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Church
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EDITORIAL



Walking along the lanes and across the fields around the perimeter of Stansted is always an interesting experience. As well as the usual abundance of seasonal wild flowers/berries, rabbits and birds there's an incredible variety of other sights. From horses, sheep and pigs to wild deer, peacocks... and old mattresses! It's obviously spring-cleaning time and our verges are once again being blighted by the fly tipper (along Alsa Street on this occasion). As advised in last month's 'Link', do pass on any useful information you have concerning this problem to the Parish Council. It will help them take action against the fly tippers. The amount of dog mess fouling our pavements seems slightly diminished. Hopefully, that means the recent campaign against dog litter is working, or maybe the culprits are just away on holiday? Only time will tell. There's a village 'litter pick' taking place this month (details on page 20) giving everyone an ideal chance to help clear our streets of rubbish.

Thank you to those who responded to the plea for help with the editing of 'The Link'. Their willingness to get involved is much appreciated. Our community magazine can only benefit from fresh input. Lighter evenings and the prospect of better weather are ideal conditions for getting out and enjoying the open countryside and lovely views on our doorstep (while it's still there!). But please leave your old mattresses at home.

CONTENTS

Thought for the Month	2	Rainbow Pre-School	27
Church News	2-3	Huw Johnson Club	27
Spangles Children's Centre	4	Children's Recipe of the Month	27
In Memoriam - Nellie Marshall	4	Rotary Club	29
Village Events	5	Grove Cottage	29
St Theresa's Church	7	Manuden Singers	29
Thank You	7	Stansted Cricket Club	30
Windmill	7	Who Stole our Balls?	30
St Clare Hospice	9	Stansted Football Club	30
National Childbirth Trust	9	Stansted Mountfitchet U3A	31
Nature Notes	11	Stansted Bowling Club	31
Can You Help?	11	Stansted Evening WI	33
Local History Society	11	Jam Jars	33
Growing up in Stansted	13	Stop Stansted Expansion	33
The Crafton Room	13	Skywatch	35
Mountfitchet Garden Club	14	Volunteers Needed	35
Cyril's Gardening Tips	14	Stansted Lunch Club	35
Fantastic Fibonacci	14	Keep Fit	35
Easton Lodge - Apologies!	14	Stansted Junior Red Cross 1944	37
Our Road - Bentfield Green	15	Ugley WI	37
British Beekeepers Assn	15	Stansted Hall and Elsenham	
MMCC	17	Cricket Club	37
Do you need a Re-brand?	17	Snippets from Hatfield Forest	39
Stansted network	19-22	Macmillan Cancer Support	39
Directory of Clubs	23	Stansted Tennis Club	39
Foresthall Park Residents		Stop Press	39
Association	25	Index to Advertisers	40
Bentfield Primary School	25		

DISCLAIMER Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of the editorial committee, nor is any culpability accepted for work undertaken by advertisers.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Easter Day, which this year falls on 31st March, is, for Christians, the most important day of the year. It celebrates the fact that Jesus, who died on the Friday two days before, rose from the dead and was seen, touched and spoken with by numerous witnesses. In the end it is something you either believe or don't. However, if you do believe it, it makes everything else different.

Believing in the resurrection of Jesus is not just believing in something that happened a long time ago in a faraway land. Nor is it about something called 'life after death' which is irrelevant to the here and now. Believing in the resurrection of Jesus fills the here and now with a meaning that otherwise it would not have. Christians believe that Jesus' death and resurrection sets a pattern which the rest of humanity follows. Jesus died; and so will you and I. Jesus lay in the grave; and so will you and I. Jesus rose from the dead; and so will you and I. And at that point we will have to live forever with what we have done in the here and now. If we choose to live apart from God, God will not force himself upon us. We can choose an eternity without God, wrapped up only in ourselves: Christians call this 'hell'. Or we choose now to live a life reflecting Jesus' life of love. That's hard, and we can't do it by ourselves. We need God's help and we need the help of one another. That's what the church is about.

The Bible puts it this way: *"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live."*

Have a happy Easter.



Paul Wilkin
Rector, St John's Church



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minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for April

7th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble - New Directions
14th 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe
21st 10.30am Penny Flynn
28th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble

The Place on the Hill

Our new drop-in every Wednesday 9.30am-12.30pm is still proving very popular, with new visitors arriving every week. All are welcome.



Shalom

Our first meeting of this term is our 'At home' 8.00pm on Monday 22nd April at 7 Blythwood Gardens. All are welcome.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

Priest Father Joe White
The Presbytery
St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane
Stansted
Tel: 814349

Masses Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 10.00am
Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm
Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk Mrs Anthea Lee
24 Lea Close
Bishop's Stortford
Tel : 656707

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am



ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the February draws, who were:

£100 No 47 - David Cope
 £ 50 No 103 - June Winter
 £ 25 No 101 - Martine Beck

The draws for April will be carried out on Sunday 28th April in St John's Church following the 9.30am service.

The 300 Club year will come to an end on 30th April and I would like to express our very grateful thanks to all those who have supported us. Over the three years that the Club has been running, we have given away a total of £7,500 in prize money and raised a much needed £8,297 for church funds. A new year's subscription will commence on 1st May and I do hope that our existing members will renew their subscriptions. Anyone who would like to share in the chance to win one of the prizes, totalling £2,500, given away each year, will contact me for a form. Numbers cost £2 each per month with a maximum of five numbers per household.

Francine Cope
 Tel: 814562

REVEREND RHYS MARTIN

We are sorry to record that Rhys, aged 44, a curate at St John's in 2000 and 2001 died from leukaemia in January. After his curacy he was inducted as Vicar to the parish of Rowhedge. His wife, Caroline, came from Colchester, just up-river from Rowhedge, and is now training as an ordinand. Rhys, distinctive with his pony-tail, became known to others in Stansted partly through his much-appreciated leading of a Shalom Group retreat at Hengrave Hall. Caroline and the two children have been assured of our sympathy and condolences.

May he rest in peace.

Derek Honour

JUNIOR CHOIR AT ST JOHN'S

Fancy yourself as the next Justin Timberlake, Beyoncé or Katy Perry? These and other famous pop singers started in church choirs and now you have the chance to follow them.

St John's church has started a junior choir which rehearses on Thursday evenings between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and is open to anyone from age seven upwards. This is an opportunity to learn to sing in a relaxed atmosphere and, if you want, get your church music qualifications. Only part of the time is spent singing, there are other activities as well and refreshments at the end.

We cannot promise to get you on X-Factor but we can give you a head start! All we ask for in return is for you to come and practise your new singing skills at the Family Service on the first Sunday of each month.



Matthew Jessup
 Tel: 07787 523471

All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
 St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
 Tel: 815243
 Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com
 Office hours: 9.00am-12 noon, Monday,
 Wednesday, Friday
 Administrator: Mrs Sally Chapman
 Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btck.com

Rector: Rev'd Paul Wilkin
 Tel: 812203
 Email: paulwilkin@iname.com

Director of Music: Anne Brooks
 Email: anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk

Church Hall Bookings: Mrs Susie Ball
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St John's Diary

Sunday

8.00am Said Holy Communion
 9.30am Worship4all (1st Sunday)
 9.30am Choral Eucharist (2nd-5th Sundays)

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer
 (9.00am on Saturday)

There are services of Holy Communion on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the month in Norman Court, Hargrave House and Broome End Nursing Homes.

Tuesday

9.15am-10.30am St John's Tots

Wednesday

8.30am Morning Prayer
 10.00am Holy Communion

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

From the Registers

February

Marriage

16th Grant Mercer and Lisa Smyth

Funeral

14th Ann Dockerty - service in St John's followed by burial in Stansted cemetery

No baptisms in February

Research has shown that helping your child to communicate well:

- Helps brain development
- Reduces tantrums and bad behaviour
- Helps to do well in school
- Helps to make friends

As good communication skills are so important for young children, Spangles Children's Centre is holding a special Easter holiday event. All families with children aged 3 and 4 years are invited to **Rhythm, Rhyme and Storytime - Thursday 11th April 10.00am and 2.00pm**. Children's author, Pauline Stewart, will bring stories and rhymes alive and take the children on a seaside adventure with her story "If mum and me were mermaids". Children can come dressed as pirates or mermaids if they wish and make a special treasure box. Tickets cost £1 per family and everyone will be entered into a special prize draw. Tickets can be purchased at Spangles Children's Centre, Lower Street, or through local pre-schools and nurseries. For more information call 812348.



Photo: Maria White

This event is only possible as a result of the generous donations from local people at the Churches Together Christmas services and carol singing. On 11th February, Churches Together presented a wonderful cheque for £806 to the Children's Centre and part of that money is being used for this workshop.

For more help with supporting your child's communication take a look at the Talk Listen and Cuddle website <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Early-Years-Childcare/TLC/Pages>.

Nursery rhymes are short and easy to repeat, so they become part of a child's first sentences. Activities such as nursery rhymes will encourage your little one to learn new words and also add some fun to your time together. Try this simple rhyme when your child is tired and ready for bed:

Round and round the garden, (circle tummy with your fingers)

Like a teddy bear,

One step, two steps, (walk your fingers up tummy)

Tickle you under there!! (make a big surprise of tickling under chin)

Lesley Murdoch



Nellie was born in Enniskean, County Cork, the eldest of six children, to Daniel and Mary Manning. Home was in Desert, a small hamlet of just farm cottages and smallholdings. The family produced their own meat and vegetables and water was drawn from the well along the road. With Daniel working at the Mill they were self-sufficient. As with many Irish people at that time, Nellie's dream was to go to America and it was with that dream in mind that she came to England as a children's nurse to save money for the fare.

During this period she met and married Trevor, father to Sally, Stephen and me and where home was to be at 49 Chapel Hill. Days were spent out on the motor bike and side-car, including visits to Langley Lake for fishing. Trevor was a marvellous father and husband as well as a very popular figure in the village. Very sadly, in 1964 after a short illness, Trevor died aged 42. This of course was a major turning point for the family and the sense of loss was enormous. Stephen was only eighteen months old, so taking on a job even part-time for Nellie was out of the question. Nellie, being ever resourceful, came up with the idea of paying guests and for many years girls from the telephone exchange in Bishop's Stortford lodged with the family. Later, Nellie started work in the kitchen at Mountfitchet School and rose to the position of Cook Supervisor. This led to the connection with Meals on Wheels and the Day Centre.

Nellie and the family were privileged that Pope Benedict XVI bestowed an Apostolic Blessing for her ninetieth birthday and a celebration service was held at St Theresa's. She never missed attending Mass until it became too much for her in recent years. Her strong sense of Irish culture and faith remained with her through her closing hours when she received a blessing from the Catholic celebrant at Harlow hospital.

Nellie was lucky enough to have wonderful friends who loved and cared for her and she also thought the world of them. Nellie was grandmother to Rebecca and James and great-grandmother to Riley, Harvey, Tyler, Jay-J and Amelia Rose. She was a feisty, free-spirited, colourful Irish woman who always had a lot to say about everything and everyone. One of her close friends said 'In a world of locked doors, Nellie's was always open.'

David Marshall



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**Easter Weekend
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Mon 1st April
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& District NCT**

Easter Egg Hunt 2nd April
Ugley Village Hall
10 - 11.30 am 

 **Tea and Toys 5th April**
St John's Church Hall
10 - 11.30 am

Park Play 9th April
Recreation Ground 
10 - 11.30 am

Manuden Singers & Players

Bach St John Passion

7.30 pm Sat 6th April
St Mary's Church, Manuden

Tickets £10 adults, £5 children
Tel Fiona 812157 or at the door

*Proceeds to Manuden Church Organ
Restoration Fund*

VILLAGE EVENTS

April		
1 Mon	Windmill Open	1.30 – 5.30 pm
2 Tue	NCT Easter Egg Hunt	Ugley Village Hall 10 - 11.30am
3 Wed	Mountfitchet Club AGM and Spring Show	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre (see page 14)
3/10/17/24 Wed	The Place on the Hill	Free Church 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
4 Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
5 Fri	Business Forum NCT Tea and Toys	Linden House 7.45 am St John's Hall 10 - 11.30 am
6 Sat	Manuden Singers' Concert	Manuden Church 7.30 pm
6th & 27th	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
9 Tue	NCT Park Play	Recreation Ground 10 - 11.30am
11 Thu	Link copy due in today Rhyme Rhythm and Storytime WI	before 12 noon Spangles, Lower Street 10 am & 2 pm St John's Hall 7.45 pm
12 Fri	Kindly Leave the Stage MacMillan Quiz	St Mary's Church 7.30 pm Cricket Club, BS 7.30 pm for 8 pm
13 & 27 Sat	Green Waste Skips Scout 50 year celebration	Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm Scout HQ from 2 pm
18 Thu	U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
20 & 21	Village Litter Pick	Crafton Green 10 am - 1 pm
22 Mon	Shalom At Home	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
26 Fri	Fish and Chip Lunch	Day Centre (see page 13)
28 Sun	Bowling for Beginners Car Boot Sale NCT Nearly New sale	Bowls Club, Recreation Grnd 10 am MMCC 11 am – 2 pm Hilton Hotel 11.30 am - 1 pm
29 - 3 May	Bowling for Beginners	Bowls Club, Recreation Grnd 6.30 pm

Spangles* 
Children's Centre

**Rhyme, Rhythm and
Storytime**

Spangles, Lower Street
Thursday 11th April
10 am and 2 pm

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20th - 21st April

10 am - 1 pm

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8th & 22nd June

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ST THERESA'S CHURCH

The front cover of this month's 'Link' shows a view of the interior of the Catholic Church of St Theresa's in High Lane, which is now just over 12 years old, and much loved and admired, not only by its parishioners, but also by many others who have come to visit.



The first Catholic Church in the area was the chapel of St Anthony built in 1933 in Henham.



In Stansted, Mass was celebrated in various houses for some years until in 1958, the Mill House by the Windmill was bought, and was served by priests from Saffron Walden. In 1970 the new parish of St Theresa's Stansted with St Anthony's Henham was inaugurated. Eventually these buildings became inadequate for a growing parish and changing needs. With the donation of land at High Lane, and the sale of the Henham and Mill House sites, the development of a new parish complex, consisting of the Church, the Parish Centre and the Presbytery became possible. The first Mass in the new Church took place on the first Sunday of Advent in December 2001, and was a high point in St Theresa's year.

The Church is in the style of an Essex barn, and was designed by local architect, Jim Boutwood. The interior is very light and modern, with the layout and beautiful artwork being done by the artist Stephen Foster. 'The Link' cover shows the large and striking woodcarving of the Risen Christ at the back of the Sanctuary. There are further woodcarvings on either side of the Sanctuary highlighted with gold and muted colours. The one on the left is the scene of Christ's Baptism in the river Jordan by John the Baptist, and the one on the right holds the Tabernacle, with the scene of



the supper at Emmaus on the door. At either end of the church are wooden statues of St Anthony and of the Virgin Mary, both carved by Stephen Foster.

Outside, the landscaped grounds include a garden at the northern side, planted mainly with roses and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, whose statue is in a niche at the further end.

Ruth Rawlinson

THANK YOU FROM THE DOCKERTY FAMILY

Dear Editor

Through your pages, my family and I would like to say a very sincere thank you to all our friends, near and far, who have sent cards, letters, or expressed verbal condolences with their kind supportive words and sentiments. Some of you have had the unfortunate experience of being in our situation and your empathy especially, is strongly felt.

Ann chose the 'Addenbrookes Transplant Unit' to benefit from any donations as they (and her anonymous donor) not only saved her life on 24th March 2000 but gave her a better quality of life. They also gave support, faith, and hope for the better future she enjoyed over the last 13 years. We are sure Ann would be delighted with all the donations, which will help the unit continue their sterling work, so thanks, God bless you all.

Gordon Dockerty,
William and Cheryl, Alex and Becky



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Our AGM started well with drinks for everyone followed by the formalities of re-instating the Chairman and Committee and then a financial update from our Treasurer.

There then followed a very interesting presentation of Stansted's Lost Industries given by Derek and Peggy Honour. Many of the people attending had a good knowledge of Stansted's past history.

Our New Guide Book was unveiled which created a lot of interest and at £2.50 it is very good value.

I am still looking for Stewards and if anyone is interested please get in touch with me.

Windmill open Easter Sunday 31st March and Bank Holiday Monday 1st April 1.30pm-5.30pm both days.

Molly Clark
(Co-Trustee)
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It has been a busy time for St Clare Hospice in Stansted so apologies for not reporting in last month's edition of 'The Link' – too busy fundraising!

Firstly, I'd like to thank the generous people of Stansted for their fantastic support of the Dog and Duck's month-long fundraising for the Hospice during January. Through their pub quiz, proceeds of sales of their Dog and Duck burgers and a fantastic Family Fun Evening featuring the wonderful Jolley Fun Time children's entertainer and Hospice mascot, Clare the Bear, the pub raised almost £500! This was followed by the wonderful people at Linden House Hotel raising a staggering £815 during their Champagne and Hearts Dinner and Dance in February. A huge thank you to both of these local businesses who so kindly went to great lengths to support their local Hospice.



Also in February, Bentfield Primary School took part in our first ever Onesie Week which saw children embracing the craze for the all-in-one outfit by coming to school snuggled up in their onesie whilst raising money for St Clare Hospice. Thank you to all of them for getting involved!

There's no time to draw breath, though! The Stansted Supporters of St Clare Hospice are holding their Quiz at Mountfitchet School on Saturday 16th March and, as I write, they are almost sold out with nearly 200 tickets sold which is amazing. Good luck to all participants and I hope that a great evening is had by all!

A couple of dates for your diary for events which, whilst not actually in Stansted, are not too far away. There will be a Clavering Spring Fayre on 20th April in the Village Hall which promises to be a lovely afternoon with a range of interesting stalls, activities and refreshments. On 11th May, at Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club, there will be a very special Afternoon Tea Party with Baroness Shirley Williams in attendance! Do call me on the number below if you are interested in coming along to either of these events.

Looking ahead, there are many more plans in the pipeline so keep watching this space!



Sarah Calder
Community Fundraiser for
St Clare Hospice
Tel: 07528 520016

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We should all be very proud of our NCT branch for many reasons. Not only because of all the fabulous volunteers who arrange wonderful fun-packed activities throughout the year, or for the thousands we raise locally for supporting campaigns to improve maternity care and ensure clearer information, services and facilities for new parents, but also for our support to other local charities. Our Ladies Pamper evening raised £855 for Grove Cottage Nursery. It was a wonderful evening and made me feel very proud of the volunteers that we have at our branch. Well done to everyone involved.

During the Easter Holidays we have a number of activities planned including our monthly Tea and Toys which will be based on 'What I want to be when I grow up ...' Children will be asked to attend the event either dressed accordingly, or bring with them a relevant object. We are hoping to have a paramedic, policeman and fireman attending the event and talking to the children.

On 28th April at the Hilton Hotel – full details below - our Nearly New Sale will be taking place. This event will be a bargain hunter's paradise, from clothes, books, toys and equipment, as well as pushchairs, stair gates, baby carriers and much more all under one roof. Items are all pre-owned but in excellent condition. If you want to either sell items at the sale, would like further information or are interested in advertising your local business, please contact me on my number below. Please note there is free parking at the Hilton Hotel.

Have you liked our Facebook page? All our events are updated on this site for our members with information about local events or classes relevant for Mums to be, babies and pre-schoolers. Our coffee mornings are an informal gathering held in a member's house, so if you fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings. We would love to meet you and it is a great way of making new friends. Monday mornings are for toddlers from walking till three years and Wednesday mornings are for pregnant bumps and babies up to walking age. Contact me for details of our weekly events.

Tuesday 2nd April Easter Egg Hunt Ugley Village Hall
10.00am-11.30am – bring a picnic if it is nice weather.
Wednesday 3rd April Lambing at Wimpole Hall. Meet at the entrance at 10.30am, please call me for details.
Friday 5th April Tea and Toys 'I Want To Be When I Grow Up ...' St Johns Church Hall 10.00am -11.30am
Tuesday 9th April Park Play at the Recreation Ground
10.00-11.30am
Monday 15th April Parents and Carers – Social branch and AGM meeting from 8.00pm, please call me for details.
Sunday 28th April Nearly New Sale Hilton Hotel 11.30am –1.00pm, NCT cardholders from 11.00am. Suggested entry, £1 donation. Free parking.

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This is the time of year when people are hard at work in their gardens, planting, weeding and digging. This latter activity reveals the presence of earthworms, which have remained below the surface of the soil during the winter. These humble creatures play an invaluable part in forming the soil, as we know it. Without them the soil would be hard and dense and without any fertility.

Altogether there are 25 native species of earthworm, the most familiar and commonest one being *Lumbricus terrestris*. This has up to 150 segments, the majority of which bear four pairs of tiny bristles. These, together with its muscles, enable the worm to move. It has no actual head, but the front end is pointed, whereas the back end is flatter. It has no eyes or lungs, but absorbs oxygen through its skin. A mature earthworm has a thicker area, usually of a deeper or different colour, about a third of the way from the front end.



This is the saddle or clitellum and is involved in egg laying. (Although earthworms are hermaphrodite they can only lay eggs after pairing up.) It can take up to five months for the eggs to hatch and release the fully formed young worms. Earthworms are sensitive to vibrations and to light. The sun is a great enemy and they will die if exposed too long to the sun's rays.

There are several ways in which earthworms are beneficial for the soil. Through their network of tunnels air is able to circulate around plant roots and water can drain through the soil more easily. The earthworm's method of obtaining nutrients is to swallow soil and then digest the organic material it contains, such as decayed leaves and fragments of animal remains. The residue is then voided near the surface or on top in the form of worm casts. Mineral particles, which have percolated down to lower levels in rainwater thus pass through the worm's body and are brought up to the top layer. So earthworms are responsible for making the upper levels of soil fertile by redistributing mineral nutrients. They also feed on surface material such as leaves and grass, which they drag down into their tunnels. They often keep their tail end in the ground while pulling down a leaf by its tip. This is the part of the leaf they most appreciate. The remains of organic material rot away in their tunnels and further enrich the soil.

The top two to three inch layer of soil in areas that are permanently grassed over, such as lawns, meadows and orchards, will be almost totally free of stones. Worms cannot swallow anything larger than 2mm diameter and therefore the stones sink to lower levels as fine soil is brought up towards the surface. In fact the greatest concentration of earthworms is found in areas such as lawns. It is estimated that there could be up to a million per acre. Charles Darwin wrote in 1881, "It may be doubted whether there are any other animals which have played such an important part in the history of the world as these lowly organised creatures".

Rosina Kirkwood

CAN YOU HELP?

I recently lost my walking stick. If anyone has found it I would be most grateful for its return as I find it very helpful to get around especially in bad weather. It is a plain wooden walking stick with a rubber ferrule. Many thanks

Eddie Laird
Tel: 813458



The History of Nuthampstead Airfield and the 398th Bombardment Group

Malcolm Osborn formed the Nuthampstead Airfield Research Society in 1971 after finding the remains of a gold wrist watch case on the top of the Medieval Castle Mound, at Anstey, Herts. Malcolm knew that a B-17G Flying Fortress bomber had crashed into the mound immediately after taking off from a nearby bomber airfield called Nuthampstead.

Over the last 40 years Malcolm has researched everything he could about the history of the airfield at Nuthampstead and the 55th Fighter Group and 398th Bomb Group who were based there.

The airfield was constructed by American Civil Engineering Battalions. With work commencing during July 1942, and completion by May 1943, it was the highest airfield in East Anglia. The first occupants were the 55th FG, equipped with P-38 Lightning fighters, who were based there from October 1943 until April 1944 when they moved to Wormingford, Essex. The 398th arrived by 22nd April 1944 with their brand new B-17G Flying Fortress bombers. They were part of the 1st Combat wing (CBW), of the 1st Air Division. The 1st CBW also included bomb groups based at Bassingbourn and Ridgewell. Behind every crewman there were at least 17-25 support staff, hence Nuthampstead resembled a small American town with some 3,600 military personnel based there.

Assembly took some one and a half hours, with each aircraft leaving the runway every thirty seconds, then climbing to assembly altitude. Once formed into three squadrons, each separated by 1,000', they would fly to a designated waypoint to meet the 91st BG from Bassingbourn, then to another waypoint to meet the 381st BG from Ridgewell. Thus assembled as the 1st CBW they would move into the 'Bomber Stream' joining other groups from the 1st Air Division, then those from the 2nd and 3rd Air Divisions, until the whole bomber stream would be over 100 miles long, often as long as 140 miles, usually consisting (by mid-1944) of over 1,200 bombers.

On Christmas Eve the 8th Army Air Force launched no fewer than 2,226 bombers, the biggest air armada ever assembled in the history of aviation. The last mission was 25th April 1945. The land was de-requisitioned by 1953, and Nuthampstead escaped becoming the third London Airport after an enquiry in 1969. A memorial to the 398th was erected in 1982, and a memorial to the 55th erected in 2006.

Our next meeting is 4th April 8pm at the Day Centre, Chapel Hill, where Lizzie Saunders will be talking to us about 'The History of Littlebury'.

Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177



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GROWING UP IN STANSTED

As a rather ancient gentleman born and bred in the village I recently had the honour of talking to Class 4 at Bentfield School, who are doing a project on Stansted, to give an insight as to what it was like growing up here. I was quite surprised at how interested they were and they asked lots of questions. It really was a pleasure talking to them. Where Bentfield School is now was then an Army Camp. I recall the Americans being in residence (as no doubt many of the then village maidens do).

I also recall there being a large sign on the Cambridge Road saying 'Site for Super Cinema'. Up to now this has never happened. As a lad we used to go to Stortford where there were the Phoenix and Regent cinemas. The Phoenix was rather unkindly called the 'fleapit' by some. The Regent was a bit more upmarket. In those days there were films starring such entertainment as 'Old Mother Riley' and 'Mr Pastry'. At the end of the performance the National Anthem was played. They were different times!

On Cambridge Road we had Frank Bull's garage and also Mayhew's garage, which was where Tesco's is now. Mayhew's also had a garage in Station Road and a fleet of buses; the 14 seater Chevrolet being a well known little bus. I remember the great excitement when a modern Commer coach was added to the fleet. We loved travelling in the Commer on school trips.

Further along the Cambridge Road from Mayhew's was the London & Stansted Furnishing Company (latterly You're Furnished) and Green's Stores (now housing various retail premises including Boots The Chemist) which were both large shops. I started work in the London & Stansted after I left school and have many happy memories of my years there.



Green's Stores had various departments. Mr Neeves in the gents department particularly comes to mind. If he hadn't got what you wanted he could always get it for you. A wonderful character. A favourite with us children was Kitson's toy shop. Next to Kitson's was Walter Bedlow, the cartwright. We often used to watch Walter at work.

In Silver Street there was Miss Rose's shop with a large variety of sweets, mainly in jars, sold by the ounce. Opposite the Windmill pub, now flats, was Eric 'Nipper' Player's cobblers. Near to the Windmill pub there was Pearson's Bakery (now Bakery Court). I well remember the lovely smell of freshly baked bread. I recall Peringa Nursing Home (now Linden House) which used to sell antiques and is now a food establishment. The Cock public house has been there for

many years. When I was a young man this was my local. It was run by Dorothy and Reg Overall. Sometimes we would mischievously rib Reg on the quality of his beer, which was actually always very good. He would react by telling us that he always cleaned his pipes, getting quite upset at times.

At the top of the hill was Irene Mant's sweet shop. Opposite was the fountain where the elders of the village used to sit, often being entertained by the local constabulary directing the traffic at the crossroads. The fountain remained very much the same for many years only recently undergoing a big makeover.

The Police Station used to be located in Silver Street opposite the fountain. Cyril Spalding had a furniture business in the basement of the building, then called The Chestnuts. My parents told me that they got their furniture from Cyril when they married.

As you can see times have changed. Stansted has always been a friendly village and a good place to live that has grown in size over the years. I hope I have stirred some long term residents' memories. Perhaps we can touch on other memories and changes in the future.

Dick Pollard

Photo reproduced from 'Around Stansted Mountfitchet' compiled by Paul Embleton

THE CRAFTON ROOM

www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk

Are you interested to read what's going on at the Crafton Room, but are not taking it any further? Then it's time you came and joined us to find out more. "It's not for me - it's for old people", "I am able to cook for myself - thank you," "They only serve ready meals," "I will have to sit with people I don't know". Are these the thoughts passing through your mind as you read our updates and articles? Then you are not alone, these are all common themes I hear in comments I receive whilst out and about promoting our excellent facility.

It could be disheartening to hear these negative comments, but it is in fact spurring me on to make sure that I get out and change peoples' attitudes and perception of the Day Centre. Many local people are beginning to realise what we can offer, why don't you become one of them? Located in the heart of the village, everyone over the age of 55 is welcome to call in for hot and cold drinks, light snacks, homemade cakes and delicious traditional lunches (lunches must be pre-booked by 11.00am on the day) all at very reasonable prices. The last Friday of the month (26th April) is always Fish and Chip Day, with the fish being cooked fresh on the premises; and keep an eye out around the village and in future editions of 'The Link' for special events happening.

We are open every Tuesday 10.00am-3.15pm (Bingo from 2.00pm) and Thursday and Friday 10.00am-2.00pm. We are looking forward to meeting you. On a final note I would like to welcome Christine W, Christine S, Jane and David to the team, and thank all the fantastic volunteers and Jo, our cook, for their on-going help and support without which all this would not be possible.

Julie Beck
Centre Manager
Tel: 815091



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

“Why do plants have such difficult names?” was the topic of our March meeting. Our speaker, Mrs Hilary Thomas, explained that most plants have a common name and an 'official' name but the 'common' name can cause many problems. For example the bluebell in England is different from the bluebell in Scotland. The Scottish bluebell is known, south of the border, as the harebell and is vastly different from the bluebells that adorns the woodlands in May! It was Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist, who, in order to combat such confusion, laid the foundations for the modern scheme of binomial nomenclature. Linnaeus standardised plant names whereby the first part of the name was the genus and the second name, the species, however a third name, which describes the cultivar can be added. Using a series of slides, members were shown how the binomial system worked and how plant names were built up. A lot of information can be gleaned from a plant's botanical name – where it originated from, its appearance (hairy, tree-like, colour etc), named after a person (its discoverer or in honour of a person). However, as scientific knowledge has increased with the ability to find a plant's DNA, some plants are now being reclassified. It was agreed that plant labels would be viewed through different eyes from now on!

The Green Bowl Photographic Competition 2012: Apologies to our winner, Helen Clowes, for mis-typing her surname last month.

Our next meeting is on 3rd April - 'Mini-Spring Show and AGM'. Doors open 6.30pm for exhibitors, all entries to be staged by 7.50pm. AGM starts at 8.00pm. Club meetings are held in the Day Centre adjacent to the library and car park at the top of Chapel Hill. Refreshments are served before the meeting starts. Visitors are always welcome to our meeting.

Maralyn Harris
Tel: 07919 478144

(or leave message on contact tab on our website)

CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS

In the garden during April, prune back spring flowering shrubs as soon as they finish blooming, as most of them bloom on the first year's growth. This gives them the chance to grow and produce flowers next year. With hydrangeas, cut off last year's flowers so they can shoot this year's blooms. Sprinkle fertiliser, such as Growmore or fish blood and bone, around trees, shrubs and perennial plants; hoe it in to give them a good start. With daffodils and tulips cut off the blooms as soon as they die and give them a high potash feed – I use tomato feed – this builds up the blooms for next year. Plant the rest of your potatoes either in your vegetable

plot or bags. If you have a greenhouse sow dwarf or runner beans in plots towards the end of the month so they are ready to plant out in late May.



Cyril Stoneham

FANTASTIC FIBONACCI

In late spring the garden is bursting with life – you can practically watch the hop shoots lengthen, the chestnut leaves unfurl, the wildflowers expand in the long grass areas. The diversity and rate can appear joyously chaotic, but a closer look at many plants reveals pattern and order. One of the most prevalent mathematical manifestations in nature is the Fibonacci sequence, named after Leonard of Pisa, known as Fibonacci, whose 1202 book introduced from earlier Indian mathematics a number sequence 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21 and so on – the next number in the sequence is the sum of the previous two.

When these sequence numbers are used as the side lengths of squares which are then tiled together and the corners of each square connected by a continuous arc, a spiral shape emerges. This spiral pattern is seen in plants in all sorts of ways: tree branching, the plated armour of a pineapple, the arrangement of scales in a pinecone. At this time of year, the sequence can be seen in whorled leaf arrangements as they develop around a stem. If you look down a plant such as a sunflower from above, as a bird, you can see the leaves spirally arranged so that each gets maximum exposure to sunlight and to water. This spiral arrangement is seen too in the sunflower itself which is made up of hundreds of florets arcing out from a central point. Later in the year when the seeds develop, this arrangement provides optimal packing of the seeds – they are all uniformly packed and of an even size, not crowded in the centre and inefficiently spaced at the edges.

Looking at plants this closely will be the theme of our Festival of Plants at the Garden on 18th May. As well as the Talking Plants Tent where you will be able to bring along your gardening dilemmas to ask our experts for help, there will be a marquee devoted to the latest in plant science. Guides throughout the Glasshouse Range with prop boxes chock-full with things like the biggest seed in the world (the vast *Coco de Mer*); a plant promenade along our Main Walk featuring a boutique selection of local, independent nurseries; and our Systematic Beds will be the focus for a range of activities, tours and talks designed to encourage you to look more closely at the structures and the mathematical beauty of plants and flowers. The event runs from 10.00am-4.00pm on Saturday 18th May, and we'd love to see you there. Normal Garden admission applies.

The Botanic Garden is open 10.00am-5.00pm in March and 10.00am-6.00pm April-September. Admission is £4.50, Giftaid admission £4.95 or join the Friends, get free admission and help the Garden grow! For news and events, detailed information about the Garden or to discover this week's Plant Picks from the Head of Horticulture, please visit the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk.

Rosemary Seeney
Cambridge University Botanic Garden



APOLOGIES!

In last month's 'The Link' our article 'Calling all Crafters' contained the wrong contact telephone number. It should have read 01371 876979. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Helen Carter
Trust Administrator

OUR ROAD



The Green is used as the start and finish of the Stansted Fun Run which is held every two years. A few years ago, when Stansted held a carnival, this was where the floats assembled and the starting point for the procession.

On the top side of the Green, on the field where the Wetherfield estate was built (c1965), fairs were held and also a circus. On the bottom of the Green is Laundry Cottage, which was part of the Hargrave estate. It dealt with, as the name implies, washing for them. Next to this, where a new development of houses is taking place, was the site of Norman's Ginger Beer factory, later Stansted Engineering.

Overlooking the Green on its north side is number 20, known as a Wealden house, dating back to 1498, which makes it probably the oldest house in Stansted. On either side of this are houses of a much later epoch.



1926

Further up the road, opposite the pub, are two rows of cottages. I am informed that the front row was known as Forester's cottages while the back row was known as Shepherd's cottages. I think it was the Providence Societies who had the houses built.

Moving on westward is our only thatched cottage. It is understood to be around 500 years of age, probably starting its life as an Essex Hall House; later it was turned into semis with a massive back-to-back inglenook chimney breast in the middle. Later it reverted to one dwelling but it still retains its two staircases and there is still a usable well in the back garden.



2013

Opposite is the Rose & Crown. This was built c1879 on the site of three cottages. It was originally named the Waggoners and also the Coach & Horses before it became

the Rose & Crown. Continuing from there is a row of red brick terraced cottages. I have seen a document that states they were built in 1868 at the cost of £50 apiece. They could have been built of bricks made in the brickfield to the rear of them, which is now part of Wetherfield. Next to these are a pair of semi-detached houses, numbers 45-47, which were built about 1800. Passing these is a detached white weather-board cottage that is another of Stansted's older houses. On the other side of the road, next to the thatched cottage, is a house built 25 years ago. Then there are two post-war houses built for farm workers.

The next house, number 60, was also originally a pair of farm workers' cottages. Then there are two larger detached houses built on the site of a water tower that was demolished in 1987. Around the corner is the small green where there is an older property, which was originally a pair of farm workers' cottages and is now being converted into one dwelling. With the children's playground and village pond opposite, this completes the road known as Bentfield Green.

Cyril Stoneham



BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION BBKA

There has been a really good response to the last article from the local beekeeping association, with over half a dozen expressions of interest in the 'Introduction to Beekeeping Course' being held in April. If there is anyone out there who would like to join the course at the last minute, you would be most welcome. The first session is on Monday 15th April 8.00pm to 10.00pm at Hopley's Garden Centre in Much Hadham. Contact me for details.

Valentine's Day had a special significance this year – the sighting of the first flying bees from my two garden hives. This means that both hives have survived the winter. They went straight for the crocuses to start to build up their stores. Crocus is always a good source of food for the early bees, so please, gardeners, plant more of them in Stansted!

There is a common misunderstanding that bees 'hibernate' during the winter. They don't – in fact they reduce their numbers in the hive from about 60,000 in the summer to less than 3,000 in winter and these bees maintain a hive temperature of about 90 degrees by 'shivering' together in this smaller 'cluster'. This cluster needs stores of honey to survive and the art of the beekeeper is to maintain stores levels by not taking too much honey in the summer, and feeding sugar solution if stores run low.

One problem that can happen when you see early bees emerging is that a warm spell in winter can bring the bees out and the queen starts to think it is spring and starts to lay eggs. If there is then a cold spell, there are too many bees to feed without the corresponding increase in pollen and nectar, and the colony starves to death.

So, even though it was nice to see the bees on Valentines Day, I hope the recent cold spell doesn't have this effect on my bees.

People of Stansted get your crocuses blooming!

John Dockerill
Training Officer
Email: training@stortfordbees.org.uk

ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING STANSTED

Why not take up a new interest and meet new friends - we have lots of interesting subjects starting after Easter:

- Meeting Your Ancestors 16th April
- Computers for Improvers 17th April
- Drawing and Watercolours 17th April
- Drawing and Painting 17th April
- Upholstery 18th April
- First Aid 24th April
- Creative Writing 29th April
- Supported Learning courses – apply at the centre

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MOUNTFITCHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



It was a time of values, a time of tradition and a time to shake things up ...

MMCC has been working hard on the Broadway production of 'Hairspray' the musical for the past five months. With approximately 45 cast and crew members, the all singing, all dancing show made its debut on Wednesday 27th February with a performance to local primary school students and opened its doors to the general public on Thursday 28th, with a second show on Friday 1st March.

The rehearsal schedule had been gruelling but with the staff and students' dedication and enthusiasm, the hard work paid off! This was Miss White's first production as Head of Drama at MMCC. She produced and directed an amazing, must-see show and is an inspiration to all involved.

The show was a resounding success and drew in a huge audience, including the Mayor of Bishops Stortford, Cllr Peter Gray and the Chairman of Stansted Parish Council, Cllr Geoffrey Sell.



Year 11 Student Taylor Green was effervescent in her starring role as Tracey Turnblad, Harry Moore made an outstanding and very convincing Edna Turnblad, Jack Headley shone as the suave and debonair Link Larkin and Georgia King wowed the audience with her fabulous voice playing the loud and proud Miss Motormouth Maybelle. All the students, from the cast and crew, managed to balance working on the show and maintaining their studies, some towards their GCSEs, proving that with the right attitude and hard work you can achieve. And remember "You can't stop the beat!!!"

Another annual College event, the Reality Roadshow, took place on Friday 1st March. The event, now in its 5th successful year at the College, was a day organised by the Reality Roadshow team from Uttlesford District Council. Year 9 students had the opportunity to attend a number of workshops covering aspects of citizenship including Drugs and Alcohol, Law and Anti-Social Behaviour, Fire, First Aid, Road Safety and Sexual Health. The workshops are very informative and work well in improving students' knowledge and understanding of important social issues.

This is a great event which strengthens the College links with the wider community and local agencies that always enjoy coming to MMCC due to the interaction and impeccable behaviour from the students.

Harrier and Merlin House are busy organising and participating in charity events. Harrier house has taken on the £5 chal-

lenge. This involves students undertaking a variety of tasks to increase their starting budget of £5. All proceeds go to the local charity, The Huw Johnson Club.

Merlin House have recently started to sponsor a new local charity, YCT (Young Concern). They have raised a total of £130 to date by taking part in various events including a sponsored bike ride. A particular mention goes to Matthew Shepherd and Adam Parrish for their hard work and effort with fundraising.

Victoria Owen
Student & Community Administrator
Tel: 813384

DO YOU NEED A RE-BRAND?

Just as a company needs a re-brand from time to time, we also need to re-brand ourselves at various stages of our lives.

Why? Here is a definition of 're-branding' from the Cambridge Dictionaries to give you an idea: "If a company re-brands itself or a product or service that it provides, it creates a new name or image for it, often to try to change the way that people think about it".

A company's image will influence the way people think about it. Your personal image will influence how people see and think about you. In the workplace you want people to think about you in a particular way so that you can achieve the right responses. So you need to ask yourself, are you projecting the right image or is it time to change your look?

Here are some basic rules you should stick to:

1. Don't let your hair, make-up or nails let you down. Grooming is key to a successful business look.
2. Wear make-up (if you are a woman), it will enhance your looks and convey that you are in control of your life outside of work as well as at work, but keep it minimal.
3. Absolutely no threadbare clothes, missing buttons, down at the heel shoes, allowed.
4. Your clothes should fit well, suit you and be properly laundered or dry cleaned.
5. Don't forget your own personal style.

So, taking the points above you need to look at yourself and consider each one. Is your hair colour and style making the most of you or do you need an update? Have you mastered good make-up skills and a daily routine so that you always look good whether you have five or 25 minutes? Do your clothes flatter you or should you change your style? Are your garments looking a bit uncared for and could you do more to keep them looking good for longer?

The Sun's 'Fabulous' magazine did a great article in January about Victoria Beckham's image transformation during the last six years. They showed two photos of her, one was circa 2005 with hair extensions, blonde highlights and fake tan and the other a current photo in which she looks now, the epitome of a well-dressed, sophisticated woman. Now that's re-branding.

Need help with your personal branding? Style Me Beautiful is an Image Consultancy based in Foresthall Park. We offer personal and tailored image and style advice so you can promote the best possible you in all aspects of your life. Visit our website – www.stylemebeautiful.co.uk for more information.

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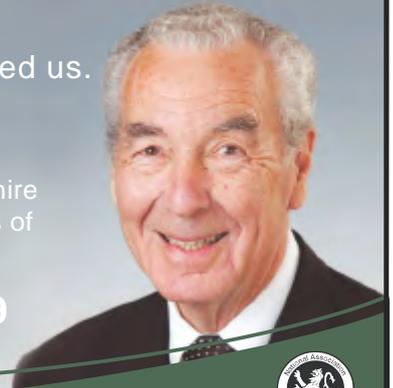
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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES FACING STANSTED

Uttlesford District Council as the planning authority is preparing a new Local Plan to replace the current plan which was adopted in 2005. The next consultation on this new plan will be in Spring 2013 which will allow further studies to be completed and considered in full. As soon as a definitive timetable is available a new Local Development Scheme will be taken to Uttlesford's Cabinet for approval and their website updated. The Plan will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by a Planning Inspector.

The plan provides the basis for all planning decisions within the district. It contains policies relating to the location of development and protection of environmental features. These policies are monitored and reviewed by the council to make sure that the policies are meeting the council's aims. There is a necessity for a robust plan to be in place as soon as possible. Without it the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will take precedence. As the Planning Minister Nick Bowles MP stated "Councils which do not produce credible plans to meet local housing need will find that the presumption in favour of sustainable development will trump local decisions." An adopted plan will mean that Uttlesford can take decisions locally.

In spite of Uttlesford District Council only proposing 60 new homes for Stansted in their draft Local Plan, speculative developers have stated their intent to build many more. Stansted has already taken significant additional housing principally in relation to the Foresthall Park Development. The Parish Council's view is that Stansted's infrastructure is already under stress. With significant additional housing our infrastructure without significant investment will be unable to cope.

Stansted is currently faced with a number of development pressures. The first application to be submitted is that of Elms Farm, Church Road. Although on Green Belt land the developers the Knight Group are seeking planning permission for 58 houses. Other proposed developments not yet submitted to Uttlesford are:

- 1) Taylor Wimpey has held a public consultation relating to land they control to the north of Pennington Lane and Bentfield Causeway. This covers an area of approximately 13.7 hectares. Their proposals include provision for approximately 170 new homes.

- 2) Bloor Homes have also held an exhibition relating to land they control at Walpole Farm, Cambridge Road. They wish to see 160+ new homes together with light industrial units.
- 3) Finally, Charles Church are planning to hold an exhibition relating to land at the Plantation site, Pines Hill. This would be for approximately 60 houses.

Clearly Stansted is faced with unprecedented development pressures which could if realised have a major effect on our community. The Parish Council is giving support to the newly formed Save Stansted Village - bentfieldgreen@hotmail.com

CIVIL PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

Are there any interpreters out there willing to let us put their name/telephone number in Stansted's Emergency Plan? If so, please get in touch with us on 01279 813214 or email: parishcouncil@stansted.net and let us know the language/s that you speak. It is unlikely that we would need to call on you but we should always be prepared!

STANSTED IN BLOOM

On page 22 you will find the entry form for this year's competition. You will see that there is a lot of scope for a variety of different entries. The competition will take place at the end of June - the actual date to be announced later - and we hope to invite a celebrity to judge the entries.



Now is the time to get thinking and planting for the entry that suits you best and we hope to see many different entries in the competition this year. Closing date for entries is Tuesday 30th April.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE - 2013

The Council has agreed that the Christmas Fayre will take place in the Lower Street Car Park again this year; given that all the relevant permissions etc are granted. The dates for the diary are 7th and 8th December.

To ensure this is a real community event, the Working Group who are co-ordinating this, would like to invite any local organisation/personal representative interested in supporting the Fayre and the planning of the event, to contact us. Please contact the council office on 01279 813214 or email: parishcouncil@stansted.net or Maureen Caton on m.caton@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Everyone is invited to a litter pick on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st April 10am to 1pm. Gerard, who is employed by the Council does an excellent job of keeping the open spaces and central areas clear of litter, but he can't do the whole village. So please spare a few hours on either or both days. We will meet at Crafton Green in front of the parish council office. Litter picking equipment will be provided.

CHARITY CYCLE RIDE

The J's Hospice will be holding a Charity Bike Ride on 28th April 2013 which will start and finish in Chelmsford. There will be 15, 35 or 50 mile rides available and anybody interested should contact the J's Hospice on 01245 475474 or visit their website www.thejshospice.org.uk

HAIRSPRAY, MMCC STYLE!

Congratulations to the staff and students at the Mountfitchet Mathematics & Computing College for staging an excellent production of the Broadway Musical Hairspray. This was attended by our Chairman along with the Mayor of Bishop's Stortford and they both thoroughly enjoyed the evening and would like to thank the College for inviting them. The College has the reputation of having a happy and welcoming environment and this was certainly evidenced by the enthusiasm and energy the cast put into their performance. The talent of the students shone out. The College is proud of them and so are we.

As the Headteacher remarked, the school is on a journey - it is entitled to expect community support and this we are very happy to give them. We wish them

well in their forthcoming Ofsted inspection, and trust they receive the recognition they deserve.



NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Negotiations are continuing on an agreement between the council and the developer for use of the Lower Street car park for the proposed health centre, etc building and to ensure it will still provide adequate public parking in future years. Stansted is now facing four speculative planning applications and because the council cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of land for new housing, the national rules have taken over. Applications that are not significantly harmful to the local environment are likely to be approved. Three more developers have launched plans since last month. We now have four developers bidding for schemes at Bentfield Green, Walpole Farm, Elms Farm and Pines Hill. It is likely that some, but not all, will be approved regardless of local opinion. We are faced with some difficult months ahead. A Hobson's choice is a 'take it or leave it' choice. This situation feels like a 'take it or get it' choice!

The business breakfast at Linden House on 1st March was a great success. It was a sell-out, so a few people had to be turned away. Just under 40 attendees tucked into a full English breakfast at 7.45 am. We heard from Guy Schooling about how Sworders' Auctioneers has achieved international acclaim after moving from Bishop's Stortford to Stansted Mountfitchet. Simon Jackson, the economic development officer from Uttlesford DC, spoke about plans the council has to support town centres and help grow business in the district. The economic development working group of district and parish councillors hopes to see a business-led forum grow from these breakfasts. The next breakfast will be on 5th April at 7.45am at Linden House.

(Cllr Alan Dean)

TELEVISION OPPORTUNITY!!

I am hoping that you can help me. My name is Katy and I am a Researcher on the popular ITV1 Antiques programme, Secret Dealers. We are starting production on the fourth series of the show and we are looking for people with a passion for collecting from around the UK to apply to be on the programme. We are looking to film in the county of Essex .

Secret Dealers sees three rival antique dealers doing battle in private homes for items they can sell. The competing dealers tour the house inspecting everything of value. The owners are then faced with a bonanza of surprise valuations and cash offers on some of their most prized (or not so prized) possessions. They can either accept or reject the offers and the owners must then face the choice between sentimental attachment and the chance to make a fast buck.

If you know of anyone with antiques or collectables that they would consider selling then we would love to hear from them!

My number is **0117 970 7674** if you have any questions or would like to chat more about the programme. The email address is secretdealers@rdftelevision.com

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

3rd April	Full Council
10th April	Windmill & Open Spaces
17th April	Full Council
24th April	Highways & Finance

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford. Admin Assist - Anne Court
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10am - 1pm
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PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Samantha Dunn	810859 samanthadunn@talktalk.net
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Bridget Gott	814440

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John Salmon	814789 cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Joe Rich	813112 cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk

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Ray Gooding	813103 cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk
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alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk

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www.stanstednhw.org.uk

Parish Public Transport Representatives

Valerie Trundle	-	813433
Joy Thomas	-	813871

STANSTED IN BLOOM

ENTRY FORM 2013



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Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Contact: Kathy West Tel: 816293 Email: kewest@btinternet.com
Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	Pilots (age 5-18)	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 07968 347176 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 816172	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	U3A	Christine Chair Tel: 817587
Huw Johnson Club	Marion and Tom Johnson Tel: 812284	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Inner Wheel Club	Lynn Rutt, President Tel: 654537	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 01371 873156/ 07920 466 923
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: info@musicatstansted.com		
NCT	anna@nct.org.uk Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk or send the form below to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG. Details must be submitted by the 11th of the month for publication the following month.

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Last month, I mentioned that we were conducting a survey regarding the planned convenience store in Foresthall Park. I thought I would use this opportunity to summarise findings:

Response rate

Just over 1000 surveys were distributed and we received 171 responses, which I believe to be reasonable for this type of exercise.

Shop support

89% (153 respondents) supported a small convenience store on Foresthall Park, and 11% (18 respondents) were opposed.

Reasons given in support

By far the most common reason given in support of having a small convenience store was exactly that, for convenience. 82% (125 respondents) of those in support gave this as one of their reasons. The next most cited reason was that a small store/mix of land use would help to generate a greater sense of community. Some respondents reiterated that the shop was part of the original development plan and played a part in their decision to move here. Other comments mentioned environmental benefits and the possibility of some local jobs. It is probably worth noting that a number of respondents in favour of a shop did add caveats to their support (eg parking considerations, no alcohol licence, sensible closing time, etc).

Reasons given in opposition

Whilst a number of different reasons were given in support of a shop, it is interesting to note that almost all respondents that opposed a convenience store focused on the potential issue of antisocial behaviour. On a related note, a number of respondents also expressed concern over the problem of littering. Some respondents thought that a shop on Foresthall Park will hurt the existing village businesses or that it was simply not necessary as the existing provision of shops is more than adequate. Other reasons cited were traffic concerns and aesthetic value.

Conclusion

I recognize that this high level of support noted in the completed surveys does not make a store viable - it remains unclear (at least to me) whether a shop that will be used mainly for essentials (bread, milk and a newspaper were the most common items noted in the comments) would be a viable business. However, determining store viability was not the purpose of the survey, rather it was to gauge support and given the high level of support amongst respondents (we can only work with the data we have and extrapolate from that), I recommend that the Residents' Association does whatever it can to promote this site and find a suitable national, local or independent retailer willing to take this site on before the opportunity is lost. As a number of comments noted, a small convenience store was part of the original plan. Decisions relating to whether a shop is licensed to sell alcohol, store opening hours, store architecture will have to be made carefully (and will no doubt be important aspects to any potential retailer considering the viability of this site). Consideration also will need to be given to ways in which the

potential issues of anti-social behavior, littering and traffic can be mitigated.

As it stands, the onus remains on the developer to prove that a shop is not viable before they can be released from the obligation to provide a convenience store. I have passed along the survey results to the developer's marketing agent as well as the Parish Council and District Council for their review. I think that the opinions of the local residents should be included in this discussion. For a full copy of the data and my review, please visit our website and look up the post added on 2nd March 2013.

Stephen Berry (Chairman)

Tel: 647652

Email: s.berry@mac.com

www.foreshallparkresidents.org



We have had a very busy and exciting time recently as pupils from all year groups took part in a book week to celebrate World Book Day on 7th March. The classrooms were alive with lots of wonderful book activities, as both pupils and staff shared their favourite stories throughout the school. Many of the children took part in a sponsored read and at the end of the week all pupils came to school dressed as their favourite book characters. As you can see from the photo we had a wide range of characters including Winnie the Witch, Matilda, Where's Wally, Bin Weevils, Little Red Riding Hood and The Cat in the Hat!



Other events have included Year 5's very rewarding trip to East Anglia Water Works where they learnt about water treatment processes, and Year 6 visited the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge where they studied the Ancient Greeks. Year 5 were also kindly invited to MMCC where they saw their excellent production of Hairspray. We have just had a super Comic Relief disco very kindly organised by the school PTFA and at the time of writing we are looking forward to lots of fun and whacky events for Comic Relief next week.

As this is an extremely short half term we will soon be on our Easter holidays so I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Easter from us all at Bentfield.

David Rogers
Acting Headteacher
Tel: 813626

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The staff have all been very busy attending courses for their CPD including Language and Development plus Safeguarding to name a few. We were pleased to welcome a German exchange student, Marie Krabbe, on work placement for a week. The children were all very interested in her accent and were asking her what school was like in Germany.

Our open morning was a success and several families came to see what we had to offer and put their children's names down. The older group were visited by PC Stuart who showed the children his squad car, got the sirens going (briefly!) and most importantly discussed how they should keep themselves safe.

The whole pre-school have celebrated Chinese New Year, practised eating with chopsticks and doing the dragon dance. On Pancake Day pancakes were made by the older group assisted by Terrie, Yvonne and Sarah and then eaten with great gusto.

Our themes this term are around the family and the children will explore the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' along with making cards for Mothers Day. By the time you read this we hope you will have seen the Easter bonnets made by the children on display in Intercounty's window in the Cambridge Road. Intercounty have kindly donated a prize for the best Easter bonnet in the older group plus one for the younger group. Winners will be announced in the next issue.

Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2.5 years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place. Places for September 2013 and 2014 are filling up fast!

Gill Pursglove
Administrator
Rainbow Pre-School
Tel: 814 242
admin@rainbowpreschool.net



Huw Johnson
Club

The Huw Johnson Club has restarted for 2013. Just before we began the new term, we had our annual New Year's Dinner at the Chequers Pub in Ugley. Over 50 of us, including members and helpers, enjoyed a fabulous dinner, lots of laughs and a good catch up after the Christmas break. As always, we are very grateful to all the staff at the Chequers, who put on a lovely dinner every year and cope with all of us talking at the same time!

Our first evening back was a disco to celebrate Joanne's birthday, and since then we've had a crafts evening making cards for Mothers' Day and Easter, a fiercely competitive music and general knowledge quiz, and yet more competition at the Bowling Alley in Bishop's Stortford. We've got a bingo night, another disco for Andrew's birthday and a

games evening coming up in the next few weeks, with a small break over the Easter holidays.

We've also welcomed a few new volunteers to the Club. Tina, Steven and Stephen have all started to help out on Thursdays, and we've got a dedicated group of under-18s who volunteer when school homework allows! As always, we're very grateful for any help and to everyone who supports us: from fundraising and making teas on a Thursday night, to driving our members to and from Club.

If you want to learn more about the Club or would like to come along to our AGM on Wednesday 24th April (a changed date from the last edition of 'The Link'), do get in contact with either Marion (812284) or Sandra (812627).

Katharine Collis

CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This delicious quiche is great for spring tea-times!

Bacon & Tomato Quiche

Ingredients

For the filling:

200g streaky bacon, cooked and chopped
250g Cheddar cheese, grated
3 tomatoes, sliced
5 eggs, beaten
100ml milk
200ml double cream
Salt and pepper
Fresh thyme to garnish

For the pastry:

200g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
Pinch salt
100g butter, cubed plus extra for greasing

Method

Rub butter into flour/salt and add 2 tablespoons of cold water to form a firm dough. Wrap in cling film and chill for 30 minutes. Roll out, line a flan dish and bake blind at 200°C for 15-20mins. Then sprinkle cheese over the pastry base and arrange the tomatoes and bacon on top. Combine the eggs, milk, and cream in a bowl and season well. Pour over the bacon and cheese. Sprinkle over the thyme leaves and bake for 40-45 minutes at 180°C until filling is just set.

For details of cookery classes and parties for 2-11 year olds contact Jane Chate, Kiddy Cook 07796 270068, www.kiddycook.co.uk.

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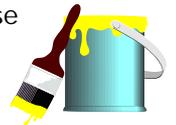
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ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

With the food bank prototype operation running smoothly we devoted time in March to international understanding. We enjoyed an entertaining evening with Maya Dukmasova, a highly talented Rotary International ambassadorial student from USA, who is currently studying at St John's College, Cambridge. Maya, who left St Petersburg with her parents when she was six, is indulging a fascination with Venice by studying for her MPhil on the architectural history of the city's fish market.

We were also honoured to be addressed by Lady Sedhar Chozam-Ball whose parents died following the Chinese invasion of Tibet and as a toddler fled, separated from her siblings, and arrived in India where the Dalai Lama had settled. When she was estimated to be five years old, after a period when she had to beg for food, she was given a place at an English boarding school in Kalimpong where her teachers included Freda Thomson the widow of one of our past rotary members. After school Sedhar continued her education in Australia on a Rotary Scholarship, living with Rotarian families for a year. She then moved to Scotland where she trained as a nurse and subsequently, became an actor.

Since marrying Professor Sir John Ball, an eminent scholar and president of an international congress of mathematicians, access to Tibet has become possible for Sedhar through visas granted to visit conferences in China and Tibet. Amazingly, given the closed nature of Tibetan society under Chinese rule, she found a long lost brother and sister and undertook an expedition to find the village where they were born.



Sedhar is in the picture with the remaining inhabitants of her village. She said that the nomads of Tibet seek a simple slow life without modernity thrust upon them. She also explained that the Dalai Lama, who is passionately committed to non-violence, is considered as a father by most Tibetans. She fears for a future without the Dalai Lama's mollifying influence.

Rotary provides the opportunity to enjoy convivial activity whilst supporting a range of good causes and anyone wishing to be involved with our new look club please contact me or visit our website www.stortvalleyrotary.com. We meet on Tuesday evenings at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford.

Peter Latham
Tel: 507294



GROVE COTTAGE NURSERY APPEAL

Thanks to outstanding support from our local community and beyond, we have raised a staggering £4.5k since January. We still have a long way to go, but what an amazing start! Thank you! A lot has happened in the last month: Our Pamper evening was a great success, raising over £800 for our cause. We appeared on the BBC London news! This generated a lot of interest and over £800 in donations. We have had a half marathon run and an online Pampered chef, and have been selling raffle tickets all over the place! Toyota Hills of Bishop's Stortford are kindly offering to **donate £10** for each person referred by Grove Cottage, that comes in for a service or MOT and **£100** for every car bought by someone referred by Grove Cottage.

Dates for your diary:

4th April: Children's Easter party, Debden Antiques

22nd June: Vintage Tea Party

5th October: An evening of performing arts

For ticket information please look at our Facebook page 'Grove Cottage Nursery Fundraising Campaign', or call me. If you think you can help with any of our fundraising, please do get in touch. You can donate at any time by texting GCPS99£5 to 70070 or by visiting www.justgiving.com/savegrovecottagenursery.

(Grove Cottage nursery is a unique pre-school for children with additional needs. It is invaluable to the families that use it and the children that attend.)

Thank you for your interest and support.

Claire and Andy Cook
814782

MANUDEN SINGERS PERFORM BACH'S ST JOHN PASSION

On Saturday 6th April The Manuden Singers, Players and Soloists will perform J S Bach's St John Passion, one of the two great Oratorios Bach composed telling the story of Christ's passion and crucifixion. The work vividly depicts the highly dramatic interplay between Christ, the Roman Governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate, and the crowd whipped up by their Chief Priests, jealous of Christ's power, to ensure His conviction and execution on the Cross. The crowd and courtroom scenes are interspersed with some of Bach's most moving and beautiful arias.

The story is told by the Evangelist, sung by Tenor Jeff Phillips. The part of Christ is sung by James Priest, who also sings the Bass arias; and Pilate by Tim Atkinson, with Natalie Meyer-Hutchings and Katy Edgecombe singing the soprano and alto arias. The performance, supported by the locally prominent Manuden Players, leader Ysobel Latham, is directed by Ian Priest. The concert will take place in St Mary's Church, Manuden on Saturday 6th April 2013 at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 (£5 children) from Fiona Bengtson 812157, or on the door. All proceeds to support the Manuden Church Organ Restoration Fund.

Ian Priest



Stansted Cricket Club

Chairman's Message delivered to the Club AGM on 21 March

Stansted Cricket Club continues to go from strength to strength. Last season saw the Saturday 1st XI return to the HECL top division, playing a very high standard of cricket against the best teams in the area. In a challenging season for a young team, enthusiastically marshalled by skipper Ian Parsons, we finished in a very creditable 4th place. The 2nd XI, led by Dave Roach, had moved up to Division 5 following a league reorganisation and had an enjoyable season with lots of very close matches, finishing in 5th place. Ben Baker's Sunday XI achieved six wins out of 14 fixtures played. A pleasing feature of our cricket was the telling contributions by so many of our members; our playing strength in depth seems to be growing year on year.

Our Junior section continues to develop. We now boast four Level II ECB qualified Coaches, and welcome to our ranks Shaun Gleeson, who has 16 years of coaching experience. We strive to provide a safe, fun environment for our young cricketers of all abilities, to improve and enjoy their cricket. Last year we successfully renewed our Club-Mark status and Keith Ayres continues to extend his coaching expertise to the local Primary Schools, encouraging many local children to start their own cricket journey. It is good to see the continued progress of many of our maturing young cricketers into all of our adult teams.

Our facilities continue to improve and evolve. The cricket last year was accompanied by a brand new electronic scoreboard - if only it told jokes of dubious content, it would complete the fitting tribute to our much-loved scorer, John Stewart Pape, who passed away in 2009. The improvements to our pavilion continue at pace. We would like to thank Stansted Parish Council, Viridor Credits, Stansted Sports Association, England & Wales Cricket Trust, Big Society Fund, David Powter and all the other Club members who have made significant contributions to facilitate these changes. We have completed the extension which provides the club with a separate kitchen and two guest toilets, with disabled access into the pavilion. We are still racing to complete other improvements to the pavilion for the start of the coming season. I'm sure all members and guests will enjoy the new experience these changes will bring.

On behalf of Stansted CC, I must say a massive Thank You to David Hedge, our Club Secretary. He has got through an enormous body of work over the last few years (often un-noticed by Club members), without which none of these improvements would have been possible. I would also like to wish our long standing President, Mr Robert Selby, a speedy recovery from his recent operation.

We welcome new members of all ages, and guests who wish to come and watch a good game of cricket in the summer sunshine.

Mike Burgoine
Chairman

WHO STOLE OUR BALLS?

After a busy morning last week tending to my various furred and feathered friends of Stansted and Bishops Stortford, I was just filling in some insurance forms when Wendy came in from posting a letter looking a little bemused. "Have you seen my balls?" she said. One of those moments passed when various things flash through your mind; in this case gender issues and tennis for some reason, before I realised she was talking about the plastic topiary balls we bought to hang up outside in the Autumn. We had decided to have a change from hanging baskets, as they need a surprising amount of attention to keep them from looking tired, and the nurses were a bit fed up of getting wet armpits every time they watered them! We thought they looked quite good, but obviously so had someone else. When I followed Wendy outside to look, there indeed were the hanging basket brackets, but with a complete absence of anything green and spherical hanging beneath them. What can you do but shake your head in disbelief?

I told various people throughout the day and it seems many of you have experienced similar theft; one chap had laid a new path and patio and woke up the next morning to find someone had dug up the paving slabs and removed them during the night! So we're now undecided, does Wendy get her balls back or do the nurses go back to daily wet arms? Perhaps we should have a vote.

Next time you're passing the surgery, pop in and let us know what you would prefer and while you're there you can always stock up on your pets' flea and worm treatment, as now the weather is warming up, the little blighters will be breeding again, and we don't want a flea year like last year!

Ilse Pedler



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

As the season now reaches the last few weeks (scheduled last game is 27th April) we are currently playing a number of mid-week games which were lost to the weather immediately after Christmas.

The form of the teams, both first and reserve, has been good of late and with a number of injured players finally returning to full fitness, both team managers have good options when selecting their playing sides.

As I have said in previous articles this season, we like to see other Stansted sides have the opportunity to use our facility, so before we end the season we are pleased to see that the Stansted Veterans have scheduled games against local opposition, it's great to see them all still enjoying participating in the game and of course socialising in the bar afterwards.

Finally, please see below the upcoming fixtures at Hargrave Park, if you have a spare afternoon or evening and wish to support your local club we would be more than happy to welcome you.

Tues 16th April Stansted v Bowers & Pitsea KO 7.45pm
Sat 20th April Stansted v Enfield 1893 KO 3.00pm
Sat 27th April Stansted v Bethnal Green KO 3.00pm

Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

Our next meeting is Thursday 18th April at St John's Church Hall. Doors open 1.30pm, the meeting starts at 2.00pm. April's speaker is Chris Winter who will give an amusing talk on 'Growing Old Disgracefully – Into the Bewilderness'.

The membership stands at 329 at the moment with renewals coming up at the March/April meetings. The fee will remain at £13.50 for the year. If you require a postal renewal please let Vicki have a SAE with any change of contact details; add an extra 50p if you do not supply a SAE and make your cheques payable to Stansted Mountfitchet U3A for £14.00.

We are contemplating having a new and exciting group for members to socialise on a Sunday afternoon. This would be held in the foyer of the Free Church in Chapel Hill. No dates have been confirmed yet but watch this space.

Outings

On Tuesday 12th February members from the Stansted U3A went to the Globe Theatre. After a welcome tea and coffee



with freshly baked cookies at the Swan Restaurant we entered the Globe exhibition. With our individual recorded guide system, the history of 16th century London theatre came alive through narration and detailed exhibits. Design, structure, entertainment, costumes, musical instruments, building methods and materials were presented to great effect.



An intriguing live demonstration of Elizabethan dress with commentary on each garment, fixed with laces, garters and pins, was followed by a short walk to the Rose Theatre,

which is still in the process of excavation and renovation, beneath a newly constructed 21st century building!! Finally, our knowledgeable guide took us inside the Globe Theatre which, without doubt, effortlessly transported us back in time and emphasised the significant historical importance of this very fascinating and successful project, which has been recognised worldwide. Many thanks to Sandra Ruff for organising such an enjoyable and informative day out. Write up from Suzanne and Lavinia.

Forthcoming Outings

A trip to Hedingham Castle on Sunday 28th April with an extra interest, particularly for our male members, in that there will be car and train exhibits there. The day will cost £21pp.

On Wednesday 22nd May a trip to Southend and the Cliffs Pavilion Theatre to see the stage production of 'High Society' has been organised and this will cost £35pp. Please contact either Jan or Maggie, our Travel and Entertainment Co-ordinators.

Activities

We now have a Philosophy Group - for further details contact Sally on 647263. The Scrabble Group is looking for further members - please contact Jenny on 815409 and there will also be an 'interest' list available for those interested in joining a Yoga Group.

See our website for full details of Stansted U3A www.stanstedu3a.org.

For further information please contact Chris (Chair) 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) 814304.



Caroline Bore



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Carpet Bowls – we have now arranged a fixture with Quendon Bowling Club who will be visiting us on Friday 12th April at 7.30pm. This should be an interesting and very enjoyable evening, so come along and have a look, you will be made most welcome.

Various outdoor jobs will be undertaken before the opening of the green, and if you feel able to give a hand please telephone below for details.

Opening of the Green and first match **President v Captain** will be on **Saturday 20th April 2013 at 2.30pm**. All spectators welcome.

Reminder for Bowling for Beginners – starts **Sunday 28th April at 10.00 a.m.** and each evening during that week at 6.30p.m. All that you need is a flat pair of shoes, good sense of humour and we will supply the woods.

Wishing you all great weather and another enjoyable season of bowling.

Doreen Scraggs – Hon Secretary
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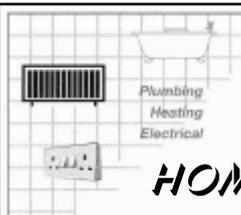
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**Stansted
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Women's Institute**



Airports and Health: Experts Call For Stronger Action
In a recent editorial in the British Medical Journal Professor Jangu Banatvala and Professor Mala Rao give a stark warning once again about the direct health impacts of aviation arising from noise, pollution and the spread of communicable disease and the indirect health impacts arising from greenhouse gas emissions and their effect on climate change.



Professor Banatvala (pictured), as well as being an eminent virologist, is medical adviser to Stop Stansted Expansion. Professor Rao is a Professor of International Health with a particular interest in the effects of climate change. The impact of noise is well documented. In particular it results in poor performance at work from interrupted sleep and impaired learning development in primary school children living near airports. Professors Banatvala and Rao also emphasise the dangers of air pollution – the probable association with cardiovascular disease and the effects on climate change, all the greater because the impact of emissions from jet aircraft is about twice that from land-based sources.

Stressing the importance of Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) before any policy decisions are made on major developments, so making sure that profits do not take precedence over health, Professors Banatvala and Rao say that the Government's record on airports is 'disappointing', the only HIA being one conducted at Stansted by the owner, BAA. In 2007 the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution recommended that HIAs should be mandatory, and should be subject to independent review. Now that airport expansion is being considered once again, it is essential that the Department of Health and the newly designated Public Health England pay close and urgent attention to this editorial's recommendations.

Peter Sanders
Chairman

Tel: 01799 52041

Email: petersanders77@talktalk.net

Our advertised speaker for February unfortunately lost her voice a couple of days beforehand, and that being one of the main attributes needed to address an audience, she had to cancel. We were lucky to find someone willing to take over at such short notice. Paul Embleton, known to many of you as the post-card expert, enthralled us with the life story of his Great Uncle David Embleton, famous in his family for winning the Victoria Cross in 1882. Paul listened as a young boy to the tales of brave Uncle David, and discovered he was one of only eight people to have it rescinded in later years!

Paul began his research when, in 1956, it was reported in a newspaper that this VC had been sold for £300. He decided to find out more of its history, and discovered that Great Uncle David, who had joined the Kings Royal Rifles, underage and under an assumed name (Frederick Corbett), had stayed with a badly wounded officer under heavy fire, when all the rest of the men had retreated to safety. Times must have been hard as he sold it for 15 guineas and had a duplicate made only two years later, which was discovered when he wore it.

In the next few years he was accused of striking an officer, breaking a window at the War Office and embezzlement, and was eventually discharged from the Service on medical grounds in 1891. Paul found lots of newspaper references, book references and pictures of a brave man who must have been affected by all the things he endured during campaigns in the Middle East and Africa. Sadly he died aged only 60 in a workhouse in Maldon and was buried in a pauper's grave. It was with pride that Paul was able to see a proper gravestone erected with full military honours when in 2004 all VCO winners were granted this recognition. Paul actually handled the original VCO and the copy at this time. What an interesting piece of research this was and we were delighted that Paul could come along.

Julie Beck, the enthusiastic Manager, spoke to us about the Day Centre and the things she is hoping to do there. The kitchen is being refurbished and special lunches and evening events will be put on. She is also hoping to offer snacks at lunchtimes as well as the cooked lunches that you need to order beforehand. She emphasised that it is a place to drop in for all and the more we use it the more she can offer. Drivers and helpers are always needed and she also would welcome plants for the garden when you are separating yours.

Self-protection for Women is the topic for April, when Mike Nicolson from EACH is coming along; anyone interested in this subject is very welcome to join us. 11th April, St John's Church Hall, 7.45pm.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

JAM JARS

Thank you to all those kind people who donated their empty jam jars. Having just made an enormous amount of Seville marmalade I'm still happy to receive jars in readiness for the 'jam-making season'.

Sandra Ayres
49 St John's Road
Tel: 814471



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SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



The sky has brought us three entirely natural events since last month and I will deal with the second one first; which is the large lump of rock that passed the Earth looking like a comet, which, in a way it was. Unfortunately, we couldn't see it from England but those in the mid to west of the USA had a good angle on its path. The rock clearly missed us, but anything that is that size would make an awful mess had it hit the Earth. A few decades ago, the idea came up of sending atomic bombs in to space to try to disperse any seriously large lumps that looked as if they were finding their way in our direction of the universe. The idea may still be around.

It is believed that the dinosaurs were eradicated by a collision with a very large lump of rock, by which we are talking in tens or hundreds of miles across, hitting the Earth. The thinking for this idea is that we can see that different dinosaurs arrived at different times but they all seemed to become extinct relatively closely, which means less than a million years

Coincidentally, the first event was not expected when the detritus of a rock, or rocks, that we had not previously perceived, broke up into pieces as the friction and inevitable deceleration of hitting the atmosphere. Whatever it was, until the Earth's gravity bent its way to Earth, this happened in the area approaching what was the USSR. Without any warning, many people were injured from both impact and burns falling from the sky, and there were some deaths. Twenty years ago, that, too, may have had a quiver over the red buttons. Our third, right up to date, event is that a new comet has come in to our sky. I have yet to see it but I will have to wait for a clear night. As it approaches the Sun, its tail gets longer and longer as the power of the Sun blows its own wind against the comet. As it goes round the Sun, the tail swings round and when the comet is going back, which makes it look as though it is going backwards to the very cold end of the Solar System. Try to see it because when it has gone, you won't see this one for another thousand years.

Martin West

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Community First Responders provide an essential and often lifesaving service. They are based in the local community and respond to life-threatening 999 calls. Stansted Mountfichet does not currently have a community first responder group and I am looking at getting one set up. To get a group up and running a minimum of five volunteers are required, these volunteers will be provided with the training they need to start responding to emergency calls. If the community is in support of a Responder group, funds will have to be raised to purchase an automatic external defibrillator. I have been in contact with Paul Moore from the Kings Arms and he has agreed to help with the fundraising. The fire station is also keen to be involved with the group.

If you are interested in volunteering or providing help with fundraising and publicity please email Mountfichetcf@gmail.com. For further information on what becoming a community first responder involves, please visit www.eastamb.nhs.uk/get-involved or www.communityfirstresponders.org.uk.

James Mace



Stansted Lunch Group was founded in 1997 by Alastair Richardson at the request of the Stansted Mountfichet Parish Council to provide a forum in which the Council could meet and maintain a dialogue with the local business community and as a powerful networking opportunity for local businesses.

With Alastair's careful guidance, the event has grown in stature, with over 300 members from Stansted Mountfichet and the surrounding area. With Alastair's retirement at the beginning of 2012, the group is now run by Stansted resident, Bob Lee.

The bi-monthly lunches, normally held at Bury Lodge, attract 50 or more diners. In addition to a pleasant lunch and the opportunity to network, the sponsor provides a speaker who gives an entertaining or informative talk.

The event is open to all. Our next lunch will be in May. Full details can be found at the group website, www.stanstedlunch.com or from Bob Lee, robert@marketing-kinetics.co.uk. Our next meeting will be in May. We hope you are able to join us at some time in the future.

Bob Lee

KEEP FIT

It began in the '70s with Keep Fit at the school
With a few stretches then a dip in the pool
Just an hour a week was all it took
Followed by a pint in 'The Shepherd's Crook'

Then it was Yoga, meditation and all that
I bought all the kit – the t-shirt and a mat
The 'Lotus' position was beyond me I fear
So I rolled up me mat and went for a beer

Next came aerobics in all its different forms
And the phrase 'no pain no gain' was borne
Lycra leotard and tights were the must have
(Plus leg warmers and headband for the '80s chav)
I jumped and jogged until dead on my feet
Binned the leotard and tights 'toot suite'

Now it's all daily workouts at the gym
Tone the 'abs', static running to stay trim
All that puffing and panting, no breath to talk
I'd rather go for a nice country walk

Zumba I hear is the new kid on the block
Tried it last week – body's still in shock
Bits of me wobbled that are best left alone
Maybe it's time I kept fit at home

Loki

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Kneeling *Joan Ives*



**UGLEY
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The speaker at our recent meeting was Mr Ted Pretty MBE. His subject was 'My time at Audley End' and what an entertaining time he gave us. In the space of 45 minutes, which flew by, he took us on a guided tour of this fascinating house and its beautiful grounds. A great raconteur, he shared anecdotes of his years spent working there. With the help of his slides, he guided us around some of the rooms and their contents, including the Salon with its ocean themed ceiling, the plasterwork decorated with sea creatures, and the walls decorated with portraits of the Braybrooke family and previous owners; the Red Room with its beautiful paintings and furniture, and a bust of Lord Cornwallis, the General who surrendered America to the Americans; and the Library with its precious case of sketches of all the rooms in the house, made by its architect Adam. We were told that in the event of a fire these were on the top of the list of things to be saved, as they were priceless, original records of the house. From the house we moved into the grounds and saw some of the external highlights, including the beautiful tulip tree and ancient Cedar of Lebanon; a monument to George III; and a more recent addition to the grounds, the Memorial to the Polish Army and Air Force who trained there during the War.

Other highlights on the horizon include a talk about the Crown Jewels and Royal Regalia in April, and flower arranging in June. Why not come and join us? You would be most welcome. We meet in Ugley Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

**STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM
CRICKET CLUB**

Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC junior section continues to thrive. Edward Catton has just been named in the Essex U10 squad for the 2013 season. Six other boys will play for West Essex this season: Charlie Earle, Joshua Pilcher, Billy Roberts, James Catton, Oliver Patmore, and Thomas Blake. Three girls have been training at Essex CCC – Lucy Gasgoyne, Jessica Keating, and Claire Moran. Jason Brown, the senior coach at the club, has raised money for coaching video equipment and the benefits of this are already flowing through.

The grounds are already being worked on and the Club's first fixture is at Bishop's Stortford College on 20th April. Before then the club will be involved in the NatWest Cricketforce Day - 17th April.

The Club hopes to field a 3rd XI this year playing friendlies only. This is subject to availability. So if you want to play league or friendlies we can accommodate you.

If you are interested in joining the Club please contact me. We are your local Essex Focus Club with Clubmark Accreditation since 2005.

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Happy Easter! We now have the gates open ready for our summer season. The car parks and the shop will be OPEN weekdays 10-5 and weekends and Bank Holidays 9-5 and the cafe 9:30-5 every day. The internal car parks will also be open; however the grass car parks will be subject to ground condition checks.

We are very excited about our digital media app; it's now launched and is available for you to download to your smart phones and devices. Please be aware it is a large file which will need suitable space on your devices to download successfully. We also have 20 handheld Nexus 7 tablets which have the software pre-loaded; these are available for loan free of charge from our gift shop, you will need to bring photographic ID with you to sign them out.

The digital app will help you find your way around the Forest and will provide further information to help you enjoy your visit. It contains games and activities to keep younger members of your group entertained, videos and recordings to deepen your knowledge and understanding of the Forest history and its families. We've picked out the history, wildlife and conservation stories which make Hatfield Forest such a special place. Each point has a video, audio, image, text or a game to help you understand the stories of that place.

If you are interested in learning more about Hatfield Forest why not join us. We are recruiting volunteers in most departments including a new boat hire team. Visitor experience roles include Bike Hire volunteers to start in May, Shell House volunteers to start straight away and Meet and Greet volunteers to help in the car parks and at events. I am also looking to recruit enthusiastic volunteers to help at our Forest festival Woodfest **6th -8th September**. If you are interested in any vacancies please contact the office on **870678**. When you visit us at the forest look out for our new events leaflet and posters which advertise our current events. Our events are bookable through the box office 08442 491895 and online www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfieldforest.

We have also undertaken lots of maintenance work this winter and Roy would like to personally thank Leo Joinery and Gregory Joinery in Dunmow for supplying the Trust. If you see any maintenance works that need undertaking at the Forest please let one of us know.

I have to add a correction/apology. Easter Egg Trails at Hatfield are not a bookable event; you can just turn up. Thank you for all your support and we hope you continue to enjoy the Forest through 2013.

Hannah Morrice
Visitor Experience Team Leader
870678
07825 861560

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Our local fund raising group are holding a quiz night on Friday 12th April at the Cricket Club in Cricketfield Lane. Tickets cost £10 to include hot supper. Licensed bar available. Starts 7.30pm for 8.00pm. All proceeds in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Laraine Janes
Tel: 07711 818499

Stansted Tennis Club



Annual General Meeting

This was held on Tuesday 19th February. The relatively low attendance is hopefully an indication that the Committee are doing a good job. The only change on the new Committee saw the appointment of Catherine Hodgen as Membership Secretary, who takes over from Antony Dynamou. The Committee are keen to recruit a band of helpers ('Friends of the Committee') to help out when called upon with working parties, etc. If you are keen to volunteer, please contact a member of the Committee.

Dates for your diary:

Ladies' Nights

The next Ladies' Night will take place on Monday 8th April from 7.00pm - all lady members are very welcome to come along!

President's Cup

The date for this tournament is Sunday 21st April from 10.00am. The cost will be £5 per player. Please sign up on the Club noticeboard if you would like to play.

Coaching

If you are interested in finding out more about coaching at Stansted Tennis Club, please contact either myself or Martyn Taplin (Monday night adult coaching session) 816386.

I currently have the following vacancies:

Mondays 4.00pm-4.30pm - ages 6-7 (two places)

Mondays 4.30pm-5.45pm - ages 13-16 (girls)

Tuesdays 4.30pm-5.45pm - ages 12-16 (boys)

Thursdays 4.30pm-5.00pm - ages 9-11 (one place)

Fridays 1.45pm-2.45pm - ladies (one place)

Used tennis balls

Used tennis balls can be purchased for £1 per tube of four from Jan Hollis on 812073 or call at 105 Cambridge Road.

Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions at the following times:

Wednesday mornings from 9.00am

Wednesday evenings from 6.00pm

Friday mornings from 9.30am

Sunday mornings from 10.00am

Contacts

If you would like further information, please contact Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) on 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) on 817574 or Catherine Hodgen (Membership Secretary) on 656151.

Chris Hollis
Tel: 319155

STOP PRESS

A Scandinavian company has announced its intention to replace Stansted's windmill with a wind turbine. The turbine is the first of a new generation of bigger, quieter machines that a spokes person for the company described as "an exciting innovative design created specifically for more built up areas." Discussions are under way with an American company, specialising in the transit of large buildings, with a view to moving the windmill to another site within the village.

Index to Advertisers

		Page					
Animal Care	Debs Dogs	38	Heating & Plumbing	A T Plumbing	32		
	Mercer & Hughes	OBC		Freeman Plumbing & Heating	24		
Art and Craft	Millway Stationery	38	Harpers Plumbing & Heating	OBC			
Audio Visual	Stortford Audio	38	JDW Gas Heating Specialist	24			
Ballet	Graham School of Dance	16	Jones & Co (Plumbing)	32			
	Mitchell School of Dance	16	KS Group Heating & Plumbing	32			
Car Services	D Bonney & Sons	26	Newman's Home Services	32			
	Idriver Cars (Chauffeur Driven)	34	Orion Heating	12			
Cleaning	Binwash	IBC	Stansted Gas Services	32			
	Ecaterina	12	Household Furnishings	Easy Chair Sofa Company	IBC		
	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	12		Ken Carpet Fitter	28		
	Oven Bright	12	Stansted Carpets	28			
Community & Care	Hearing Help	18	Stort Blinds	FC			
	Helpline	8	Household Services	Banks & Co Maintenance	IBC		
	Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club	38		Do-It-4U	26		
	Ugley Village Hall (for hire)	34		Fairweather Windows	FC		
	Uttlesford Carers Support Group	8		Finch and Son	OBC		
	Alan Horsley (Computer Repairs)	12		Gillson Carpentry & Joinery	32		
MCM Computer Services	12	Herts & Essex Window Doctor		28			
Computing	TCS (Set Up & Repairs)	12	J F Handyman Services	26			
	Education	Adult Community Learning	16	Nouvelle Carpentry & Building	26		
		High House Montessori Nursery	16	Paul Davall (Carpentry & Building)	32		
		Kiddy Cook	8	Pest Control	26		
		Rainbow Pre-School	18	Ada Decorating	28		
		Stansted Childminders	8	Brown's Painting & Decorating	28		
St Nicholas School		16	Lesley Anne (Decorating)	28			
Electrical	Tuition	8	MWR Interiors	28			
	Albury Electrical Services	32	Perfect Plastering	28			
	A&I Electrical	24	Ray Morton (Decorating)	8			
	Ethical Electrical	32	Shutes Painting & Decorating	24			
	Stansted Electric	32	T F Plastering	28			
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	Lever & Co Solicitors	18		Bonne Santé (Beauty)	IBC		
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	Murdochs Solicitors/Property Shop	18		Glynis Cheers (Hypnotherapy)	10		
	PAR Bookkeeping Services	12		R Handford (Chiropody)	10		
	Tees Financial	24		Helen Bartram (Hypnotherapy)	10		
	Food & Lodging	Chimneys Guest House		26	Julie Golden (Chiropody)	8	
		China Garden and Ho Fish & Chips		26	Lino Thomas (Hairdressing)	OBC	
Linden House		FC	Lower Street Clinic	6			
Pocknell Food Co		36	Mariposa Laser & Aesthetics	IBC			
33 Harrisons B & B		34	Jan Rickwood (Baby Massage)	8			
Daniel Robinson & Sons		18	Stansted Chiropractic	6			
Funeral Services	J Day & Son	12	Stansted Psychotherapy	10			
	D C Poulton & Sons	18	Style Me Beautiful (Beauty & Image)	10			
	N W Brown (Landscapes)	36	Tracey's Beauty & Holistic	8			
Garden Supplies, Services & Floral	B'looms (Flowers & Gifts)	36	Williams (Osteopath)	6			
	Crystal Clear Ponds	24	Pilates	Back to Basics (Pilates)	6		
	Eaves & Eden (Landscaping)	OBC		Tone Pilates	6		
	GWB Horticulture	FC		Photography	Photosound	10	
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC			Copyzone	34	
	Steve Hall Garden Services	36			Printing	Bareham Overy (Architects)	34
	J R Johnston (Trees)	8				Property Services	Churchill General Builders
	Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts)	FC	Garden & Property Maintenance				34
	Mayfair Ponds	FC	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)				34
	Mowtivated	36	David Fortune (Builder)	IBC			
	Gill Owen (Gardening Services)	36	Unique Construction	34			
	Stadium Turf Supply	36	A C Wright Building Contractors	34			
	SWF Tree Surgeon	36	Retailers	Family News	12		
	The Secret Gardener	36		John Wilson Jeweller	28		
	Uppercut Trees	36		Elsenham Golf Club	38		
				Sport	Herts & Essex Wills	12	
			Will Writing		The Will Practice	12	

FC - Front cover

IBC - Inside Back Cover

OBC - Outside Back cover

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