 1LB**

**4<sup>th</sup> Mar** Hunsden PO. **Park on roadside but not right in front of the Post Office** TL417140. Post code **SG12 8NH**

**18<sup>th</sup> Mar** See Website for Details

We have a good number of followers - now we need a few more walk leaders - so **come on**. There have been some good and interesting walks in December. A freezing day, but an excellent walk started from Little Canfield; we were rewarded with some lovely views and the two accompanying dogs enjoyed romping over the wide open hard frozen fields. Again, the weather stayed kind for our Boxing Day Dash to Birchanger and bright blue skies provided some terrific views over the open countryside between Stansted and Birchanger. We completed the trip including an excursion into Birchanger Wood and a pause for tea, coffee and mince pies, in a straight two hours. Well done all!

### Now, we need your help

Two twitchells (narrow footpaths) from Potter Street, Bishop's Stortford, through to the Public Car Park and Riverside, have now been **arbitrarily closed** by new incoming shop owners.

1. Alongside the old RIVA dress shop
2. Alongside the recently closed Store 21.

**Please will you help to keep them open? We should not have to lose these short-cuts.** So please tell me if you have used these short-cuts over the last 20 years. I need your name and address affirming your usage. This information will be sent to Herts County Council to help retain these short passage ways - thank you.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis  
Publicity Officer  
Email: [dwjwj.444@gmail.com](mailto:dwjwj.444@gmail.com)

*STANSTED  
MOUNTFITCHET  
WINDMILL*



I am pleased to say that our Christmas event held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December was a great success. There were so many happy children with their gifts from Santa and balloons from 'Twisto' the balloon artist and magician. There were snacks and drinks for everyone and as always the adults were happy to have a tour of the Mill. Thanks to everyone who came along and supported us.

We will soon be fixing a date for our Spring Coffee Morning and our AGM. Our Stewarding Roster will shortly be ready for all our Stewards to sign, for what we hope will be another good year for the Windmill. We would of course welcome any newcomers interested in becoming a Steward - just give me a call on the number below.



Molly Clark  
Co-Trustee  
Tel: 816768

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# Stansted Network

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

### TRAFFIC AND PARKING – FINDING IMPROVEMENTS?

As part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, work continues to find ways to increase pedestrian safety, to improve traffic flows and to add more parking spaces.

One initial word of caution. It is unlikely that much can be done to prevent traffic using the local roads although efforts are being made to enforce the weight restriction on Grove Hill.

We would welcome all views on the following issues:

- 1) Cambridge Road – reducing footpath width to improve traffic flows and helping to provide more parking spaces.
- 2) Cambridge Road/Chapel Hill junction – to consider introducing two small roundabouts to ease turning and crossing.
- 3) Chapel Hill – to consider eliminating on-street parking from Woodfield Terrace to the junction with Cambridge Road and to introduce priority signage on the stretch between St John's Road and the Millway entrance.
- 4) Lower Street – to consider reducing footpath width to improve traffic flow and to re-engineer the roundabout to prevent traffic acting in a dangerous manner.
- 5) Church Road – to seek ways to make traffic calming safer in order to reduce speeds.
- 6) High Lane – to assess the best way of introducing traffic calming given the likely increased traffic flows from the Walpole Farm development.
- 7) Increase car parking capacity by evaluating another deck over part of the Lower Street car park and, UDC agreeing finance, to acquire land behind Tesco Express for short-term parking.

Details of most of these proposals can be found on our Neighbourhood Development Plan website [www.stanstedneighbourhoodplan.com](http://www.stanstedneighbourhoodplan.com).

Please email your opinions and ideas to [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net) or write to the Parish Council at Crafton Green. Response to this consultation will be important in determining what is included in the Plan and whether the Plan is approved. Thank you in advance for your help.

### FLOOD MANAGEMENT

In December we had the double whammy of melting snow followed by rain which resulted in some flooding in the vicinity of the Cambridge Road and High Lane junction adjacent to the Bloor Homes development site. Understandably residents and businesses in Lower Street get very concerned about a potential repeat of the flooding experienced a couple of years ago. We have a small group of volunteer Flood Wardens who do sterling work in monitoring the water courses and keeping them free of debris that can block the flow of water and cause flooding. It would be great if a few more people who live in the Lower Street area could get involved and offer some support when there is a flood risk. Should you wish to volunteer as a Flood Warden, please contact the Council Offices.

### FLY TIPPING

We get fairly regular reports of Fly Tipping which we forward to the District Council who have an in-house team, who go out and clear up what is often a very unpleasant mess. However nobody involved in dealing with the issue had ever experienced anything on the scale of what happened early in the morning of Tuesday 14 December in Pennington Lane (see below)



Contractors had to be employed to clear waste at a cost of £3,500. There is an ongoing investigation to try and identify the culprits. If they manage to track down the offenders, they can in theory be prosecuted and fined an unlimited amount or imprisoned for up to 5 years. We all very much hope they get what they deserve.

## ALLOTMENTS

Both the Walpole Farm and Elms Farm developments will eventually have areas created for allotments, which will be handed over to the Parish Council to manage. We have no definite dates when these will become available, but we are hopeful Elms Farm will be ready by the end of this year. A number of people have already been in contact with us expressing a desire to take on an allotment and their names have been added to a waiting list. If you want to add your name to the waiting list please email [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net) or apply in writing to the Parish Council office.

## LOST PROPERTY

You may recall the story about the search for a man who left his pay packet in a London pub before Christmas which ended happily after he came forward to claim the money. Thousands of people appealed on social media over the Christmas break to find Mariusz, a Polish construction worker, who left his £600 wages on the floor in the Alexandra pub in Wimbledon, South London, on 21 December. Mariusz claimed the money after he correctly described the envelope and named the amount of money inside. Pub management then double-checked his identity on CCTV.

The pub employee who found the pay packet was widely praised for his honesty and we are reasonably confident that any Stansted resident who found an item of value would want to reunite it with its rightful owner. In the "old days" you could just hand in anything you found to the local police station but with the closure of so many stations this probably isn't practicable. Occasionally people post lost property items on Stansted Matters but not everybody is social media savvy so what else can you do? Well, you could hand them into the Parish Council Office at Crafton Green. Our environmental rangers also occasionally find items such as keys, wallets and even passports which they bring into our office, and we use our best detective skills to try to identify and locate the rightful owner; but if we can't identify the owner, we will store the item and see if anyone claims it.

## TOWN TWINNING

We are in regular contact with our twin town of Rungis and are exploring a range of joint activities. We would very much like to hear from families or individuals who would be interested in exchange visits involving hosting

French visitors and spending some time in the home of a French host. Please register your interest via email to [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net) or call into the Parish Council Office.

## VILLAGE EVENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

We are very pleased to be able to report that a successful bid has been made to the National Lottery "Awards For All" fund. This means that we will be able to have the extra attractions that many of you enjoyed at last year's Windmill Bank Holiday Fete.

This is taken from the bid submission: " Through Parish consultation people are telling us that more and more they lead disjointed lifestyles. Many people have busy lives and do not have much time to engage with their neighbours and others in the village like they used to. Local people are saying they are finding that they have less and less time to come together and meet up in our community."

It would be great if we could have a few more community events throughout the year, but for this to happen we need to involve more people in the planning and delivery of the events. Part of our bid was based on the following:

"We have a small group of willing 'older' volunteers who have helped plan different community events over the years but they are not getting any younger (they have said themselves they need to 'hand the baton on'!) and we need to involve younger and new people to ensure community events like this will continue. We want to promote the idea of giving time voluntarily to support community activity in the village and offer people training and support to be able to do so. We have identified a Social Enterprise group who train people in community event planning, including: event management, planning, publicity and budgeting. This will take place from early 2018 and will continue up until the event in the summer."

It doesn't matter how long you have lived in the village, or how old you are, volunteering can be very rewarding and great fun. Including volunteering activities on your CV can be a real attraction to colleges, universities and potential employers. It's also good for "empty nesters" and retired people looking for something worthwhile and meaningful to do with their time. Please give it some serious thought and look out for details of training events which will be published soon.

## YOUTH CLUB

Linda Barnes- Youth Club Leader writes:

The Autumn term was very busy with lots of new Yr 6 young people joining and our established members returning after the summer holidays. For those who are unaware where and when we operate, we are at the rear of the Children's Centre in Lower St and we are open on Tues, Wed and Thurs 6.30-8.30pm and Fri 7.00-9.00pm. The age for membership is school Yr 6 upwards. Our core membership age is 11-14 years, but we do accept older young people up to 16 years. The club is managed by qualified professional youth workers, youth advisors and local volunteers and supported by Stansted Parish and Uttlesford District Councils.

We offer a fun place to meet with their friends in a safe environment. The activities on offer are: football and basketball (both indoors and out), badminton, uni-hoc, dodgeball, volleyball, table football, table tennis, pool, arts and crafts, TV Room, computers and music. We also deliver projects around health and wellbeing, healthy eating, diversity and internet safety.

As well as the local council support (without which we could not offer this valuable service), we would also like to thank Stansted Fire Service for their generous contribution of £100 towards our karaoke machine which we hope to purchase in the New Year.

Our focus for the Autumn term was on staying safe during the dark winter evenings and hair and beauty.



We finished the Autumn term on 15<sup>th</sup> December with our Christmas Party and Presentation Evening which was attended by Cllr Sam Dunn.

## NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Thom Goddard writes

A very happy new year to everyone reading this and I hope 2018 is a great year for you and our beautiful corner of Essex.

## The Local Plan

There were just over 6,000 replies to Uttlesford District Council's public consultation on the Local Plan last year and Council officers made a raft of suggestions. The Council has commissioned a number of pieces of work that relate directly to comments from local people on water, highways, sport and heritage. Uttlesford District Council takes the views of residents very seriously. If you missed presenting your opinions in the public consultation you can always contact any of your District Councillors so your views are heard.

Uttlesford District Council has commissioned Garden City Developments Ltd. to carry out a thorough assessment of the delivery options for the new Garden Communities. The report is due this month and is part of the Council looking at every option to minimise disruption to local residents while conforming to UK Government's housing demands.

## Castle Maltings Pharmacy

At the end of November over 50 members of the public and a number of District and Parish Councillors gathered to support the application for a pharmacy at Castle Maltings. At present only Boots at the top of Chapel Hill is able to dispense prescriptions in Stansted and Prof Ashok Soni is appealing to the NHS for a second pharmacy alongside the surgery in Castle Maltings. If you would like more information on this or offer support please contact Cllr Terry Farthing. [STOP PRESS - we have just heard that the appeal was rejected]. See page 27 for more information.

## Lower Street Car Park

I am afraid to report there is no change surrounding the Lower Street car park. Your local Councillors continue to receive complaints and we are listening. Cllrs Alan Dean and Geoffrey Sell have been meeting with council officers and Cllr Howard Ryles, the cabinet member responsible for car parks, to press for an action plan leading to improvements.

## Local Investment

We are coming to the end of the Council year and in May 2017 each of your District Councillors was given £3,000 for community initiatives AND was able to carry over half of their money from last year. This money must be spent before the end of April 2018. Please contact us with ideas for how we can help fund initiatives that will improve people's lives in our area before the money disappears.

## DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

### January

31 Full Council

### February

21 Full Council

28 Open Spaces

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Early warning! Our annual meeting will be in the Day Centre (note different venue) on Wednesday 21st March at 8.00pm. This is your chance to find out in more detail what The Parish Council have been doing over the last year and to stand up in the Open Forum to speak about the issues you are concerned about and to question your councillors.

We look forward to seeing the old faithfuls who turn up every year, but it would also be good to see some new faces; so if you have never been to any kind of Parish event please consider adding this to your list of new things to do in 2018.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford.

Assistant to the Parish Clerk-Trevor Lloyd

Administration Assistant-Emma Philbrick

Email: [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net)

Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

[www.stansted.net](http://www.stansted.net)

### PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Maureen Caton	813914
(Chairman)	<a href="mailto:m.caton@hotmail.co.uk">m.caton@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Catherine Dean	813579
	<a href="mailto:catherinemarydean@btinternet.com">catherinemarydean@btinternet.com</a>
Samantha Dunn	810859
	<a href="mailto:cllr.samanthadunn@stansted.net">cllr.samanthadunn@stansted.net</a>
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*As we go to press there is one vacancy on the Parish Council*

### UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

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### MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Kemi Badenoch MP contact details:

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Telephone 0207 219 1943 (House of Commons) or  
01799 506349 (Constituency Office).

Email [kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk)

**POLICE** Non-emergency 101  
[James.graham@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:James.graham@essex.pnn.police.uk)

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# THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY - ALMSHOUSES

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

Alms Houses were built to enable the poor, old or disabled who were no longer able to work and pay rent to remain in the community. The first recorded was in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, founded in York by King Athelstan. The oldest still in existence is at Winchester. They were often a result of a gift from a wealthy benefactor, consisting of a terrace of houses to accommodate a number of residents. The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples – here are just a few. Ken McDonald Tel: 813226



In Buntingford High Street, the almshouses for the elderly were founded by Bishop Seth Ward in 1684. He was a mathematician and astronomer who was born in Aspenden and educated in Cambridge. He became Bishop of Exeter in 1662 and Salisbury in 1667. The almshouses are now run by a charity.



Lord Richard Rich, Lord Chancellor under Edward VI, founded Felsted School and nearby almshouses in 1565. They were rebuilt in 1878. Rich is buried at Felsted Church which has an elaborate memorial to him. More details of Rich can be found within the People section of the Hundred Parishes website.



Radwinter's almshouses were designed by the Arts and Crafts architect William Eden Nesfield in 1887 as part of a collaboration with Rev'd Frederick Bullock following the great Radwinter fire in 1874. His work included other buildings in Radwinter and London.



In Thaxted this almshouse with a thatched roof was originally built as a priest's house. The building opposite dates from 1714 and incorporates eight tenements. In 1830 it housed sixteen older persons: thirteen widows, a man, a wife and a maid.

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5. Nerve centre 6. Neon 7. Picturesque 15. Ohms  
16. Spur 18. Diet

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14. Maida Vale 15. Mile End 16. Moorgate 17. Oval  
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## PUBLIC MEETING RE STANSTED PHARMACY

### The Public Meeting concerning Stansted Pharmacy's NHS prescription dispensing licence application.

A meeting was convened on 23<sup>rd</sup> November in the Day Centre; it gave the community the opportunity to hear the issues which were included in Professor Soni's application for a licence to dispense NHS prescriptions from his Stansted Pharmacy and to voice their views and needs. About 50 members of our community and surrounding villages attended this meeting. Our Parish Council Chairman, Maureen Caton, chaired the meeting, Ray Woodcock gave an overview of the local issues and Professor Soni (Ash) told us what his plans are once he gets his licence. John Zucker, who is Ash's advisor, shared his thinking of other services the Pharmacy could provide which will support local community needs. The meeting then had a question and answer period.



Ash Soni OBE FFRPS FRPharmS is President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society; he already has a licence to dispense NHS prescriptions from his Streatham Pharmacy. Ash applied for his Stansted Pharmacy licence in late 2016; it was refused in August 2017. He appealed, submitting many documents and supporting statements, highlighting the need for this additional dispensing pharmacy for our growing community, with the housing developments at Foresthall Park, Walpole Farm, Elms Farm and 14 Cambridge Road. In addition, Bishop's Stortford North will eventually have over 2500 dwellings, and many of its residents are expected to use the facilities in Stansted. Unfortunately, our MP, Kemi Badenoch, could not be present as she had a long-standing commitment with Newport Parish Council. Kemi has met a number of her constituents who raised the pharmacy issue with her. She is now examining why NHS England declined the application. This includes the rules which govern licences; she is also considering if this issue should be raised in Parliament. We await her response.

### Appeal hearing

We were pressing for the appeal hearing to be held in public, at which all could participate. Sadly, the NHS Resolution team considered the Appeal in private and did not give any of us the oral opportunity to contribute to their considerations. NHS Resolution informed the 'Consultees' of their decision on 2<sup>nd</sup> January - the appeal was rejected! This must be considered a major blow to our community, particularly those who would have benefited most from having a dispensing pharmacy at the bottom of Chapel Hill, many of whom are chronically unwell and/or have mobility difficulties. What next? Frankly I don't know, but because our need is real, this decision must be challenged. Please let me know your thoughts.

Ray Woodcock  
Tel: 816468  
Email: Raymond.woodcock@btinternet.com



## STORT VALLEY ROTARY CLUB

Stort Valley Rotary Club are bringing their popular quiz to the Charis Centre, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford for the fourth year running on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm**. Last year £1,400 was raised in support of the **Bishop's Stortford Food Bank** (which the Club helped set up) and **Life Education**, another enterprise that we pioneered locally. This year we are adding **Herts Musical Memories**, a charity that helps people with dementia, and their carers. They meet weekly for singing and fellowship, led by a trained professional. See [www.hertsmusicalmemories.org.uk](http://www.hertsmusicalmemories.org.uk) for more details. Tickets £10 including a ploughman's (prepared by lady members of the Club) from Derek Crowther on 832580 or email: [john.crowther2@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.crowther2@ntlworld.com). **Book your table now** (maximum eight people per team - if you are fewer please book anyway; we are often able to make up tables).

If you are considering joining an organisation who help out in the community and beyond and look to enjoy themselves along the way, why not consider joining us? Just enter our name in your search engine to find our website, or contact me for more information. We would also like to thank all those that kindly donated to our Christmas Santa collection, helping us raise just under £3,000 which will assist a number of local charities over the course of the year.

Martin Budzinski  
President  
Tel: 07803 878961  
Email: [martin@voucherpacks.com](mailto:martin@voucherpacks.com)

## VISION DRILL

### Simple exercise to improve driving, reading and dry eye

Vision is the prime sense; an astonishing amount of brain power goes into processing visual information. Even the most sophisticated robot's vision comes nowhere near ours – our eyes are far more complex than mere video cameras. There is much that can be done to improve vision, irrespective of glasses. As always, not every drill suits everybody, so it is wise to test before and after to see if it suits you. First test your balance by standing on one leg, then look at some writing on a wall – it could be a calendar – stare at the smallest letter you can see and notice how clear it is, and then compare the clarity of each eye. Now blink rapidly for a few seconds. Look at the letter again, with both eyes, then with each eye, and see if there is any improvement in sharpness. Now see if your balance has improved. As you blink, make sure that your head stays still and relaxed, so it is just the eyelids doing the work.



The nerve that make the eyelids close also makes our tears, so blinking rapidly can help relieve dry eye - a quicker solution than reaching for the eyedrops. As drivers, the better we see, the safer we drive. If we want to learn that foreign language, the more comfortably we read, the longer we can spend studying it. Therefore a few seconds spent blinking rapidly, several times a day, can do wonders.

Clare Harding  
Z-Health master trainer  
Tel: 816430

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## ST CLARE HOSPICE NEW DAY CARE THERAPY

St Clare Hospice has announced the launch of a series of new services for 2018 to complement their current Day Therapy service. The service offers a wide-range of support for people with life-limiting conditions – supporting people and their families from the moment a life-limiting or terminal illness is diagnosed. New for 2018 are:

### Café Clare

Offering patients the chance to join us for weekly coffee and cake in the hospice dining room, and the chance to meet others socially, in a relaxed and friendly environment. This group is available to people who have completed a Day Therapy group, or those who just wish to gain some support from their peers on an informal basis. It is available to all St Clare patients and is a drop-in group.

### Physiotherapy Group

The aim of this weekly drop-in exercise group is to enable people to take part in a tailored exercise programme, led by a qualified physiotherapist. It is open to all existing St Clare patients. At the first session, people will be assessed by our physiotherapist and given their own exercise programme, adapted to their needs.

### Creative Drop-in Group

A relaxing and enjoyable fortnightly drop-in group where people can learn new skills and find enjoyment through creative activities. It is open to all existing St Clare patients and is run by our Day Therapy Assistant.



### Click a Friend

The aim of this fortnightly drop-in computer group is to enable people to develop their computing skills and to tackle social isolation. It will be run in partnership with Age Concern Harlow and aims to provide group members with the skills to use tools such as *Skype* to speak to their friends and relatives, social media and online shopping.

The Day Therapy services are held at the Hospice in Hastingwood Road CM17 9JX and are available to all adults over the age of 18 years with a life-limiting condition, who are registered with a West Essex GP. For more information please contact the Day Therapy Team on 773768 or visit <https://stclarehospice.org.uk/care/day-therapy-services>.

Rebecca Hedges



## ST CLARE HOSPICE QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Day Centre. Tickets £8 to include ploughman's, available from me. Teams of six maximum. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.



Caroline Bore  
Tel: 813938

Email: [carolinebore@gmail.com](mailto:carolinebore@gmail.com)

## FEBRUARY FACTS AND FABLES

**Birthstone:** Amethyst symbolizing piety, humility and sincerity. **Flower:** Primrose

The Romans named it *Februarius* from the word *februa*, which means cleansing or purification, reflecting the rituals that were undertaken before spring. The Anglo Saxons called it *sol monath* or *kale monath* after the cabbage. Having just 28 days each year (except in a Leap Year) February is the only month that can pass without a single full moon, which last happened in 1999. It is National Bird-Feeding month in the US and here the snowdrop, symbol of hope appears.

**Candlemas Day** (Christian festival of lights) is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month; an ancient festival when all the candles to be used in the coming year would be brought to Church and blessed. Candles were very important as they not only gave light but were also thought to give protection against illness and famine. The 4<sup>th</sup> is **World Cancer Day** and the 13<sup>th</sup> is **Shrove Tuesday**, also known as Mischief or Pancake Day, 40 days before Easter and the last day for fun and food before Lent. A special game of football involving large numbers of people is still played on Shrove Tuesday on the streets of some places in England. It is both **St Valentine's Day** and **Ash Wednesday** on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the **Chinese New Year** (Year of the Dog) on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Members of the Scout and Guide movements remember their founders, Lord and Lady Robert Baden-Powell on **World Thinking Day**, the 22<sup>nd</sup>.



If the dark and dreary days of winter are getting you down, the following Legend of the Snowdrop might help. *After being expelled from the Garden of Eden Eve was giving up hope that the cold winter would ever end when an angel appeared and transformed some of the snowflakes into snowdrop flowers as proof that winters do eventually give way to the spring.* Bring on the Snowdrops!



Yvonne Ayres



**STANSTED & DISTRICT  
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We are holding a Quiz on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Stansted Day Centre. Tickets are £10 to include a ploughman's supper. There will be a bar. Please let me know if you are coming, either with a team or on your own.



Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579

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## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.stanstedu3a.org

At the November meeting last year, two of our members, Patricia Cooper and Christine Holroyd, gave a talk entitled 'A Tale of Two Skippers' about their 40 years of sailing their own yachts. It was extensively illustrated with photographs and charts. Their adventures took them to 25 countries and they logged 50,000 sea miles together.

The Stansted Mountfitchet Strummers entertained the residents of Mountfitchet House on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, and on 4<sup>th</sup> December the U3A Christmas tree was put up in St Mary's Church together with several others, representing various Stansted organisations. The church looked very festive in readiness for the carol concert and other services. Unfortunately, because of snow, the strummers were unable to play at the St Mary's Christmas Festival on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December, ten members went on the last bus pass trip of 2017 to Van Hage's Garden Centre. There was plenty of time to wander round and shop before having a very enjoyable Christmas lunch together. Thanks to Jenny Wraith. At the monthly meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December, members enjoyed tea, mince pies and a Christmas Quiz presented by Sally and Alan Rich. There was much fun and laughter, plus a wonderful raffle. On 21<sup>st</sup> December, the U3A Christmas Lunch, held at the Bury Lodge Hotel, was well attended. The choir sang carols and we all enjoyed a very tasty Christmas meal and yet another splendid raffle.

Keith Sargeant will be the speaker at the monthly meeting in St John's Hall on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February talking about the Life of a Fire Officer. Doors open 1.30pm.

Local genealogist Peter Calver of Lost Cousins is talking about Genetic Genealogy at our next Saturday Seminar on 17<sup>th</sup> March 9.30 am-12.30pm in the Free Church Hall. Tickets: members £4, non-members £5 from Alan on 07817 275563 or email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com.

U3A contact details: Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com. Telephone: Helen (Chair) 812945, Liz (Secretary) 813270.



Suzanne Parra

### LINK ADVERTISING

We have recently added additional advertising pages to the Link and there a few spaces available.

We also offer a one-off advert for £20

See [www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising](http://www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising) for a full price list and booking form, or if you do not have internet access, call Marion on 814059



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

The Club's December Meeting was a Fun evening followed by our Annual Bring and Share Christmas Supper. The sedate start to the Beetle Game soon changed to a frantic throwing of die, followed by cheers as a 6 was finally thrown followed by groans as Beetle was called – sometimes before another player had even started!

#### Dates for your diaries and calendars:

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February will be the Club's first meeting of the new year and we will be welcoming Jacqueline Aviolet of Rosie's Garden Plants who will be telling us all about *Growing Herbs – their culinary use and influence in culture.*

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March Mr Graham Pattison will talk to us about *Mexico - A Land of Contrasts, Plants & Culture including archaeological sites.*

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April Mini Spring Show and AGM. More information regarding times nearer the date. Show Schedules are available from the Secretary's Desk.

The Programme of Events for the 2018-19 Season which starts in May are being finalised. Printed Programme Cards and an update will be available on our website after the AGM. Club meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre (adjacent to the Library and car park). Refreshments are available from 7.35pm. Visitors are always very welcome to our meetings, entry £2.50.

#### Flower arranging evening with Gill McGregor

An evening of flower arranging (with wine/juice and nibbles at half-time) has been arranged for the evening of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at Forest Hall School. Entry will be by ticket only, available mid-February onwards from the committee - more details next month but please diary the date!

Maralyn Harris  
Tel: 07919 478144



### Nature Notes

When I saw a roe deer in early January I was struck by the difference between its winter and summer coats. In the summer the roe deer have a rich reddish brown coat which catches the eye and when they bound away in the sunshine one might think that they know that they look good and are just showing off! In the winter their coats turn to various shades of grey which seems to match a mood change because they are more likely to be seen lurking by hedges or moving wraithlike through misty woodlands. I believe that they must be our only local mammals which show a significant difference in the colour of their seasonal garbs. Another sighting just before Christmas was a hedgehog wandering around in the garden when it should have been tucked away snugly in hibernation! I hope it found enough to eat to restore any reserves of energy which it was using, otherwise it will be lucky to see the spring.



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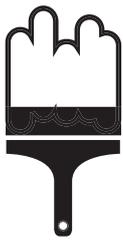
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## COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE FOR PETS

Many of you may know that I offer complementary therapies such as acupuncture, homeopathy and herbal medicine alongside conventional treatment. I believe in a holistic approach to your pet and try to use whatever therapies are most effective in a safe and appropriate way.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) released a new position statement on Complementary and Alternative Medicines in general and homeopathy in particular. The statement was released without consultation with the veterinary organisations involved with complementary therapies e.g. the British Association of Homeopathic Veterinary Surgeons (BAHVS) and would seem to have serious implications for a vet's ability to be able to prescribe complementary therapies as a first choice. The statement says that vets cannot use medicines such as herbs, homeopathy, supplements etc. if it 'delays' or 'replaces' more conventional treatments. The implications are that animals must have conventional treatment before any other sort of therapy; so for example, if your old dog is getting a bit stiff, you can't put it on a Glucosamine supplement until you have tried drugs first.

The statement also hints that the RCVS may take action against those vets that do use complementary therapies, and when one links this with the Animal Welfare Act, arguably the owners too. Not only has this restricted a vet's clinical freedom but it has effectively taken away an owner's right to make an informed choice about their animal's treatment. This change in statement has been brought about by continued pressure from a small group of vets that are against complementary and alternative medicines and are not representative of the majority of vets in the UK.

There is a growing interest in complementary therapies from animal owners as they seek other options where conventional medicines have failed or produced adverse side effects, or just want to have their animals treated in a more holistic way. There has been a huge public outcry on social media and a petition has been started to get the RCVS to retract the statement and consult with the relevant organisations to produce a new one. There are also support groups on Facebook. If you believe in the freedom to choose complementary therapies for your pet and to allow vets to prescribe them for you please take action now.

- 1 Sign the petition at [www.thepetitionsite.com/219/768/240/we-need-to-stop-the-rcvs-from-banning-homeopathic-vets-from-treating-animals](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/219/768/240/we-need-to-stop-the-rcvs-from-banning-homeopathic-vets-from-treating-animals)
- 2 Write to your MP expressing your concern
- 3 Write to the RCVS asking them to retract their statement: email: [president@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:president@rcvs.org.uk)



Ilse Pedler  
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



[www.birchangerwoodtrust.org](http://www.birchangerwoodtrust.org)

I hope many of you participated in the Great British Bird Watch in January. I have had an interesting 'new' bird in my back garden - a moorhen, and no we don't have a pond, but it appears to be happy digging up food from the lawn and splashing about in the bird baths. This moorhen started visiting each day about a week or so before Christmas meandering over the lawns whilst overhead other birds fly in to visit our feeders, and it seems unfazed by the pesky woodpigeons and our squirrels; and, yes, it can run very fast, jumping up and hiding in the branches of our surrounding hedges. Seeing it out of water you do realise what really big feet they have!



Much of Birchanger Wood has had the paths blown clear of leaves by our volunteers and this certainly does make for a good nippy walk around. I took a footpaths walk out on Boxing Day from Stansted and this took in the Birchanger side of Birchanger Wood. The wood's paths were great and certainly a lot safer underfoot than some of the local public paths and bridleways. The wood looked really super under the snow which fell in December, and I trust those of you who have purchased our firewood are enjoying a lovely lot of heat from the logs. Following the many recent high winds, a number of trees (mainly shallow-rooted birches) have taken a tumble; again our volunteers have managed to clear most of these away from the paths so as to keep them clear and open for the rest of us to use. Thank you *woodies* and Pat.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis  
Email : [secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org](mailto:secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org)

## INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD



We had a very busy time towards the end of 2017 with an excellent speaker from Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre, a Concert at Chelmsford Cathedral and meals to enjoy. We are now looking forward to some interesting things in 2018. On 10<sup>th</sup> January, which is Inner Wheel Day, we gathered at President Jenny's house to make some Hearts, which we will be distributing on 14<sup>th</sup> February, so do look out for them. We have some interesting speakers and activities lined up for the coming months, starting with our Annual Quiz on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February. The Club meets at Stansted Day Centre, Crafton Green, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm except August and December. Please ring me or Barbara Morrison 814152 for more information. A warm welcome awaits you.

June Milne  
Club Correspondent  
Tel: 01371 875370

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*'I Wish'*

Our next monthly meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm at Bishop's Park Community Centre, Lancaster Way, Bishop's Stortford (next to Tesco) will feature a talk titled *Amazing birds of Queensland Australia*, by Bill Coster. This is a brand new talk from Bill. He last presented us with *The Shetland Islands* which had some outstanding photography and knowledge. He is very thorough and professional in the way he presents and drew many very favourable comments from our group - one said he had never seen a better presentation! Bill's description of this month's talk: "The subtropical state of Queensland contains some of Australia's most colourful and iconic birds, including several species of bowerbirds. We also see two species of birds of paradise and a wealth of other forest birds photographed at many different locations within the state. We even make a visit to the world famous Great Barrier Reef." Entry is £3.00 Stort Valley Members, £5.00 visitors.



**Our next walk on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February** is at Amwell Nature Reserve. Meet at Amwell viewpoint at 10.00am. Postcode SG12 9SS.

This is a local favourite of ours. Afterwards we might take in RSPB Rye Meads just down the road, if you are not too tired! Run by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Amwell Nature Reserve is a former gravel pit in the Lee Valley near Ware. It supports internationally important numbers of wintering wildfowl, along with outstanding communities of breeding birds, dragonflies and damselflies. Really good views are to be had from the Viewpoint of the large lake, and there are many other habitats with some hides. Walking is easy. For more information contact Lee Jaques on 07454 801894.

Sheila Bowles  
Tel: 814973

**STANSTED IS WELL READ**

The next meeting of our book club will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck in Lower Street, where we will be discussing *He Said She Said*, the psychological thriller by Erin Kelly. Please do join us, a warm welcome will await.



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

*I wish I hadn't had that last drink  
Why didn't I just take the time to think?  
But we were having such a laugh  
And I only had another half  
I wish I hadn't got in my car  
I could have walked, it's not that far  
I really thought it would be ok  
To get in my car and drive that day*

*I wish I had been more aware  
That it's not enough to drive with care  
I saw him crossing a bit too late  
My reactions slow to hit the brake  
I wish I could have shut out that sound  
Of his body as it hit the ground  
The awful noise of screeching brakes  
The ugly scars the tyres make*

*I wish I hadn't lost control  
And my car hadn't crashed into that pole  
It went through the screen and hit my head  
I didn't think I would wind up dead  
I wish I had been able to survive  
I wish that I was still alive  
I wish I could hug my children aged 2 and 5  
I wish I could tell them to never drink and drive*

Jackie Rierig and Eric Ovel

We need more Speed Watch Volunteers. If you are interested please contact me.

Ray Woodcock  
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Email: raymond.woodcock@btinternet.com

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Last year Stansted's Community Care Scheme successfully dealt with even more than the previous year's total of 230 requests for help from local residents. Huge thanks must go to our happy band of 40 volunteers who made it all happen. Helpline is run entirely by unpaid volunteers and it is only through their dedication and hard work that we are able to sustain this worthwhile scheme. For those new to the village who may not have heard about Helpline, we can provide transport/escorts to appointments etc for those unable to access public transport and with no other means of getting there. We can also help with shopping and picking up prescriptions for the housebound, and various other tasks. Our phone 07704 553727 is manned 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays) and if we are unable to help we can usually put you in touch with another organisation who can. New volunteers are always welcome, especially drivers available weekdays, so if you have a little time to spare and would like to help please give me a call. If you have never volunteered before – give it a go, you will be surprised at how rewarding it can be.



Yvonne Ayres, Organiser  
Tel: 814706



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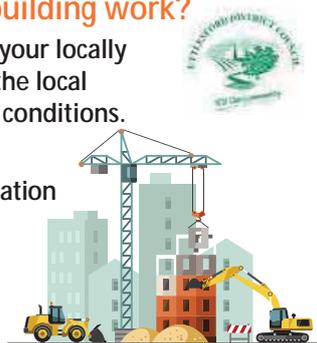
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So, what have we to offer you in 2018? As usual we start with our fabulous snowdrops. Last year, the snowdrops in the Bosquet at the front of the Gardens were magnificent, some interspersed with aconites which were also in full bloom, on two cold, but sunny February open days. Many of the common single and double blooms were planted in Victorian times or before, whilst we believe others in the Glade and the kitchen gardens were planted more recently. On Sundays 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February gates are open 11.30am-4.00pm (last entry 3.00pm) and we will have hot drinks, soup and bacon rolls and of course home-made cakes. We will also have some of our snowdrops for sale in the green.



Over the rest of the year our aim is to build upon our successes in 2017. We are working hard on the planting in the Gardens to extend the seasonal range in the Italian Garden; bring yet more colour to the Walled Kitchen garden; and establish the planting better in the stumpery in the Glade and the rill pond. For Open Days, we will have tried and tested entertainment, while continuing to introduce new elements – new musicians, exhibitors and of course fun activities for the children. We hope to welcome you to the Gardens in 2018. If you like what you find, you might like to buy an excellent value season ticket or become a Friend of the Gardens. For more information, ask at the Gate or go to our website or call 01371 876979.

Jill Goldsmith

## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



We were all cosy in the Day Centre for our December meeting and those attending were welcomed with a glass of mulled wine which helped the volume of our singing of *Jerusalem!* Brenda Ryan thanked the members who had organised and set up our tree at the St Mary's Festive weekend. It had been a memorable occasion. She also told us the feedback from the public in response to our Friendship Posies (which were made at the November meeting and distributed around the village), was very positive, especially from one lady who received hers on the anniversary of her husband's death. A member thanked those who organised

the trip in November to see 'Sister Act' at the Rhodes Theatre. It had been a brilliant production.

Julie Pollard, one of our members, then gave us a demonstration of seasonal flower arranging. Firstly an arrangement with a candle (this prompted an hilarious story of a romantic meal with her husband and an incident with the candle on their table); then an arrangement around the nursery rhyme 'Ring-a-ring-of-roses' with herbs and roses; and finally a Christmas Box arrangement in white and green. All the flowers came from Aldi so were within the budget of most. Following refreshments of mince pies, cakes and a hot drink, two members of the U3A choir led us in carol singing, complete with a jingle bell accompaniment.

Our **next meeting** will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Day Centre, Crafton Green when Peter Vince will talk to us about The Woodland Trust. Please join us for an enjoyable evening out. You will be most welcome. On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm- 4.30pm in the Day Centre we are holding our **Afternoon Tea**. Entry only £5 with proceeds to the Day Centre. There will be a cake stall and raffle. All welcome. For more information on any of the above please contact our President, Brenda Ryan 812725.

Jenny Wraith



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our November meeting was Christine Wood who gave us a very moving and entertaining talk entitled *Gone but not forgotten*. In the space of just 45 minutes she gave us a brief history of the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal. She told us the story of her mother's first husband, Ernest Parker, of the Royal Corps of Signals who died as a POW in Taiwan in 1944 and her mother's attempt to locate his grave. Christine and her mother made a number of trips to Hong Kong in the 1990s to visit his grave in the Sai Wan War Cemetery and to visit the camp where he had been held prisoner. Christine brought a number of items with her to illustrate her talk including Ernest's war medals and his wedding photo, which made the talk even more personal. Our December meeting was held in the beautifully decorated home of our President, Dorothy Wallace and the very popular Canon Chris Bishop entertained us with his self-composed songs and jokes. He had even written one especially for the WI entitled *Give us a try*. He wasn't the only entertainer; Roald Dahl's *Red Riding Hood* portrayed by the multi-talented Betty Francis also appeared and handed out Christmas gifts! A wonderful start to the festive season.

Our next meeting will be held in the usual venue, Ugley Village Hall at 2.15pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February when the speaker will be Margaret Rogers who will be talking on the subject of elephants. Why not come along and meet her and give us a try? You would be most welcome.

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922

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Think local, buy local!

We are pleased to announce that **Support 4 Sight**, a charity for visually impaired people, is our charity of the year. We are holding local events in conjunction with our local businesses throughout the year. We would appreciate your support, so please come along and help raise funds for a very worthy cause. Business Forum members, The Dog and Duck, the Cork House and Linden House will be putting on special events, so make sure that you put these dates in your diary. Firstly, we have a quiz night on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** 8.00pm at The Dog and Duck, our picturesque, friendly village pub located at the heart of the village. In **April** and **September** The Cork House Wine Bar and Restaurant in Lower Street will be hosting two great evenings for wine and gin tasting.



Finally, Linden House will be hosting a garden party on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July** from 2.00pm onwards. It has a terrace, and the outdoor Champagne bar will be open. On **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October** they will also host a dinner and auction.

Our next business breakfast will be on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 7.00am for 7.30am at Linden House. Come along and you can hear our speaker from Harlow College tell us about the new developments at Stansted Airport. Book your place by calling Peter James on 813318 or email [peter.james@murdochsestateagents.co.uk](mailto:peter.james@murdochsestateagents.co.uk).



Iris Evans  
Treasurer, Stansted Business Forum

## NEW YEAR – NEW WINE CHOICES

People often say "I know the wines I like and I stick to what I know". If this is you perhaps I can tempt you to experiment with something new. Let's start with that huge current favourite Prosecco. Unfortunately its popularity has led to reductions in quality and a rise in price, so why not try an alternative? *Cremant*, be it from the Loire, Burgundy (Bourgogne), Alsace or Limoux is a French wine made in the champagne method offering outstanding value and quality. Look out for it in our local supermarkets; Taste the Difference *Cremant de Loire* from Sainsburys at £11 is a good starting point. Getting a bit tired of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc? Consider instead the *Verdejo grape* from Rueda in

Spain which has a similar fresh acidity with grassy fruity flavours. Waitrose have the *Beronia Rueda* for £8.99 - other supermarkets have similar.

Always go for a soft fruity Merlot? For a change try the *Carmenere grape* from Chile. This was often mistaken for Merlot when Chilean wines first appeared in our supermarkets and with its smooth silky style one can see why. Tesco Finest *Carmenere* from Chile at £7.00 with its plum and berry flavours is worth trying. Most supermarkets and wine merchants will have some good versions. Finally if, like me, you like a fruity Pinot Noir from New Zealand then try instead a light fruity red using the *Mencia grape* from Bierzo in Spain. Majestic have a good *Pizarras de Otero 2015 Bierzo* at £7.50 as part of a mixed case, or try the *Frappato grape* from southern Italy. Adnams (Saffron Walden) have a light juicy version from Sicily, *Feudo di Santa Tresa* for £8.99, but keep your eyes open for other versions. I do hope that has whetted your appetite to try something new this year.



Paul Wilkinson  
Email: [corkscrew\\_456@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:corkscrew_456@hotmail.co.uk)

## STANSTED SOCIAL CLUB

Things were very busy at the Club in December - a hugely successful children's party followed by the Christmas Draw. After a flurry of activity, the new kitchen was ready in time for the Senior's Christmas Lunch on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Over 40 members enjoyed some superb food and the only complaint we had was that there was too much! Now that the kitchen is fully operational we have started to open on a trial basis for **breakfast** from 7.30am-12.00pm on **Wednesdays to Saturdays**. We are offering traditional English breakfast fare, including a vegetarian option. You can eat in or take away, so if you fancy a bacon roll and a coffee for the commute then ring ahead with your order on 01279 812992! With tea costing just £1, coffee £1.20 and a bacon baguette £2.70, what's not to like?



We have some fantastic entertainment heading your way throughout February and March. The *Midnight Flyers* make a welcome return on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February followed by *The Souled Organisation* making their first appearance at the club on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February. March sees live entertainment on consecutive Saturdays: *The Looters* on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, *Retro* on the 10<sup>th</sup>, *The Ghias* on the 17<sup>th</sup> and *F.U.B.A.R* on the 24<sup>th</sup>. We have our usual **karaoke** on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February, and don't forget **prize bingo** every Tuesday! Entry to all events is free for members, £5 for non-members. We will now be carrying out more regular door checks, so please remember to bring your membership card! On the subject of membership, it is still just £20 a year with an additional one-off payment of a £5 administration fee. It offers excellent value so get your application in!

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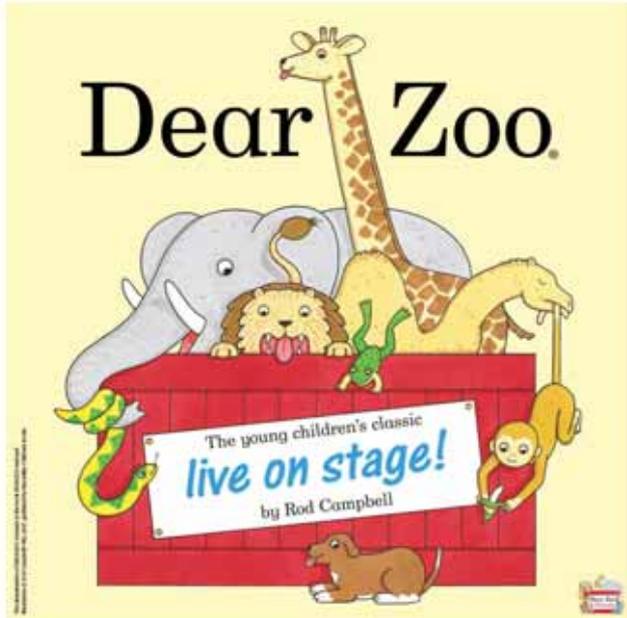
**February Events**

**At thestage Stortford:**

**Women in Rock** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 8.00pm

**Write Here, Write Now** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm

**Adam Hess and Glenn Moore** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm



**Dear Zoo** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30pm and 3.30pm and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am and 2.00pm.

**Upbeat Beatles** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm

**Ballet Theatre UK Presents A Midsummer Night's Dream**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00pm.



**At thescreen Stortford:**

**NT Live: Young Marx (15)** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.00pm

**My Little Pony: The Movie (U) Kids for a Quid** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 11.00am

**Beauty and the Beast (PG) Sing-A-Long** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am and 1.30pm

**At themuseum Stortford:**

**St Valentine's Day Craft Workshop** Monday 12<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Drop in Sessions 11.00am-3.00pm

Liz Murphy  
Tel: 710200

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 3.00pm Saffron Hall**

Back by popular demand, we will be presenting an afternoon of **film music** featuring scores from some of your favourite movies. There'll be plenty of tunes to whistle on the way home as we take you on a tour of some of the greatest films ever made with music by some of the greatest composers ever to write for the silver screen. The programme is currently expected to include: *Ben Hur Overture*, *Lord of the Rings Suite*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Out of Africa*, *Up!*, *Braveheart*, *Wallace and Gromit*, and more ..!! Tickets: adults £15 or £18, under 18s £3 from Saffron Walden Tourist Information tel 01799 524002, Saffron Hall tel 0845 548 7650, online [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) or on the door.

Marion Dyer



[www.musicatstansted.co.uk](http://www.musicatstansted.co.uk)

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm St John's Church**

The Chinese-born pianist **Chenyin Li** is well known to many of us since she lives locally, teaches at Bishop's Stortford College, and has performed for us in Stansted before. Chenyin is internationally acknowledged as one of the most exciting and sought-after musicians of her generation. Her programme includes Rachmaninov: Preludes in C sharp minor, D major, C minor, G minor, and B flat major; Beethoven: Sonata in C major Opus 53 *Waldstein*; Three traditional Chinese song transcriptions; Stravinsky: three movements from *Petrushka*. Tickets: adults £15, over 60s and students £12, under 18s free are available from Absolute Travel, Nockolds Bishop's Stortford, Sonia tel 815282, or on the door.



[www.stansted10k.org.uk](http://www.stansted10k.org.uk)

The 2018 event is on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June** from Bentfield Green. The one mile run starts at 10.00am and the 10k run at 11.00am. Runners and walkers all welcome. **Entry fees:** adult online advance £12; cash on the day £15; family online advance £30; cash on the day £36; the one mile run is £3 cash on the day only. All under-12s must be accompanied in both races. There are various trophies including the U12 winner of the one mile. All proceeds will go equally to Huw Johnson Club, the Essex branch of Alzheimers, and Grove Cottage. Please support this great village event in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year. The course is a challenging multi-terrain one over picturesque public and privately owned land. If you do not want to participate but would like to get involved there are plenty of volunteering opportunities; please contact me for more information.



Caroline Bore  
Tel: 813938  
Email: [carolinebore@gmail.com](mailto:carolinebore@gmail.com)

## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK	Vivian Falk, Chairman
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Arts Club	Michelle Wray Tel: 07528 317907 Email: michelle.wrayj@gmail.com	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie, Hon Secretary Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	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)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	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 Badminton Club	Vince Tel: 07793 000107 Raj Tel: 07775 915418
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Steve Turrell Tel: 07519 572642	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Explorer Scouts	Vic Clarke Tel: 07903 413217	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Oilly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Grove Cottage	Andrea Charity Tel: 656085/ 07795 483674	Tennis Club	Chris Hollis Tel: 319155 Email: chris.hollis2@btinternet.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis, District Commissioner Tel: 814434	U3A	Helen, Chair Tel: 812945
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Brenda Ryan, President Tel: 812725
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Inner Wheel Club	Jenny Savage, President Tel: 656065	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
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](mailto: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.



## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.pitchero.com/clubs/stanstedfc2011

There was a distinct lack of activity on the field during the final two months of 2017, due to snow and rain. This meant that almost all of our scheduled league fixtures for that period were postponed. Off the field our teams have been busily recruiting players to bolster squads ahead of what will now be a busy schedule. With only 12 weeks of the season remaining, both teams will be playing a number of mid-week fixtures alongside the normal Saturday games just to complete their respective leagues. The break in play, however, has helped those players who had injuries to gradually recover with thanks to our Club Physio, Lisa Mills, who has worked hard to get them back to full fitness. With our league position not being its best for a number of seasons now, the First Team players are all working hard to improve results in the remaining games. With the non-league structures being reviewed nationally by the FA, the Club does not want to be in the position whereby relegation to a new proposed regional league is forced upon us.

Below are our fixtures at Hargrave Park for the month of February. All support is greatly appreciated by the players.

Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thurrock Reserves	KO 2.00pm
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Clapton	KO 3.00pm
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Grays Athletic Reserves	KO 2.00pm
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Woodford Town Reserves	KO 2.00pm
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Hackney Wick	KO 7.45pm

Note that if you are looking for a venue to hold a function our fully licensed Clubhouse is available to hire; holding up to 100 guests you can dance away to either a band or disco, enjoy a range of drinks and the Clubhouse is completely your own private function. Contact me for more details



Tom Williams  
Secretary  
Tel: 07921 403842



## Stansted Cricket Club

After both our teams suffered relegation in 2017, the Club has decided to enter our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI into the Cambridgeshire Cricket Association (CCA) Junior League Division 5 South for the 2018 season. We hope that the level of competition might be slightly lower and better suited to our combination of veterans and promising young players and that visiting lots of different grounds will spark new interest. CCA Division 5 South will comprise eight teams, so we will play 14 matches this year (rather than 18 in HECL). The other teams are: Elmdon II, Sawston & Babraham IV, Thriplow IV, Linton III, Abington III, Royston III and Weston Colville II. Our 1<sup>st</sup> XI will continue to be members of the Herts & Essex Cricket League (HECL) and will play in HECL Division 2. 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



## STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

At the Club's AGM in November the following positions on the Committee were elected:

Chairperson and Green Keeper - John Scraggs  
Men's Captain - Stephen Hill  
Men's Vice Captain - John Scraggs  
Ladies' Captain - Margaret Hill  
Seniors' Captain and Bar Steward - John Pullin  
President - John Hollis  
Treasurer - Michael Shewry  
Hon Secretary - Peter Beattie  
Fixture Secretary - Jim Rodgers  
Committee Members - Ed Taub and Reg Butcher

The 2018 season commences in April but before then we shall be having our regular Open Day for prospective new members to try their hand at bowling. The Club always welcomes new members, whether you are a regular player or someone new to the sport. You can also join the Club as a social member where you get to enjoy our Clubhouse's fully licensed bar, at greatly reduced prices in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere; or just have a friendly game of darts or carpet bowls during closed season, or alfresco on a bowls day or evening. Give it a try, contact us and we will help you wherever we can. Watch this space for upcoming dates at the Club.

Peter Beattie  
Hon Secretary  
Tel: 07850 329192  
Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com

## Stansted Tennis Club



### Christmas Celebrations

About 20 members got together in mid-December for a pre-Christmas drink at the Cork House. A good night was had by all! On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed by players at the Friday morning adult Club session. Many thanks to Diane Brown for organising.

### Ladies' Night

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February from 7.00pm. All lady members are welcome to come along and play.

### Annual General Meeting

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 8.00pm at 105 Cambridge Road. All current members are welcome to attend.

### Used tennis balls

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

### Contacts

Jon Budd, Secretary 647020, Chris Hollis, Chairman 319155.



Chris Hollis

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