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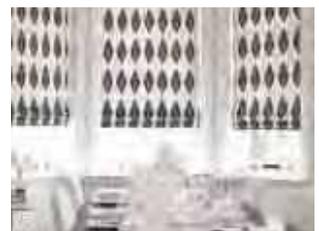
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The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

Editor:
Ken Whyne
01279 816084
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

Advertising:
Mike and Marion Dyer
01279 814059
adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk

Distribution Queries:
David Horton
01279 813680
distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk

Treasurer:
Alan Wheeler
01279 813745
accounts@stanstedlink.org.uk

Directors:
Yvonne Ayres
Susan Bone
Catherine Dean
Marion Dyer
Mike Dyer
Sarah Ludlow-Elston
Elizabeth Oakley
Dick Pollard

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EDITORIAL



According to the latest Halifax Quality of Life Survey, Uttlesford is one of the best places to live in the United Kingdom and rated the best location in the East of England. As one of the main communities in Uttlesford, Stansted Mountfitchet is an attractive, friendly village with a rich history. What makes this village so special for you? **We invite you to go out and capture the beauty of Stansted in pictures** on page 7. A highly regarded member of our community and a volunteer on *The Link* for many years, Tony Butcher is warmly remembered on page 9. "A world class education is a must for our children", says Barbara Young, the new Headteacher of St Mary's School on page 17. For the latest news from the Parish Council regarding the Crafton Green Community project and other local updates turn to page 21. If you would like to know more about your family history, Peter Calver has some interesting research tips for you on page 37. Finally, read about the wonderful help and support offered to local people by the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity on page 39.

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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 9th May for the June issue or by hand/post by noon on 7th May to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

At this time of year, the Church encourages us to think of transformation. A few years ago, the BBC ran a series of episodes on the last week of the life of Jesus called 'The Passion'. The actor who played Jesus up to the crucifixion was Joseph Mawle. But, what was both significant and somewhat disconcerting, was that the director decided that appearances of the Post Resurrection Jesus in the final episode were to be played by other actors. This had the effect of confusing the viewers and making them wonder whether this person was the same Jesus as they had previously seen.

As a result, it became a very clever artistic device as it led the spectator to experience the similar bewilderment of the disciples when they initially encountered the great miracle of the risen Lord. We are told that Mary thought he was the gardener and that the two disciples on the way to Emmaus walked with him some distance, conversing with him without recognising him until he broke bread with them. Yet it was this acceptance of his transformation from the Jesus that they knew and loved to the risen Lord which became the reality of the Churches' faith for the past 2000 years.

David Morson
St Theresa's Church

ROMAN CATHOLIC St Therese of Lisieux

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

Priest	Father John Garrett	
Office	Tel: 816889 Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org	
Masses	Saturday	6.00pm
	Sunday	10.00am
	Holy Days of Obligation	8.00am and 7.30pm
	Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri	9.30am
Confessions	Saturday 10.00am and by appointment	
Baptisms	By appointment	



SHALOM

Our next meeting is on Monday 14th May 8.00pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens when Rev'd Stuart Veitch will be leading a bible study and discussion on Luke 14: 26 *Teasing out the Truth in the Bible*. There is no *At Home* on 28th May as it is a Bank Holiday.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



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 Barbora Dragoskove
Tel (with answerphone): 815243
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Tuesday

9.15am St John's Tots

Wednesday

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.



ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the March draw:

£100 No 271 Gina Thomas
 £50 No 184 Sandra Embleton
 £25 No 29 Mary Greaves

The draw for May will be held on **Sunday 27th May** in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. The new year for the 300 Club started on 1st May and will run until **Thursday 30th April 2019**. Renewal forms have been sent to everyone who paid by cheque or cash for the previous year and we thank you for supporting us in the forthcoming year. There are still numbers available for anyone who may wish to join and be in with a chance to win one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away each year. In addition, the Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church. Numbers cost £2 each per month with a maximum of five numbers per household. Please contact either myself or Katy Dockerill on 812997 for an application form.



Ann Lee
 Tel: 813310

From St John's Registers

March

Baptism

18th Ava Rapkin

April

Baptisms

8th Emily Sophia Atkinson
 Gracie May Gordon-Kenworthy
 Kirsten-Eve Crane-Ward
 Lexi Jo Amanda Crane
 Emma Jade Crane
 Poppy Ann Nina Crouch
 Lucas James Kenneth Crouch

Funerals

12th Joanne Marie Welsh, age 43 - at St Mary's
 14th John Anthony Weeks Butcher, age 84 - at Cam Valley followed by memorial service at St John's
 19th Peter James Crisp, age 86 - at St Mary's



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 there will be some flexibility over dates so please contact us directly if you are not on our emailing list. @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. Contact us for venues, and topics. If you would like to join a prayer walk, or have a prayer-request, please contact us.



Ros and Howard Page

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

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

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

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am every week

Light Group 10.30am-12 noon 12th May. The (Guided Meditation) '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 FREE CHURCH
 Methodist / URC
 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AG
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

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

Preachers for May

6th 10.30am Nicola Grieves - New Directions
 13th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion
 20th 10.30am Julie Finbow
 27th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler

BRITISH RED CROSS TEA PARTY

A reminder of our fundraising Tea Party on **Wednesday 9th May** from 3.00pm in the Day Centre, Crafton Green. Tickets cost £6 each and are available from me or Rosina Kirkwood (816916). This is part of National Red Cross Week and proceeds will go to the British Red Cross - helping people in crisis.



Christine Stiles
 Tel: 813172

Many thanks to all who came to our AGM on 23rd March. We kept to time and enjoyed a quiz hosted by Ben Sammons. Our thanks to him for an entertaining evening and also to Churchills for the super supper.

Our first Champers have stayed overnight inside the church and, although cold, they enjoyed waking up in our beautiful church. We have Champers booked in well into August. For those of you that don't know, Champing is camping in ancient churches and is an idea that has been running for a few years now. This is our first season and I am thrilled that we have been included this year. For details go to the www.champing.co.uk website.

Tickets have now arrived for *thisismytheatre* which is on Friday 1st and Tuesday 12th June for 'A Mid-Summer Night's Dream'. Tickets: adults £12.50, children under 16 £5.00 and Friends of St Mary's Church £10.00. Don't miss out on a fantastic evening of theatre right here on your doorstep. Contact me for tickets or from www.thisismytheatre.com.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474



Grove Cottage is delighted to announce that it has received £3,946 from Tesco's *Bags of Help* community grant scheme. This will be used to help fund our Speech and Language Therapy programme, which delivers one-to-one support for children and young people with learning disabilities. *Bags of Help* is run in partnership with the environmental charity Groundwork, and sees grants raised from the sale of carrier bags awarded to thousands of local community projects every year. Since its launch in 2015, it has provided more than £48 million to over 13,000 local community projects. Tesco customers get the chance to vote for three different groups each time they shop. Every other month, when votes are collected, three groups in each of Tesco's regions are awarded funding. Voting ran in stores throughout January and February with customers choosing which local project they would like to get the top award, using a token given to them at the checkout.

Groundwork's National Chief Executive, Graham Duxbury, said: "*Bags of Help* continues to enable local communities up and down the UK to improve the local spaces and places that matter to them. The diversity of projects that are being funded shows that local communities have a passion to create something great in their area. We are pleased to be able to be a part of the journey and to provide support and encouragement to help local communities thrive." Funding is available to community groups and charities looking to sponsor local projects which bring benefits to communities. Anyone can nominate a project and organisations can apply online. To find out more visit www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp.

Rosie Wren
Fundraising Manager
Tel: 07710 699574
Email: rosie@mencapgrovecottage.org

ST CLARE WILLS MONTH

To mark St Clare's *Wills Month* the Hospice is reminding people that writing your will is one of the most important things you can do to ensure that your family is cared for and that it is never too soon to start thinking about it. Making a will is something which St Clare Voluntary Services Manager, Rob Wallace, admits that he and his wife, Emma, had never really thought about until they had their second baby. Rob, said "Now that my lovely little family is growing, I feel a huge amount of responsibility to ensure that our new baby Alicia, and our son Jack, are protected should anything happen to me or Emma. I really encourage others to take part in Wills Month this June. If there is a right time to write or amend your will, for me it had to be in support of St Clare!"



From 1st to 30th June, over a dozen local solicitors are volunteering their time to enable you to make your Will. All that they request is that you kindly make the suggested minimum donation to St Clare Hospice of £180 for a Single Will and £250 for a Double Will.

The participating solicitors include:

Heckford Norton, 18 Hill Street, **Saffron Walden** CB10 1JD
Tel: 01799 522636
Foot Taylor, 42 High St, **Dunmow** CM6 1AH Tel: 01371 875200
Wade & Davies, 28 High St, **Dunmow** CM6 1AH Tel: 01371 872816
Foskett Marr Gadsby and Head LLP, 181 High Street, **Epping** CM16 4BQ Tel: 01992 578642
Whiskers Solicitors LLP, 265 High Street, **Epping** CM16 4BS
Tel: 01992 561111
Harris Cuffaro and Nichols, Lion Court, 8-10 Market Street, **Harlow** CM17 0AH Tel: 01279 444456
Stapley and Co, 141A High Rd, **Loughton** IG10 4LT Tel: 020 8502 1934
Appointments are limited. For more information please contact Corporate Partnerships Manager, Amy Jacobs on 773758 or email: amy.jacobs@stclarehospice.org.uk.

Rebecca Hedges
Communications Manager
Tel: 773752
Email: Rebecca.Hedges@stclarehospice.org.uk



Stansted Millers

Race Night

7.30 for 8 pm Sat 5th May
Day Centre

Tickets £10 (byo drinks)
incl Fish & Chip Supper
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*Come and join us for a fun
evening - all welcome*



Stansted Windmill

Open Days

1.30 - 5.30 pm

Sun 6th & Mon 7th May

Sat 12th & Sun 13th May
(National Mills Weekend)

Sun 27th & Mon 28th May
(Bank Holiday Weekend)



Green Waste Skip Dates

Lower Street Car Park
Sundays 12.30 - 4.30 pm

May 6th & 20th
June 3rd & 17th

WHAT'S ON IN MAY

1	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
2	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
3	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 7.45 for 8 pm
4	Fri	Business Forum Breakfast	Linden House 7 for 7.30 am
5	Sat	Millers' Race Night	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
6 & 20	Sun	Garden Waste Skips	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
6 Sun / 7 Mon		Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
8	Tue	RSPB	B S Community Centre 7.30 pm
9	Wed	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
		Red Cross Tea Party	Day Centre 3 - 5 pm
10	Thu	Stansted W I AGM	Day Centre 7.30 pm
12	Sat	Christian Aid Big Brekkie	Free Church Hall 10 am - noon
		Forest Hall School May Fayre	School fields noon - 4 pm
		Granta Chorale Concert	Saffron Hall 7.30 pm
12 Sat / 13 Sun		Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
13 & 27	Sun	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
14	Mon	Ladies' Night	Tennis Club 7 pm
		Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
15	Tue	CAMEO Quiz Night	Day Centre 7 pm
17	Thu	Stansted U3A AGM	St John's Hall 1.30 pm
19	Sat	Bentfield Mayfair Street Party	Bentfield School 12.30 - 3.30 pm
20	Sun	Open Day and Dog Show	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 5 pm
		Messy Church	St Mary's School 3.30 - 5 pm
22	Tue	Hearing Help	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Inner Wheel	Day Centre 7.30 pm
27 Sun / 28 Mon		Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm



BritishRedCross TEA PARTY

3 - 5 pm Wed 9th May

Day Centre

Tickets £6 from
Christine 813172 or Rosina 816916

*Part of National Red Cross Week
Proceeds to British Red Cross
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10 am - noon Sat 12th May

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Sunday 20th May

11.30 am - 5 pm (last entry 4.00 pm)

Music by the Rock Choir

Dog Show from 12.15 pm

Entry: Adults £4.50 Children Free
Dog Classes £1

Dogs must be on leads

Bacon rolls until 2.15 pm

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Stansted Messy Church

3.30 - 5 pm Sun 20th May

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www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch

Forest Hall School PTA



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Noon - 4 pm Sat 12th May

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Entry: Adults £1, Under 18s free

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Bentfield Primary School PTA

12.30 - 3.30 pm Sat 19th May

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UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

10 am - noon Sat 19th May

Ugley Village Hall



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Preserves ~ Fruit & Veg ~ Fresh Pasta
Bread ~ Cakes ~ Chocolates ~ Cards
Ceramics ~ Plants ~ Skincare
Knitting & Needlework

Refreshments with cake and bacon rolls

Free Parking ~ All Welcome

GRANTA CHORALE

The Pepys Show

Purcell, Holst, Tallis, Chilcott

Saturday 12th May 7.30 pm
Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

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Registered Chiropractors & Physiotherapists

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BUPA and AXA/PPP

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Shockwave now available

CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET IN PICTURES

What makes Stansted Mountfitchet so special to you? Is it the countryside and beauty of mother nature all around us, or the familiar iconic landmarks in the village? Could it be the warmth and kindness of the community? *They say a picture is worth a thousand words - well we want to hear from you in pictures!* Please send us your photographs of Stansted, so that we can start sharing and enjoying the beauty of this lovely village in The Link Magazine.

Here are three examples of cover pictures which have featured in recent issues of The Link, to show you the sort of photograph we are looking for.



Ken Whyne
Editor

Email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk



An invitation to Breakfast

Join us on Saturday 12th May between 10.00am and noon in Stansted Free Church Hall for a *Big Brekkie*. We'll be serving delicious bacon butties amongst other breakfast goodies and raising money to help fight poverty and injustice.

Christian Aid Safeguarding

In the light of recent cases of sexual misconduct in the charity sector, Christian Aid has said the following: "We believe that any abuse of power, including sexual violence or harassment, is totally unacceptable. As a sector, we need to be willing to recognise that this is an issue that affects us all. We will continue to work with staff and our local partners to root out any attitudes and behaviours that support such breaches of trust. We must not let the actions of a few stop us from providing vital support and help to those most in need."

What did Christian Aid do in Haiti when Hurricane Matthew struck in 2016?

Christian Aid has been working in Haiti through local partners since the 1980s. These local partners help people prepare for and respond to disasters. Ahead of Hurricane Matthew they were able to warn local communities, helping evacuate around 5,000 families and saving many lives. In the immediate aftermath people were helped with shelter kits, hygiene kits, food seeds and cash transfers. The work in Haiti continues including building disaster-resistant homes to give people safe, secure places to live. Find out more about this work at the *Big Brekkie*.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

THE SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

There have been a few changes to the internal layout of the Club over the last few weeks. We have also changed the furniture, making it much easier to rearrange the seating for events and coffee mornings. It should also feel a bit warmer as the main radiators were behind the fitted benches, so not much heat got through! Talking of heating, we had to use some of the tower funds to replace the boiler and the chiller in the cellar. Our existing equipment was very old and pretty much on its last legs. Fortunately, we received a Government grant that helped to pay the bill. You may have seen a 'cherry-picker' crane outside the Club recently as our trusty weather vane finally gave up and was in danger of falling. As things stand, we won't be putting it back up until the tower has been restored. Membership renewals have been flooding in and we wanted to thank everybody for renewing so quickly. We are also delighted to welcome a lot of new members to the Club. If you are interested in joining, annual membership is only £25 and gives you access to great company, great drinks and some of the best local bands around.

Our live music entertainment in May sees *SCAM 69* making their debut appearance on Saturday 5th. They are not to be missed if you like your punk rock and new wave played loud and proud! We also have *Cadance* on 19th, *Noble Ox* on 26th and our monthly karaoke on Sunday 27th. Always check our Facebook page or website for changes or additions to the schedule. Finally, as well as pool, darts and snooker we also have a thriving golf society and a fledgling angling group. Don't forget our weekly prize bingo at 8.00pm every Tuesday!

Andrew Sharpe
Tel: 812992

Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com

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IN MEMORIAM
JOHN ANTHONY BUTCHER

'Tony'

2nd March 1933 – 6th February 2018



A Memorial Service was held on 14th March at St John's Church for Tony, who for many years was involved in the monthly production of *The Link* magazine. Tony grew up in Totteridge, North London. He studied Electrical Engineering at Queen Mary College, before joining Standard Telephones and Cables (later Nortel), where he would spend his entire 40-year career. It was truly an inspiring time to be an engineer - Tony's work touched on the early days of computing, recording techniques, video technology and mobile phones. One highlight for him was working for Tommy Flowers (of *Colossus* Bletchley Park fame).

Tony and Eirwen joined the St John's Church congregation in 1966, having married on Midsummer Day 1961 in London. Tony served on the Parochial Church Council for a number of years, and over the last two decades helped to maintain the church sound system. Upon retirement in 1995, Tony volunteered his services to *The Link* magazine. Regular attendees at the Wednesday morning communion, Tony and Eirwen also enjoyed frequent walks around the village, pub lunches and watching the rugby. Tony is much missed by his wife Eirwen and their sons Jon and Matt.

Jon Butcher



ST CLARE HOSPICE QUIZ

The recent quiz proved to be a great success, raising a wonderful £726 for its patients. Many thanks to Tesco and the Co-op for contributing to the Ploughman's Supper. Thanks also to the generous quizzers who supported the much smaller event this year, to the helpers who kindly gave their time, and to Gill Robinson, our quizmaster, who returned to Stansted from Southwold to do the honours. The Hospice is really appreciative of everyone involved.



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



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

The speaker at the March meeting was Vic Botterill who gave an interesting talk entitled *If only I'd said*. He addressed various situations, with which many of us have probably found ourselves having to deal at some point. These included how to resist attempts to manipulate you, getting the best deals, coping with a negative situation and how to say No effectively! The Saturday Seminar on 17th March was about *Genetic Genealogy*, presented by Peter Calver, founder of www.lostcousins.com (see Family History article page 37). He began by explaining how the science of DNA testing has developed, so that today the identification of different components of DNA can assist with various questions: not only ancestry, but ethnicity and health issues. The discovery of the inherited difference between male and female DNA can assist and link with basic research into records and names, often giving vital clues about family connections and missing details. Basically, we are all one big family!

If you have not yet renewed your membership or have not received your new card, please contact Carole Crosby via the website, or at the next meeting. This will be our AGM meeting on Thursday 17th May at 1.30pm, so hopefully we will have a good attendance to elect a new Committee. Entertainment will be provided by the esteemed *U3A Strummers*. As always, we welcome news and photos for the website. The Spring Newsletter will be printed at the end of May so please send any news, views activities and photos via the website before 25th May.

Contact details: Stansted Mountfitchet U3A, c/o Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, Stansted, CM24 8AG. Tel: Helen (Chair) 812945, Liz (Secretary) 813270. Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com.



Suzanne Parra



UGLEY
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our last meeting was Jean Reay, a very well-travelled lady. Her subject: a recent trip to Burma. From our seats in the village hall we were transported to the far eastern country of Burma as we listened to her vivid descriptions of this beautiful, fascinating part of the world. She had always wanted to visit Burma after seeing the film *The Bridge over the River Kwai* and last year her wish was fulfilled. She introduced us to bazaars, workshops, streets, alleyways and markets and took us on a tour of the dazzling gilded temples. We travelled along the road to Mandalay and enjoyed a trip on the river. She brought a very entertaining afternoon to a close by judging our competition for a souvenir of the Far East.

Our May meeting is the AGM but the speaker at our June meeting, to be held on Wednesday 20th June at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall, will be Lynn Croot who will be speaking on the subject of *Tobago*, her Island paradise. Why not come along and meet her? You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

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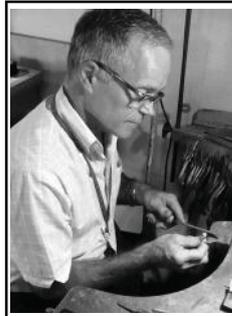
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RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley/events/

Our next monthly meeting on Tuesday 8th May 7.30pm at Bishop's Park Community Centre, Lancaster Way, Bishop's Stortford (next to Tesco) will be a talk entitled *A bird's-eye view of the RSPB in the Thames Estuary* by Rolf Williams. A fascinating and really different talk, Rolf introduces the wild-life, management and surprising history of the North Kent Marshes from a bird's eye view! Over a period of five years, Rolf took microlight flights over the marshes, recording the landscape for the RSPB. Stretching from Gravesend to Whitstable, the marshes were created by the Romans, farmed by the Saxons, written about by Dickens and echoed to the voice of Roosevelt! Today the marshes and other parts of the estuaries accommodate 300,000 wintering wild-fowl and waders as well as breeding marsh harriers. But change is afoot and what does the future hold? Entry is £3.00 for Stort Valley members, £5.00 for visitors.



This month we have a Group Weekend Trip on the **12th-13th May** to the North West, Dee Estuary. Meet at 10.30am on the Saturday at RSPB Burton Mere which is like a mini Minsmere on the Dee estuary, with a mix of woodlands and marshland scrapes. Later in the afternoon we move north up the estuary to the village of Parkgate. Parking on the seafront, we can have an ice cream while birding the salt marsh. Lee saw hen harrier and great white egret last time he was there. On Sunday meet at the wonderful WWT Martin Mere at 10.30am. This is a large reserve with many hides and a great café. Make your own accommodation arrangements, add on days before or after, come for one day or both days. For more information contact Lee Jaques on 07454 801894.

Sheila Bowles
Tel: 814973

LADIES OF A CERTAIN AGE

Did you know, ladies, that there is a fitness class for the over 50s on Thursdays 2.25pm-3.25pm in the Free Church Hall? We have a qualified, insured instructor, and all capabilities are catered for. Contact me for more information.



Brenda Ryan
Tel: 812725

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



Debbie Skeete brought a flavour of Barbados to our March meeting, with her talk entitled *Beautiful Barbados*. There was rum cake for all to try and sorrel drink, which is traditionally made at Christmas time. Debbie's parents came over from Barbados in the 60s; her mother was a nurse. Debbie lives here in the UK but manages to visit her homeland twice a year. Barbados is one of the smallest islands in the Caribbean: 21 miles long and 14 miles wide and has a population of approximately 284,000. It apparently has such a high number of centenarians that a special postage stamp was issued to celebrate this in January 2018. She says it has been attributed to their natural diet and lack of processed food. Bajans eat a lot of fish which is not surprising and maybe don't indulge in too much sugar, despite being high producers.

Barbados was discovered in 1537 by the Portuguese who were on their way to Brazil; claimed for King James I by an English sea captain in 1625 and two years later 80 settlers from England were sent out and established the Church of England there. Many place names are English and it is still known as 'Little England'. Later, Jewish settlers arrived and established synagogues in Bridgetown. Barbados is divided into 11 Parishes. The population these days is mainly black, descendants of the slave trade. In the 19th century each slave received compensation: a small token for the years of suffering. Debbie's great grandmother was a slave and had a child by a ranch owner at St Nicholas Abbey. Debbie made all of us want to visit this place, which has so many memories both good and bad. They celebrated 50 years of Independence in 2016, when Prince Harry went around the islands. Sir Garfield Sobers, their wonderful cricketer, still holds the record for hitting the most sixes in one over! He is 81 now and still active in cricket. Sir Cliff Richard lives there; perhaps he's hoping for longevity!

We had a trip to see *42nd Street* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, which we all greatly enjoyed: an amazing energetic production and there was Lulu, now aged 70, still belting out a song! Thursday 10th May 7.30pm at the Day Centre is our Annual Meeting which includes the election of a new Committee and discussion of the proposed resolution for National AGM which is focusing on Mental Health Matters. All are welcome.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

THE ST JOHN'S ROAD AND AREA ASSOCIATION

The St Johns Road and Area Association gives notice that its Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st May at 8.00pm in St John's Church Hall. All members are encouraged to attend. Any member who would like to assist on the Committee please contact me.

Leila Riddell
Secretary
Tel: 07770 955830

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www.birchangerwoodtrust.org

The Merry Month of May, is a poem by Thomas Dekker (1572-1632). His third verse, first line is: "But O, I spy the cuckoo, the cuckoo, the cuckoo". Now, when did you last hear the cuckoo? Sadly, these very interesting birds with their evocative call have all but disappeared from this part of England. Will the buzzards have nested in Birchanger Wood? When will my 40-year regular April swallow visitation arrive? Considering the very variable weather, this is very debatable. And my fourth question is: Are you reading this article? Do you have any photographs of Birchanger Wood: trees, the animals, birds, flowers? Please, I would love to have them to put on the website.



Birchanger Wood in April and we should have seen a magnificent display of white wood anemones; in May, the bluebells should be in full flower. Elsewhere in local woodland, particularly in the Ash valley the ransom will be flowering: *wild garlic!* Very beautiful to look at but yes they do smell of, and can be used as, garlic. Now, don't say you don't learn bits and pieces from these articles. Now begin to think of June; not in Birchanger Wood, but elsewhere in the hedgerows. Think about collecting the elderberry flowers: elderflower wine is slightly effervescent (fizzy), or elderflower cordial? Beautiful and just the thing for a summer drink in the garden. We are so lucky having Birchanger Wood on our doorstep, as not everyone can go and take a short, or long, stroll out in local woodland with your family and friends and come home still looking spick and span. Please do enjoy our lovely ancient woodland: free to you all, of all abilities, for exercise and solace.

I report that, sadly, Fred Strong died recently. He supported Birchanger Wood when he was on the Bishop's Stortford Town Council and was a trustee and representative for Parsonage Ward until his death.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Email: secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org

GRANTA CHORALE

THE PEPYS SHOW

Saturday 12th May 7.30pm Saffron Hall

Please join Granta Chorale's entertainment for all ages in words and music. Writer Nick Warburton as the affable Samuel Pepys leads us into his world of Restoration London. With extracts from his diary and other anecdotes, he introduces a wide range of choral music, including pieces from Pepys' own time such as Purcell's *Hear my Prayer* and *Fairest Isle*, as well as music from other eras which links to Pepysian themes, such as Holst's *I Love my Love* and *Swansea Fair* and music by Tallis and Orban. Among more recent works is Bob Chilcott's *Songs and Cries of London Town* which is a highly melodic cycle of five songs in which guest performers **SignuptoSing** (the youth choir of Saffron Walden Choral Society) join Granta Chorale with piano duet accompaniment from Richard Carr and Sarah Cattley. The momentous diary years from 1660 and the spirit of London are brought to life through an eclectic mix of speech and song. Tickets: adults £14, under 18s £4 from www.saffronhall.com or from Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre tel 01799 524002.

Sue Sylvester-Bradley

DAVID'S MARATHON FUNDRAISING

Snow didn't stop the show!

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/daveayres

Despite Saturday 17th March being freezing cold with frequent snow flurries, the Fundraising day was a success and an incredible £1000 was raised for our son David, who is running the London Marathon on behalf of the Stroke Association (see March Link). A huge thank you to the few who braved the elements to attend the event, to the helpers on the day, and to all who made donations. Congratulations to Brian Quinn who was the lucky winner of the prize hamper. You can still donate online using the website shown above. Your support is much appreciated.



Keith and Sandra Ayres

Tel: 814471

Email: sandra@ayres.co.uk

EDDIE LAIRD HAS MOVED

Eddie would like his many friends and acquaintances to know that he has now moved to Room 5 in Hargrave House, Cambridge Road, tel 817272. He looks forward to seeing his many friends from the village.

Tony Graver



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

Before the Easter holidays, the children were busy trying out the different role-play activities set up for them within the classroom: a doctors' surgery, a hairdressers, a grocery shop, a vets' surgery and a café. They really enjoyed their role-play and it encouraged lots of opportunities for turn-taking and sharing with their friends. The staff decided they would like to extend the learning of the Adventurers children by taking them to a real café where they could have a snack. We would like to say a big 'Thank You' to Craig and all the wonderful staff at Yeomans, in Lower Street, who very kindly agreed to help us out. Accompanied by members of staff, the children went in small groups to the café where they were able to order their drink (water or milk) and biscuit and then pay when they had finished. All the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The children really enjoyed making Easter cards and on the last day before the holidays, they all took part in an Easter Egg hunt. Moving into the summer term, the Adventurers group are busy preparing for their transition to big school, with lunch club on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and our exciting PE sessions ably led by Sarah. They will also be meeting their new



teachers when they come to visit us at pre-school. 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

STANSTED DAY CENTRE

Easter was celebrated here on Thursday 29th March at The Day Centre with a special meal. Sunny daffodils and baskets of chocolate eggs adorned the tables. The traditional lamb roast was delicious followed by a zingy lemon cheesecake. To add that special touch, the meal was complimented by sparkling perry or elderflower pressé. During March we had another celebration; it was the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Jean and Brian who received a congratulations card from the Queen. We all wish them many more happy years together. The Day Centre now has an electric piano available for any of our musicians to enjoy playing. The piano was

kindly donated by Mary Oakley on behalf of Pat, who spent many happy times at the Day Centre.

Hopefully by now, you have noticed bright yellow posters around the village inviting you to join us for a midday two-course meal for £5.50. If you are over 55, remember you can always just pop in to see us for a hot drink and a chat. Iris, one of our very loyal Day Centre volunteers, makes tasty fruit and cheese scones. Definitely worth calling in to try, so we look forward to meeting you. *'Just one small step can lead you onto a path where miracles do happen'*. The Day Centre is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am-2.00pm. Lunch is served at 12.30pm. Booking is required before 11.00am on the day.

Angela Hall
Tel: 815091

Email: stansteddaycentre@gmail.com

LOCAL MP VISITS FOREST HALL SCHOOL



Kemi Badenoch, Conservative MP for Saffron Walden, is touring schools in her constituency to get a feel for education and the challenges facing schools today. She visited Forest Hall School and met with members of the Student Senior Leadership Team, including Head Boy William Chapman and Head Girl Sophie Lloyd-Rossi. After finding out about the school's unique curriculum – where students begin to gain GCSE grades from Year 9, 100-minute lessons and Saturday school, Ms Badenoch took a tour of the school. She saw lessons in all faculties in full swing, as well as finding out more about the school's Dyslexia Support Unit, which enables children from across Essex to study in a mainstream school while receiving the necessary support to achieve highly.

Head Boy William told the MP about the new Student Executive Team, which will be selected soon from students in Years 7 to 11, to take on responsibilities around the school. Ms Badenoch said: "Every school is so different; what is happening in one is not necessarily comparable to others. For me, this is about finding out what students feel about school and what the challenges are. School is very different from when I was a child, and my own children are only one and four, so it is a way of understanding how things are today in schools. That's why these visits are so important. I have not seen any other school with a Student Executive Team, so everyone has their own ideas. I really enjoyed my visit to Forest Hall".

Of the school's three-year journey of transformation since it joined the Burnt Mill Academy Trust (BMAT), William said: "Forest Hall has changed a lot – and all for the better. Everything is more education focused". Lottie Whitmell, deputy head girl, said: "A lot more opportunities have come to us since the arrival of BMAT. There are a lot of music and sporting activities for us to get involved with, as well as links with other schools so our knowledge of post-16 options is widened". Anna Myatt, Co-Head, said: "We hope our visitor enjoyed seeing what it is we are doing which makes Forest Hall a unique option for secondary school education in the area".

Kelly Clark
Tel: 01245 237751 or 07979 811580



STANSTED SCOUTS

New Beaver section

Due to bursting at the seams in the Beaver Colony, we have recently opened up a new Monday 5.30pm early evening Colony run by Emma Croutcher. Emma has many years' experience and was very willing to step forward and join us. The new Beaver Scouts have been getting to know each other and will all be invested by the time you read this. For more information email us or use the contacts in The Link's local clubs contact pages.

New Treasurer

Want to be part of our expanding Scout Group? After 11 years as 1st Stansted Scout Group's Treasurer, Pat Ryan is standing down. Pat is willing to see you into the role and give any assistance you may need. The Group would like to thank Pat for his excellent work as our Treasurer leaving us in a much better financial position than when he took over. Anyone who would like to take on the role or maybe talk about what is required should ring either Pat on 812725 or email us.

Mike Byrne
Scout Leader
Tel: 812780

Email: stanstedscouts@hotmail.co.uk



Backpacking Trip

1st Stansted Scouts entered two teams of four into this year's *County Backpack* event run by Essex Scouts: a two-day challenge involving camping, hiking and cooking. Friday evening and eight eager Scouts left for Thorington Scout Campsite. We arrived after dark and had to put the tents up (challenging in dark woodland!). A hot meal was provided followed by a safety briefing and planning for Saturday's hike. An early morning start saw 66 teams set off (380 young people); each team was given a checkpoint to hike to and then complete a challenge. The individual team decides which checkpoint they want to hike to, the idea being to get to as many as possible and back to HQ before 5.00pm. Each checkpoint has a different challenge: Morse code, cooking a hot meal, obstacle courses balancing marbles on a chopping board, tying knots and many more. Points are scored for completion of the challenges and how accurately their route cards have been filled out.

On Saturday evening we all enjoyed a hot meal, a game of cards by torchlight and then bed. It was a very cold night; the clocks altered and Sunday's hike started 1½ hours earlier

at 8.00am, so some very tired but still eager Scouts set off again. It was back to campsite for an early afternoon finish, a quick lunch, tents packed away followed by presentations by the organisers. The whole weekend is a fantastic opportunity for Scouts to learn and practise their navigational skills and improve their teamwork skills. The checkpoint challenges were fun and entertaining. They all hiked at least 12 miles carrying food, water and emergency kit! The event also earns the Scouts two nights away badges, two hikes away badges and, as long as they cook a hot meal (which they all did), they earn their Expedition Challenge Award, which goes towards their Chief Scouts Gold Award. Well done to all those that took part. If you would enjoy doing this and other Scouting events, come and see us on a Monday evening between 7.30pm and 9.30pm at the Scout Hut, Water Lane.

Reece Robinson
Assistant Scout Leader



THE STANSTED FUN RUN NEEDS YOU!

www.stansted10k.org.uk

This annual event, on Sunday 10th June, is still short of volunteers to help. The event starts at 10.00am, the 10k starts at 11.00am and should all be finished by 1.00pm. This is a family occasion and there are jobs for the younger members giving out water or medals at the finish. The raffle is, again, being supported by Jet2 and the prize is a return flight for two people anywhere in Europe. So, if you see the raffle tickets being sold in the next few weeks please show your support by buying a few. Someone has to win! The Huw Johnson Club, The Alzheimer's Society in Stansted and Grove Cottage are the three charities chosen to benefit from the event this year. Visit the website above for more details. Contact me if you are able to help.



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

FOREST HALL SCHOOL MAY FAYRE

Come and join the fun on **Saturday 12th May**, noon-4.00pm: hoopla, tombolas, coconut shy, stocks, inflatables, rodeo bull, a fantastic hook a duck, sweet tombola, lucky dip, raffle and lots more. Refreshments include a bar, hot dog stall, teas and delicious homemade cakes. There will be various tug of war competitions, welly throwing and 'beat the goalie'. The school band and the choir will also be performing. All profits towards the Design and Technology Department's Laser Cutter and CNC Router. Entry £1, under 18s free. Parking will be at the School and the Romeera Leisure Centre.



Selina Rankin
Secretary
Forest Hall School PTA
Tel: 813388

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This was the only clue that my water storage tank had a drip overflow!

Gordon Dockerty

HOLISTIC TREATMENT FOR PETS

There's a lot of talk these days about 'holistic' treatment both for people and animals. Clients often come into the consulting room and say they want holistic treatment for their pets or 'something more natural'. When you ask what kind of natural treatment they want, some people struggle to articulate what they actually mean, or they might say they don't want 'any chemicals'. I think there is a growing awareness that drugs may not be the answer to everything, but there still may be some confusion about the alternatives. To help clarify holistic treatment and what it means I will be giving two talks, one at our Saffron Walden surgery on Thursday 10th May and one at our Great Dunmow surgery on Monday 14th May, both starting at 7.30pm. Entry is free and refreshments are provided but you do need to ring the surgery to book a place.

Holistic treatment is really considering the individual as a whole, so taking into account mental and social factors rather than just the symptoms of the disease. Some of you might say "well that sounds a bit weird, what have social factors got to do with my dog's cough?" The answer is in some cases quite a lot. Many is the time I've treated an animal with a cough whose owners are chronic smokers and the cough is secondary to the environment, or the cat that has started licking its fur out because it is being bullied by neighbourhood cats. Holistic treatment often implies using therapies other than drugs in the treatment plan, so acupuncture, herbs or homeopathy or maybe therapies such as chiropractic or hydrotherapy and also correcting any inadequacies in diet and environment. So, if you want to find out more about topics such as these as well as raw feeding, what supplements should your pet take and what is 'golden paste' anyway, ring the surgery and book into one of the talks. Tel: Saffron Walden 01799 522082 or Great Dunmow 01371 872836.



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons

ST MARY'S C of E FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Barbara Young and I am the new Headteacher at St Mary's Primary School in Stansted. I have been both teaching and part of School Leadership Teams for many years, including working previously as a Head of School and Headteacher in a number of counties including Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. Married, with five adult children, the youngest of which is in her final year at Cambridge, I fully understand and appreciate the importance of providing our children with excellence in education. So I can say with a full heart that I am extremely excited and pleased to have joined St Mary's and I look forward to getting to know all of the pupils, their families and the wider friends and community of the school in due course.

St Mary's is a school that buzzes with excitement and enthusiasm, where its pupils feel proud of their school, and are keen to talk about their learning and some of the other enjoyable things that happen there. For instance, the end of last term saw three highly successful events involving parents: the delightful production of *Dragon Days*, performed by LKS2, the first of hopefully many more Reading Café initiatives where parents were invited in to take part in a range of reading experiences with the children and finally, the school hosted a Mother's Day lunch for nearly 120 mums! There are clearly lots of good things happening here already. During my headship, I shall seek to preserve what's working really well and enhance it by ensuring that the school provides a world class standard of education for all of its children. I believe that our children are the future and if we teach them well, they will lead the way and make our tomorrows a brighter one for all. I would like to thank the children and staff for welcoming me so warmly to the school, including my deputy Mr Curzon who took up the mantle as Acting Head prior to my start at the school. If you are an existing parent with any concerns about your child, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance, or make an appointment to see a member of the leadership team. If you are new to the area and would like a tour of the school please contact the admin team.

Barbara Young, Headteacher
Tel: 812212

Email: headteacher@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk



Citizens Advice
the charity for your community

CITIZENS ADVICE IN STANSTED

www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk

On 29th March, Uttlesford Citizens Advice moved to a new location in Stansted. We will now be offering appointments at **Stansted Surgery** on Thursday mornings. For free, confidential, independent advice about welfare benefits; debt and money problems; family issues including domestic violence; healthcare and carer issues; employment; education and funding; consumer rights; neighbourhood disputes; immigration and residency issues please call 01799 618840 to make an appointment or you can self-refer through our website.

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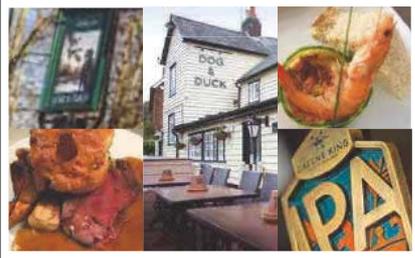
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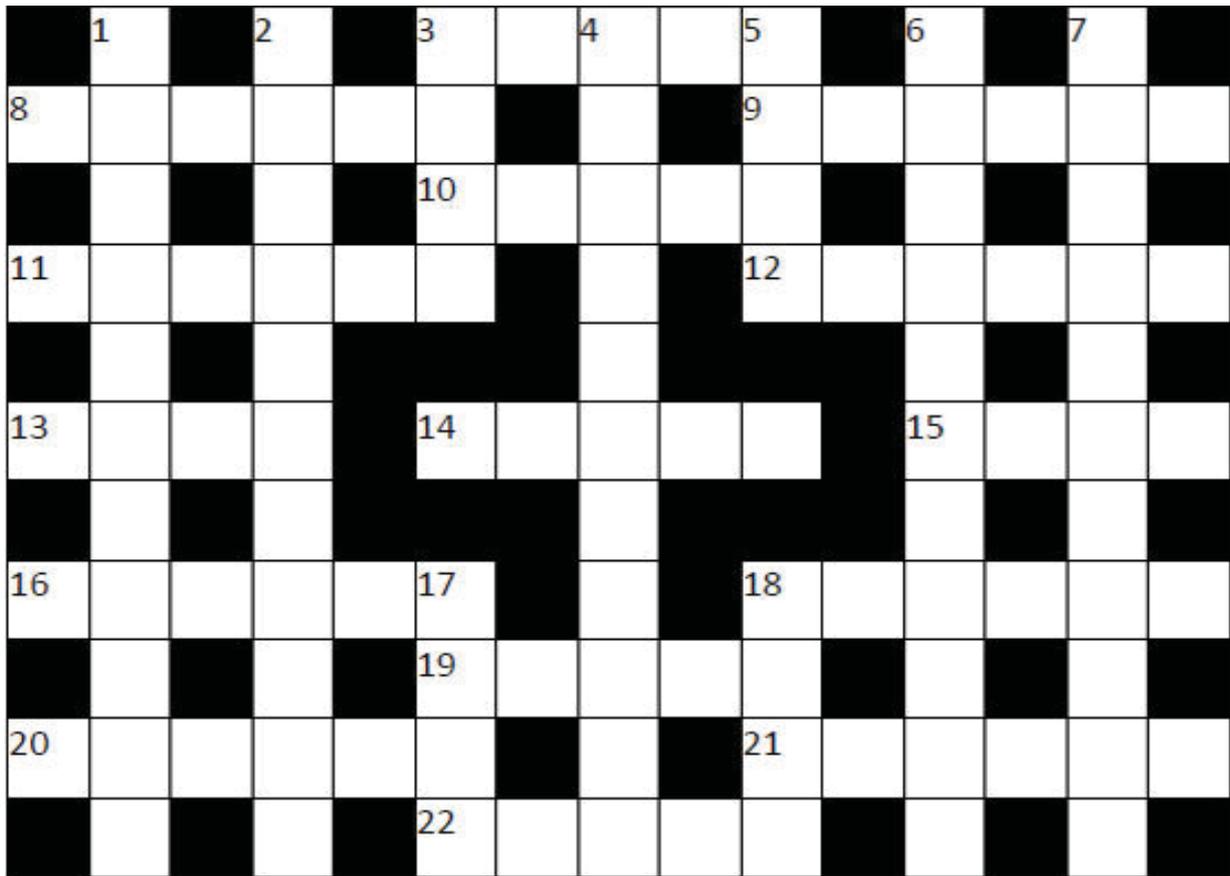
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FUN AND GAMES PUZZLE TIME



Compiled by Roger Wardle. Answers on page 43

ACROSS

3. Fruity computer or music company (5)
8. See 16 across (6)
9. See 16 across (6)
10. Run in cricket not by the player (5)
11. As one, in a football team perhaps (6)
12. Turmoil, fighting, war (6)
13. Vanity at Scarborough (4)
14. Indian instrument (5)
15. Old violin (4)
16. Vivaldi wrote a concerto for each (6)
18. Famed President from 22 (6)
19. Ms. Symonds or Goulding (5)
20. See 16 across (6)
21. See 16 across (6)
22. African country with a canal (5)

DOWN

1. Off the cuff, just like that! (11)
2. Pretty vista is described thus (11)
3. Elderly (4)
4. A potent lily augers what could be (11)
5. Jacob's brother (4)
6. Making it up as you go along (11)
7. Machine to measure earthquakes (11)
17. Peterborough's river (4)
18. Pond animal went away (4)

The March Rivers quiz was compiled by Roger Wardle. Apologies that it was wrongly attributed to Cliff Gilbert

QUIZ - DO YOU KNOW YOUR HATS?

Each clue describes a kind of headgear

1. Straw hat made in Ecuador
2. Hard hat with rounded crown, known as a Derby in USA
3. Tall hat worn by chefs
4. Mexican hat with conical crown and large brim
5. Red felt hat with a flat crown and a tassel
6. Spanish bull fighter's headgear
7. Helmet traditionally worn by a constable on the beat
8. Skull cap worn by religious Jews
9. The 'Cowboy Hat'
10. Headgear traditionally worn by Sikh men
11. Full dress head gear for member of the Brigade of Guards
12. Bell shaped ladies hat popular in the 1920s
13. Flat topped straw hat worn at regattas and garden parties
14. Hat traditionally associated with Napoleon
15. French military hat with flat circular top
16. Lightweight helmet worn in the tropics in the 1800s
17. Russian fur hat with fold down ear flaps
18. Scottish woollen flat bonnet worn by men
19. Round fabric cap worn by Muslim men
20. Oilskin headgear worn by fishermen at sea
21. Rounded rigid helmet worn by construction workers
22. Ceremonial headgear worn by Roman Catholic bishops
23. Tweed cap with ear flaps and brims front and back
24. Women's hat with flat crown, straight sides and no brim
25. Square cap with three or four horns and sometimes a pommel, worn by Roman Catholic clergy and others.

Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 43

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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CRAFTON GREEN COMMUNITY PROJECT

Following the Annual Parish Meeting a number of queries have been raised about statements made in the course of the meeting:

Did the Parish Council have prior knowledge of the easement rights of the third party?

The answer is we did not. The deeds for the site were first viewed in September 2016. However it has since been brought to the Council's attention that email correspondence in June 2015 between the Parish and Uttlesford District Council, responding to a Wayleave enquiry from the Clerk relating to the Day Centre, made a reference to the third party's rights; but as this was not the point under discussion at that time, the significance of the reference was not understood. This issue was not raised on any other occasion prior to starting building work. **The Parish Council make an unreserved apology to the third party and to our parishioners for this error, the significance of which has only recently been understood.**

Does the third party have any remaining rights on the Crafton Green site?

It has always been accepted, by the Council, that the third party has rights of vehicular and pedestrian access along Crafton Green Road and the car park. These rights were reaffirmed in the dispute settlement. As the road is adopted by Essex County Council, and there is no intention to interfere with access to the car park, these rights do not inhibit the Parish Council utilising the rest of the site as it sees fit (planning and finances permitting).

What compensation payments are being made to the third party for extinguishing their easement rights?

As has been reported, the Parish Council has paid £133,000 to free the land of these rights. The Council has a report from a professional surveyor confirming that this sum reflects the uplift in the value of the Crafton Green site assuming the removal of the easement rights. As part of the settlement, however, the third party will bear the cost associated with the moving of any of the utilities which serve his properties.

What is the overall cost of the Crafton Green Project?

As changes are still occurring the numbers given at the meeting reflected our knowledge at the time. All costs are being checked and ways to reduce the cost of the building are under consideration. A further update will be provided as soon as it is available.

By the time you read this the builders should be back on site and the building should be taking shape.

WORLD WAR I CENTENARY

The Parish Council have been working with the Rector, Rev'd Paul Wilkin, on plans to mark the centenary of the end of WWI and these are starting to take shape.

We are exploring the possibility with Saffron Screen of a 'pop up' cinema to show *Journey's End*. This film was described by The Guardian film critic Peter Bradshaw as "For the 100th anniversary of the first world war's end, here is an unassumingly excellent new film version of RC Sherriff's classic 1928 stage play, adapted by Simon Reade and directed by Saul Dibb. It is expertly cast and really well acted: forthright, powerful, heartfelt. The dramatic action is opened out, while always conveying the essential, cramped claustrophobia of this tragic ordeal."

An evening of music and readings is another possibility that is being explored with local groups.

The Parish Council would like to purchase two *Tommys* for the Memorial Gardens. These can already be seen



around the UK at Giant's Causeway, Hearts FC, The Big Pit in Wales and The Tower of London. This 6ft version is a poignant and effective image as you can see in this beautiful picture.

The *Tommys* are being sold by the charity **Remembered** whose aims are "to educate all generations about why they made sacrifice" and "to help heal those suffering from the hidden wounds of war".

Each *Tommy* costs £750 and we hope residents will be willing to support a fund-raising effort so we can have them in place in The Memorial Gardens for this year's Remembrance Day. Contact the Parish Council office for further information or to make donations.

By the time you read this, conservation work should have started on the names on the war memorial. Many thanks to those residents who contributed to the funding appeal for this work. **In the April Link we appealed for residents who have a close relation named on our War Memorial to get in touch with us to explore the possibility of being involved in our ceremony on Remembrance Sunday. We would also like to hear from anybody who has been a member of any of the armed forces.** If you would like to be involved in the planning and delivery of any of these events please contact Trevor Lloyd in the Parish Council Office.

ELMS FARM PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

Once the residential development at Elms Farm is complete, a parcel of land, which has been designated as a public open space, will be handed over to the Parish Council to manage. The plan below shows the extent and location of the open space. It is described as a 'gateway space' that will make it possible to access new permissive paths through and around Stansted Park.



The public open space management plan produced by the developers described the area as being "for relaxation, with meadow grassland and woody planting to benefit wildlife." There will also be a wildflower grassland margin alongside the boundary tree belt. It is not intended that there should be any play or recreational equipment on the site. The Parish Council have established a working group who will ensure that the developers deliver everything they committed to in the initial planning application. A priority is to ensure the footpaths can be maintained and are accessible all year round.

STANSTED IN BLOOM

The last date for entering the competition is Friday 13th July. Entry forms can be found in the April edition of The Link, on the Parish Council website or can be collected from the Parish Council Office. When you have completed your form, please take or send it to the Council Offices in Crafton Green. We hope that this year we will have many entries to make our competition worthwhile! Judging will take place on Saturday 21 July, and will commence at 10.00 am. Gareth Broad will be judging the gardens which we hope will consist of beautiful flowers in tubs and hanging baskets, and in your gardens generally. There is no set theme, so you have a free hand! Saturday 8 September 10.00am is the date booked for SIB presentation of prizes. The venue is the Stansted Day Centre, Crafton Green.

HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Hopefully residents in the Bentfield Green area are happy with their newly resurfaced roads. It would be wonderful if all the roads in the village could be bought up to the same standard.

We are conscious of the frustration caused by the number of road closures that have been put in place in the village. The worst of it is over for the time being but the closure of High Lane and Church Road and other short term closures caused significant inconvenience to our residents. A call to the Parish Council is often an outlet for residents' frustration and they often start their conversation by saying " I know you can't do anything about this but..." and that may be true that we can't do a lot as we are not informed in advance of road closures by the utility companies, but we do follow up complaints and try to improve the situation.

FLOOD MEASURES

Flood wardens had their fingers crossed after Environment Agency Flood alerts were sent out over the Easter week-end. Flood wardens were out monitoring the brooks but thankfully, despite the fact that there were real concerns about the height of the water, the brooks and conduits were able to cope with the flow of water and we avoided any flooding this time. A big thank you to Iain Rankin and the other residents who turned out to keep the grilles free of debris and keep the water flowing.



Rest assured that no one is being complacent about potential flood risk.

Water levels are closely monitored and your Councillors and flood wardens are maintaining the pressure on the Environment Agency (EA) to put long term preventative measures in place.

A meeting was held recently with the EA at which they confirmed that they are investigating options for Natural Flood Measures.

The formal report on this will hopefully be available to us in Summer 2018, but further detailed modelling of the options is required. This is important as it helps to assess the economic viability of the scheme. The Government appears to be making more money available for this type of scheme, but only if the cost/benefit analysis is favourable.



WELCOME PACKS

We are undertaking an update of the Welcome Packs before the new houses in Stansted are occupied. The Welcome Pack is a folder into which useful information sheets and leaflets are inserted. If any local non-commercial organisation would like to advertise, please let the Parish Council have 200 copies of your inserts, either A4 or A5 size.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We have placed various NhW leaflets in the Council office, the Day Centre, and hopefully in the surgery and the library. These leaflets are full of information on how to keep safe in and out of our homes. You will also find lots of other useful articles about the work of NhW generally.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Terry Farthing writes

It's all go at the District Council since the application to increase passenger numbers was submitted by Manchester Airport Group (MAG).

Given the nature of the planning application and the strong desire to ensure that everyone who wants to have a say has the opportunity to do so, the council has agreed to extend the consultation deadline to Monday 30th April.

As a local businessman and councillor I believe that London Stansted Airport is a success story for our region. It is the biggest single site employer with more than 200 businesses employing more than 12,000 employees, 2,000 of whom live in the Uttlesford area. Currently there are flights servicing over 190 destinations. Altogether it makes a massive economic contribution - in excess of £1 billion per annum.

MAG's application to make best use of Stansted's single runway aims to raise restrictions on annual passenger numbers from 35 million to 43 million, thus enabling Stansted to prepare to meet demand for the next decade. MAG has committed to delivering growth within the current flight and environmental restrictions – their application is not requesting any extra aircraft flights.

It really is a question of balance; with a new runway at Heathrow not due for many years, the only spare airport capacity across the South East is at Stansted.

With the new long-haul routes planned, commencing this year to fly transatlantic, it isn't rocket technology to see these larger planes will be able to carry twice the number of passengers and will need assurance that they have capacity available to grow their business if needed.

I have been to many presentations on this issue, listening to both sides of the discussions; I am a keen supporter of managed growth and can see the many benefits that the airport brings to our community. And as someone who lives directly below the flight path I also see that there is a downside - like everything in life!

All I ask of those reading this is to please form your own opinion and ensure you have your say on the application by going to:

www.uttlesford.gov.uk/airportapplication

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings start at 7.45 pm unless otherwise stated.

May

9	Full Council
16	Highways 7.00 pm Finance & General Purposes
23	Open Spaces
30	Full Council

June

13	Full Council
20	Open Spaces

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford

Assistant to the Parish Clerk - Trevor Lloyd

Administration Assistant - Emma Philbrick

Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net

Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

www.stansted.net

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Maureen Caton (Chairman)	813914 m.caton@hotmail.co.uk
Catherine Dean	813579 catherinemarydean@btinternet.com
Samantha Dunn	810859 cllrsamanthadunn@stansted.net
John Hudson	814489 johndhudson@gmail.com
Matthew Jessup	816591 matthew@in2it.biz
Peter Jones	813252 peter@lowerstreet.com
Jo Kavanagh	815157 jo.kavanagh.248@gmail.com
John O'Brien	816772 johndobrien@gmail.com
Rachel Rands	817413 rachelrands@btinternet.com
Frances Richards (Vice Chairman)	812748 frannie.richards@gmail.com
John Salmon	814789 dandjsalmon@gmail.com
Geoffrey Sell	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
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Daphne Wallace-Jarvis	812259 dwjwj.444@gmail.com

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

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alan Dean	813579 cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
Terry Farthing	661555 cllrfarthing@uttlesford.gov.uk
Thom Goddard	01371 879122 cllrgoddard@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell	815925 cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

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

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Non-emergency 101

PCSO: James.graham@essex.pnn.police.uk

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email: ruth.stickley@essex.gov.uk

www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

Sunday Walks: all leaving at 10.00am 5-6 miles
20th May Thremhall Park, Bury Lodge Lane, Start Hill,
 Grid Ref: TL531215 P/Code: CM22 7WE
10th June Wadesmill Feathers PH car park, TL359175
 P/Code: CM22 7WE
24th June Quendon Village Hall car park, TL 513301
 P/Code: CB11 3XQ

Sadly we had to cancel the 18th March 'Pop-up-walk' - the weather was the winner! A number of you asked if I was going to repeat it. Well, it would have been an interesting walk which included walking over the ridge separating Stansted from Manuden, and yes I may do so, as it included a very new permissive footpath which I would have liked to introduce to you all. I did test the route with my next-door neighbour and her dog as my guests and they enjoyed it. I suggest July if anyone really wants me to.



The Association is busy ensuring that in the throes of Developments, our Public Rights of Way are protected. Do tell us if there is an issue you are aware of. The following was too late for the last month's publication, but please still let East Herts know:

Public Path Diversion Order – Sawbridgeworth 1 and Thorley 10 and 11; Hertfordshire County Council has issued the following diversion order impacting rights of way between Thorley Church and Thorley Wash Farm. The BSDFA has already responded to this, but if you have any comments that you would like to share with us please send them by email: secretary@walksaroundstortford.org.uk.

So, we have had a super set of autumn and winter walks. Look at the website and do come along and join us. If you want help in planning a walk or know of a good circular walk, I am happy to help you; after all, you are the people who know your area.



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

THE PERILS OF VIGOROUS NOSE BLOWING!

Oh, the misery of catching a cold and the all too brief joy of giving the nose a good blowing to clear all that congestion. But, as with all things pleasurable, vigorous nose blowing comes with a boring old health warning. Regular and strong nose blowing encourages those mucus membranes to really get going and produce more and more of the nasty gunk; therefore, it is advisable to be as abstemious and as gentle as possible.

The second reason to blow the nose as infrequently and as gently as possible lies in the dangers of blowing the snot into our inner ears, making us temporarily deaf, and this usually affects one ear more than the other. In effect we give ourselves a temporary vestibular dysfunction: our brain is now receiving more information from one ear than from the other, which it interprets as us leaning and (or) tilting to that side; our eyes, however, say we are level with the horizon. Inside the brain, pandemonium breaks out: which is correct? Eyes or ears? The eyes win, but, with confusion abounding, we can only move more slowly, more cautiously and are much more prone to injury as the brain seeks to protect us in what it thinks is an unsafe environment. After all, the brain is a lump of grey jelly inside a bony box and depends upon inputs from the eyes, the ears and balance organs as well as the body to decide what to do and how to go about doing it. If that information is muddled, the world becomes a dangerous place.

Clare Harding
 Z-Health
 Tel: 816430



Easter Craft Specials

Everyone had great fun making and decorating Easter baskets which they filled with artificial grass, straw and feathers, brightly-coloured chicks, mini eggs and mini chocolates. They also used stickers to decorate cardboard crosses, plates and eggs.



The Place on the Hill is a free drop-in held at and organised by Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, and is open every Monday (not Bank Holidays), Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Do come and join us - all ages are welcome.



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



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Badger Class had a great term leading up to Easter with their topic 'Waste Not Want Not'. The children began the term by finding out all about different types of waste and were particularly intrigued by hazardous waste and oil pollution (mainly due to their concern for the animals). They were interested to learn about how much waste the average household throws away in a year and about the forthcoming shortage of landfill sites in the UK. In order to deepen their understanding, the children were asked to bring in some waste and we have created a mini 'landfill site' in the Wildlife Garden. The children have buried a range of waste, including biodegradable, and have predicted whether the waste will rot or not when we check the landfill in two weeks and then a month's time.



It has also been a time for Science. The school ran a Science Week at the beginning of March and each class carried out an investigation into an Energy topic. Badgers decided they would monitor and then reduce the amount of electricity in the school. In the first week they assessed the 'problems' (mainly the teachers!) and took a meter reading daily. They then gave suggestions to the children and staff as to how to save electricity (eg turn off lights and projectors when not in the room) and then rigorously monitored the results (beware those who had left their lights on!). The results were phenomenal and the school used a great deal less electricity in the second week. This has sparked an enthusiasm for 'reduce, re-use, recycle' with the children who are now keen to launch their own 'Eco-Warrior Programme' – watch this space!

Claire Berry
Headteacher
Tel: 812362

Email: head@birchanger.sch.co.uk

ORNAMENTAL BASKETS WORKSHOP



Wednesday 23rd May and Tuesday 5th June 10.00am–12.30pm at Cammas Hall Fruit Farm, Needham Green, Hatfield Broad Oak CM22 7JT. Tickets £25 including materials and refreshments from 718570. Learn how to put together a basket using edible and ornamental plants such as herbs, veggie plants and early summer flowering plants.

Fiona Hunt



WHAT'S ON AT SAFFRON HALL MAY HIGHLIGHTS

www.saffronhall.com

Saturday 5th 7.30pm *The BBC Symphony Orchestra perform a concert commemorating Leonard Bernstein's centenary.* Tickets: £24-£55.

Sunday 13th 3.00pm *British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor plays works by Bach, Brahms, Debussy and Ravel.* Tickets: £12-£26.

Saturday 26th 7.30pm *Period instrument ensemble The English Concert join countertenor Andreas Scholl for a concert of baroque works with an English twist.* Tickets: £20-£50.

Saturday 28th 7.30pm. *The Academy of Ancient Music make their Saffron Hall debut with our Artist In Residence Nicola Benedetti.* Tickets: £20-£50.

Other Events in May

Friday 4th 7.30pm *Jazz at the Movies* Tickets £10-£20

Friday 11th 8.00pm (doors open 7.00pm) *Foyer Jazz Club – Luca Stoll Quartet* Tickets: £13.50

Friday 18th 8.00pm (doors open 7.00pm) *Foyer Folk Club – Sam Kelly* Tickets: £10

Tickets for any of the above events from the box office tel 0845 548 7650, online from the website or on the door.

Tom Dickinson

Email: dickinson@saffronhall.com

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL



Our Easter openings were very pleasing, for we had quite a few visitors, including some new local home owners. The visiting children (and some Mums and Dads) all enjoyed the Easter eggs and the children were happy to leave wearing their windmill badges. Our thanks go to Hugh Unwin, a Stansted resident, for the superb model postmill, which he designed and built and which was admired by everyone. It is now on display on the first floor of the Windmill.

The next big event is on Saturday 5th May when Stansted Millers are presenting a Race Night at the Day Centre, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Admission £10 which includes a fish supper. Bring your own drinks. Do come and join us for what should be a fun evening. Call 813871 for tickets.

Windmill openings for May: Sunday 6th; Bank Holiday Monday 7th; Saturday 12th; Sunday 13th; Sunday 27th; Bank Holiday Monday 28th. All openings 1.30pm-5.30pm.



Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768

BELATED THANKS

I would like to thank all the voluntary car drivers and the patient people who man the telephone for our village Helpline service. They are to be praised for their kindness and support given to those who are really frail, and their loyalty even in the worst of weathers. Thank you all.

Jill Wood

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Mountfitchet Garden Club

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Mini-spring show

Despite the weather being fickle, and some spring plants being a few weeks behind, the Day Centre was transformed by a colourful display of flowers, shrubs and a wide variety of houseplants. The mini-show was well supported with over 67 entries across the 15 classes. The individual class winners were announced after the AGM; a full list will be published on our website. Certificates will be presented at the next meeting. Thank you to all members who took part.



AGM

The Chairman reported that membership numbers had fallen slightly over the year as several members had moved away. From feedback received, the monthly talks and arranged trips had been enjoyed. The Treasurer outlined the Club's finances and confirmed support was needed at the forthcoming fundraising event *Fun & Flair with Flowers*. The cost of speakers and their mileage allowance has been increasing and therefore it was necessary to increase the subscription rate, the first increase in over five years. All Committee members agreed to stand again and were re-elected en bloc and a new Committee member, Tessa Pembleton, was welcomed onto the team. The Chairman thanked the Committee and co-opted members for all their hard work over the past year.

Quiz

After the AGM members enjoyed a horticultural quiz. Questions ranged from general horticultural knowledge to gardening anagrams to *Gardener's World* presenters; our "Leetle Grey Cells" as the Belgian detective would say, were certainly tested! Thank you to Ewelina for arranging the quiz.

New season

Now is the ideal time to become a member as the new season starts on Wednesday 2nd May. Our membership fee is £15 per person. Visitors are always welcome to our meetings; there is a nominal charge of £3 per person. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (with the exception of January). Unless an evening visit has been arranged, meetings are held at the Day Centre. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start, refreshments are available prior to the talk. Our guest speaker in May will be Brian Carline who will talk to us about *Pelargoniums*. The full 2018-19 programme can be seen on the website.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144



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Listings for May

At thestage Stortford

Tuesday 1st 8.00pm *An Evening with Steve Perryman* hosted by Micky Hazard
Saturday 5th 7.30pm *Talon: The Acoustic Collection* Saturday
Tuesday 8th 7.30pm *Frank Ifield Remembers*
Wednesday 9th 7.30pm *Psychic Sally: Kisses From Heaven*
Saturday 12th 7.30pm *Vamos Mask Theatre: A Brave Face*
Thursday 17th and Friday 18th 8.00pm *Think Floyd Live In Concert*
Saturday 19th 7.30pm *That Eighties Band*
Friday 25th 8.00pm *Richard Herring: Oh Frig I'm 50!*
Sunday 27th 3.00pm *The Little Mermaid: Ballet Theatre UK*
Tuesday 29th 7.00pm *Play in a Day*
Thursday 31st 2.00pm *Nick Sharrat's Big Draw-A-Long*

At thescreen Stortford

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd 2.00pm and 7.30pm
I, Tonya (15)
Thursday 3rd 7.15pm, **Monday 7th** 11.00am and **Monday 28th** 11.00am *Peter Rabbit (PG)*
Thursday 10th 7.00pm *National Theatre Live: Macbeth (12A)*
Monday 14th 2.00pm and 7.30pm, **Tuesday 15th** 2.00pm
Journeyman (15)
Tuesday 15th 7.00pm *Matthew Bourne's Cinderella including a live Q&A session (12A)*
Monday 21st 2.00pm and 7.30pm *My Generation (12A)*
Saturday 26th 10.30am and 1.30pm *Tangled Sing-a-Long*
Thursday 31st 7.30pm *The Greatest Showman Sing-a-Long*

At themuseum Stortford

Saturday 5th 11.00am *Free Museum Tour*
Wednesday 16th 5.00pm *Museums at Nights: Night Time Trail*
Saturday 19th 10.30am *Story Time at the Museum*
Tuesday 22nd 11.00am *Dementia Awareness Week: Memory Day*
Monday 28th 10.30am *Table Top and War Games Day*

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Nature Notes

A few weeks ago, I noticed a sparrowhawk flying round and round a bush in the garden. When it stopped and sat on the nearby fence a blackbird flew out from the other side of the bush and over the hedge, with the sparrowhawk in pursuit. This was an unusual sight because the sparrowhawk's normal hunting technique is a high-speed hedge-hopping flight, hopping to come upon and take its prey by surprise.



On a particularly cold and snow-blanketed morning there was not a bird to be seen anywhere; presumably all were huddled down in whatever shelter that they could find. Then the silence was broken by the sound of a woodpecker tapping away seemingly impervious to the cold; perhaps the exercise kept it warm.

During the cold snap, the local flock of fieldfare came into the gardens. These winter migrants from Scandinavia look a bit like a thrush with a grey head and they normally forage in the fields. When the snow had been covering the ground for a few days, hunger drove them to search for fruit and berries in the built-up areas. Other winter visitors have been flocks of 200 to 300 pigeons, which mainly feed on the leaves of the young rape seed oil plants in the fields. Between meals they would come to roost in the tops of the tall trees in the village, but they never mixed with our local pigeons, which stayed down at rooftop or ground level and carried on their usual early springtime activities.



Felix



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

By the time you read this, the Huw Johnson Club, a social group for adults with learning disabilities which runs on a Thursday evening, will have restarted for the summer term after a few weeks off for Easter. Before we broke up, we visited the Chequers Pub in Ugley to enjoy a sausage and mash dinner for Joanne and Andrew's birthdays, and had a crafty night making Easter cards and decorations. We were also lucky to have Stansted's famous *Mad Hatters* ukulele group come and play for us; we joined in not just with some (generally out-of-time!) percussion accompaniment but also by wearing mad hats! Thank you to all the *Mad Hatters* for coming along, it was a great evening.

We were very sad to hear of the death of one of our helpers, Christine Morley, who passed away at the beginning of April. She and her husband Len have been coming to the Club with their daughter Maria for many years, and she was a valued volunteer and supporter. We all miss her greatly; our thoughts are with Len, Maria and the rest of her family at this sad time.

We have a busy summer term planned, with many different activities to look forward to: from discos and BBQs, to music nights and gospel choirs. If you would like to come along and join in as a volunteer or as a member, please get in touch.



Katharine Collis
Tel: 07759 157620
Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com



www.eastonlodge.co.uk

In May the Gardens should be lush, with wild flowers in the long grass and banks of foxgloves at the bottom of the Glade. We were thrilled to welcome new recruits on our volunteers' day in March, and with their help we have been quickly catching up on the gardening jobs we missed due to the slow start of the spring.

At our Open Day on Sunday 20th May we will have our first fun day for dogs at the Gardens. We will also welcome back the *Rock Choir* with their catchy take on a range of all-time greatest songs and we will have a fun trail and crafts for children. The Countess of Warwick loved her dogs and at the time of her death had 13! So we always welcome well-behaved dogs on leads and they very much enjoy a stroll



around the Gardens. For our May Open Day, we are also welcoming dogs that are keen to show off and test their agility! We will have a number of classes, including *Prettiest Bitch*, *Handsomest Dog* and *Best Puppy*, as well as an agility ring. There will also be displays by a husky team, a demonstration of heelwork to music and stalls. For details on timings go to our website. The Gardens will be open at the usual time, from 11.30am to 5.00pm and we will be serving bacon and cheese rolls and homemade cakes. If you missed the volunteering day, but want to join us, contact us through our website or leave a message on 01371 876979 and we will get back to you.

Jill Goldsmith
Treasurer and Publicity
Tel: 07947 183439

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our meeting on 5th April was well-attended and was a very well researched presentation from Kate Birbeck on the history of Lord Gardner and his family in Stansted, and an insight into her book which is about to go on sale. I will not steal Kate's thunder and spoil her article which is below, but please support her and all the work that has gone into her fascinating book.

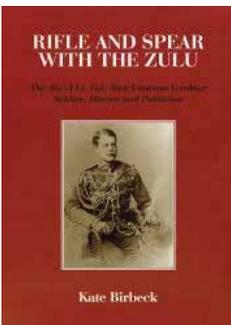
The next meeting is our AGM on Thursday 3rd May at the Day Centre, followed by a presentation by Elphin Watkin on *Essex Malt Houses*. Doors open at 7.45pm, entry £2 including refreshments. All welcome.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

THE BIOGRAPHY OF A LOCAL STANSTED HERO

Lt Col Alan Gardner was the son of Lord Gardner who lived at Stansted Hall at the end of the 19th century. He was a career soldier who served in the Anglo Zulu War of 1879 and was one of only five Imperial Officers to survive the disaster of the battle of Isandlwana. He warned the defenders of Rorke's Drift of the arrival of 4,000 Zulus, a battle made famous by the 1963 epic 'Zulu' starring Michael Caine and Stanley Baker. He went on to marry Nora Blyth of Blythwood House, and their big game hunting adventures together took them all round the world. His brother, Herbert was Member of Parliament for Saffron Walden for 10 years. Alan and the Gardner family are buried at St Mary's Church. My 412 page luxury hard back book, entitled 'Rifle and Spear with The Zulu' contains 230 colour and black and white images of the Gardner family and local Stansted history. It is a limited edition of 350 copies and can be bought from



www.alangardnerbook.com priced £45 plus £8 postage and packing. I

hope that when people in Stansted think of the influential families that made Stansted what it is today, such as the Blyths, Golds, Gilbeys and Fuller-Maitlands, that they will now also remember the Gardners.

Kate Birbeck



INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD

March was a busy month for Inner Wheel Club Members. Our District meeting took place at Tiptree and was very well attended. The Association of Inner Wheel in Great Britain and Ireland held its Conference at Bournemouth International Centre. Two thousand ladies attended a fun-packed, thought-provoking four days. Sadly, the bad weather prevented our Association President, Liz from completing her Zip Wire Challenge to raise funds for Children's Hospices, but she will return to do it at a later date. The final party saw a range of costumes for the theme, *Cool Cats, Hot Chicks*. Roll on next year!

On 24th March we held a Coffee Morning at Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church to raise funds for President Jenny's chosen charities. Despite a cold morning we raised £206. At our Club meeting in April we welcomed our District Chairman, Celia with Inner Wheel member Mary from her home Club of Rayleigh. Celia told us about her childhood in the North East and her various moves around England ending in Essex. She talked about our wonderful movement and reminded us that our International Inner Wheel President has invited us all to "Leave a lasting Legacy". Our meeting on Tuesday 22nd May will be an open evening when our speaker will be an ex-butler to the Queen.

The Club meets at Stansted Day Centre on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm except August and December. Please contact me or Barbara Morrison 814152 for more information. A warm welcome awaits you.

June Milne
Club Correspondent
Tel: 01371 875370

494 SQUADRON RADIO CONTACT



We have recently participated in a weekend-long radio exercise called 'Blue Ham', which involves air cadet squadrons from all over the country. It is carried out on the HF band (High Frequency), and is one of the few occasions when cadets and the amateur operators can talk to each other on air. As there are far more licensed amateurs than there are squadrons with HF radio kit, this gives us the opportunity to



make lots of contacts in all areas of the UK and beyond. All contacts are logged in real time on a web-based system and points are gained for each confirmed two-way link achieved on each frequency, so cadets were able to speak to some of the amateurs several times over. The HF band in use extends throughout Europe and

we made several contacts in Denmark and Ireland over the two days.

The squadrons across the country are split into geographical 'wings' and Essex Wing, of which Stansted is a part, are currently the clear leaders in this competition with 138 contacts against our nearest competitors at 63. The exercise will run again in October and we are keen to maintain our position at the top of the table. Thank you to our Civilian Instructor (CI) Mark Cook who took the time out to run this event for the Stansted squadron.

Would you like to join us next time? We welcome new cadets, boys and girls aged 12 (and in year 8) to age 17. We meet on Mondays and Thursdays. Get in touch through our Facebook page and search 494 Squadron.

Rachel Alexander
Email: Rachel.alexander@btinternet.com

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MAYPOLE MAYHEM

Those of a certain age (ask your grandparents) might recall the days when maypoles were common all over England and schools would spend weeks practising maypole dancing to be performed at the May Day celebrations. The dance was basically skipping around the pole holding onto the end of a long coloured ribbon attached at the other end to the top of the maypole. If all went well the end result would be a beautiful plaited pattern of ribbons; if not there would be a knotted tangle, which some poor unfortunate would have to painstakingly unravel before storing the pole away ready for the next year. (Ribbons in the photo don't form a traditional 'plait' as the dance being performed is called Spider's Web.)



Way back in the past every village would cut down a young tree on May Day (1st May) and stick it in the ground on the village green to mark the arrival of summer. People would dance around the tree poles to celebrate the end of winter and the start of the planting season. The tallest maypole of over 143 feet high was said to have been erected on the Strand, London in 1661 and felled in 1717 to be used by Isaac Newton to support Huygen's new reflecting telescope.

Everyone would go *a-Maying* early on May Day gathering flowers and greenery to decorate their houses for good luck. It was also common for girls to wash their faces in the early morning dew believing that it made them beautiful for the year. May Day was a day for celebration and it was customary to choose a May Queen to be crowned and she sat in a chair decorated with flowers to watch over the day's proceedings which included dancing on the village green, archery contests and exhibitions of strength. Maypoles are still a part of May Day festivities in some places with school children or Brownies performing traditional maypole dances. No longer is 1st May a recognised holiday in England; we now have the early May Bank Holiday on the first weekend in May. Doesn't quite have the same ring to it, does it?



Yvonne Ayres

The photo shows 1st Great Hallingbury Brownies at last year's Hallingbury Flower Show.

CHILDREN'S RECIPE – PIZZA BURGERS

Welcome to Freddie's Kitchen. We are three kids, and a dog, trying to teach other kids how easy it is to cook. Here's one of our favourite recipes, Pizza Burgers. *Please note: The Link editors strongly suggest adult supervision at all times, especially during the cooking process.*

You will need:

- Beef mince
- An egg
- Salt and pepper
- Dried parsley
- Pizza sauce
- Pizza toppings (we like pizza cheese, bacon & pepperoni)
- Burger buns



Let's cook!

- Turn oven onto 180 degrees
- Put the mince into a big bowl
- Add a pinch of salt and pepper
- Add some parsley (about a tablespoon)
- Add the egg yolk
- Here comes the messy fun bit; it's time to get your little fingers dirty!
- Mix everything together
- Get a handful of mixture and roll it in your hand
- Put it on a baking tray and gently push it down to make a burger
- Once you've made your burgers it's time to turn them into pizzas
- Put a teaspoon of pizza sauce on each burger and spread it around
- Add your pizza toppings; we used cooked bacon, pepperoni slices and pizza cheese
- Cook for 10 – 15 minutes, it depends how big your burgers are
- Serve your Pizza Burgers in a bun with Freddie's Homemade Chips
- Eat them all up - yummy
- Enjoy!

Freddie's Kitchen
Supervised by Lynsey Kiernan
Email: lynsey@atdelectrical.com

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HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

www.LostCousins.com/stansted



I've never met anyone who regretted the decision to research their family tree, but I've met many who wish they hadn't started so late; I'm one of them! The good news is that thanks to the multitude of records that are now available online, it's possible for anyone whose ancestors are predominantly English to make amazing progress in hours! It's more difficult to research Welsh ancestors, even though the same records are available, simply because there are so many people with common surnames like Jones; if you have Scottish or Irish ancestors then some records are more readily available, but others are harder to access (and many Irish records have been lost or destroyed).

Here's the challenge:

Records from the last 100 years are generally harder to access, not least because of the Data Protection Act. Generally, we don't get access to records unless there's a reasonable expectation that the people mentioned in them are deceased. So, the challenge for you is to get back 100



years or more using the knowledge you already have, can glean from discussions with living relatives, or can discover by using the few online resources (such as indexes of births, marriages, and deaths) which do cover the last century. Once you're back to the 1911 Census it gets comparatively easy, because there are censuses every 10 years all the way back to 1841 - and with a bit of luck you'll soon be able to identify ancestors who were born in the late 1700s. Wowwwww!

Start by writing down what you already know

You might think you know nothing about your ancestors, but I'm not so sure. Most people hear stories when they're growing up, and whilst some won't be completely accurate there will be snippets that come in very handy when you're trying to make sense of the information you find online; this is particularly likely if your ancestors had common surnames.

This article is the first in a series by Peter Calver, who lives in Stansted and runs the LostCousins website where people can connect with others who share the same ancestors. You can see a sneak preview from the next article and download a free Ancestor Chart if you go to the website shown above.

Kevin Hancock gave us a fascinating talk about his company the *Gardeners' Beehive*. The company specialises in selling bee hives but there is a big difference between his hives and conventional ones. He showed us a hive which he said was a simple way to keep honey bees in our gardens. There is no specialist training or equipment needed to set it up. Also you don't interact directly with the bees (which was important for everyone to know). Kevin said that it wasn't beekeeping but rather 'honey-bee-hosting'. The hive works like a 'bird box, but for honey-bees'. He called it beekeeping for beginners.

Maureen Caton, Head of the Parish Council, also talked about the twinning ceremonies with Rungis in June and July and the involvement of the business forum and schools in these events. Watch this space for more information. For those of you who are interested in buying, selling or renting a property, Peter James from Murdochs Estate Agents has some advice for you. He says that the marketplace now is very challenging. The *buy-to-let* investors have all but dried up leaving first time buyers as the only option. In areas such as London there have been big market increases in house prices. Naturally this will affect areas outside the M25 to an extent because when London catches a cold, surrounding areas will get the 'flu. Protecting your property investment is very important so make sure you choose the right estate agent. Our next business breakfast will be on Friday 4th May at Linden House. Book your place by calling Peter James on 813318 or email: Peter.James@murdochsestateagents.co.uk



Iris Evans
Treasurer

Bentfield Primary School

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MAYFAIR STREET PARTY

This year, Bentfield PTA is raising funds to refurbish our playground, which will cost a massive £20,000! We have already held extra events to raise funds and are planning a very special community event for our annual May Fair, which takes place on the same day as the Royal wedding, **Saturday 19th May 12.30pm-3.30pm**. For this special occasion we are planning *A Right Royal Mayfair Street Party* for the whole community, including a live screening of the wedding in our hall at 1.00pm. Refreshments include homemade cakes, hot drinks, bar, barbecue, ice-cream, popcorn machine, candy floss and chocolate fountain. There will be a multitude of traditional games with a royal twist for children and adults to enjoy: high striker, buzzer, arts and crafts, crockery smash, tin can alley, wishing well chocolate pool and lots more, alongside our usual bouncy castle and pony rides. Entry is free and everyone is welcome. See you there!



Fionna Graham-Reeves
Co-Chair
Bentfield School PTA
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Holly Butler

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 1st May** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck in Lower Street, where we will be discussing *The Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan. This winner of the Richard and Judy Autumn Book Club 2017 is a charming and heart-warming story, so it should be a good read. Please do join us and don't worry if you haven't read the book as we find plenty of other things to talk about!



Anne Watson
Tel: 898693

Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com



Our Good Friday Messy Church was well attended, with several families coming for the first time. As well as our usual craft activities, such as making Easter baskets, cards and gardens, there was an egg and spoon race and making Crown of Thorns biscuits. We moved into

the church for the celebration and then back to the hall for hot cross buns and cakes.

We return to our usual venue of **St Mary's School** for our next event on **Sunday 20th May 3.30pm-5.00pm**. This relaxed and lively style of church for all ages has activities, celebration and food, and plenty of **fun**. Everyone is welcome, particularly families with children aged under 12, and there is no charge. See our website for more details.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com

The winter months' test matches present us with a cricketing conundrum; England played 7 won 0 lost 5 drew 2; Australia played 9 won 5 lost 3 drew 1. Which country would you say had the better winter? Answer, incredibly, England!

Despite the poor weather in early April the Club has had a successful work party down at the ground and we are ready for the new season. Fundraising continues for a new pavilion at our Elsenham Place ground and we are about to open a *Just Giving* page to take donations, hopefully, from current members, past members and friends of the Club. To raise more funds the Club will be organising a Prosecco and Pimms' bar on Saturday 9th June at the Elsenham fête; come and join us! This season the junior section will be playing in the West Essex League and the Bardfield League. Juniors between the age of five and eight are already joining for 'All Stars' cricket sessions, which were hugely successful last season. New members of all ages are welcome, please contact me or go onto our website. Hopefully we will be able to report a successful start to the season in the June issue of The Link.



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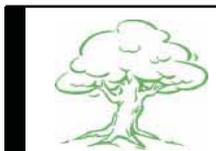
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Stansted Cricket Club

We are pleased to announce a number of new Club sponsors, who will also feature in our 2018 fixture card. Linden House Hotel continues as our main sponsor with their logo and name on our league shirts. They are joined by Pipe Freezing & Hot Tapping Ltd, GQ Wealth Management, G+G Gallo, and Phillip Knight Plumbing. Ben Baker has worked hard over the close season to keep our square in top condition, and winter nets have been attended enthusiastically.

Home fixture for April

Sun 29th Sunday XI Hatfield Heath 14:00

Home fixtures for May

Sat 5 th	2nd XI	Weston Colville II	13:30	CCA
Sun 6 th	Sunday XI	Epping Foresters	14:00	
Sat 12 th	1st XI	St. Hall & Elsenham I	14:00	HECL
Sun 13 th	Sunday XI	Clavering	14:00	
Sat 19 th	2nd XI	Royston III	13:30	CCA
Sun 20 th	Sunday XI	Stocking Pelham	14:00	
Sat 26 th	1st XI	Woodford Wells IV	13:30	HECL
Sun 27 th	Sunday XI	Rickling (TBC)	14:00	

The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis to contact me. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



David Hedge
Hon Secretary
Tel: 812509

STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB



Unfortunately, we did not accumulate the number of points we had targeted for this season, despite the best efforts of the management team and players. Like many other clubs, we now await the FA to make its final decision as to what and where we play our competitive football next season. The proposed new region structure which the FA wishes to bring in will have all clubs playing squads as we could find ourselves having to travel greater distances for games.

This will be our final Link article for this season; however, we will return in August for the start of the new football season. In the meantime, the Club will formalise plans for pre-season training along with friendly games to take place in June and July. Anyone wishing to come along and trial with us is more than welcome, just as long as you are 16, which is the minimum age. Please look out for information on our social media sites or alternatively contact me. Finally, on behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all the volunteers and supporters who help run the Club over the season. We are all desperately sorry that we could not build on the success of the previous season but we will take stock, rebuild and go again in August. Enjoy your summer.



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842

STANSTED BOWLING CLUB



By the time you read this we hope to have completed one match on the green adjacent to the Recreation Ground. However, the season starts in earnest in May with our weekend friendlies and midweek League games. All of the matches listed below will be played at home, subject to the weather. Although whilst most of us prefer to play on a nice dry summer day, providing it is not raining too badly, we will brave it. However, this does depend on the amount of rain we have prior to the game, as a boggy green is not too popular.

NORTH WEST ESSEX LEAGUE

Section 2 Division B – Stansted “A”.

Wednesday 9th May 6.15pm Steeple Bumpstead

Wednesday 16th May 6.15pm Dunmow B

Section 2 Division B – Stansted “B”

Wednesday 20th May 6.15pm Stansted A

HERTS & ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE

Tuesday 8th May 2.30pm Saffron Walden

Tuesday 22nd May 2.30pm Epping

Weekend Friendlies

Sunday 13th May 2.30pm Chris Bushnell Memorial

Sunday 20th May 2.30pm Havers Park (Kent Cup)

Saturday 26th May 2.30pm Buntingford

We look forward to welcoming you all to our Clubhouse on any of the above match dates, or any Friday evening when the Clubhouse bar will be open and the members will be happy to explain the way the game is played or just have a chat and put the world to rights.

Peter Beattie

Hon Secretary

Tel: 07850 329192

E-mail: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com

Stansted Tennis Club



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Club Tournament

All members who would like to enter this year's Club Tournament should sign up on the sheets in the Clubhouse. They will be up for the entire month of May.

Ladies' Night

The next Ladies' Night will be from 7.00pm on Monday 14th May. All lady members are welcome to come and play.

Coaching

Please contact me if you are interested in tennis coaching at Stansted Tennis Club

Used Tennis Balls

These can be purchased for £1 for a tube of four from Jan Hollis at 105 Cambridge Road. If you would like to find out more about Stansted Tennis Club, please visit the website.



Chris Hollis
Chairman
Tel: 319155
Email: chris.hollis2@btinternet.com

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rotary Club	Martin Budzinski Tel: 07803 878961 Email: martin@voucherpacks.com
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie, Hon Secretary Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: Leila Riddell Tel: 007770955830
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	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Grove Cottage	Rosie Wren Tel: 07710 599574 Email: rosie@mencapgrovecottage.com	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		
Parkinson's UK	Vivian Falk, Chairman		
Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk or send the details to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG. Details must be submitted by the 8th of the month for publication the following month.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY - CHURCH MONUMENTS

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The Church Monuments Society, a registered charity founded in 1979, encourages the study, care and conservation of funerary monuments. Many of our own local churches have elaborate memorials, usually to the rich and famous, erected over the centuries to honour and remember the deceased. Below are just a few of my own personal favourites.

Ken McDonald Tel: 813226



St Mary the Virgin in **Arkesden** has an elaborate and colourful Elizabethan monument to Richard Cutte who died in 1592 and his wife Marye.



Great Waltham's Norman church houses a memorial to Sir Anthony Everard and his wife, who died in the 17th century, depicted in elaborate gold braid costumes .



At **Little Easton**, the church contains a great variety of interesting memorials including a charming 20th century bust of the Countess of Warwick and two windows dedicated to the American air crews who flew from Little Easton and lost their lives during WWII.



Great St Mary's Church in **Sawbridgeworth** is Grade I listed and has "an outstanding collection of memorials of the highest artistic quality", such as this painted alabaster tomb of Sir John Leventhorpe and his wife Joan in black mourning dress.

FUN AND GAMES PUZZLE TIME ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

Across

3. Apple 8. Spring 9. Summer 10. Extra 11. United
12. Unrest 13. Fair 14. Sitar 15. Viol 16. Season
18. Nasser 19. Ellie 20. Autumn 21. Winter 22. Egypt

Down

1. Spontaneous 2. Picturesque 3. Aged 4. Potentially
5. Esau 6. Improvising 7. Seismometer 17. Nene
18. Newt

HATS

1. Panama 2. Bowler 3. Toque 4. Sombrero
5. Fez 6. Mantera 7. Custodian Helmet
8. Yarmulke (or Kippah) 9. Stetson 10. Turban
11. Bearskin 12. Cloche 13. Boater 14. Bicerne
15. Kepi 16. Pith helmet 17. Ushanka
18. Tam 'O Shanter 19. Taqiyah 20. Sou'wester
21. Hard hat 22. Mitre 23. Deerstalker
24. Pill box 25. Biretta

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