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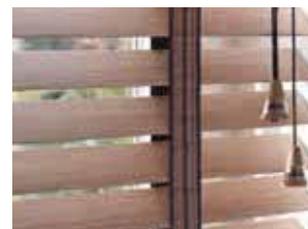
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Observer

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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  
advert@stanstedlink.org.uk

**Distribution Queries:**  
Mike Dyer  
01279 814059  
distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk

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

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

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**EDITORIAL**



Dear Residents of Stansted

As part of their cut backs, Essex County Council have concluded that we are no longer in need of our community library. However with a growing population, the recent launch of Stansted Airport College, our future collaboration with French town Rungis and indeed the proposed expansion of passenger numbers at the Airport, economically, Stansted is set to be one of the most important regions in Essex. In today's information driven society, easy access to library services is more important than ever. A library is a valuable resource where we are able to seek help and inspiration; it prevents isolation and loneliness; it also brings communities together to learn, share and develop. **To help keep our library open, turn to page 19.** Our new feature *My Stansted* on page 4, invites long-term resident Marion Pretty to share her love for her place of birth. Stansted community *Helpline* volunteers are working harder than ever on page 7. Finally, Stansted Football Club is standing on the verge of sporting glory; give them your support 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 9<sup>th</sup> February for the March issue or by hand/post by noon on 7<sup>th</sup> February to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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## HELP SAVE STANSTED LIBRARY

Essex County Council (ECC) proposes saving 0.2% of its annual budget by closing half its libraries, including Stansted's, reducing library provision to a small number of hubs. This will not work in our rural area with poor transport links and a significant number of people who do not have the money to buy books or travel to libraries further afield. Since our old library was demolished, user numbers have been lower than usual, with only an intermittent visiting mobile library; more recently the library has been using a small room in the Council Offices, with many previous users unaware of the library's continued existence. However, with Stansted's new community hub due to open soon, the library can once again become a much-loved and well-used community resource, which is needed more than ever with the increasing population from new housing developments.

Over 1,000 people have signed the [change.org petition](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation/) protesting against the closure of Stansted Library. However, ECC have stated that what *will* influence their decision are responses to the consultation survey at <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation/> The deadline for completing the survey is 20<sup>th</sup> February.



We even have local author, Jojo Moyes, on board! Whilst waiting for my appointment at the dentist, Jojo spotted me reading one of her books in which, coincidentally, the main character is fighting the proposed closure of her local library. Jojo said: "This is the first time in 16 years that I have seen someone reading one of my books" and took this photo to share on social media. She was shocked to hear about the proposed library closures, signed the petition and will complete the consultation survey. Jojo also offered to sign my book, but I declined as it was a library book!

Jane Thompson and Carole Gray  
Stansted residents and avid library users

## Little Hadham Antiques Fair

An established fair of quality Antiques

9.30am - 4.00pm Sun 10th Feb

Little Hadham Village Hall SG11 2BP

(signposted off A120 between Puckeridge & B Stortford)

Admission £1

Refreshments & hot meals available



## SILVERBIRCH DANCE COMPANY (formerly ActOne ArtsBase)

Our local hero, David Richardson, once again took a leading role in the Silver Birch Dance Company showcase held in Welwyn Civic Centre last November. The audience, including three of his fans from Stansted, were treated to a stunning afternoon of dramatic dance.



Nearly 40 cast members from Watford, Ware and elsewhere took to the stage for ten dances with intriguing titles, ranging from *Reaching for Freedom* to *Montagues and Capulets*. David helped choreograph and performed in most of them, and he managed to keep smiling through to the end. Well done David!

Judy Colliver, Mary Warnett and Mike Dyer



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

I am pleased to say it is all good news from the Windmill. Our Christmas event was very successful with over 75 children visiting Santa; all were happy with their presents, and the balloons made for them by *Twisto the Magician*. We hope they will all come back again this year. We have some new souvenirs on sale; some very nice hessian bags which were only delivered to us on 15<sup>th</sup> December and half of them have been sold already. We also have some new fridge magnets which have a splendid image of the Windmill.

Our AGM this year is on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** 7.30pm for 8.00pm start in the Day Centre. There will be the usual wine, juice and nibbles; please make a note in your diary and come along and join us. The first opening of the Windmill this year will be **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April** 1.30pm-5.30pm, which is two weeks before our Easter openings. In the meantime, if you would like to purchase any of our souvenirs please call me and I will be happy to help.



Molly Clark  
Co-trustee  
Tel: 816768



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

The annual Nativity Play was well attended and we were very happy to welcome our friends from Mountfitchet House to the show. The Christmas Hamper Raffle raised over £200. We plan to purchase cameras for the children with a view to them taking pictures, and printing them off, so we can see the world through their eyes. The residents at both Mountfitchet House and Norman Court enjoyed the Christmas singing and joined in with their favourite songs. All the children enjoyed *The Toy Town Christmas* pantomime performed by *Theatrebugs* on the last Tuesday of term. Big thanks to our Committee's fundraising efforts for providing this end of term treat.



We are excited to have been allocated an allotment at Elms Farm, and are looking forward to how this will enhance the learning opportunities for the children who attend our Preschool. Anyone wishing to volunteer and help us with this initiative please get in touch. Rainbow PreSchool takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place.

Gill Pursglove  
Administrator  
Tel: 814242

Email: [admin@rainbowpreschool.net](mailto:admin@rainbowpreschool.net)

## ST MARY'S CoFE FOUNDATION SCHOOL

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



We were pleased to welcome the children back after the holidays, rested and ready to learn. A huge amount of reading had gone on at home (thank you, parents), and our pupils continue to soar ahead with their reading and quizzing under our new reading scheme. We have new members of our teaching staff to welcome: Miss Cant who is teaching Apple class and Mrs Dickinson who will be job sharing with Mrs Johnson in Hawthorne class. We hope they will be very happy here.

Our Year 5s recently went to perform with other primary schools at the Young Voices concert at the O<sub>2</sub>. This is a very special event and anyone who has attended this concert will attest that listening to the thousands of voices singing in unison is a very vivid memory. It's a long day for the children and staff, but very enriching and worthwhile. And of course, our children can always say that they've sung at the O<sub>2</sub>. Our two Reception classes are attending all assemblies from now on. Their topic for this term is *What happens when I fall asleep?* and the children will be snuggling up to listen to bedtime stories, learning about people who work at night, nocturnal animals and finding out how a good bedtime routine can have a positive impact on your health. Every Tuesday afternoon at 2.50pm our Foundation Stage is visited by a secret reader. Our first visitor caused mass excitement at the end of last term as he ho-ho-ho-ed and jangled down the corridor in his big red coat. If you would like to be a secret reader, please contact the school office. Our website has recently had a bit of an update, please have a look at it. Incidentally, if we have to close due to snowy weather (not a decision we take lightly), the information will be on the website and the school answerphone message.

Barbara Young  
Head Teacher  
Tel: 812212



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

Lots of adults and children joined our three Christmas events making Christingles, and learning what the Christingle represents. This was followed by a modern-day video of the Christmas Story. Then we welcomed Father Christmas, who gave a present to each child.



*See our website for more photographs*

The Place on the Hill is a free drop-in for all ages organised by and held at Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. WiFi, computers, newspapers and magazines to read, good company

plus comfortable seating, free refreshments and a separate space for children to play with toys and run around – see you there!



Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059

## MY STANSTED

An Interview with Marion Pretty



**How long have you lived here?**

For 86 years.

**What brought you to Stansted?**

The stork – I was born in the village.

**Why do you enjoy living here?**

Because I grew up in Stansted I know a lot of people and I think it's a really friendly place. I couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

**Is there anything you don't like about the village?**

All the shops closing and not having a bank here anymore. When I was growing up you used to be able to buy everything you needed in Stansted, down to a pair of braces: most of it from just one shop, Green's Stores on the Cambridge Road.

**How does Stansted compare with other places you've lived?**

I lodged in Dunmow when I went to Chelmsford Technical College at the age of 13. It was only for about four years and I found Dunmow a bit big. I liked Chelmsford because of all the shops, although we college students were banned from going into Marks and Spencers or Woolworths!

**What was your profession?**

I trained as a nursery nurse and applied to work for what was then called Dr Barnardo's, but my friend and I were turned down because we had no siblings. I went to work at a family-owned chemist shop in Bishop's Stortford called Speechley and Millbank: a job I enjoyed so much that I stayed there after I was married and until I had my eldest daughter.

**How do you spend your leisure time?**

I was a founder member of the Stansted WI over 50 years ago serving as President twice; I was on Stansted Parish Council for about 12 years and practised Tai Chi for many years. Now I just go to the WI meetings.

**What is the most memorable thing that's happened during your time in Stansted?**

There have been a few memorable events. I was on the Parish Council when the Space Shuttle came to Stansted

Airport and was lucky enough to see the huge shuttle at close quarters, which was really exciting. But the thing that sticks in my mind most is the sight of the lights shining through the coloured glass windows of *Savages* in Lower Street at the end of the war when the blackout was finally over. To me at 11 or 12 years old that seemed such a magical thing.



Yvonne Ayres



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

[www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted)

The Christmas Lunch at Bury Lodge was a great success again this year. Members were entertained before lunch by the Stansted U3A Singers with seasonal songs and a chance to join in with some well-loved traditional favourites. The food and wine flowed and a good time was had by all. The members who attended the December monthly meeting enjoyed mince pies and cakes to help feed their brains for the quiz which followed. The U3A decorated two Christmas trees for the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival and The Stansted U3A Strummers entertained the visitors there on the Sunday. There were a lot of celebrations going on in the individual groups too.



The next meeting will be on **21<sup>st</sup> February** at 1.30pm for 2.00pm in St John's Church Hall, when Keef Jackman will give a light-hearted talk on the *History of the Ukulele*. New members are always welcome. Our next Saturday Seminar is on **16<sup>th</sup> March**. Railway progenitors, George and Robert Stephenson, will be presented by Dr Michael Bailey, President of the Stephenson Locomotive Society. For more details, email [stanstedseminars@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedseminars@gmail.com) or look at our website. Our U3A is in the process of planning a programme of outings for 2019. It may be ready by the time you read this so check on our website. There is also a holiday planned for September to West Sussex and Brighton and booking for that starts at the February meeting. One of our French groups has been dormant for a while since losing the group leader, but plans may be afoot to start a new French group, so please contact us if you are interested. Our U3A has 28 different interest groups which meet either weekly, fortnightly or monthly and new members are always welcome. For more details see our website, come along to a general meeting, call our general phone number 07874 385541 or email: [stanstedu3a@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedu3a@gmail.com).



Sally Rich

## St John's Tots

Every Tue 9.15 - 11 am  
St John's Church, St John's Rd  
**including school holidays**

Lots of toys & plenty of space for babies and young children to play while mums, dads, grandparents etc can enjoy the company of other adults

Tel 812273 for more details

A Community venture organised by St John's Church



## The Place on the Hill

9.30 am - 12.30 pm  
Stansted Free Church Foyer

**Open every Mon, Wed & Fri**  
**(except bank holidays)**  
**including school holidays**

Refreshments ~ WiFi ~ Toys  
All ages welcome - No charge



## The Coffee Pot

Every Thurs 10.30 am - noon  
St John's Church, St John's Rd

*Come and enjoy good company and free coffee and cake*

Alone or not, everyone's welcome at the Coffee Pot

A Community venture organised by St John's Church

## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

<b>Every Tue</b>	St John's Tots	St John's Church 9.15 - 11 am
<b>Every Thu</b>	The Coffee Pot	St John's Church 10.30 am - noon
<b>Every Mon, Wed, Fri</b>	The Place on the Hill	Free Church 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
5 Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
6 Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
7 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
8 Fri	Quiz Night	Ugley Village Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
<b>9 Sat</b>	<b>Link copy due in today</b>	<b>before 12 noon</b>
9 Sat & 24 Sun	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
10 Sun	S Walden Symphony Orchestra	Saffron Hall 3 pm
11 Mon	Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
12 Tue	RSPB	B Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
14 Thu	Stansted W I	Day Centre 7.30 pm
16 Sat	Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
17 & 24 Sun	Snowdrop Sundays	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 4 pm
20 Wed	Ugley WI	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
21 Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
25 Mon	Shalom At Home	49 Recreation Ground 8 pm
26 Tue	Hearing Help Inner Wheel	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 pm

## Ugley Village Hall QUIZ NIGHT

7 for 7.30 pm Fri 8th Feb  
Ugley Village Hall (free parking)

**Tickets £10 incl Jacket and Chilli**  
**followed by a tasty dessert**

*Bring your own drinks*

Please book by 1st Feb Tel 816628

*Proceeds to Village Hall*



**3 pm Sun 10th Feb Saffron Hall**

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Gershwin *Cuban Overture*  
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www.saffronhall.com or on the door

To advertise your March event here  
tel 814059 email: [events@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:events@stanstedlink.org.uk) **by 8th February**  
*Inclusion is subject to editorial decision & availability of space*



**7.30 pm Sat 16th March**  
St John's Church

**Benyounes String Quartet**  
*Programme to be confirmed*

*Tickets: adults £15, conc £12, under 18s free from Absolute Travel, Nockolds B S  
Sonia Levy 815282 or on the door  
[www.musicatstansted.co.uk](http://www.musicatstansted.co.uk)*



## Stansted Millers

**Annual General Meeting**  
*with Wine, Soft Drinks & Nibbles*

7.30 for 8 pm

**Wednesday 27th March**

Stansted Day Centre

**All Welcome**

## UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

**10 am - noon**

**Sat 16th February**  
Ugley Village Hall

*Meat ~ Poultry ~ Fish ~ Eggs  
Honey ~ Preserves ~ Fruit & Veg  
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## Saturday Seminar

Railway Progenitors  
George and Robert Stephenson  
*by Dr Michael Bailey*

**9.30 am - 12.30 pm Sat 16th Mar**  
**Stansted Free Church Hall**

Ticket information will be in next month's Link  
or email: [stanstedseminars@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedseminars@gmail.com)  
[www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted)



## Stansted Messy Church

3.30 - 5 pm Sun 10th March  
St Mary's School, Hampton Rd

**Activities ~ Celebration ~ Food**

An exciting and informal style of church for all ages but particularly for families with children under 12

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



## SNOWDROP SUNDAYS

11.30 am - 4 pm (last entry 3 pm)

**17th & 24th February**

Adults £4.50 Under 16s Free  
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the osteopath

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**01279 813371**

61 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted, Essex.  
 osteopathy@hazel-williams.co.uk  
 www.hazel-williams.co.uk

\*Hazel Williams reserves the right to remove or change this offer at any time without prior notification.

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**7-8pm every Friday**  
**9-10am every Saturday**  
**8-9pm every Monday**



At the Quaker Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet.  
 To book one of the limited places available please call Hazel on: **01279 813371** or **07973 409675** or to find out more go to [www.hazel-williams.co.uk](http://www.hazel-williams.co.uk)

Please wear loose clothing and bring an exercise mat.

**50% introductory class on Fridays only (subject to availability)**

## FLEXIBLE STRENGTH

Mon 9:15, Tue 13:30 & Thurs 18:45

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## MANUDEN GUIDES



We meet on Tuesdays in term time, 7.30pm- 9.00pm at Manuden Community Centre. If you are a girl aged between 10 and 14, who likes to do a wide range of activities including: cooking, hiking, crafts, sport, games, going on visits and residentials, choosing, planning and carrying out your own ideas, then come for an evening; you would be most welcome.



For further information look on the Girlguiding website, or please contact me or any of the Guides.



Glynis Prothero  
Tel: 814145 or 717942  
Email: glynisprothero@aol.com



## STANSTED'S COMMUNITY HELPLINE HERE FOR THOSE IN NEED

Receiving even more requests for help than the previous year, 2018 was another very busy, if sometimes testing time for Stansted's voluntary community care service. As ever Helpline's small band of volunteers rose to the challenge and successfully fulfilled the majority of all requests. A huge thank you to them; without volunteers freely giving of their time Helpline would cease to exist. When Helpline was established over 30 years ago, our drivers operated under what was known as the Social Car Scheme, when volunteers could claim petrol allowances from local authorities. Under the scheme we were encouraged to take residents to visit friends or relatives, take them shopping or to the hairdressers but were positively discouraged from giving them lifts to hospital appointments; that was seen as 'poaching' customers from the ambulance or hospital car service. How times have changed! Now it is not unusual for Helpline to receive calls from local hospitals or surgeries requesting transport for their patients to attend appointments at their clinics. We are now members of Uttlesford Care Network, an organisation which encourages communities to harness the goodwill that exists in their town or village to help and support those in need.

Our phone line 07704 553727 is open 9.00am-4.00pm Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays) and we can assist Stansted residents with transport, shopping, collecting prescriptions and other practical tasks when no other help from relatives or friends is possible. Helpline is run entirely by unpaid volunteers (all DBS checked); new volunteers - especially drivers who are available weekdays - are always welcome. If you are looking for something different to do in 2019, please consider volunteering. It may not be financially rewarding, but can be an enjoyable experience, a good way of meeting interesting people and an excellent opportunity to make new friends.



Yvonne Ayres  
Organiser  
Tel: 814706



Investigators is a group for children aged approximately 6-11 years who meet at the Free Church Hall on **Fridays 6.15pm-7.45pm**. Activities include a mixture of games, Bible stories, challenges, creative activities and other items of interest. Last term we made lanterns and toy spinners, and fish for a magnetic fishing game, as well as playing both livelier and quieter games. Dodgeball and balloon volleyball are definite favourites, as well as our own special version of basketball. We use the stories as a stimulus for games, crafts, discussions and drama on various themes. Although some children at Investigators attend a church, or a church school, most do not and everyone is welcome. Recent themes included 'promises', 'journeys' and 'trust' and we finished the term with a 'spaghetti quiz' on the Christmas story.



If your child would like to try out Investigators in February please contact me as soon as possible as places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Although most children attending are seven and over, we do accept confident six year-olds, especially siblings. We know many do not want to wait until their 7<sup>th</sup> birthday to join in the fun, so there is some flexibility after their 6<sup>th</sup> birthday has been reached. All leaders are DBS checked and have appropriate safeguarding training.



Ros Page  
Tel: 810813  
Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com



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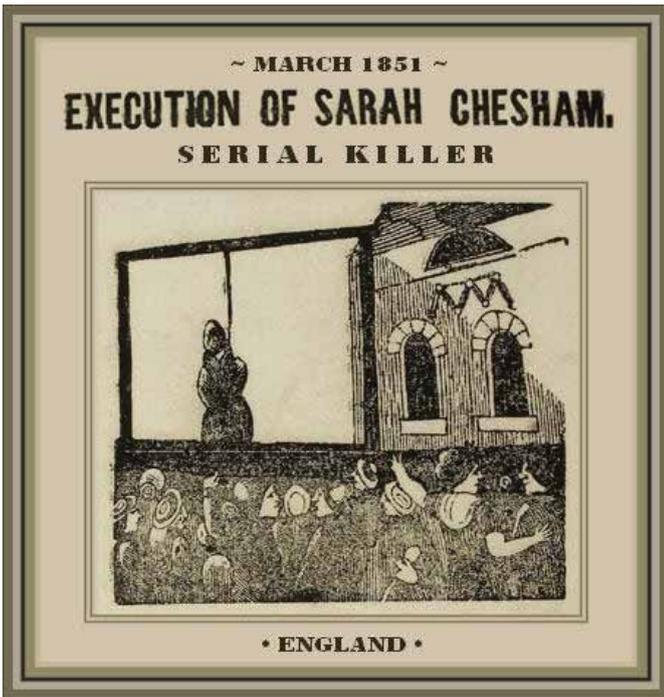


STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> January was a well-attended meeting that consisted of some fascinating presentations by members.

**Ralph Phillips: 'Sally Arsenic'**

Sally Arsenic was the nickname given to Sarah Chesham from Saffron Walden. She and her husband had six children. In January 1845 two of her boys had severe stomach pains and died of 'English Cholera'. Eighteen months later another family's child died. Sarah was questioned and held at Springfield jail. Her two sons were exhumed and tested by Guys Hospital, which proved arsenic had killed them. Sarah was tried for the three deaths but was acquitted due to lack of evidence. After her husband died in 1850 an autopsy revealed traces of arsenic in his stomach, from the flour she had been feeding him. She confessed to the murders and went to Chelmsford prison for execution. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 1851 she was hanged in front of 7,000 spectators. Sarah was the last woman to be hanged in public and her activities brought in legislation for the controlling and selling of arsenic.



**Ian Poole: RAF Debden**

Construction of RAF Debden started in 1935 and it officially opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1937 with 85 Sqn flying the new Gloster Gladiators. During the Battle of Britain, Debden was part of the 11 group with Debden operations room controlling the southern half of East Anglia, and several squadrons all flying Hurricanes. With the war operations turning offensive, the Debden wing was formed, flying Spitfire operations over Europe with US pilots who volunteered before the USA entered the war to fight the Nazis. After the war, the Empire radio school operated with Ansons, Oxfords, Spitfires and a Halifax. Then in 1960 it became an RAF Police depot, an Air Cadet Gliding HQ, and on 25<sup>th</sup> April was transferred over to the Army as Carver Barracks.



**ALPHA COURSE –  
IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?**

Stansted's first Alpha Course started with taster sessions and will be running throughout February. If you are reading this at the start of the month there may still be spaces available; please see [www.stanstedfamilychurch.com/whats-on](http://www.stanstedfamilychurch.com/whats-on) or contact us directly. Each session involves a meal, a short film, and a time of discussion, allowing people of any faith or none to consider aspects of the Christian faith; look at the evidence for themselves and express their own views (if they wish) on the topics under discussion. If you like a friendly relaxed atmosphere, great conversation and good food, maybe Alpha is for you!



Ros Page  
Tel: 810813

Email : [contactstanfam@yahoo.com](mailto:contactstanfam@yahoo.com)

**INNER WHEEL CLUB OF  
BISHOP'S STORTFORD**



Our December celebrations were a great success, especially the Joint Inner Wheel and Rotary concert at Chelmsford Cathedral. We saw some very talented young people performing and enjoyed seeing one of the hearing dogs for the deaf; our Inner Wheel District Chair has chosen Hearing Dogs as her charity for the year and we purchased 2019 calendars in support of this. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm** at the Day Centre when our President will tell us about the Jaipur Limb charity which she has been involved with for many years. In March 2019 the Club will be celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> Charter with a special lunch. For more information concerning the Club, please contact me.

June Milne  
Club Correspondent  
Tel: 01371 875370



**An afternoon of American Classics**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 3.00pm**

Swinging rhythms, soaring melodies and buzzing excitement come to Saffron Hall with our next concert. Gershwin's *Cuban Overture* was composed after a trip to Havana in 1932 and features irregular rhythms, exotic harmonies and an extensive range of percussion that Gershwin encountered in Cuba. Barber's beautiful, calm and passionate *Adagio for Strings* follows, before the pianist Jérôme Sadler joins the orchestra to play Gershwin's ever-popular *Rhapsody in Blue*. The clarinet glissando at the beginning came into being as a joke on Gershwin, who wrote it into the 1924 composition. The concert concludes with Hanson's *Symphony No 2 (Romantic)* commissioned in 1930 by the Boston Symphony Orchestra for the orchestra's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The symphony is not played very often, yet it includes some beautiful melodies in the Hollywood style. Tickets: adults £18 and £15, under 18s £3 from Saffron Walden Tourist Information tel 01799 524002, Saffron Hall tel 0845 548 7650, online [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) or on the door.



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IN MEMORIAM  
**BOB STODDART**

22<sup>nd</sup> June 1922-12<sup>th</sup> November 2018



Born in Potterspury, Northamptonshire, the eldest of two children, Bob joined the Northampton Co-operative on leaving school in 1936. He started in the green-grocery department, which at that time involved a horse and cart and calling on customers. He remained employed by the Co-operative movement for all his working life, in stores in London, Bishop's Stortford, Cambridge,

Royston and Saffron Walden, rising through the ranks to Store Manager. Bob's army call up came in 1941, serving in the 3rd Carabiniers Tank Regiment in Burma and the Far East. He met his future wife, Elsie, at the Victory Parade in London, where Bob was representing his Regiment. They married in 1947 and settled in London, where they had two children, Martin and Mary. In 1958 they moved to Stansted Mountfitchet and remained there until, sadly, Elsie's dementia led to the decision to move into residential care. Not wishing to be parted, in June 2016 they both moved to Suffolk, where they could also be nearer to their grandchildren and great-granddaughters. Bob enjoyed all sports, but particularly cricket; he played for Stansted Cricket Club for many years, before turning to coaching the younger players, when injury ended his playing days. He still sponsors a Cup for the Under 15s. Bob was also involved in the Scout movement in Stansted, and with Elsie regularly delivered *meals on wheels* and helped at the Day Centre. He also raised funds for *Support 4 Sight*, a charity close to his heart. Bob was a talented artist and particularly enjoyed calligraphy and painting watercolour landscapes. He was a staunch member of the British Legion and could be found, with Elsie, selling poppies at Stansted Airport at the beginning of November for many years. He is survived by his widow Elsie, two children, and his extended family.

Martin Stoddart

**EDDIE LAIRD – THANK YOU**

We would like to express our gratitude to the wonderful people of Stansted - friends, former neighbours, voluntary organisations and local businesses, for the many acts of kindness and generosity shown to Eddie over the past year. Dad is now happily settled in Hargrave House, and we would also like to thank everyone there for all that they do in caring for him.

Tony and Lesley Graver

**DAISY MAY'S FARM**

Our Christmas Extravaganza was the perfect way to kick off the festive season. The children went on a wonderfully exciting horse drawn cart through the trees down to Santa's Grotto to meet the man himself and have a chat! They also met the animals at the farm and fed them too if they wanted. Daisy May's Farm is a local animal rescue centre and working community farm that has re-homed a large number of animals, and events like this are key to survival. We are open every Tuesday and Saturday 11.00am-3.00pm so please come and visit us. Do you have any time to spare? We *always* need help with the animals, administration, construction, and our fundraising events. We really look forward to hearing from you.

Alison Thomson  
Tel: 07747 787973  
Email: daisymaysfarm@gmail.com

**STANSTED DAY CENTRE**

At the end of last year, three of our loyal Day Centre volunteers were recognised and awarded for their Community Service over many years. Melanie began her volunteering as work experience when she was 14 years old, some 30 years ago. Margaret began 26 years ago and is now not only a volunteer but also one of our regular lunchtime



diners. Hazel has been a reliable fortnightly morning volunteer for over 25 years. Thank you so much to them and indeed to

all our volunteers who continue to help on a regular basis; the Day Centre would not be able to run without you. Once again, we exhibited at St Mary's Church Christmas Festival. We all made a wish upon a golden star. The collection of beautiful thoughts, remembrance and hopes written upon stars decorated a real Christmas tree. Our Christmas Lunch was a great success. A full Christmas turkey roast was served with all the trimmings, followed by Christmas pudding, mince pies and chocolates, accompanied with sparkling perry or elderflower pressé. Many went home with a free raffle present. Sorry to have disappointed those who remained on the reserve list but the event was very oversubscribed. Why not make it part of your New Year's resolution to come in and try our delicious lunches?

*'This month ... Surprise yourself by doing or imagining something you have never ever done before'*

The Day Centre is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10.00am-2.00pm. Lunch is served at 12.30pm. Booking required before 11.00am on the day.

Angela Hall  
Tel: 815091  
Email: stansteddaycentre@gmail.com

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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The other day I saw a very small child on the bus. He or she was at the point in their development where they were trying to talk. They were repeatedly making a "mm mm mm" sound. It was not hard to imagine them saying their first word; probably "mama". How extraordinary is the human gift of speech! Our brains have evolved to the point where acquiring language is natural to us. We have the ability to describe the world around us, to conduct our relationships and to give meaning to our lives through words. Our highly complex language skills are one of the expressions of our heightened human sense of consciousness. We should celebrate the gift of language and thought and all who help us see the potential and the fruits of them; poets, philosophers and scientists.

Experiencing that child, so vigorously trying to speak, took me back to a study day I had attended a few days

before. One of the themes we had explored was how do we express our faith in God? We recognised that we are often trying to express the inexpressible. Yet, it seemed to me that, if language is the extraordinary gift we have as humans, we cannot withdraw from trying to express our faith in words and concepts. One of the titles for Jesus is that he is *'the Word made flesh'*. This is often taken to mean that Jesus embodies the purpose of God and articulates that purpose for us. In the search for the deepest meaning of our lives, Christ is the way into exploring and expressing it. All religions share this same quest. The search for meaning is so intrinsic to our human existence. So let us give thanks for the gift of language and let us never give up the search for a deeper understanding of what truly is the meaning of our lives.



Roy Fowler  
Minister  
Stansted Free Church

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### QUE SERA, SERA

We all spent a very enjoyable evening with Pavarotti at the St Theresa's Italian-themed event, which brought out some considerable talent for making pizzas and spaghetti bolognese.



Together with the many varied plates of cold meats and cheeses, what a feast was on display, and all accompanied by some very good vino. Our next bring and share event may include Irish stew; can you guess the date?

Eileen Quinn  
Tel: 812109

**Priest** Father John Garrett

**Office** Tel: 814349  
Email: [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**Masses** Saturday 6.00pm  
Sunday 10.00am  
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Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 9.30am

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

#### Preachers for February

3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Janet Bottoms  
10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mike Dyer  
17<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch  
24<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

St Mary's Church had a fantastic 2018 Christmas Festival weekend on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December, which started with live theatre in the church. *Thisismytheatre* performed Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* three times in one day, with well over 200 people attending. Our thanks to these wonderful actors. Our carol concert was, as always, well attended with a full church. Special thanks to the Rev'd Paul Wilkin and Anne Brooks for a superb service, with beautiful singing and music from St John's choir and junior choir. Sunday saw the return of Stansted Mountfitchet U3A Strummers who had us all singing and dancing along to all those songs we know and love, including 'Hey Jude', the Chairman's special favourite! Thank you to Keef, Patricia and the Strummers.



A huge thank you to all organisations who exhibited this year; your trees were simply stunning. Special thanks also to all who decorated the church with flowers, erected lighting, and to the ladies for wonderful refreshments. As 2018 was such a wonderful Festival, we now have to plan for 2019. Would you or your organisation like to be involved? Please contact Lynda Dale for information tel: 07716 099474 email: lynndale@hotmail.com. Forest Hall School held their carol concert in St Mary's followed by the Blue Skies Big Band for 'A Swinging Christmas'. A wonderful evening was had by all.

Tony Graver  
Secretary



Our next meeting is on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February** at 7 Blythwood Gardens when Margaret Silvester will be playing some more of Phyllis Harrison's memoirs which she recorded for the History Society. Phyllis was a very active member of Shalom until recent years. Our informal coffee and chat *At Home* is on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February** at 49 Recreation Ground. Both meetings start at 8.00pm. All are welcome.



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  
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#### St John's Diary Sunday

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

#### Tuesday

9.15am St John's Tots

#### Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer  
10.00am Holy Communion

#### Thursday

10.30am-noon The Coffee Pot

#### Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

A monthly service of Holy Communion is held for residents in two Stansted care homes: on the first Wednesday (Hargrave House) and the second Tuesday (Mountfitchet House).

### From St John's Registers

#### November and December

#### November

##### Funeral

12<sup>th</sup> Stanley Robert Ward (Jim), age 93 - funeral at St John's followed by cremation at Parndon Wood

19<sup>th</sup> Ronald Leslie Albert Page, age 88 - funeral at St John's followed by cremation at Parndon Wood

#### December

##### Baptism

16<sup>th</sup> Robert Robinson

##### Funeral

4<sup>th</sup> Katharine Harvey Jones (Kaye) - funeral at St Johns' followed by burial at Stansted Cemetery

## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the November draw:

£100 No 243 Richard Shervington  
£50 No 153 Hazel Smith  
£25 No 13 Audrey Rodgers

Congratulations to the winners of the December draw:

£200 No 110 Jean Newson  
£100 No 279 John Elliott  
£50 No 103 June Winter  
£25 No 258 Clare Arnold

The draw for February will be held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 each are still available for anyone who may wish to join the Club and be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away this year. The Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson  
Tel: 819062



**Contact:** Howard and Ros Page  
Tel: 810813  
Email: [contactstanfam@yahoo.com](mailto: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 our regular meetings are likely to be on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February, but may be subject to change because members of @27 are currently running an **Alpha Course** as well; please contact us if you plan to attend in February for the first time. @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 are welcome; you do not have to be a member of Family Church, or any church, to attend. If you would like to join a prayer walk, or have a prayer-request, please contact us. The Stansted **Alpha Course** starts on January 28<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> and runs throughout February; please visit [www.stanstedfamilychurch.com/whats-on](http://www.stanstedfamilychurch.com/whats-on) or see village noticeboards for more details.



Ros and Howard Page

## THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

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

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

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

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am every week

**Light Group** (Guided Meditation) 10.30am-12 noon 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The 'Experiment with Light' is a process that helps people deepen their spiritual lives by discovering what it means to 'wait in the Light', as early Quakers did.

## BOOTS CHILDREN IN NEED COMPETITION

Congratulations to Taylor who won the Boots Children in Need colouring competition! Boots stores in general helped to support Children in Need by selling badge pins and bracelets along with other sponsored activities.



The Stansted store also ran a colouring competition where all the bright pictures could be seen decorating the store throughout the week. A big thank you to all who entered and well done to our winner Taylor, and Eden our runner up.

Kate Hayter  
Boots Stansted  
Tel: 812278

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## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STANSTED CHRISTMAS EVENTS

St John's Church was the venue for this joyful family event, with participation from St Mary's School, St John's junior and adult choirs and the specially formed Churches Together choir. Many thanks to the readers, singers, players, organist Anne Brooks and those who prepared the refreshments.



The village carol singing was well supported and our visit to Broome End Care Home was much appreciated by the residents, many of whom joined the singing of well-known carols. We then sang in Blythwood Gardens where residents generously filled our collecting tins.



The collection for the Indonesia Tsunami and Yemen Appeals from the two events amounted to £660.



Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059



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

In December the annual *Fun* evening followed by our Bring and Share Christmas Supper was enjoyed by all. Our "leetle grey cells", as Poirot would say, were tested with a General Knowledge Quiz against the Clock. Thank you to Tessa and Oliver Pemberton for compiling it; with special thanks to Oliver for being our 'timekeeper' and keeping us all on our toes. The Club also took part in the St Mary's Church Christmas festival; photos are on our website.

### Dates for your diaries and calendars

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February will be the Club's first meeting of

the new year and we will be welcoming Andrew Mikolajski; *Pin me to the Wall – and do what you want with me!* is the subject of his talk. **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March** *Flowering Shrubs for Each Month*, a talk by George Lockward. **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** is our Mini Spring Show and AGM. More information regarding times etc nearer the date. Show Schedules are available from the Secretary's desk. Club meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at the Day Centre (adjacent to the Library building site and car park). Doors open at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start, with refreshments available from 7.35pm. Visitors are always very welcome to our meetings; entry £3.00.

Maralyn Harris  
Tel: 07919 478144



## RHODES ARTS COMPLEX – FEBRUARY LISTINGS

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

### At thestage Stortford

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **Write Here, Write Now**  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **Pasadena Roof Orchestra**  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **Buddy Holly and the Cricketers**  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **Jacqui Dankworth & The Jazz Sirens**  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm **The Amazing Bubble Man**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm **Play in a Day**  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 11.30am and 1.30pm **Snow White, Rose Red & Brown Bear**  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 3.00pm and 7.00pm **Black Magic – The Little Mix Show**

### At thescreen Stortford

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm **The Favourite (15)**  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 11.00am **Spiderman - Into the Spider-Verse (PG)** - Kids for £1  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 2.00pm **ROH Live Encore – La Traviata (12A)**  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm **Papillon (15)**  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **Stan & Ollie (PG)**  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm **Colette (15)**  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 11.00am **Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG)** Kids for £1  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm **Casablanca (PG)**  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 11.00am (Kids for a £1) and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 11.00am **Mary Poppins Returns (PG)**  
Tues 19<sup>th</sup> 11.00am, Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> 2.00pm **Aquaman (12A)**  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 7.15pm **Royal Ballet Live – Don Quixote (12A)**  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **NT Live Encore – Anthony and Cleopatra (12A)**  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm and 7.30pm **Mary Queen of Scots (15)**  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm **Live Encore – Lady Windermere's Fan (12A)**

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# Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



## SAVE OUR LIBRARY

### THE FACTS – a potted history:

- 2011-2017 Essex County Council (ECC) initiated discussions with the Parish Council about a new community hub building to accommodate a new Library, Parish Council office and other community services. Architects appointed and spent considerable time with ECC agreeing their requirements and incorporating into the design of the new building. Following protracted discussions ECC agree to sign up to a 10-year Lease. Old library demolished and building work commenced on community hub. Suspended for approx. 15 months due to legal issues and no fault of ECC. Work resumed. Further discussions with ECC who requested the draft Lease and meetings held to discuss the detailed aspects of the move into the new building.
- 1 Nov 18 Site visit with Library officers to the new building and a further request for the Lease.
- 14 Nov 18 Stansted Parish Council alerted via social media to a possible consultation regarding the future of Essex Libraries and established that our library was on a potential “hit-list” for closure.
- Jan 2019 No direct communication with us has yet been initiated by Essex County Council.

### IS THE COUNTY COUNCIL ABOUT TO RENEGE ON THIS DEAL? IT SEEMS SO BUT THEY MUST NOT GET AWAY WITH THIS

We need everyone to play their part now and respond to the official consultation. Signing a petition is not as effective. This will affect everyone in our community; even if you are not a library user, you are sure to know someone who is. Key reasons for objecting include:

- **DEPRIVATION** - Stansted's child poverty is the highest in the district but we have the highest youth membership of the district's four public libraries
- **USAGE** - The usage figures quoted are from the period after demolition of the old library when it was housed in the mobile van and then in the Council Offices. Prior to that, usage of the library was high.
- **ACCESS** - If the number of libraries in Uttlesford is decreased from four to two, the district would have one library per 42,000 people. If the population goes up 15,000 over the next decade due to the creation of new communities, there will be one library per 50,000. This would be the worst library density in England.

Reply to the consultation on-line at <https://tinyurl.com/EssexLibrary>

Telephone response or request paper copy of consultation 0345 603 7639 or collect from Stansted Library.

**CONSULTATION CLOSES ON 20 FEBRUARY 2019**

## PHARMACY UPDATE

Work continues to progress a review of the 2018 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment to enable us to promote the registration of a dispensing pharmacy in the south of Stansted. Our recent efforts to convince the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board that their assessment process was flawed has not been accepted by them. We are, however, not giving up and have proof that not all of the agreed consultees actually received the documents; they were therefore unable to respond to the consultation.

We are asking the Essex HWB to review their processes, to visit us and meet with and listen to the residents here, and hear their issues; to look at the demographic increases locally and the impact on the Stansted Surgery and the existing registered and unregistered pharmacies, as well as the access issues.

We will need support if a visit is agreed – watch out for updates in the social media pages and the Parish Council website.

## THE MOUNTFITCHET EXCHANGE

As we write, work has recommenced following the Christmas break and is still on schedule to be completed by the end of February. Uncertainty about the future of the Library service in the village is obviously a huge concern, and if the Library service were to renege on the understanding we have with them in regard to their financial contribution, it could potentially have a significant impact on our budget.

We hope to be operating Parish Council services from the new building soon after handover. For the first time Stansted residents will be able to access some Uttlesford District Council services "face to face" in the village by calling into the Exchange building. It will also be possible to make contact with our Police Community Support Officer and access Citizens Advice Bureau services.

## TREE WARDEN'S REPORT

Tree Warden Daniel Brett writes:

In the foreword to "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy", Douglas Adams wrote: "This planet has – or rather had – a problem, which was this: most of the people living on it were unhappy for pretty much of the time... Many were increasingly of the opinion that they'd all made a big mistake in coming down from the trees in the first place." Certainly, a world without trees would be an unhappier place. Our community is a better place for the trees in our gardens and public places. These fasci-



nating plants are central to global ecology and, despite our species' technological prowess, are crucial to our survival: regulating the climate, storing carbon, preventing soil erosion, providing a habitat to most animals on our planet and giving millions of people materials for shelter and food to eat.

Trees have always been a part of my life and past generations of my family, so I was delighted to be invited to become Stansted's volunteer tree warden last May.

Land owned by Stansted Parish Council contains hundreds of trees of a variety of mostly indigenous species, of varying maturity. However, on amenity land trees cannot be a danger to life or property and that's where a tree warden comes in handy.

My first job was to examine a diseased Norway maple on the Recreation Ground. Trees in decline are fascinating from an ecological perspective. Just 10 per cent of a healthy tree is living tissue: three per cent of its mass is leaves, five per cent is inner bark and two per cent is the ray cells in sapwood. But a tree in advanced decay is more living than it has ever been. Rotting wood is a megacity of fungus and insects with more living tissue than it ever was as a "living" tree, gently transforming a tree's dying body into fertile matter and contributing to nature's rich cycle of rebirth.

The maple on the Rec was alive with a bacterial infection oozing out of the bark and fungal fruiting bodies erupting from the exposed sapwood, which also had countless holes of boring insects. Yet, a tree so rich in pathogens and creatures is a potential danger on amenity land and I recommended it be felled during winter, giving it a chance to have its last burst of leaf.

Ash die-back is a less romantic fungal disease. It is set to kill at least 90 per cent of ash trees in the UK. When the Parish Council asked me to inspect Newman's plantation, a small section of woodland between Walsen Way and Forest Hall Road, I counted over 130 trees (excluding shrubs), of which 62 per cent are ash with varying stages of the disease. The disease is slow to progress and for the time being the trees are not a problem to people or property, although I will inspect them for any potential dangers. As they decline, other

trees and shrubs will seed themselves in the copse: field maple, horse chestnut, oak, sycamore, hawthorn and hazel.



Aggressive, fast-spreading diseases such as ash die-back and sudden oak death are symptomatic of man-made climate change. It is up to all of us to look after our ecology at a time of great stress for our local trees, so that our community and planet can become a happier and healthier place for future generations. Take some time to appreciate our community's trees and the life and joy they provide.

### MEMORIAL GARDENS

We are pleased to announce that the funding has now been secured for the final phase of the Memorial Gardens make-over. The hard landscaping work was completed over a year ago and the flower beds adjacent to the pathway have been replanted. The borders on the boundary of the gardens were tidied up prior to the WWI Armistice Commemoration events, but they have been neglected for some time and many of the plants have either died or suffered from a lack of attention. Affinity Water have awarded us a grant of £2,050 which means that we can replant the areas with plants that are more eco friendly and cope better with drier summers. Once the worst of the winter weather is over our gardening contractors will start work and we will see the benefits over the summer months.

### POLICING

A PCSO has now been recruited for Stansted, Elsenham and Henham. Pre-employment checks are taking place and training commences on January 28<sup>th</sup> for six weeks. The PCSO will then be integrated into an established team to embed procedures and will start with us in March. Stansted Parish Council is covering 50% of the cost of the PCSO so we expect to see a visible police presence in the village for roughly 50% of their allotted hours (we have to allow for travelling time from Saffron Walden where they have to sign-in before starting duty!). There is an understanding that only if there is a really significant incident requiring a heavy police presence will the officer be taken off their duties in the village. If you have an issue you want the police to be aware of, you will be able to make contact with the PCSO in the Exchange Building.

### What can you expect our PCSO to be doing?

- Go on highly visible solo foot patrols
- Make house visits to gather intelligence and offer public reassurance after minor crimes or anti-social behaviour
- Get involved with community groups and local businesses.
- Provide low-level crime prevention and personal safety advice
- Carry out low-level missing person enquiries
- Act as professional witnesses, attending court when needed
- Engage with young people
- Interact with schools

### NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

*Cllr Farthing writes:*

As I write this on 27<sup>th</sup> December to meet the deadline of 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, Christmas has passed and we can look forward to the new year. Let us hope that it brings us all good health and prosperity.

It has been a great honour and privilege to be one of the district councillors for the past four years. However as my mum used to say, "Terry it's time for someone else to have a turn now".

Looking back, I hope I have helped to make a difference for the better for the residents of Uttlesford. Among other things, the one that stands out most was being able to support Aspire, the company UDC started to enable us to make investments to try and ensure we could fill the gap in funding from central government cuts. I am delighted to say that in the first 12 months our investment in Great Chesterford science park has contributed £2 million to the council coffers. I just hope that once I have left that the council will continue in the same entrepreneurial spirit. A good example of this is Stansted Airport, which is owned in part by local authorities in Manchester generating many millions in dividends for the benefit of residents in Manchester.

The local plan still marches on and, although may not be perfect, gives local people a say in what is built and where. The bottom line is we need more houses and they need to be built somewhere. All parties agree this to be the case and indeed try to out do one another as to how many more they would build if elected. We need to take our share, and without a plan the government will dictate what is to be built and where.

The biggest disappointments for me are the threat to the library at Stansted and the ridiculous on-going situation that the pharmacy next to the new doctors surgery is still unable to dispense medicines due to bureaucratic gobbledegook. All district councillors are trying to help the campaign to save the library.

I have been made aware of the new campaign from Keep Britain Tidy aimed at irresponsible dog owners, who fail to clean up after their pets in public areas. Although the campaign is supported by the council, on this occasion I cannot support it. I feel it is inappropriate and unnecessary to have large posters littering our neighbourhood with luminous, glow in the dark threatening eyes looking at you. I think children and the elderly may be upset by such menacing images,. If anyone hasn't seen them I would suggest they visit the parish office and look for themselves. I don't believe it will curb such owners' action; a better idea would be to enforce the bye laws and fine the culprits. Indeed if it's a real problem, and they also enforced fines for littering, it could be self-financing.

I have recently been helping the Uttlesford food bank. I have been extremely impressed by their commitment to help people in need living within our community. Living in such an affluent area like Uttlesford many of us are unaware of the real and often hidden issues that give rise to a real need for such a service. I would urge people to spread the word. Should anyone require help or further information they can be contacted on 07531 436 335 or email [info@uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk).

On another note, I still have funding available for local good causes and organisations; should anyone wish to apply please contact me. I need to donate this prior to my departure.

### DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

*All meetings start at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated*

#### February

- 20 Open Spaces
- 27 Full Council

#### March

- 6 Highways 7.00 pm and F & GP
- 11 Civil Protection
- 13 Annual Parish Meeting
- 20 Full Council

### PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

For this month only please see our website.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford

Assistant to the Parish Clerk - Trevor Lloyd

Administration Assistant - Emma Philbrick

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

Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10.00am - 1.00pm

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

### UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alan Dean	813579 <a href="mailto:cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>
Terry Farthing	661555 <a href="mailto:cllrfarthing@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrfarthing@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>
Thom Goddard	01371 879122 <a href="mailto:cllrgoddard@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrgoddard@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>
Geoffrey Sell	815925 <a href="mailto:cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>

### ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Ray Gooding	813103 <a href="mailto:cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk">cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk</a>
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### MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Kemi Badenoch MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA Tel 0207 219 1943 (House of Commons) or 01799 506349 (Constituency Office).

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

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## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



Our December meeting was well attended and we all settled in for a cosy evening. On display was a smaller version of the Christmas tree we had dressed for St. Mary's Church Festival earlier in December. The theme was *Peace and Goodwill*.

Our President thanked all the members who had produced the lovely end result. Lynda Dale, Chairman of the St Mary's Friends Committee, had sent a card to thank us for taking part. One of our members then entertained us with tales of her career, first as a typist for Cunard, then at the Elsenham Jam Factory, followed by various jobs ending up as a home help. She had many tales to tell, some sad but others had us in fits of laughter.



This was a hard act to follow, but we then welcomed our speaker for the evening, Peter Jennings, who came to tell us about *Yuletide Customs*, a subject which he is clearly passionate about. He explained that most of our traditions originate with the winter solstice and have roots going back hundreds of years. From the Yule log lit from the embers of the previous year's log, the introduction of the decorative fir tree in Victorian times, the development of the cracker, peculiar to Britain, the introduction of cards instead of Christmas letters, to the popularity of the robin picture stemming from the uniform of Victorian postmen who were known as 'robins'. Our refreshments, provided by the Committee, were decorated around a Christmas theme and much appreciated.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30pm in the Crafton Green Day Centre when we will hear a talk entitled *Latin didn't kill me – a wander around Pompeii*. Please join us. For more information please contact our President, Anne Watson, on 898693.

Jenny Wraith



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our November meeting was Mrs Patricia Moxey; her subject was the work and history of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, a society formed in 1926 by Sir Patrick Abercrombie to limit urban sprawl and ribbon development. It is a society with over 6,000 members and a branch in every county and 200 local groups nationwide who work tirelessly, monitoring planning applications and campaigning hard to protect our precious countryside. The National Office gives the countryside a voice in Westminster and the Media. CPRE has achieved so much. They led early campaigns to introduce National Parks, Area of Outstanding National Beauty, Green Belts and the Town and Country Planning System. More information about their valuable work can be found at [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk).

Our December meeting was held at our President's home which was beautifully decorated for the festive occasion. It took the form of a Christmas lunch with guests from Manuden and Elsenham Institutes. The speaker was Bob Harding-Jones who entertained members with a talk on British comedy greats, reviving memories of much-loved comedians. The entertaining afternoon brought our programme for 2018 to a very successful close. The speaker at our February meeting on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February** at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall, will be a representative from the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) who will give us an insight into the work of this very important charity. Why not come and join us for the afternoon? You would be most welcome.

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922

## BRAIN TRAINING

How can you learn your left from your right and help reduce pain? It really matters that you can tell your left from your right and not only because it saves marital strife when driving/navigating. The main reason lies in the function of your thalamus. The thalamus sits on top of the brainstem and one of its primary jobs is to decide how important incoming information is. It also should be good at distinguishing the finer points of that information. One of the most important messages analysed by the thalamus is pain. If we suffer long term pain, signals from the painful area spread to nearby areas and non-painful signals from that area come to be interpreted as pain, like the light squeeze of your socks. Which means pain intensifies and we start to fear movement. Not a good scenario. During pain rehab, it is important to rehab the thalamus so it normalises its response to signals coming from the troublesome area. The first line of attack comes with getting the *Recognise app* on your phone or iPad. To find it just google '*Recognise app*'.



This app has been developed by the NOI (Neuro Orthopaedic Institute) in Australia, a leading research group into pain. You can get the app for various body parts, such as the neck, back, or foot as suits your needs. What the app does is show you pictures of the chosen limb in various odd positions and you have to decide whether it is the right or left part of the body within a chosen time frame. It is likely that this will be difficult, but it does begin to decrease fear of movement.

Clare Harding  
Z-Health Master Practitioner  
Tel: 816430

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## CHARITY DOG WALK

[www.stclarehospice.org.uk/event/winter-walkies](http://www.stclarehospice.org.uk/event/winter-walkies)

More than 200 walkers with their furry friends are expected to support the St Clare Hospice 5k Winter Walkies event on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February**; there is still time to register. Organiser Emma Broadbent said: "This year marks the 13<sup>th</sup> time the Hospice has hosted the event and it is as popular as ever. The 2018 walk saw 250 walkers and their dogs take part, and we are hoping even more people register for 2019." Anyone is



welcome to join us on this rural route across the beautiful Essex countryside, whether you are a dog owner or not. Just remember your wellies as it is likely there will be plenty of muddy feet and paws. It is such a great event – you'd be barking mad to miss it! Fees are £10 adults, £5 children, which includes soup, dog rosette and certificates for children. Although pre-registration is advised, walkers can also sign up on the day. Please be aware that the route is not suitable for push-chairs and wheelchairs. This year's event is kindly sponsored by Forest Veterinary Centre. To register, call 773754 or email: [emma.broadbent@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:emma.broadbent@stclarehospice.org.uk).

## HEART YOUR HOSPICE

[www.stclarehospice.org.uk/heart-your-hospice](http://www.stclarehospice.org.uk/heart-your-hospice)

St Clare Hospice is seeking local participants to get involved with its community art project *Heart your Hospice*. The community art project launched during Hospice Care Week, last October will culminate with a final art piece completed by Valentine's Day, 14<sup>th</sup> February. The Hospice's Community Engagement Manager, Sally Muylders, is running the art project as a way to open up hospice care, and raise awareness of the charity's free services, to more people from across West Essex and East Herts. Outlining the project, Sally said: "The *Heart your Hospice* community art project is about bringing together people from across our catchment area, and welcoming them to find out more about their hospice, and what we can do for them". The Hospice has created a simple downloadable template which is available on their website for free. Simply download the template, cut out your heart shape, decorate it and return it with your name and contact details to: FAO Sally Muylders, St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, CM17 9JX. If you would be interested in arranging a workshop and to take part in the *Heart your Hospice* project, please call 773709 or email: [sally.muylders@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:sally.muylders@stclarehospice.org.uk).

Rebecca Day  
Communications Manager



## RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP

[www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley/events](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley/events)

Our next monthly meeting is on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm** at Bishops Park Community Centre, Lancaster Way, Bishop's Stortford (next to Tesco); this will be a talk on *Black-tailed Godwits' Migration* by Professor Jennifer Gill. Jennifer is Professor of Applied Ecology at the University of East Anglia and has worked on wader migration, ecology and conservation for many years. Previously President of the British Ornithologists Union, she is currently Chair of the Council of British Trust for Ornithology. A chance to watch a nearby flock of Black-tailed Godwits in the Blackwater Estuary, whilst she was on the way to help set up an experiment, provided enjoyable birdwatching and set in train thoughts that changed her life. Disturbance was still a critical issue and the combination of Black-tailed Godwits, who were considered particularly vulnerable, and the Essex estuaries, which were considered highly disturbed, provided an excellent research combination. Godwits are amazing birds to watch but they are under serious threat. Jennifer will take us through their story and what is being done for them. She will turn us all into 'godwiteers'! Entry £3.00 for Stort Valley Members, £5.00 for Visitors.



Our next walk will be around Anglesey Abbey on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February**. Meet at Bishop's Stortford Causeway car park at 9.00am. Anglesey Abbey is one of the jewels of Cambridgeshire, and the Winter Garden can brighten even the coldest of winter days. The shrubs and trees have been specially selected to provide vivid colour, textures and amazing scent. The Himalayan Silver Birch Grove with their brilliant white stems is a wonderful sight and in February carpets of winter aconites and snowdrops cover the gardens. The birds are just as appreciative of the planting as the humans, and a wide variety find their winter feed in the grounds. There is an entry fee if not a member of the National Trust. For more information contact Lee Jaques on 07454 801894.

Sheila Bowles  
Tel: 814973.



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

We shall end our current season of concerts on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.30pm when *Benyounes String Quartet* will be performing in St John's. Full details will appear in next month's Link and tickets will be available from our usual outlets from mid-February. Please reserve the date now and come to hear this well-known and highly acclaimed string quartet. Tickets: adults £15, concessions £12, under 18s free, available from Absolute Travel, Chapel Hill; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy tel 815282 or on the door.

Alan Corbishley



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## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING RAISES £1,440 FOR GROVE COTTAGE!

A big thank you to everyone who recycled their Christmas trees at Link Road Car Park in January, and gave a donation to Grove Cottage. The event raised an amazing £1,440 and saw over 250 trees recycled! Thank you to all our volunteers who helped on the day, to East Herts Council for all their support and especially to the team from The Tree Management Company (TTMC) who gave up their time and machinery for free. This is the third year that we have worked together with East Herts Council and TTMC on this project. With a donation to Grove Cottage given with every recycled tree, we will be able to continue supporting local people with a learning disability, as well as their families and carers. Thank you so much to everyone involved.



Steve Bland, Managing Director from TTMC said: "We are delighted to be a part of this incentive that not only benefits Grove Cottage, an important local charity, but recycles the trees sustainably too."

Sue Fishpool  
Community Fundraiser  
Tel: 651908

## A RECORD NUMBER SUPPORTED THE GROVE COTTAGE SANTA DASH

December's Santa Dash and Reindeer Run, organised by Grove Cottage, was a roaring success with a record number of people taking part and over £1,800 raised for the charity. Over 150 Santas and reindeers took on the 1k and 5k routes around the grounds at Grange Paddocks. Children aged 12 and under were given festive antlers to wear along with a medal for finishing the race while over 12s were provided with a rather fetching Santa suit. Coral, whose daughter Olivia attends Grove Cottage and took part in the event with her sister Adele, said "Olivia had a great time dressed up as Father Christmas and was so proud to cross the line after completing the full 5k and was very pleased when she received her medal."



It was the fourth year that the event has been run and popularity has grown year on year. Fundraising from the event will help Grove Cottage to continue offering clubs and services for people in the local area who have learning disabilities. It was heart-warming to see so many people come out to support Grove Cottage at this event and we really are so grateful to everyone for their support. We would like to thank our event sponsor HardSoft Computers and Grange Paddocks for allowing us the space.

Rosie Wren  
Fundraising Manager  
Tel: 651908

Email: [fundraising@mencapgrovecottage.org](mailto:fundraising@mencapgrovecottage.org)



## WHAT'S ON AT SAFFRON HALL IN FEBRUARY

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

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>** 8.00pm A laid-back evening in the Saffron Hall foyer. Foyer Jazz – Martin Speake Tickets £13.50

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm **Alisa Weilerstein, Inon Barnatan, Sergey Khachatryan, Colin Currie & Friends** A journey, via Beethoven and Schoenberg, into the dark heart of Romanticism, finishing with Shostakovich's enigmatic final symphony. Tickets £18 - £26

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm **Talvin Singh** Composer, producer, virtuoso tabla player and Mercury Music Prize-winning recording artist. Tickets £10 - £25

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm **A Berlioz Celebration** with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Tickets £24 - £55

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm **Castalian String Quartet**. Tickets £10 - £15

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>** 7.30pm **Foyer Folk** - Kit Hawes & Aaron Catlow . Tickets £13.50

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>** 7.30pm **BBC Concert Orchestra** An evening of stunning classical favourites including BBC Young Musician finalist Jess Gillam reprising her 'Last Night of the Proms' piece *Scaramouche*. Tickets £15 - £45

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>** 3.00pm **Paul Lewis** explores Haydn at his darkest, Brahms's autumnal Op 117, and the invention and wit of Beethoven's mighty *Diabelli Variations*. Tickets £14 - £26. Tickets for all events available from our box office tel 0845 548 7650, Saffron Walden Tourist tel 01799 524002 or our website.

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The new year is now well under way for volunteers at the Gardens, with a range of restoration and improvement projects in hand. For example, we are continuing to clear the far end of the walled kitchen garden, and putting in more raised beds for vegetables. There are many bits of hard standing where there were greenhouses and, who knows, we may one day be able to reconstruct one? In the meantime we plan to make safe the rubbly areas around the good vegetable beds by covering them with grass; maybe including a camomile lawn area, and one with clover in the grass mix to create a more diverse habitat? We would be pleased to hear from anyone with experience to share of establishing a camomile lawn. Our clearing continues to unearth more snowdrops where they are not wanted!



So as usual we will be selling snowdrops in the green on our snowdrop Open Days on **Sundays 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February**. Gates will be open 11.30am-4.00pm (last entry 3.00pm), and we will have hot drinks, soup and bacon rolls and of course home-made cakes. There will also be a plant stall. The snowdrops are coming up on cue. This year visitors will be able to see our new Maynard stag bed amongst the snowdrops in the kitchen garden! We sell excellent value season tickets, which are available on the gate or through our website, where you can also find the range of activities planned for our Open Days.

Jill Goldsmith  
Publicity  
Tel: 01371 876979



## WINES FOR VALENTINES



Searching for some wines to accompany that romantic meal? Here are some suggestions:

A sparkling wine has to be a good choice, particularly if it is pink! Janz from Tasmania produce a good value one: pale and delicate with a lovely mousse at £14.58 from Cambridge Wine Merchants. An alternative with lovely crushed berry flavours is *Graham Beck Rosé* from South Africa, available from Majestic at £14.99 as part of a mixed six bottle case. A step up in quality (and price) is the *Nyetimber Rosé*, nor-

mally £35 per bottle but expect a good discount at this time of year to around £26. The class shows with red fruit aromas and a creamy redcurrant flavour.

With a steak for supper you might like a powerful red wine such as an *'Amarone'* from Valpolicella. It is normally quite pricey but Aldi had *Villa Alberti Amarone* at £12.99, and whilst it lacks the complexity of pricier versions, it still packs an impressive punch for the money. Tesco had a very good 2015 *Tesco Finest Amarone* at £18.00 which is intense and full bodied with flavours of ripe black fruits, sweet spices with a rich smooth finish. If that is a bit powerful, a more delicate red is the appropriately named *Beaujolais* from the Cru vineyards of the most northerly region of Saint Amour. More tricky to track down but Rannoch Scott of Colchester has the 2014 *Chateaux de Belleverne Cru de Amoureux* at £9.50 on the internet, with wild strawberry aromas and blackberry and liquorice on the palette and a long complex finish. Finally, if you are finishing with chocolate why not try the unusual sweet and fortified port-like red wine of Maury from southern France which goes so well with chocolate puddings. Waitrose has a 50cl bottle of *Domaine Poudereux Gran Reserve* at £11.50 with flavours of prunes and figs and a long spicy finish. Have a wonderful evening.



Paul Wilkinson  
Email: Corkscrew\_456@hotmail.co.uk

## GARDENING TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

Try not to walk or work on your soil during wet periods; it will squash out a lot of the oxygen in the soil essential for plant growth and the soil fauna that live there, and are essential parts of the ecosystem. If you have no alternative but to work or walk on your soil, consider using old planks of wood to spread your weight and significantly reduce compaction.

If you did not plant any daffodils in autumn, they will start to become available in nurseries as pot-grown specimens; they are, however, much more expensive to buy this way. Snowdrops are traditionally available for purchase at quite cost-effective prices at this time of year (referred to as *in the green*); they can also be divided at this time. Other plants that are looking good at this time of year include yellow wintersweet (*Chimonanthus*), Nepalese paper plant (*Daphne*), Algerian iris (*Iris unguicularis*), and various hellebores. Winter flowering heathers that have finished flowering can be given a haircut; prune them back without going back into woody growth with no leaves, as they tend to reshoot from growing wood only. Deciduous hedges such as hawthorn, hornbeam, privet and viburnum can be pruned back before the bird nesting season starts. Roses not pruned in autumn can be pruned towards the end of the month; for bush roses aim to try and achieve a goblet shaped spread of strong stems. On climbers, aim to start bringing selected stems down towards their desired horizontal position to maximise the rose flowers in summer. If your climber is becoming old and woody, choose the oldest stem to prune right back to the base to encourage new shoots this summer. Late summer flowering shrubs like *Caryopteris* and *Buddleia* (butterfly bush) can be cut back to stubby growths near the base.



Paul the Gardener

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Coppicing is the process of cutting trees down; this allows the stumps to regenerate, over a period of about seven years. It is usually carried out on the bushy smaller trees such as hornbeam, hazel, hawthorn; however, it may also be applied to other deciduous tree species, including oak, maple, sweet chestnut, willow, lime and ash. Coppicing is a form of woodland management that has shaped woodlands for hundreds of years. Reasons for the process have changed over the years. In the past trees were coppiced for fire wood, charcoal, bean poles, weaving and pea sticks. Nowadays timber production is combined with management for conservation.



Photo by Peter Sherlock

### Rotational coppicing

Today, the most important reason is the benefit it provides to wildlife. Rotational coppicing maintains a small-scale structural diversity, with a constantly changing pattern of cut-over areas, scrub thickets and open areas. Newly opened areas allow sun and rain into the floor of the woodland, and this stimulates dormant seeds into life which then cover the woodland floor, attracting insects such as butterflies, moths and beetles as well as dormice. These in turn become food for birds and bats. After some three to five years shoots of the coppiced stools grow, and brambles and bracken take over from the herbaceous plants. If left undisturbed for between five and 15 years, coppiced areas become thick impenetrable havens for larger mammals, such as foxes, stoats and weasels, which can forage without being chased by dogs. It is also superb for small nesting birds such as warblers, dunnocks and wrens. If trees are left uncoppiced, the structure of the woods will change. More uniform conditions will gradually develop, with fewer clearings and a less varied structure, and will sadly lead to the extinction of many species which have adapted to depend on coppice conditions. Weather permitting, we hope to be carrying out some coppicing.



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

## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET SOCIAL CLUB

[www.smsc.uk.com](http://www.smsc.uk.com)

We start this month with the sad news that one of our members passed away suddenly over the Christmas period. A lot of locals will remember Roger Hall, as he taught many people karate over the years. He will be sadly missed. Progress on the tower repairs was put on hold by the traditional shutdown of the construction industry during the festive period. We are awaiting another two quotes for the work which will be based around the recent structural report. Some minor repairs have been carried out inside the office, but there is still a lot to be done. Once again, if you are able to contribute or have any fundraising ideas, please get in touch.



### February entertainment

Things start to ramp up again on the entertainment front this month. We have the excellent *Glen Cooper* performing on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**. Another band making their debut, *Johnny One Eye*, are with us on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>**. They perform classic rock 'n' roll with influences from *The Stray Cats*, *Dave Edmunds*, *Commander Cody*, *Bruce Springsteen* and *The Who* amongst others. One not to be missed! On **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>** we have our monthly karaoke session. It is always an entertaining afternoon and everybody is welcome to have a go, no matter how good or bad you are. There may be further events added for February so please keep checking our Facebook page. On **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** we have *Quixote's Beard* making their debut, so please head on down and make their first appearance a memorable one. As always, we have prize bingo every Tuesday at 8.00pm and we also have darts, pool and snooker teams should you wish to come down and play.

Andrew Sharpe  
Email: [stanstedclub@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedclub@gmail.com)

## VOLUNTEERS

So often we all hear, "Why don't they do something about that". Walking along Pennington Lane I met two people who do get on and do it as volunteers. They were litter picking as they walked Pennington Lane; many thanks to them.



Any member of our community can volunteer to do something to help make our village even nicer than it is, for example, *Speed Watch* which only needs two hours of your time every other week (see page 38 for contact details), or litter picking as you walk the many beautiful walk routes we have in the village. You can contact the Parish Council office for information.

Ray Woodcock  
Tel: 816468

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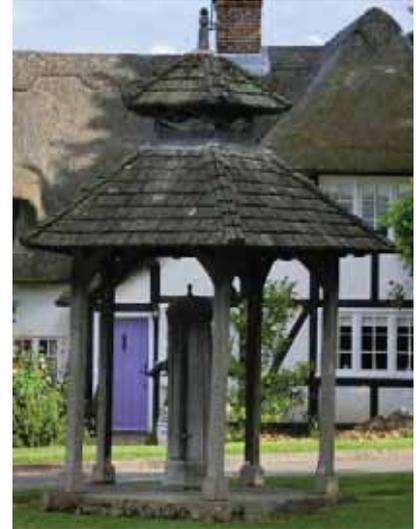
Today there is much we take for granted which our ancestors would not have done – for example the availability of fresh running water. In 1786 it was recorded that during an attempt to reposition a Dunmow water pump, “the gentlemen of the Mob Classes were determined it should not be moved ... a great mob got together and a great riot ensued.” The riot led to 12 people being imprisoned in Chelmsford Gaol. Throughout the Hundred Parishes there are numerous surviving examples of water pumps that once served a small local community and I have described just a few below. Many of them are now listed buildings. There are plenty more to be spotted around our beautiful area, some in obvious public locations and others in private gardens.

Ken McDonald Tel: 813226



The communal village pump at Pump Green, **High Easter** has been sensitively renovated, having been in use until the 1930s. It stands in the shade of a lime tree planted to commemorate the coronation of King George V in 1910.

**Westmill** village near Buntingford has a pump dating from about 1900. It stands on the village green and carries the inscription “Traverse the desert and then you can tell what treasure exists in the cool deep well.”



To commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887 the village pump was erected in **Little Dunmow**. It is now listed and is a fine example of Victorian design. Thaxted and Great Dunmow have similar, rather grand, 19th-century pumps in prominent positions.

The **Hatfield Broad Oak** pump is early 19th century and made of cast iron. It has a baluster-shaped barrel with acanthus-leaved lower parts on a moulded base and square iron pedestal. The cap is fluted. Unfortunately the handle is missing from the horizontal spout.



## UGLEY VILLAGE HALL QUIZ NIGHT

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

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February** 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Tickets £10 including chilli and jacket potato, followed by a tasty dessert. Bring your own drinks. All proceeds to the Village Hall. For catering purposes **tickets must be booked by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February**. For more information about the quiz or hiring the hall visit our new website.

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## INK CARTRIDGES



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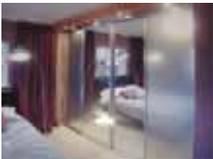
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## Nature Notes

### THE NUTHATCH

The nuthatch is a plump bird which resembles a small woodpecker. It is blue-grey above and whitish below, with chestnut on its sides and under its tail. It has a black stripe on its head, a long black pointed bill and short legs. Length is 14 cm, wingspan of 24 cm with a weight of 23g. It lays six to eight eggs in April or May in old holes or crevices in trees. The female alters the nest hole using mud, protecting the chicks from predation; hence its old name of mud stopper. The chicks will fledge at around 24 days old. The name nuthatch is derived from nut hacker, because the bird cracks nuts by jamming them into a crevice then hammering at them.



Most of our knowledge about the nuthatch comes from work carried out in Sweden and Belgium. Studies have shown that large gardens with oak trees provide the optimum habitat for this species and they are increasingly making use of bird feeders. They take food from the bird table to store elsewhere; this can lead to sunflowers sprouting in unexpected places. Pairs are strongly territorial throughout the year due to this habit of storing food within their territory. They will readily adopt nest boxes and cannot resist plastering mud around the entrance hole, even if the hole is the right size. The favourite natural site for a nuthatch is the old nest hole of a great spotted woodpecker.

Nuthatches are one of the noisier birds in the early spring and are sedentary, seldom moving far from where they hatched, usually less than a kilometre. Attracting nuthatches to your garden is best in the autumn and winter; nuts, seeds and invertebrates form an important part of the diet of nuthatches; peanuts and sunflower hearts are particularly popular in garden feeding stations.



Steve Leaney  
Tel: 647177

### PET EMERGENCIES

We have had a few pretty full-on days and nights recently at Mercer and Hughes, but a comment from a client really made an impression on me. The first was the emergency caesarian which occupied four nurses and me for a couple of hours, operating and then resuscitating the severely compromised puppies; for a while it was touch and go, but

eventually we managed to pull them all through. We also negotiated the disruption to the practice with so many staff caring for one patient, with a lot of hard work and staff staying on after their shifts had finished.

The next day seemed to be the day of the dogs eating inappropriate objects: stones, chocolate and socks to name but a few. After the second emergency operation to remove some of these things from various parts of intestines, our kennel nurses were set to have a busy night with post-operative monitoring. By the third day we were all wishing for a quiet one but after a normal busy day, I had an emergency call to say a cat had just come home with severe injuries. I told them to go straight to the Saffron Walden surgery, and was met by worried owners and a cat with some of the most horrific injuries I have ever seen. We spent the next hours carrying out emergency surgery. When I rang the owners at midnight to say we had just finished, they were relieved and grateful, but it was their parting words that have stayed with me over the last few weeks. They said "Thank you for being there". Just a simple phrase but one that has really resonated with me, because although it is our job, on a daily basis our staff go above and beyond what you might expect. They stay late, comfort pet owners, deal with whatever is thrown at them and they do it with care, love and good humour.



Ilse Pedler  
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons

### HUW JOHNSON CLUB



The Huw Johnson Club is a social group for adults with learning disabilities which runs on Thursday evenings in St John's Church Hall. We are on our winter break at the moment but will be re-starting on **21<sup>st</sup> February**; we are looking forward to welcoming a few new members, drivers and volunteers, and we have loads of exciting things coming up over the next few weeks. Thank you to everyone who came along to our Carol Concert in December; it was lovely to see so many people there and was a great way to start the Christmas period. We have also recently been on our annual trip to the pantomime in Cambridge. Thanks to some very generous supporters, 45 of us were able to attend in a specially adapted coach for free! This year's pantomime was *Aladdin*, and it was a lot of fun; there was lots of booing, hissing and cheering (and not all just from me!).

We would also like to say a huge congratulations to Jean Winder, one of our volunteers and a long-term Stansted resident, who recently won a Community Achievement Award from the Uttlesford District Council for her work with the Club. At the sprightly age of 96, Jean has been with the Club since we started 44 years ago and still helps out every week, from serving teas to dancing the *Hokey Cokey* at discos! She is an inspiration to us all and the award is very well deserved. We are always looking for more volunteers, so if you would like to get involved with a local charity, then please do get in touch.



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**24<sup>th</sup> February** Hatfield Heath-Car Park Behind the Chippy GR: TL524150 Postcode: CM22 7EB

**10<sup>th</sup> March** Thremhall Park (Bury Lodge Lane) GR: TL532214 Postcode: CM22 7WE

**24<sup>th</sup> March** Green Tye (Roadside next to Prince of Wales PH) GR: TL444184 Postcode: SG10 6JP

It's a new year and we have our Annual AGM on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45pm in the New Apton Centre, Bishop's Stortford. All are welcome, not just members. Local walker and author, Phoebe Taplin, will provide a super insight into the area around our base town and the greater beyond. Do come along, entry is free. Thank you so much for your kind responses to my last article in respect of the Aubrey Buxton south-side field path, and for the need to improve the footpath(s), from the River Stort to Stansted Brook at the Trout Bridge/B1383. Please keep them coming. BSDFA continues to represent walkers and cyclists in respect of existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) and improving our many local PROWs, particularly for the health and safety of users as housing developments, and the resulting increase in motor vehicles, become more prevalent.



Photo Courtesy of Prince

**Talk to us about the issues**

Recently we have come across builders' tips at Elms Farm Stansted, and the destruction of protected verges in Stansted. PROWs are what the words say ... *Rights of passage over which the public may freely pass*. Tell us where there are problems.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis  
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**STANSTED BOWLING CLUB**

At the Club's AGM in November 2018, we had the largest turnout of members that anyone could remember. Many old officers of the Club gave up their positions and new members were voted in to take their place. I would like to thank both old and new and wish everyone a good season for 2019.

The Clubhouse is to get a new roof thanks to part-funding by Stansted Airport Community Fund; the old roof is leaking. We are also getting a defibrillator and will have this accessible to the public in the hope that it will help to save lives. This has been possible by very generous donations from Club members and also from the local Fire Service, who hold regular fundraising events through the year. They are an essential service who help many people and we need to ensure that we all help and support them as much as we can. Our defibrillator will go on the National Register for any First Responder or other qualified users to access. This has been a truly fantastic response from everyone; we hope that the defibrillator will be in place in time for April, when the bowls season starts. We are still hoping to encourage more people to join the Club, so if you fancy coming along to have a look at what we can offer you in terms of facilities and playing the game itself, watch out for the monthly match updates in this article, or give me a call on the number below. Happy bowling!

Peter Beattie  
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 Email: [peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com](mailto:peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com)



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

**Junior coaching**

We are pleased to announce that a new junior coaching programme, open to members and non-members, was started on 16<sup>th</sup> January at Stansted. Group coaching sessions will be held on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 4.00pm. Please contact Ollie Toms, an LTA licensed, Level 3 coach, for further details on 07917 652014, email: [ollie@olliestennis.co.uk](mailto:ollie@olliestennis.co.uk) or [www.olliestennis.co.uk](http://www.olliestennis.co.uk).

**Ladies' night** The next ladies' night (members only) will be on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February**, from 7.00pm.

**Used tennis balls**

Used tennis balls can be purchased for £1 for a tube of four, from Jan Hollis at 105 Cambridge Road. Please visit our website for further information about the Club.

Fiona Kelly  
 Publicity Officer  
 Email: [fiona1.kelly@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona1.kelly@btinternet.com)

**STANSTED IS WELL READ**

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck in Lower Street, where we will be discussing *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid. This book was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2017 and is a spiritual story full of love and hope, about a couple fleeing civil war. It takes the reader across borders and continents and explores possible new starts, making it a perfect read for the New Year. Please do join us; we meet on the first Tuesday of every month and a warm welcome will await.



Anne Watson  
 Tel: 898693  
 Email: [stanstediswellread@gmail.com](mailto:stanstediswellread@gmail.com)

## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Rainbows (Wednesday)	Rachel Roberts Tel: 078648 21905
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Rainbows (Friday)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Beaver Scouts Age 6-8		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: 07770 955830
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 and District Past Rotarians Club	Secretary: Geoff Lay Email: geoff.lay@ntlworld.com
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Badminton Club	Vince Tel: 07793 000107 Raj Tel: 07775 915418
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Steve Turrell Tel: 07519 572642	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Explorer Scouts	Paul Thorneycroft Tel: 01371 876784	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Grove Cottage	Jocelin Warren Tel: 07482 535020 Office tel: 656085	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis, District Commissioner Tel: 814434	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly, Publicity Officer STC Tel: 07949 623484 Email: fiona1.kelly@btintetnet.com
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	U3A	Ray Smith, Chair Tel: 813270
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Anne Watson, President Tel: 898693
Inner Wheel Club	Margaret Webb, President Tel: 503225	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Investigators Age 7-11	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
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 Uttlesford Support Group	Vivian Falk, Chairman Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		

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

### BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

## EXCITING STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

### *One fan's view*

To me, the match of the season was Stansted's recent nail-biting 5-3 win away to Saffron Walden Town, on a bleak wet December afternoon. Saffron Walden had won the previous encounter against Stansted 1-0 at Hargrave Park. Both teams were hungry for a win; Stansted could reclaim the top spot from Hullbridge, while Saffron Walden could leapfrog our local team to move from fourth to second in the standings.



The closely fought contest in front of over 250 spectators saw Stansted battle against the odds. This included a controversial decision to award a goal, when Stansted keeper Charlie Turner was clearly bundled over the line, after making a save in a crowded penalty box. However, Turner later won plaudits for what one commentator called, "one of the best saves I've seen at this level", when he prevented a Saffron Walden goal by pushing the ball over the bar during the second half. Callum Ibe netted two goals, while Connor Hammond, Jack Mitchell and newly signed James Peagram scored one apiece. The Stansted fans came away elated having seen their team beat Saffron Walden, one of the League's toughest opponents. The team has cohered into an indomitable fighting force over the course of the season. The Stansted community should now get behind our exciting local team; please bring your family to Hargrave Park on a Saturday afternoon. Adult entry is just £5 and at half-time fans can enjoy tea, snacks, a well-stocked bar and a warm welcome. For details of fixtures go to [www.essexseniorleague.co.uk/fixtures](http://www.essexseniorleague.co.uk/fixtures).

Daniel Brett



## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Coming into February, off the back of what has been a record run of exciting games for the first team, saw us consolidate our position at the top of the League. This has set us up nicely not only for promotion, but also becoming Champions! The confidence and focus around the team has been growing game by game, since we moved into the top two. We do however recognise that there are teams around

us who are more experienced than we are at this crucial point of the season. With only a third of league games remaining, this is certainly an exciting time for both players and fans. Added to our desire to become Champions, we also have great opportunities to win a Cup against one of our closest rivals Walthamstow. We play them twice this month in the Semi-Final of the Brasted Memorial (at home), and in the Quarter Final of the League Cup (at their ground). Let us hope that no games are lost to the weather; we have been fortunate so far not to have had any postponements.

### February fixtures

For this month all of the league fixtures for the First Team have been scheduled away from Hargrave Park; however, this will give our Veterans a chance to catch up on their home games which are unfortunately running slightly behind where they should be.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** we play Walthamstow in the Gordon Brasted Memorial Trophy Semi-Final, KO 3.00pm

The support the team has been getting both home and away this season has been incredible, the players really appreciate it; let us see if we can cheer them on to a Cup Final.



Tom Williams  
Secretary  
Tel: 07921 403842



## STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

### 2019 - A BIG YEAR FOR CRICKET

The year 2019 will be a huge one for the game of cricket in England. The World Cup begins on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May** and concludes on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July**. England are favourites - no pressure! This will be followed by the Australian team staying on and playing England for the *Ashes*. Hopefully this plethora of cricket will encourage more people into the game, especially youngsters.

At *The Hall* we would like anybody interested in cricket to give us a call; young or old, we will be encouraging you all to take part. This is also a big year for the Club; the 1<sup>st</sup> XI have been promoted to Division 1 of the Herts and Essex League and we are looking forward to the challenge. Unfortunately, this promotion means more travelling, which is not too good. We are hopeful that the Club's youth section will continue to expand, as our Clubmark accreditation has been successfully acquired for another three years. In effect this indicates that we are a well-run club and your youngsters will be coached by English Cricket Board qualified coaches. Our other main project will be to get the funding for a new pavilion at our Elsenham Place ground. The Club is hopeful, but we are still well short of our target. Finally, come on England! Winning the World Cup and regaining the *Ashes* will give our game a much-needed boost.



David Brown  
Tel: 831011  
Email: David.r.brown@gmail.com

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