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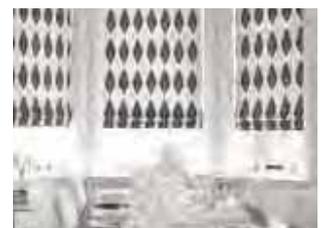
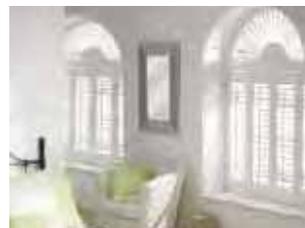
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editor@stanstedlink.org.uk  
by **noon** on **11th April** for the May issue

or by hand to:  
7 Blythwood Gardens,  
Stansted CM24 8HG  
by **noon** on **8th April** for the May issue

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## EDITORIAL



Welcome sunshine after the wet winter has brought out another superb display of daffodils around the village. Unfortunately, it also seems to have brought out some inconsiderate dog walkers leaving piles of dog poo in public areas for the unsuspecting to step into. During Lent we're encouraged to take on a task as well as giving something up. It would be fantastic if these dog walkers would take on the task of clearing up after their pets. Failing that, maybe CCTV would help to name and shame (or even prosecute) the culprits? Our village is evolving all the time with the redevelopment of Mead Court (sadly involving the removal of yet another of our established trees) and the library; imminent building of our long promised Health Centre, not to mention various proposed new housing and the possibility of another primary school. Our surroundings might change but hopefully the strong sense of community that helps make Stansted such a popular place to live in, will never change.

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**Stansted network** is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

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# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

This month our focus is on Easter. For many of us it is an occasion to be with family and friends and to enjoy some time off from work or school. Easter invokes nostalgic thoughts of chocolate eggs and hot-cross buns. However, the Bible record of the first Easter is a much more dramatic tale. It is the account of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and demonstrates God's love and sacrifice for mankind and His determination to put right what had been spoiled.

In our modern, media-driven society, messages about love often focus on the beauty or worth of the object of desire. But at Easter we see a very different kind of love demonstrated by God; a sacrificial love, which was given freely to everyone, at great personal cost. As the apostle Paul puts it in Romans chapter 5 *"Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* When God reached out to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, he did so not based on our merit, but based on his unconditional care and concern for each one of us. This Easter know one thing – whoever you are, whatever your situation, or however unlovable you may feel - there is a God who cares for you and longs to be involved in your life.



Howard Page  
Stansted Family Church



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

#### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday

Blessing and Distribution of Palms at all Weekend Masses

#### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April

7.30pm Penitential Service

#### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Mass of the Last Supper and Vigil until 10.00pm

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday

9.45am for 10.00am Children's Service

3.00pm Passion of Our Lord

4.15pm Walk of Witness to St John's Church

#### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April Holy Saturday

11.00am-12 noon Confessions

8.00pm Easter Vigil

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day

10.00am Mass of the Resurrection

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND

#### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Palm Sunday Procession and Sung Eucharist

#### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

10.00am Holy Communion

#### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday

8.00pm – Maundy Thursday Eucharist

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday

12noon Midday Prayer at **St Mary's, Farnham**

1.30pm Good Friday Liturgy at **St Mary's, Birchanger**

4.15pm Walk of Witness from St Teresa's

6.00pm Taize Style Service for Good Friday

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Eucharist

### FREE CHURCH

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday

10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch

4.15pm Walk of Witness from St Teresa's

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day

10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion

### ST MARY'S CHURCH

#### Palm Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 3.30pm 'The Crucifixion'

A meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer. Words selected and written by the Revd D Sparrow-Simpson and music by Sir John Stainer. The much loved oratorio was frequently sung in our churches in Holy Week. On 13<sup>th</sup> April we will be playing a recording of St Mary's Singers made in All Saints' Church, Bishop's Stortford in 1987. We hope you will come to join us in listening to the recordings and in singing the well-known hymns.

Audrey Rodgers  
Chairman, Friends of St Mary's Church  
Tel: 812162

### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day

10.30 am Meeting





www.stanstedfamilychurch.com

Our Christian beliefs are conventional, we're just doing church differently. For details of events see the What's On page of our church website, or contact us.

Howard and Ros Page

## TWO LENT FOCUS TALKS

**The Bible Big Picture** is a one-hour session in Stansted Free Church Foyer on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2.00pm, with coffee at 3.00pm and opportunities for further questions/discussion afterwards for anyone who wishes to stay. We will explore the significance of what we celebrate at Easter, as it relates to the Bible's overall message and the big picture story of the whole Bible. Many people know about certain bits of the Bible, but are not so familiar with how the 66 books connect together. To get the most out of this session, you may wish to bring your own Bible if you have one, but Bibles will also be available for anyone who doesn't bring one.

**Five Ways to Really Engage with the Bible** is on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm in the Free Church Foyer, and will explore several ways to engage with the Bible; ways that can help us to grow in our understanding of what we read, and to mature in our faith. The Bible says that we grow to be mature as Christians (able to deal joyfully, peacefully and effectively with the challenges of life, and to help others) through the renewing of our minds, and that this involves thinking deeply about what we read in the Bible and drawing on it as our spiritual 'food'. Come and join us for either talk, or both. Everyone welcome.

## TASTE EASTER

This is a fun event for all the family, which combines puppets, music and activities in a celebration of the Christian meaning of Easter. It is at the Day Centre on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 11.15am-12.00 noon, immediately after Stansted Family Café. All welcome!



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



# Shalom

As we are not meeting during April, our next meeting is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May when Anthea Lea will be talking about Quakerism and Spiritual Healing.



Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059



## STANSTED FREE CHURCH

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**Minister** Rev'd David Keeble  
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minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

**Lettings** Marion and Mike Dyer  
7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG  
Tel: 814059  
lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

### Preachers for April

6<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Don McGregor - New Directions  
13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am John Banks  
18<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Good Friday  
20<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Communion  
27<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Faith Paulding

### The Place on the Hill – every Wed and Fri 9.30am- 12.30pm

Our free Wednesday and Friday drop-in is very popular, with Art for All on the first Friday, and storytime on the third Friday of each month. Come and join us – all ages are welcome

## THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

**Clerk** Sue Moloney  
5 Chatter End, Farnham Geeen  
Bishop's Stortford  
Tel: 771405

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux  
High Lane

**Priest** Father John Garrett  
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 9.00am

**Confessions** Saturday 10.00am  
and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment



## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the February draws:

£100 No 187 - Roland Pelly  
 £ 50 No 217 - Janet Macfarlane  
 £ 25 No 215 - Kath Johnson

The draws for April will be on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. The 300 Club year will come to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> April and I would like to express our very grateful thanks to all those who have supported us. Over the four years that the Club has been running, we have given away a total of £10,000 in prize money and raised a much needed £11,589 for church funds. A new year's subscription will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> May and I do hope that our existing members will renew their subscriptions and that 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 an application form. Numbers cost £2 each per month with a maximum of five numbers per household.

Francine Cope  
 Tel: 814562

? ?  
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 ? ? ?

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH SPRING QUIZ

A reminder of our quiz in St John's Church Hall on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm for prompt 7.30pm start. Quizmaster is Andrew Arnold, and we will be serving our usual generous ploughman's supper, and there will be a raffle. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets £10 from me. Proceeds to the Stansted Defibrillator Fund.

Katy Dockerill  
 Tel: 812997  
 Email: viewpoints@btinternet.com

**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.btik.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:** Rachel and Olly Pocknell  
 Tel or text: 07972 373994  
 Email: stjohs.hallbookings@gmail.com

### St John's Diary

#### Sunday

8.00am Said Holy Communion  
 9.30am Worship 4 All (1st Sunday)  
 9.30am Choral Eucharist (2nd-4th Sundays)

#### Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer

#### Tuesday

9.00am St John's Tots

#### Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer  
 10.00am Holy Communion

#### Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

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

## From the Registers

### February

#### Funerals

3<sup>rd</sup> James Sampford, age 81 -  
 at Parndon Wood  
 12<sup>th</sup> Ida Jagers, age 86 - at  
 Parndon Wood

There were no baptisms or weddings  
 in February

## APOLOGIES

The funeral of Mr Lesley Childs took place at St Mary's Church on 6<sup>th</sup> January and the interment was at Stansted Cemetery, not at Parndon Wood as was stated in last month's Link. Sincere apologies to Mrs Childs and family for any upset this error caused.

Editor



What are you doing from 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May? Some of us will be spending a few hours, as we do every year, doing a house-to-house envelope collection for Christian Aid. As the village expands there are more streets to cover, so every year more volunteers are needed. Why not join us this year and help transform the lives of some of the world's poorest people?

You don't have to be a church member to join in the collection – just as you don't have to be a Christian to receive the help that Christian Aid gives. So if you have a few hours to spare, please contact me for more details.

Thank you.



Catherine Dean  
 Tel: 813579



**BritishRedCross**  
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**SPRING QUIZ**  
7 for 7.30 pm Sat 5th April  
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 *In aid of the Village  
Defibrillator Appeal*

*Manuden Singers & Players*  
**Mozart Requiem**  
7.30 pm Sun 6th April  
St Mary's Church, Manuden  
*Tickets £10 adults, £5 students  
Tel Fiona 812157 or at the door*  
*Proceeds to Bishop's Stortford Food Bank  
for help with Storage & Distribution*

APRIL VILLAGE EVENTS			
1	Tue	Lent Focus Talk	Free Church Foyer 2 - 3.30 pm
2	Wed	Red Cross Spring Gift Fair	B Stortford College 10 am - 3 pm
		Garden Club AGM and Show	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
3	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Fri	Stansted Business Forum	Linden House 7.30 am
		Movement Mix Up Taster	Spangles 2 - 3 pm
4 & 25	Fri	Investigators	Free Church Hall 6.15 - 7.45 pm
5	Sat	Spring Quiz	St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
6	Sun	Manuden Singers Concert	St Mary's Church, Manuden 7.30 pm
8	Tue	Lent Focus Talk	Free Church Foyer 2 - 3.30 pm
10	Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.45 pm
10 Thu - 12 Sat		Water Lane Theatre Co	Hockerill College 7 pm
11	Fri	<b>Link copy due in today</b>	<b>before 12 noon</b>
12 & 19	Sat	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
12	Sat	St Clare Jumble Sale	St John's Hall 11 am - 1 pm
		Defibrillator Hunger Lunch	Free Church Hall 12.30 - 2 pm
13 & 27	Sun	Green Waste Skips	Lower Street Car Park 9 am - 1 pm
13	Sun	Stainer's Crucifixion	St Mary's Church 3.30 pm
17	Thu	Easter Lunch	Day Centre 12.30 pm
		Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.15 for 2 pm
19	Sat	TasteEaster	Day Centre 11.15 am - noon
20 Sun / 21 Mon		Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
25	Fri	Fish and Chip Friday	Day Centre 12.30 pm
27	Sun	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
		Bowling for Beginners	Bowling Club 10 am - 4.30 pm
		Plant and Book Sale	Littlebury Church 2.30 - 5 pm
28	Mon	Pilots	Free Church Hall 6 - 7.30 pm

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Gill 815486 for more information

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**Note change of day & time**  
**April 13th & 27th**  
**May 11th & 25th**

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Please bring flat shoes

**UGLEY FARMERS'  
MARKET**  
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Ugley Village Hall  
*Meat ~ Poultry ~ Eggs ~ Honey  
Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Preserves  
Fruit & Veg ~ Skincare ~ Crafts  
Knitting ~ Cards ~ Plants*  
Refreshments with cake and bacon rolls

 St Mary's Church  
**Stainer's Crucifixion**  
**Palm Sunday 13th April 3.30pm**  
A recording of the work  
performed by St Mary's Singers  
made in All Saints' Church,  
Bishop's Stortford in 1987  
**All Welcome**

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## DEFIBRILLATOR HUNGER LUNCH



Come and enjoy a delicious bowl of home-made soup with a roll, and make a donation to the Stansted Churches' Lenten appeal for the Defibrillator Fund. The event is in Stansted Free Church Hall from 12.30pm-2.00pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Booking is not essential but if you are able to let us know in advance that you are coming, it would help our catering. All welcome - see you there!



Betty Francis  
Tel: 813977

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

## GUESS WHO I AM

**I was born** in Takeley in a house on the edge of Hatfield Forest and spent my early life in London, before moving to Bishop's Stortford and attending St Michael's School in Apton Road.

**My first job** was with a local building firm where I served an apprenticeship of five years to become a plumber. Like most men of a certain age I was sent off to do two years National Service, joining the RAF. I enjoyed my time there immensely rising through the ranks to Corporal, giving me confidence and a feeling of self-worth. I also learnt new skills including the importance of discipline. On leaving the RAF, I met and married a Stansted girl (we celebrated our Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 2012) and two children followed. My working career took me all over the country where I was privileged to work on many beautiful, historical buildings.

**I have lived in Stansted** for over 60 years and since retirement I've been able to spend more time with my family, which now includes two grandchildren and one great grandchild. I take an active interest in the village, love gardening and also attend art and Tai Chi classes.

**Claim To Fame:** I had the honour of meeting the Queen in 1995 at Buckingham Palace. Guess who I am.

*Answer on page 39*

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The second half of the Spring Term began with Book Week. We dressed up as book characters, read our favourite stories to each other, enjoyed dance workshops bringing words to life, a theatre group, a book fair plus many more activities in class. One very successful event was a book swap; we all brought in a book to exchange for another. We shall certainly be doing it all again next year!



Recently Sir Alan Haselhurst MP attended our family assembly and met our Head and Deputy Head boys and girls for a discussion on Parliaments at St Mary's and Westminster! He toured the school to see us at work and discussed expansion plans. Sir Alan commented "I was very glad to have the opportunity to make a first visit to St Mary's School at its new location. Compared with its previous cramped site the School is now blessed with a modern, attractive facility with a convenient internal layout. Already the School is planning expansion. I was able to attend an enthusiastic and well-drilled Morning Assembly at which pupil achievement awards were presented. Apart from discussions with the Head Teacher and three members of the governing body, I met with leading representatives of the School Parliament who impressed me with their grasp of the democratic process practised at school level. The School has an altogether bright and cheerful atmosphere, but close attention to studies was evidenced in every classroom. I sensed an overall determination to succeed."

Our Year 5 pupils have been taking part in 'Mission X' (see Forest Hall School article). Alfie Madigan writes: *Everyone really enjoyed Mission X. We took part in activities in our own school to 'Train like an Astronaut', learning about how important our body is, and the need to keep it fit and healthy. We tested ourselves through exercises such as skipping as many times as we could within a time limit and then tried to increase the amount we could do. We also went to FHS for certain days to design and make our space costumes, and practising the sort of tasks that astronauts have to do in the Space Station. We also developed team work and co-operation, and kept a Mission X journal to record what we had done. I think the schools should definitely do this again next year!*

Christine Tonkins  
Headteacher  
Tel: 812212

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## BISHOP'S STORTFORD BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

### The Bishop and the Bee

The Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association has many requests to give talks, from Rotary, WI, Brownies, etc, and recently we were asked to talk to an Anglican group at a local church as the Bishop's good cause was to support beekeepers in Ethiopia. I duly turned up on the Sunday morning and was told by the vicar I was actually doing the sermon slot! I said I could give them facts, but was not really qualified to 'do the theology'. That was fine, said the vicar, and I duly gave my talk. I have never talked from a pulpit, but it was very difficult, as you get no feedback – no shouts of 'hear-hear' or clapping so you don't know if you are making the right impression, or being effective. This must be very difficult for the clergy and I have more sympathy and respect for them now as they try and get their message across, but must always wonder if they are being effective. This must apply to charitable work too – we give to charity but I always wonder how effective it is. So I looked up beekeeping in Ethiopia on the internet and found that honey is one of the major cash crops for peasant farmers, as it requires little investment, and is relatively easy to harvest. The problem is that their yields are only about 10% of what even a hobby beekeeper can expect in this country because they use totally 'natural' methods of collecting honey, which means they have to destroy the colony to get the honey, much as our Tudor ancestors did. The answer is simple – provide modern hives, where the honey can be harvested while keeping the colony intact. This is what the Bishop's charity is doing, and I can now see the direct relationship between the number of hives sent to Ethiopia and the benefits they give in terms of yield. In fact, we are going to ask the Bishop to come and give a talk to us about his project as a quid pro quo for my sermon at one of his churches! A lovely example of 'give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day, give him a rod and you feed him for a lifetime'. Well done the Bish!



John Dockerill

Email: [training@stortfordbees.org.uk](mailto:training@stortfordbees.org.uk)

## WELLIES!

I'm a keen walker of local repute  
 First sign of the sun and it's on with me boots  
 I'll walk in the cold, nose red as a jelly  
 But not in the rain .... I hate wearing wellies

I love being active going out and about  
 You'll see me wearing a big smile no doubt  
 Fresh air is healthier than watching the telly  
 But not in the rain .... I hate wearing wellies

The winter rains came, I missed my daily hike  
 Stayed home instead scoffing chips and the like  
 Storms over I shot out with the speed of Dame Kelly  
 Legs plastered in mud ... Should've worn wellies!



Loki



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

[www.stanstedu3a.org](http://www.stanstedu3a.org)

In February members enjoyed a guided day trip to London to find its Hidden Secrets, taking in The Knights Templar, the Inns of Court, the London Silver Vaults and Leighton House in Holland Park, the home of Frederick, Lord Leighton, a Victorian artist. His love of the Middle East was apparent in the entrance hall; completely tiled with a fountain of black marble in the centre and light filtering through the high stained-glass windows. It was a beautiful day, much enjoyed by all.



The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April in St John's Church Hall. New members are always welcome, so why not come along to see what we do. This month we will be entertained by Tracy Mackness who founded the Giggly Pig Farm in Romford. Tracy will be telling us how she set up the farm and will be bringing along sausages from her saddleback pigs for us to buy if we wish. We will be continuing to renew memberships, so doors will open ¼ hour earlier than usual at 1.15pm to allow renewals before the 2.00pm meeting start.

Our AGM will be held in May and the Committee are always keen for members to stand for the Committee to make sure that we have a supply of new ideas. We are particularly looking for a Vice-Chair, but we also have vacancies for other Committee members. We are happy for members to sit in and observe our Committee meetings to get an idea of what we do. Speak to Chris (Chair) 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) 814304 if you are interested.

Sally Rich  
Tel: 647263



We are having a Jumble Sale in St John's Church Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am. Give me a call if you have anything to donate. My colleagues are very excited about what will now be the St Clare Hospice Stansted 10K and are hoping to see lots and lots of runners on the day! Finally, if you would like a representative from the Hospice to speak to your club or group about the services that we offer and the work that we do, we would be very happy to come along and meet you.



Sarah Calder  
Tel: 07528 520016  
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## STANSTED FREE CHURCH

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### *The Origins of the Free Church Building*

A Chapel was formed and opened on the present site at the bottom of Chapel Hill in 1698. It was probably, to judge from an old plan, another building adapted for the purpose, most likely an old barn that was enlarged and altered at a later date. It was known as the Independent Chapel, later to become the Congregational Church, United Reformed Church and finally the Stansted Free Church. The present building was erected in 1864-65 and, before major alterations in the early 2000s, had a seating capacity for about 500 persons, plus the provision made for the erection of side galleries, giving an additional 150 seats.

The original Methodist Church was opened in 1876 and was built on the very fringe of the village abutting the Cambridge Road. In later years, and before joining in fellowship with the United Reformed Church to form the Free Church, the Methodist services and events shared the facilities of the Society of Friends at the top of Chapel Hill.

### *A new Beginning*

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006, a new church was formed in Stansted Mountfitchet. It was the result of the joining together and the 'marriage' of the members and congregations of the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church in the village. A special public Celebration Service was held on 5<sup>th</sup> November of that year, followed in traditional non-conformist fashion by a tea in the Hall.



### *Looking to the Future*

Many exciting projects for outreach in the village are in place. *The Place on the Hill* is a facility to be enjoyed by all members of the community and is especially popular with mums and their children. Drinks and refreshments are provided free of charge, with the chance of trying your hand at art and using the facility of the computer. The *Pilot* organisation was formed in the 1930s and has been a major part of our youth outreach in this church for the past 40 years. Pilots offers young people from the ages of five years to 18 years a variety of activities including drama, art, discussion and fellowship. Further information about the Stansted Free Church can be found on our website:



Peter and Valerie Trundle  
Tel: 813433

*We hope to include a more detailed history of both the Congregational and Methodist Churches in future editions.*

## CHOCOLATE POISON

Let me ask you a question. If you were hungry and you walked into your living room and someone had left a box of chocolates on the coffee table, would you eat one? If you answered yes, then you have done what most dogs do. Now, how about this one, if you walked into your living room and found a box of chocolates and you weren't particularly hungry but ate the whole box, what would you be? Hands up those who said a Labrador. Go to the top of the class! Yes, it's that time of year folks, Easter is chocolate stealing time for dogs and despite the warnings, people still leave chocolate in places where dogs can get at it and every year we end up having to make dogs sick so they don't get poisoned. Chocolate may be harmless (or relatively!) for us but it can kill dogs; the darker the chocolate the greater the risk. The symptoms of chocolate poisoning are vomiting, thirst, restlessness, hyper-excitability, salivation and becoming unsteady when walking. This can progress in severe cases to blood in the urine, heart arrhythmias and convulsions and several deaths due to chocolate poisoning have been reported. The symptoms usually occur within three to four hours of the dog eating the chocolate and may last up to three days. To put it in perspective, your dog is not going to have a problem if it just eats one chocolate button but if you suspect your dog has eaten a large amount of chocolate and is showing any of the above symptoms it is very important to call your vet immediately. Vets have to provide a 24 hour emergency service and we run our own as you probably know, so you should get to see a familiar face and we will have all your records on our computer system. Just ring the normal surgery number and you'll get our answer phone telling you who is on duty and what number to ring. However I'm sure that now I've reminded you, you'll all put your Easter eggs out of reach of small children and especially Labradors!



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## PILOTS

The March session was full of story-telling activities to celebrate International Book Day. As part of the newly launched 'cultures of the world' series, children heard about Roman war-time kitchen stories. They enjoyed recreating a royal feast from the days of Emperor Elagabalus (204-222 AD) with a modern twist using cooking ingredients to make 'inedible, fun and scary' dishes. They also learnt a special song for Stansted Pilots, and took part in another round of



interactive play on 'David and Goliath'. The evening ended with Easter chocolates and snacks, a special movie session and with their favourite rounds of games. We were delighted to welcome four new pilots to their trial session, and we hope that they will join us again. The Club will meet on 28<sup>th</sup> April 6.00pm-7.30pm in the Free Church Hall. Updates are on [www.facebook.com/pages/Stansted-Pilots](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stansted-Pilots). Children aged five years and above are welcome to join Pilots one Monday a month - please call Valerie Trundle on 813433 or email me.

Sanjukta Ghosh

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



## Stansted Cricket Club

Work has begun on re-carpeting the main pavilion area and refurbishing the bar. There will be a NatWest GroundForce working party at the ground on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April from 10.00am onwards to tidy up the ground and pavilion, and get our facilities ready for the start of the season on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. All members are encouraged to attend. We have one friendly fixture arranged for April (v Thorley away on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April). Junior outdoor training will begin again with a registration meeting at 6.30pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May at Hargrave Park. The Club is arranging a tour in Dorset for 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> June. Any former or retired players, interested in joining the tour as player, umpire or scorer, would be most welcome. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring next season on a regular basis to contact me. Any adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



David Hedge  
Hon Secretary  
Tel: 812509  
Email: [dchedge49@gmail.com](mailto:dchedge49@gmail.com)



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our March speaker was Sarah Doig who spoke about *Victorian Village Schools*. Using the example of her own home, a converted Victorian schoolhouse, and photos and records of other schools in Norfolk and Suffolk, she traced the development of schools in East Anglia. Before the 19<sup>th</sup> century, schooling was not compulsory and not free. The wealthy could afford private tutors but Sunday School was the only education for children of the working classes. Introduced nationally in 1780 the Bible was used for teaching reading and writing in nearly every village. The late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries saw a number of developments including voluntary schools; charity schools for the poor (which were attractive to teachers because of the annual salary) and workhouse schools, where pupils were prepared for apprenticeships so that they no longer were a charge on the parish. The establishment of the National Schools Society in 1811 brought about the rapid expansion of village schools often on land provided by the church. The architecture was strikingly similar with the schoolmaster's accommodation on one side and the school room, with separate entrances and play areas for girls and boys, on the other. Grants were based on a number of factors including exams passed, quality of teaching and behaviour. Inspectors could recommend withholding of part or all of a grant if the school was not up to standard. The pupil teacher system was introduced in 1846 and different age groups of pupils would all be taught in separate lessons in the same room. Education had to fit in to village life and at certain times of the year pupils would be absent for stone picking in fields or schools closed whilst the children helped with the harvest. Schools also closed to celebrate national events or through epidemics of illness. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were certified teachers in most elementary schools and a constant stream of visitors, eg the vicar for RE, his wife or daughter to teach sewing etc. The average leaving age in 1899 was 13 and fees which were reduced in 1891 were abandoned in 1918.

The next meeting will be at 8.00pm on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April in the Day Centre, when Fiona Bengtsen will be talking to us on 'Rabbit Warrens'. All welcome.

Paul Embleton  
Tel: 812627

## THE CRAFTON ROOM

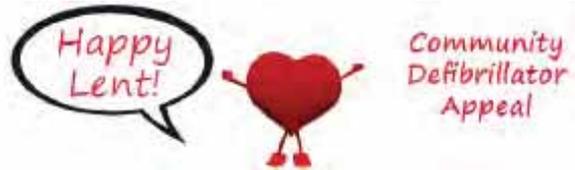
[www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk](http://www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk)

At last the warmer days are here, the Day Centre garden is bursting with spring colour and the dining room is looking refreshed following the arrival of our lovely new chairs. As I write, preparations are well under way for the Safer Living Event on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Our Italian evening for early April is sold out but there are still a few spaces available for our special Easter lunch on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April and Fish and Chip Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April, both at 12.30pm - but hurry as places go quickly. Please call for further information or to book your place. We look forward to welcoming you.



Julie Beck  
Centre Manager  
Tel: 815091

## CHURCHES' PANCAKE PARTY FOR DEFIBRILLATOR APPEAL



Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party marked the launch of the Churches Together in Stansted defibrillator appeal. We were delighted to see well over 100 people tucking into their pancakes smothered in their chosen toppings! The venue was fit for a feast, and we are most grateful to Fr John for giving us free use of St Theresa's Parish Centre.



Perhaps some of the pancake jokes fell a bit flat, but we were delighted to hear more serious contributions from Dr Susan Humphrey (Stansted surgery), Lorna Hayes (East of England Ambulance Service) and Mick Madigan (a local paramedic). We were shown how defibrillators work, and impressed how such an easily-used piece of equipment can mean the difference between life and death in the critical few minutes following a heart failure. People gave generously on the night and this, with other gifts, means over £600 has already been banked. This will be added to funds raised earlier by the King's Arms and will help pay for at least two new defibrillators for deployment in Stansted.



We want everyone to have the opportunity to give, so this Lent we would encourage you to find ways of cutting back on luxuries (not just cucumbers and spring onions!). You can also give by supporting upcoming events planned by the churches including a quiz at St John's on 5<sup>th</sup> April, and a hunger lunch at the Free Church on 12<sup>th</sup> April. See the Village Events entries on page 5 for more details.



Sometime after Easter we plan to have a small ceremony to announce the final outcome of this exciting community project. Several volunteers have already shown interest in training as first responders, so let's give them our practical support by funding their defibrillators.



To find out more about the defibrillator project please visit our website [www.stanstedstjohns.btik.com/defibrillatorappeal](http://www.stanstedstjohns.btik.com/defibrillatorappeal), or contact Catherine Dean on 01279 813579

*Photographs by Stephanie Dean*



## 1st STANSTED SCOUT TROOP

### Helpers Urgently Needed

Did you know that there is a very active Scout, Cub and Beaver pack in Stansted? They meet at their headquarters in Water Lane; the hut was built thanks to a £250 donation from Edmund Cawkell and the land was acquired from Walter Mayhew at a cost of £350 in 1963. Scouting first came to Stansted in 1911, and it continued throughout the War, using the windmill as its HQ. In 2011 we celebrated 100 years of the 1st Stansted Scout Group with an exhibition of old photos, and a celebration tea and cake party. Years ago when my sons were in the Cubs and Scouts we had two Cub packs, the Scouts plus the Venture Scouts but we eventually had to disband one Cub pack. We now have a waiting list for boys and girls in the Beavers and Cubs and we are looking for people who would be willing to be trained to help run another Beaver and Cub pack. Some of our leaders have either left or are leaving in the near future, and we hope in a village the size of Stansted there will be people who can help us. Our Group Scout Leader is Mark Gerber and he can be contacted on 07715 628201 or you can contact me.

Brenda Ryan  
Chairman  
Tel: 812725

## MANUDEN SINGERS

Our Christmas Fantasia concert in December for the Essex Air Ambulance Trust raised in the region of £2000, covering the cost of a whole flying operation – in other words, the cost of saving a life. Many thanks to all who supported us. At 7.30pm on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April in St Mary's Church Manuden we are performing Mozart's Requiem, one of the most loved and challenging of all the settings of the Requiem Mass. Surrounded by the mysterious circumstances of its composition – a tale told in the film 'Amadeus' – and left uncompleted when Mozart died, the version most commonly performed today is that completed by Mozart's pupil Franz Sussmayr, and is full of drama, pathos, anguish and hope. This concert is in remembrance of those who died in the Great War and also features George Butterworth's 'Shropshire Lad', a poem set to music at the time of this horrific war. Butterworth died as a soldier in 1916. Tickets £10 (£5 students) from 812157 or on the door. Proceeds will be donated to the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank to help with storage and distribution.



Teresa Priest  
Tel: 647050

## LOST AND FOUND

Whilst walking around the village I have found the following:  
A silver earring in St John's churchyard.  
A silver necklace in Stoney Common Road  
A pair of spectacles in a case in Mill Hill.  
If you think any of these might be yours, please contact me.

Helen D'Aguiar  
Tel: 07885 400782

## MORETON ROMANIAN ORPHANS FUND

### Your Chance to make a Difference to a Child's Life

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July, a group of orphaned or abandoned children from some of the poorest parts of Romania will arrive in our area for a two-week break courtesy of the Moreton Romanian Orphans Fund, a local charity that has been organising such visits for 24 years. These children have to go



without many things in their homeland, but the one thing they lack the most is the love of a parent or family. Would you be able to give them that one massive missing ingredient in their lives? Well now's your chance.

The charity is looking for families in this area to accommodate and care for a child for the duration of the trip. The children are unlikely to have ever stepped foot outside of Romania or experienced being part of a family group before, so for them it is a huge step. The entire cost of the trip is funded by the charity, which also puts on a full programme of events such as discos, picnics, sports events and days at the seaside. This means that all you need to supply is food, accommodation, and of course lots of love and attention! Interested? Then please call the hosting officer Barbara Saunders on 832001. For more information on the charity, please visit our website, [www.mrof.co.uk](http://www.mrof.co.uk).

Paul Jarvis  
Publicity Officer

## SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



Around last Christmas there was a possibility that we might have a comet finding its way round the Sun. Had it survived it could have given us a spectacular experience as it swung round the Sun. Sadly, instead it did not have the momentum to stream as it went round the Sun, and ended up inside the Sun. In times past comets have always been believed to be harbingers of doom, though there is not much by way of any evidence: in fact there is none. But seeing comets are interesting events for several reasons. They seem to be extremely old, millions or billions of years. With such age we can look further back into the history of the Universe and recently we have seen a comet coming our way. An unmanned craft was built to meet up with it. In fact it has been slowly making its way for over two years. It recently had to turn itself on and there were a lot of crossed fingers hoping that it would turn on after such long time, and it did as required. The journey has yet to meet the comet for some time but we are hoping to find some hints of life from those millions of years before we have found to date. There may even be the hints of life from completely new (to us) before us humans had climbed out of a hole in a piece of rock a billion years ago.

Martin West  
Tel: 813514  
Mooncraft Productions

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Email: [g.david@fhs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:g.david@fhs.essex.sch.uk)



## **SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL**

**New Pre-School  
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Saint Nicholas School is committed to providing affordable, quality care to children in the community.

The Pre-school will be open term time and we will be offering full and part time places. Morning and afternoon sessions will be offered separately and there will also be a breakfast club from 7:30 am and after-school club until 6:00 pm.

[www.saintnicholasschool.net](http://www.saintnicholasschool.net)  
[admissions@saintnicholasschool.net](mailto:admissions@saintnicholasschool.net)

Hobbs Cross Road, Old Harlow, Essex, CM17 0NJ  
01279 429910

*"I am really excited about this development which will enable young children to benefit from the quality education we provide!"*

*Keith Knight - Headmaster*





Students did a fabulous job at the annual Production 'We Will Rock You'. The cast and crew got an amazing response from audience members, including local VIPs, who danced and sang along to the well-known Queen hits. It was another fantastic effort from all students and staff involved and a production enjoyed by all.

On 10<sup>th</sup> March the school hosted the 'Mission X: Train Like an Astronaut Celebration Evening' complete with space suit fashion show. This project has been developed by FHS over the last four years, starting as the lead school in the UK on the pilot project. The evening was a huge success with over 200 people attending. Year 5 students from the local primary schools joined the Year 7 students from FHS to showcase their work with wonderful displays and walked the catwalk in the amazing space suits they designed. Our special guests were Kate Bellingham, the ex-presenter from BBC's 'Tomorrow's World', and Mayor for Bishop's Stortford, Janice Elliot. They joined Headteacher, Ms Anderson on the judging panel. Kate Bellingham gave an inspirational address to the audience about her love of space and her career which included being a physics teacher and a STEM careers ambassador. Everyone was very impressed with the quality of the work produced by the students but there had to be a winner. The winners of the fashion show were Bentfield for their imaginative design and creative use of materials.



Runners up were Elsenham for their style and sense of fashion. The award for best display was Takeley for the variety of space related work show-cased. This concludes the fourth successful year of Mission X at FHS.

Victoria Owen  
Student and Community Administrator  
Tel: 813384

### 'WE WILL ROCK YOU' - REVIEW

Forest Hall School (FHS) have made a name for themselves as producers of theatrical spectaculars like *We Will Rock You* staged in early March. The musical is a Queen-themed production, peppered with the best-known and some of the lesser-known tracks of the legendary rock group. Having held auditions back in July last year, the FHS cast and crew, under director and producer, Siobhan White, worked vigi-

lantly to stage a show worthy of critical acclaim. With almost six months rehearsing, it was a credit to FHS to behold such a polished production. It was no mean feat, putting together a two-and-a-half-hour show; the sheer joy, enthusiasm and professionalism of the actors is what shone through! Despite some hiccups with sound very briefly, the actors were unfazed, successfully improvising, leaving most of the audience unaware of any technical glitches. The lighting and sound technology was otherwise seamless.



The show kicked off with the upbeat 'Radio Gaga' – giving a chance to showcase the tight and imaginative choreography. The live band rendered Queen's musical hits with skill and finesse, especially numbers like 'Crazy Little Thing Called Love' and 'Another One Bites the Dust'. There were some notable performances by the senior ensemble cast. Excellent performances were given by Michael Brett, Jack Headley and Jade Smith, and especially outstanding were those by Georgia King and Rosie James – both of whom having stunning singing voices. As the show closed to 'We are the Champions', the audience had a pervading sense that they had witnessed something truly special. Probably, like me, they were secretly yearning for 'Bohemian Rhapsody', but it became clear it was an unlikely song to work into the plot. Instead, cleverly, it was offered as an encore; by the time it played, there was such an atmosphere of elation – to which it added – creating a celebratory culmination to the performance. Well done, FHS! It was a memorable evening, and with four successful productions behind you, Stansted eagerly awaits what you have yet in store!

Anna Nolan

### 'EGGS – QUIZ - ITE'

- Which of these birds lays the largest eggs?  
a. Emu b. Penguin c. Ostrich
- Which bird lays the smallest eggs?  
a. Bluetit b. Goldcrest c. Wren
- What colour are crocodile eggs?  
a. White b. Brown c. Green
- What is an eggplant?  
a. Aubergine b. Avocado c. Sweet Potato
- Which of these fish eggs are eaten as caviar?  
a. Halibut b. Sturgeon c. Pike

Answers on page 29



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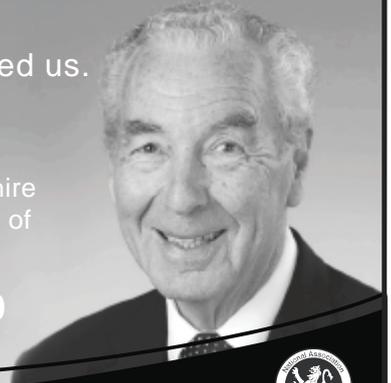
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# Stansted Network

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

### FLOODING - PREVENTION AND CONTROL

After fourteen years of calm severe flooding in Lower Street caused damage and distress.

The Parish Council has been in discussions with the Environment Agency (EA) to seek ways to prevent future flooding. The EA has prepared a scheme which would establish a balancing pond to collect water from Ugley Brook at times of very heavy rainfall and thus prevent flooding. The cost of this project would be in excess £1m. It is however far from certain that this sum of money can be found from the existing budget available to the EA. The Parish Council will be lobbying hard to ensure the scheme goes ahead.

Discussions are taking place with Uttlesford District Council (UDC) and Essex Police to work out a scheme that will make it possible to close Lower Street should the road flood. This will help prevent the damaging wash caused by inconsiderate drivers. In addition the possibility of a flood alarm system for Ugley Brook is being explored. This will enable residents and businesses to take preventative measures in advance of flooding. The Parish Council has increased its stock of sandbags, and residents in the affected areas are encouraged to contact us for supplies.



The EA website post warnings and advice which anybody at risk should take heed of.

Four other properties in Manor Road were affected by flooding as water poured off the fields. This is a responsibility of UDC but the Parish Council will be urging them to take action.

We would urge you to support the traders in Lower Street that have been battling to keep their businesses going under very trying circumstances. Let us hope for a drier and sunny spring and look forward to a summer hosepipe ban!

### BUSINESS PREMISES - RATES RELIEF FOR FLOOD DAMAGE

Any business which suffered from flood damage between 1st December 2013 and 31st March 2014 is entitled to claim three months business rates relief.

If you have not been contacted by UDC please email them at [businessrates@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:businessrates@uttlesford.gov.uk).

### REDEVELOPMENT OF THE LIBRARY

The Parish Council has voted for the the construction of the new community building which incorporates the library to go ahead. The final details of the lease with Essex Library Services are being negotiated and hopefully you will see building work commence in the next few months.

### LINDEN HOMES-DEVELOPMENT AT PINES HILL

The Parish Council has asked the Planning Committee to reject the proposal for 68 houses on the land at Pines Hill on the following grounds:

- The development is in Metropolitan Green Belt and there is no exceptional community benefit which would justify removing the status and protection.
- The access onto Pines Hill increases danger on one of the busiest stretches of the B1383 and is close to the existing access for Stoney Common Road which will remain open.

If you wish to comment on this application please write to UDC or email to [planning@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@uttlesford.gov.uk)

### APPLICATION TO EXTEND AT BENTFIELD PLACE

City and Country have made an application to extend their office space at Bentfield Place by 41%. The Parish Council is keen to support this successful and growing business but recognises that there are issues relating to parking, overlooking and access which pose problems in a residential neighbourhood. Whilst the council could not support the current application it hopes a compromise can be found, allowing one of our biggest and most successful businesses to achieve its objectives.

## PROPOSAL TO REOPEN A SCHOOL IN ST JOHN'S ROAD.

The Parish Council is seeking further information before deciding what position to take on this proposal. If you have any views please speak to a Councillor or contact the Parish Office.

## STANSTED IN BLOOM

This year the competition will be judged on Saturday July 5th, and all entries need to be in by Friday 27th June. The entry forms will be printed in the Link in time for you send your form back to the Council Offices by the said date. We hope to make Stansted in Bloom even more special this year, and we can only achieve this with your help and enthusiasm for the competition. There will be four separate categories for you to choose from, so watch this space for more details next month. Full information is available on our web site or can be collected from The Parish Office.



## GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

The garden waste facility will be available on alternate Sunday mornings (note change of day) starting from Sunday 13th April from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. The vehicle is located in the Lower Street car park.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The annual meeting is on Wednesday 21st May at 8.00 pm at the Crafton Green Day Centre. Please put the date in your diary and attend the meeting if at all possible.

## MAGNA CARTA 800 CELEBRATIONS

Most of us sat through history lessons on the Magna Carta at school and have a vague appreciation of its historical significance but unless you were educated in the village or have a keen interest in local history you might not be aware of the link between our village and the Magna Carta. **Stansted Mountfitchet** derives its name from the Baron, Richard de Montfichet who was one of a committee of twenty five barons of Magna Carta who took the lead in enforcing the charter.

For the first time since 1215, representatives from what were those barons' chief manors met in Leicester on 27th September to form the **Magna Carta Barons Association**. National events are planned for 2015 to celebrate the eight hundredth anniversary of King John putting his seal on the Charter which was to become a key influence on the constitutions of democratic countries across the globe. Stansted along with the other towns and villages will be organising events to celebrate our heritage and bring the community together. Among the events being planned are:



• Church services and a peal of bells followed by barbeque and traditional drinks

• A village tea party

- As tradition dictates the Rector will be calling the archers of the village to archery practice and a competition will be held to select the archer to represent the village against the champion archer from the other Magna Carta towns and villages
- A needlework project
- Commemorative plaques, and signage linking to a heritage walk around the village
- School history projects including a play produced by Forest Hall School which local primary schools will be invited to attend

There is an element of education and heritage but even if history isn't your thing it is an opportunity to be part of the village community and have a bit of fun. If you would like to get involved please email [trevor.lloyd@stansted.net](mailto:trevor.lloyd@stansted.net) and your details will then be forwarded to the organisers.

## DON'T FORGET FORESTHALL PARK

If you have an event to advertise please put a poster on the three notice boards at Foresthall Park. These are at the Church Road end of Walson Way, at the bottom of Grey Close, which is off Hampton Road and at the Forest Hall Road end of Bentley Drive.

The other notice boards in the village are on Chapel Hill, Lower Street, Bentfield Causeway, Recreation Ground, Maitland Road and Burton End.

## **PICK UP DOG POO**

Foresthall Park is an attractive new development which is being spoiled in some areas by inconsiderate dog walkers. Leaving poo on pavements and verges is anti-social, an eye-sore and in some cases dangerous to health. So please bag it up and put in a bin, either a public one or at home.

Of course this doesn't only apply to FHP – dog poo anywhere in the village is unacceptable.

## **WELCOME PACKS**

If anyone has recently moved into the village and would like a Welcome Pack with useful information please let me, Catherine Dean, know on 813579 or request one from the parish council 813214.

## **NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **From Cllr Alan Dean**

Good news at last! The go-ahead for the new health centre in Lower Street was finally given at the end of February following 11<sup>th</sup> hour negotiations between the NHS and the developer over the rent for the premises and with the district council over charges for use of the car park. I was writing in Link ten years ago about the search for a site for a replacement for Stansted's clinical services. Others will be writing in more detail about the future plans, but it now looks as though we will all be able to celebrate up-to-date medical facilities in Stansted sometime in the year beginning April 2015.

A meeting took place in Saffron Walden at the start of March aimed at putting in place a foodbank service across the district. Stansted already has a foodbank run by the churches to help people who struggle to buy food for themselves and their families. This is a life-line for a small number of people.

The district council has had to create a hardship fund of £15,000 for people entitled to council tax benefit (i.e. excused paying all or part of their council tax because of their low income) but who cannot afford to pay the minimum amount that almost all people now have to pay, regardless of how low their income is. For the 2014/15 tax year starting in April, 1,321 households on low income will have to pay extra council tax which averages out at £46.93. This is a lot of money to someone with little income. I know a household which had no electricity for several weeks recently. So the hardship fund is very necessary.

This contrasts with those of us who pay a normal council tax bill. We will receive a reduction in the council tax we pay to Uttlesford from April. This averages out for all 33,998 homes in the district at £2.82 for the whole year. At the recent budget meeting there was not universal support for cutting the tax of better off residents whilst increasing the tax of the least well off, even though the hardship fund may help out some people in the worst financial position.

## **NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **From Cllr Ray Gooding**

Education and school places are always in the news and given the pressure that is on primary school places within the Village this is not surprising. So, it is with this in mind that the County Council in association with the Diocese have announced a Consultation on a proposal to relocate the Primary School in Farnham to the old St Mary's site at St John's Road in Stansted.

The situation is that the school in Farnham can take 56 children but in recent years these places have not been taken up and at the moment only 29 children attend the school and of those, less than half come from Farnham. It is expected that the number on role at the school will diminish to 20 or less over the coming years and whilst the school has offered an excellent service to the children who have attended, the future will be uncertain.

The proposal is that a new school be provided in St Johns Road that would take 210 children including those who currently attend Farnham School and this would certainly provide a facility that would deal with current and future pressures on primary school places within Stansted.

I am sure that the residents of Farnham will be very concerned at the loss of the school from their village, particularly when it has been such an integral part of life there over generations. However, the difficulties of mixing year groups and providing education to so few children must be very difficult for the staff particularly given the pressures on teachers to constantly increase standards. Similarly, I am sure that some people within Stansted may be less than pleased at the prospect of having a third primary school, but the need is currently growing.

It is anticipated that, if the go ahead is given, the new school would be open for business in September 2015.

Whatever your thoughts on this proposal, I would urge you to reply to the consultation so that everyone's voice can be heard. The consultation document can be viewed at the following address:

<http://tinyurl.com/EssexCCConsultations>

Parents and other interested persons are invited to attend a public drop in session (no appointment necessary), where the Governing Body, together with officers from Essex County Council and the Anglican Diocese will be available to talk about the plans for the school, and to answer questions. A drop-in session will be held at:

Peter Kirk Centre, Stansted Tues 25th March at 7.00pm

More information on the proposal can be obtained by writing to the School Organisation and Planning Team, PO Box 4261, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1GS, emailing [school.organisation@essex.gov.uk](mailto:school.organisation@essex.gov.uk) or telephoning 01245 435953. The closing date for comments or objections will be midday on 9 April 2014.

#### **SIR ALAN HASELHURST SURGERY DATES**

##### **April**

25th - Village Hall Writtle 5.15 pm

25th - Town Council Offices, Great Dunmow 6.30 pm

##### **May**

30th - Parish Council Offices, Stansted 5.45 pm

30th - The Old Armoury, Saffron Walden 7.00 pm

#### **DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

2 April Full Council

9 April Windmill 7.00 pm followed by Open Spaces

16 April Full Council

23 April Highways 7.00 pm and Finance and General Purpose

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Clerk - Ruth Clifford. Admin Assist - Anne Court  
Assistant to the Parish Clerk - Trevor Lloyd  
Email: [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net)  
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10am - 1pm  
[www.stansted.net](http://www.stansted.net)

#### **PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Margaret Ambrose	814675 <a href="mailto:maggielincoln@aol.com">maggielincoln@aol.com</a>
Maureen Caton (Vice Chairman)	813914 <a href="mailto:m.caton@hotmail.co.uk">m.caton@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Nigel Collingwood	813428 <a href="mailto:njcollingwood@hotmail.co.uk">njcollingwood@hotmail.co.uk</a>

Catherine Dean	813579 <a href="mailto:catherinemarydean@btinternet.com">catherinemarydean@btinternet.com</a>
Samantha Dunn	810859 <a href="mailto:samanthadunn@talktalk.net">samanthadunn@talktalk.net</a>
Jo Freeman	812524 <a href="mailto:j.freeman195@yahoo.com">j.freeman195@yahoo.com</a>
Bridget Gott	814440
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John O'Brien	816772 <a href="mailto:Johnedobrien@gmail.com">Johnedobrien@gmail.com</a>
Frances Richards	812748 <a href="mailto:frannie.richards@gmail.com">frannie.richards@gmail.com</a>
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John Savopoulos	817687 <a href="mailto:johnsav8@gmail.com">johnsav8@gmail.com</a>
Geoffrey Sell (Chairman)	815925 <a href="mailto:sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk">sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Valerie Trundle	813433 <a href="mailto:prtvt@btinternet.com">prtvt@btinternet.com</a>

#### **Uttlesford District Council Members**

Alan Dean	813579 <a href="mailto:cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>
Iris Evans	815848 <a href="mailto:cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>
John Salmon	814789 <a href="mailto:cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>
Joe Rich	813112 <a href="mailto:cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>

#### **Essex County Council Member**

Ray Gooding	813103 <a href="mailto:cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk">cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk</a>
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#### **Member of Parliament**

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP  
Tel: 0207 219 5214/Fax: 0207 219 5600  
[alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk)

**Police** - PC Tom Bastendorff  
Non-emergency 101  
PCSO (Stuart Stranger) Tel: 07889 702340

#### **Neighbourhood Watch**

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

#### **Parish Public Transport Representatives**

Valerie Trundle	- 813433
Joy Thomas	- 813871

## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK	Contact: Kathy West Tel: 816293
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	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: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbow Tots (age 1½-rising 3)	Tina South Tel: 814371
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net
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: 07736 616665/01799 543466	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	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1 @btinternet.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Inner Wheel Club	Shirley Fordyce, President Tel: 758289	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com	U3A	Christine Chair Tel: 817587
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: info@musicatstansted.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

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

### BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

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Nature Notes

At our March meeting, '365 days in the life of a bulb' was the title of Mr Paul Harrison's talk; however he told us the talk would also include corms and rhizomes. Although attaining a degree in biology/horticulture, our speaker explained that when he left education, he pursued a different career and it was not until he was 42 that he returned to horticulture, and then worked for over ten years with Dutch bulb companies. Although most people think of bulbs only growing in spring (daffodils, crocus, snowdrops etc), there are bulbs/corms/rhizomes which flower throughout the year, eg the summer flowering foxtail lilies that grow over 6ft, the tropical colocasia with 'elephant ear' sized leaves and camassias etc; and then in the autumn the nerines, kaffir lilies and colchicums etc that give a blast of colour at the end of the season. Using slides, members were shown that our gardens are quite cosmopolitan - with plants originating from all over Europe, the Near and Middle East, around the Mediterranean, South Africa, North and South America, from across Asia to the Far East - all adapting to life in an English garden. Although in time many bulbs will spread and naturalise, to achieve a 'wow factor' Mr Harrison recommended purchasing larger quantities from a specialist bulb company and mass planting them, then sitting back and enjoying the spectacle every year rather than waiting for nature to do the job! It was also recommended that you always check what type of conditions the bulbs like to grow in - eg some crocus are happy growing in a lawn, whereas others prefer being planted in a gravelly soil amongst rockery stones. For those bulbs that do not enjoy getting their feet wet in English winters, members were shown a quick and easy way of lifting and storing them. A lively question and answer session followed the talk.

### AGM and Mini Spring Show

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the Day Centre

Doors open for exhibitors at 6.30pm - all exhibits to be displayed by 7.45pm. The AGM will start at 8.00pm. Results of the show will be announced at the end of the evening. Everyone is welcome.

Maralyn Harris  
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The copious winter rains have ensured that the weather remains a favourite topic but we should be mindful that there have been several recent below-average rainfall years with resultant depletion of our aquifers; it's a matter of checks and balances. Waterlogging severely limits the ability of soil-borne micro-organisms to do their multifarious jobs, so we should expect some growth to be late this year. The usual harbingers of spring have nevertheless appeared. Those good naturalisers, snowdrops, have been prolific and the celandine have made a belated appearance. The various tits have been foraging for nesting material so we can be assured that the variability of our climate is asserting itself. That said, the portents from weather professionals and anecdotal observations alike point to changes now and to come. We should be prepared for marginally warmer winters and higher rainfall, but still expect occasional cold snaps. These things have far more significance for our wildlife, so we may see fewer redwings and more wagtails. Time will tell. However there seem to be fewer frogs this spring which is not good news as they are regarded as an indicator species as well as a useful insect control. The good but possibly less dependable news is that chalara disease of ash trees has not so far depleted our local stock. However, fingers should remain crossed for both them and the all-important but threatened oak trees.



Derek Honour  
Tel: 647213

## GARDENING TIPS

In April, many of our plants are starting to put on brave new leaves that laugh at our often adverse weather. Tasks for April:

- Check the compost heap; some compost will be ready for use. However as heaps tend to be forgotten over winter, the best compost will be at the bottom. Fork off top layers that are part composted, remove the good quality dark crumbly compost for use; then turn over the remainder to re-introduce oxygen. Put back into the compost bin for the process to restart. Add a little water and/or green material (grass clippings) if the heap is dry
- Prune lavender into shape, taking care not to cut into the old wood. Use off-cuts as softwood cuttings
- Remove frost damaged shoots from tender evergreen shrubs such as Choisya (Mexican Orange Blossom)
- Check roses for Aphids and squash them to get rid of culturally
- Prune back Forsythia once flowering is complete, cut back to just above a strong leaved side-shoot
- Prune back colourful foliage plants such as cotinus (Smoke Bush), as the best colour is on the new leaves
- Deadhead any daffodils after the flower heads have faded from glory, this concentrates the bulb into preparing for next year, don't tie the foliage in a knot, it reduces photosynthesis within the plant

Enjoy the sun when (if) it puts in an appearance.

Paul the Gardener

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## STANSTED WORKING MEN'S CLUB

The Club was built in 1887 and was then known as the Stansted Liberal Club or Stansted Working Men's Liberal Club. The Liberal Club as such, was founded in 1886 with H P Gilbey as president and with Vice-Presidents including William Fuller Maitland, members of the Blyth, Gilbey and Gold families, Joshua Green and his sons and the Rev'd Daniel Davies. The Treasurer was Joseph Caygill (steward at Stansted Hall) and the Hon Secretaries were John Wooley and J Smith. Chairman of the executive was M F Freelove and there were a few lady members – mostly members of the Gilbey family and their relatives. The building was erected by A Sanders, builder of Stansted (who went bankrupt shortly afterwards) working under the direction of George Little, foreman of works at Stansted Hall. The cost was upwards of £1,500 and this was met in the main by Henry Parry Gilbey of the 'Cottage' (Bentfield Hall) Stansted – eldest brother of Sir Walter Gilbey. The land was leased on favourable terms from William Fuller Maitland.

The building was opened on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1888 by the Rt Hon Lord Rosebery (Foreign Secretary 1886 and 1892-4 and Prime Minister 1894-5). The day was an important Liberal occasion and commenced at 3.00pm with a conference in the Central Hall with the MP for the Saffron Walden Division, Herbert Gardner, brother-in-law of Wm Fuller Maitland, in the chair. Lord Rosebery arrived by train at Bishop's Stortford at 3.17pm and drove to Stansted Hall, passing under a triumphal arch erected over the railway bridge with 'Welcome' in bold Liberal colours on a red background. At 6.00pm a dinner (supplied through Arthur Sanders, grocer) was held in the Club, morning dress being obligatory. Tickets were 3/6d - wine extra. Charles Gold presided and read a telegram from Mrs Gladstone.



*Photo courtesy of Paul Embleton*

At 7.30pm the Club was formally opened by the Earl of Rosebery and at 7.45pm a public meeting was held on the Castle Hill with Henry Gilbey in the chair. This was held in a marquee 125 ft long by 85 ft wide – gas being specially laid

on from the main to illuminate it. Another tent 60 ft by 230 ft provided refreshments of tea, coffee and alcohol. Between 1,200 – 1,400 people attended despite the weather which was dull and wet. The Saffron Walden Excelsior Band played throughout the day.



*Photo courtesy of Peter Brown*

The erection of the Club was a source of some annoyance to the Conservatives, and at a Primrose League meeting at the Central Hall, Harry Chester referred to it as a "huge and hideous excrescence" and suggested that the promoters hoped by a generous supply of beer at or below cost price to win over the Conservatives in the place. Another speaker at the same meeting referred to the Liberal Pantheon or 'pandemonium' (a reference to the Gilbeys). However, in May 1892, both Conservative and Liberals set to convert the Stansted Liberal Club into a Working Men's Club, Henry Gilbey stating that he had been upbraided by members of his family for making the Club too exclusive (but there were probably also financial reasons). Wm Fuller Maitland proposed that the Club be called 'The Working Men's Club', and Harry Chester proposed 'The Stansted Club' – the former being preferred by the meeting.

*Reproduced from H I Sanders Collection, courtesy of Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society.*

## CHILDREN'S RECIPE

### Hot Cross Bun Pudding

25g butter, plus extra for greasing  
25g granulated sugar  
four hot cross buns  
small handful of sultanas  
2 tsp cinnamon powder  
350ml whole milk  
50ml double cream  
2 free-range eggs



### Method

Arrange hot cross bun pieces, buttered-side up, in the bottom of a dish.  
Add a layer of sultanas, sprinkle with a little cinnamon, then repeat until you have used up all of the buns.  
Crack eggs into a bowl, add three quarters of the sugar and lightly whisk until pale.  
Add to warmed milk and cream and pour over buns.  
Bake in a pre-heated oven for 30/40 minutes at 180°C/355°F/Gas 4.

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## TIME FOR CHANGE

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Confident of a successful outcome, the hope is to eventually export rice to China and India. The farming community of Essex and beyond is showing great interest in the project. It could well be the start of something new and exciting for the whole of the British Isles, and it's starting right here in Stansted.

April Fullers-Day  
EKOJ Stansted



## Huw Johnson Club

The Club celebrated the arrival of 2014 with a New Year Dinner last month at The Chequers in Ugley. We received a very warm welcome as always and everyone involved in the Club enjoyed a delicious meal and the chance to catch up on news since we met for our pantomime outing in January. Club restarted for our regular timetable of events on 6<sup>th</sup> March with a games evening featuring dominoes, snakes and ladders and Connect 4. Unfortunately due to the minibus breaking down, many of our members could not make it but we have an action-packed calendar of activities for the rest of March and are all looking forward to a ten pin bowling competition, a birthday party for several of our members and a quiz. We are still looking for new drivers to help transport some of our members to and from their homes in Saffron Walden. If anyone is able to offer one evening a month to either collect or drop off the members, we would be incredibly grateful for the support. Please do get in touch with either Sandra Embleton (812627) or Katharine Collis (461270) if you are able to help or would like to find out any more details before committing. Finally, to celebrate the Club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year we will be holding an afternoon tea party in August and would love for everyone who has been involved in Club over the years to attend. If you were involved, or know anyone who was, and would like to attend, please do let us know so we can forward on the full details.

Ellen Brooks

## Stansted Tennis Club



### Annual General Meeting

Many thanks to Jan Hollis for hosting this year's AGM. Sixteen members attended and the Committee welcomed Fiona Pye as the new Membership Secretary and Debbie Lane as a general committee member.

### Working Party

All members are encouraged to come along and lend a hand on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2.00pm-4.00pm.

### Ladies' Night

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm. All lady members welcome.

### Next Committee Meeting

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 8.00pm at Daphne Lunnon's house.

### Cayless Chilli Tournament

This annual doubles tournament is from 9.30am on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Please sign up on the poster on the Clubhouse noticeboard if you would like to play.

### Adult Club sessions

Sunday mornings, Wednesday mornings and evenings, and Friday mornings. All members welcome.

### Junior and Senior coaching

My groups have restarted. Please contact me for details.

### Tennis Balls

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

### Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574. For more about Stansted Tennis Club, please visit the website [www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk).



Chris Hollis  
Tel: 319155



Dates for Investigators sessions are now available online at [www.stanstedfamilychurch.com/whats-on](http://www.stanstedfamilychurch.com/whats-on). Recently we enjoyed dramatising the story of David and Goliath, complete with the 'armour' which we made in a previous session. We are continuing to revisit Stomp (rhythm percussion) activities some weeks, and current themes include Friendship, and, of course, Easter. As well as the usual mix of stories, games, and other activities we will be making chocolate Easter 'nests' this month. All children aged 7-10 are welcome, with some flexibility for confident 6-year-olds.



Ros Page  
Tel 810813  
Email: [contactstanfam@yahoo.com](mailto:contactstanfam@yahoo.com)

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## STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Fiona Rose, our February speaker, spoke of her great interest in William Morris - author, weaver, translator, socialist and of course textile designer. Fiona has curtains using his designs in every room of her 350 year old cottage. This turned out to be not so popular with her husband when he realised the cost! William Morris lived as a boy at Woodford Hall near Epping Forest, and gained his interest in nature from being able to roam free. His father died suddenly when William was 13 years old, leaving enormous debts, but he eventually went to Oxford with the idea of becoming a clergyman. Burne-Jones became a lifelong friend and under his influence he became interested in Art and Architecture. His future wife Jane Berden, the daughter of a stable-hand, was only 17 years old and a model for Rossetti when he met her. They married in 1859 and lived in Red House, Bexleyheath, designed for them by Phillip Webb. William and Rossetti designed wall-hangings which were stitched by Jane and William. The house became a hub for his friends and in 1861 a decorative arts firm was founded of which he was the design director and principal owner. He first produced wallpaper for the 1862 International Exhibition. They had two daughters, the eldest of whom developed epilepsy, having shown academic promise earlier. Sadly his marriage was not happy and Jane had an affair for many years with Rossetti, living with him in the family home, then at Kelmscott Manor in the Cotswolds, while William visited Iceland! William and Jane stayed together, moving to Hammersmith to a house also named Kelmscott, now the Morris Museum. After Rossetti's death Jane had another lover, Wilfred Blunt, the poet. William died in 1896, possibly from diabetes and gout. Fiona runs a small business, Arts & Crafts Living, selling home interiors and gifts in the style of the Arts and Crafts era.

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April in the Day Centre at 7.45pm, we will hear about Charles Dickens in London, speaker Colin Street, so come along if this appeals to you; visitors are always welcome.



Judy Colliver  
President  
Tel: 812470  
Email: judycolliver@uwclub.net

## LOCAL BOOK LAUNCH [www.katejohnson.co.uk](http://www.katejohnson.co.uk)

As reported in The Link, March issue 'Last Month in the News', I held a successful book launch of my ninth fantasy romance novel at the Dog and Duck. Published by women's fiction specialist Choc Lit, 'Impossible Things' tells the story of a warlord, a blind slave, and a dog called Brutus. I dressed in character for the launch, mimicking the delicate eye markings of the book's heroine, Ishtaer, dressing as a warlord being somewhat impractical! A charity raffle at the launch raised over £100 for Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. For more information visit my website.



Kate Johnson

## STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Club has been busy all winter raising funds, and plenty of indoor cricket is being played by both juniors and seniors. As part of the Club's programme for juniors, some boys have been taking an umpire's course, and others have been taking the support workers course, so that they can help the qualified coaches on training evenings. The Club finances these courses as part of the youngsters' education. We begin the 2014 season with a NatWest Cricketforce weekend tidying both pavilions and grounds. Friendly fixtures then follow until Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May when league fixtures begin. All fixtures are now complete and the juniors start with West Essex Cup matches on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May at U11, U13, and U15. The U13s start the Essex County Peter Coe Cup competition the following day. Essex CCC U11 girls have arranged a fixture against Kent at the club on 5<sup>th</sup> July. The girls' team have once again entered the Lady Taverner's competition. More girls please!!! We have the best girls coach in the county. Members can now order kit direct from the website: [www.shcc.hitscricket.com](http://www.shcc.hitscricket.com).

The Club continues to look for new members - adults and juniors (aged 8 upwards) both girls and boys. Coaching is on Wednesday evenings for seniors and U15s, and on Friday evenings for the remainder of the Club juniors. We are a very friendly club with two lovely grounds, excellent coaching staff, and a good social side. Just as important, at the weekends the Club's two tea ladies (Lynda and Jo) provide really good food!!! Happy days and may the sun begin to shine.



David Brown  
Chairman  
Tel: 831011  
Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com



## STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

### Carpet Bowls

At our second match this year against Takeley, out of four games we won three and lost one - lovely friendly crowd from Takeley. Many thanks to Pat for providing the buffet, which was enjoyed by all. We look forward to a re-match at Takeley in the near future. Thanks also to the players who supported this match. If you are interested in carpet bowls you are invited to pop in to the Clubhouse any Friday evening from 8.00pm - you will be very welcome.

**The Outdoor Bowling Season** will soon be under way. Our first game is on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April, Captain's v President's. You are very welcome to spectate, starting at 2.30pm.

### April Bowling for Beginners

Come and try on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 10.00am-4.30pm, or any evening that week 6.00pm-8.30pm. Please bring flat shoes.

Doreen Scraggs  
Hon Secretary  
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### **The Gardens of Easton Lodge need you!**

The Trust is looking for people to join their enthusiastic teams of volunteers and has different opportunities to suit everyone. So why not make this the year you get out, give something back and have lots of fun doing it?

#### **Mondays 10.00am- 3.00pm**

Scrub clearing, raking, fence repairs and general maintenance as required. The work requires a certain degree of fitness as it can involve dragging felled branches and raking up after brush cutting exercises.

#### **Thursdays 10.00am-3.00pm**

Restoration of the Grade II listed gardens designed by Harold Peto in 1902. There are tasks to suit all levels of fitness, capability, knowledge and interest, including weeding, digging, planting, pruning and general care of the flower beds. You will work with a very sociable team of volunteers with a wide range of age and interests.

#### **Saturdays 10.00am- 3.00pm**

The Saturday volunteers are in the early stages of restoring a Victorian walled garden. The work involves clearing 1.8 acres of overgrown vegetation, finding the original pathways and foundations of the glass houses and restoring one section at a time. The first section will be turned into a fruit orchard underplanted with grass and wild flowers.

#### **Help on Open Days**

Once a month on a Sunday from April-October with hours to suit. Roles available include working on the gate greeting visitors and making them welcome, manning the children's activities such as craft, helping in the archive building selling merchandise and just generally helping out where needed to give the best visitor experience possible. There are hot drinks and homemade cake provided at all gardening sessions and also for Open Day volunteers. Trustee Claire Matthews said "We joke sometimes about whether volunteers come for the gardens or for the cake but whatever the reason everyone has a good time. We are a very friendly bunch and we will find the place where each volunteer fits in." Anyone interested in any of these sessions should email: [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk) or leave a message on 01371 876979. Further information is also available on the website. The gardens are in Little Easton, off the B184. Follow the brown heritage signs.

Helen Carter  
Trust Administrator  
Tel: 07899 974107

### **NANCY GILLAM**

Some will remember Nancy (Gillam was her maiden name) the 'Hairdresser on the Rec', who was born and bred in Stansted. She remained in the village for many years before moving away to Suffolk, where recently she sadly passed away aged 87 years.

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor

The new St Mary's School on Walson Way is a modern, attractive facility with a convenient internal layout. But St Mary's has not satiated the demand for school places and in response to the shortage, Essex County Council is planning a third primary school - back in the now derelict building on St John's Road. The plan is to close Farnham's academically successful primary school and move current pupils to the old St Mary's site. Farnham has perhaps harboured the secret that it is one of the top performing schools in the area for too long, as the pupil roll is short of the maximum 56, although no-one has demonstrated its inability to sustain itself at current numbers. I am also sure Stansted parents would agree that any new school in the village should have the same kind of facilities as those of the new St Mary's. However, it is impossible to envisage a school that can provide the full and varied curriculum local pupils deserve in the cramped St John's Road site.



Essex County Council's feasibility study of 2010 pointed out that "the accommodation at (the old) St Mary's is in poor condition and there will be a considerable cost implication in maintaining and upgrading the building to ensure it continues to be fit for purpose ... Considerable further financial investment would be required to expand and improve the School's buildings but ... this is not a viable option particularly given site and access issues ... Redevelopment on the existing site has never been a realistic option - the size and topography of the site and the location of the buildings would mean that a new building, probably two-storey could only really be built on the existing playing fields with the old building then being demolished and that area reinstated as playing field."

Nevertheless, the Council seems to be disregarding these previous surveys and is pushing the school governors to agree to the 'move' in order to plug the school provision deficit in Stansted. It's clear that Stansted and Farnham children deserve better than a discarded and unsuitable old school building. This issue should not be a competition between the two communities. Stansted should get its new school and Farnham should be allowed to keep its school. The consultation (details on page 22) ends at midday on 9<sup>th</sup> April. For more information on the campaign to save Farnham's primary school, go to: [www.saveourschool.org.uk](http://www.saveourschool.org.uk).

Daniel Brett  
Tel: 817974

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Everyone has been very pleased to see the sun finally come out and the children have enjoyed spending more time in the garden, and happily riding their bikes in the big children's playground! We have been enjoying plenty of springtime activities. The children will be making gifts for Mother's Day and taking part in lots of Easter games and crafts. We're working on literacy and writing - reading stories and learning to give meaning to the marks we make with our pencils. The children are encouraged to listen carefully and pay attention, which is very important for our older group, who will shortly be moving up to 'big' school. We've also been looking at technology, working on shape, space and measures and learning about health and looking after ourselves. We all dressed up for World Book Day as our favourite characters, or superheroes and Disney princesses, raising money for Book Aid International.

If you are interested in coming along to our next open day please call to reserve a space. The few nursery places we have left for next term are running out very quickly so please contact us soon if you'd like your child (we accept ages 2½ to 5) to attend Birchanger Nursery. Please call to arrange a visit or see our Facebook page.

The Committee  
Tel: 810800

Email: admin@birchangernursery.org



Spangles has a new course starting in April called 'Movement Mix up'. Through a fun-packed mix of music, movement, games and activities we will be keeping the children fit and active. Physical activities help young children to:

- build a strong relationship between their bodies and their brains
- stimulate brain development, encouraging the creation of neural connections, particularly across the two hemispheres
- develop spatial awareness
- widen early vocabulary by introducing simple nouns and verbs
- prevent childhood obesity along with a healthy diet.

Why not try our taster session on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2.00pm-3.00pm? The five week course will start on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April and is for pre-school children from 18 months old. There will be no charge for these classes but all places must be booked. Please call 812348.

Lesley Murdoch  
Community engagement and volunteer coordinator



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

Rainbow had a very successful Open Morning and welcomed prospective and current parents who were able to chat with members of staff and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake whilst the children were able to 'road test' various toys and activities that had been put out. Shrove Tuesday was celebrated by the older group each making their own pancakes and eating them plus both groups having pancake races. The theme for this half of term is 'Spring' and the children are all pleased to be back playing in the garden even better now that the Mud Kitchen is open again for business!



Plans for the Family Fun Day are gathering pace, on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 1.00pm-3.00pm at St Mary's School. If you are interested in having a stall or require further details please contact Simone Teese (Chair of the Committee) via the Pre-school email address below. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place. Places for September 2014 and 2015 are filling up fast!

Gill Pursglove  
Administrator  
Tel: 814242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net

### LAST MONTH IN THE NEWS

Over 100 people signed an online petition opposing the relocation of Farnham Primary School to the former St Mary's Primary site in St John's Road, Stansted. New health centre for Stansted has finally been given the go-ahead after a 40-year wait. The health centre, along with 14 flats and a shop, will replace the current doctors' surgery in St John's Road, which is operating at over-capacity. The number of patients on its list has swelled by almost 50% since 2001. Construction will finish by autumn next year. Yuva has closed following an immigration raid. Burglary victims in Uttlesford have been reunited with 100 items of their property, stolen by two thieves in 28 incidents over Christmas last year. Uttlesford MP, Sir Alan Haselhurst, launched the construction of 29 new council homes at Mead Court and Cannons Mead

Source: Herts and Essex Observer



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## BIRCHANGER WOOD

A big thank you to everyone who shopped at Waitrose in February and dropped their little green discs into the right slot! The Trust will be receiving £477.00, 48% of the Waitrose February's £1,000 Support for Community Groups. Brilliant – well done!

Have your camera ready for Birchanger Wood in March and April, for the glorious white carpet of wood anemones, English bluebells - with all the blue flower-heads falling on the same side of the stem, not all around the stem which is the continental variety. The golden saxifrage, soon to flower, is in small sheltered marshy areas down by the stream. Birchanger Wood is a deciduous wood, so which trees are starting to come into leaf? The smaller trees, traditionally used for coppicing are the hazel, and hornbeam will be coming into leaf first, whereas our tall trees ash, oak, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut and beech appear later and the oak will always be last to come into leaf. There are of course others - what can you find? The silver birch and field maple are also there, so are the newly planted elms and the very familiar hawthorn. What birds have you seen? There are many woodpigeons; the green woodpecker was about on Saturday, so were robins, magpies and jays. What about the mammals? Before the leaves start popping out on the trees, look for squirrel drays (nests) - these are just a litter of twigs at the top branches of a tree and are best seen BEFORE the trees start to grow their new leaves. Enjoy our lovely ancient Wood.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis  
Secretary Birchanger Wood Trust  
Tel: 812259  
Email: dwjjwj\_44@yahoo.co.uk

## Timeforacuppa

A huge thank you to everybody who came along to the tea party. Thanks also to those who donated cakes, raffle prizes and an amazing ham. We raised a magnificent £800 for Admiral Nurses who support families affected by dementia.

Lindsey Peters  
Tel: 814086

## CONGRATULATIONS



Mrs Patricia Deamer celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Many will remember Deamer's paper shop, which first opened in Silver Street where Mrs Deamer still lives, before moving to Cambridge Road opposite Barclays bank. Her son, Robert, an old friend of mine, has contacted Buckingham Palace, so I'm sure the Queen will add her congratulations to ours on reaching such a milestone.

Richard Pollard

## SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL RUNNING

I have over 15 years of experience as a physio to elite sportsmen and women. In the first of a series of articles, I am offering some guidance for those of you setting out for the first time to complete a distance run. Many of The Link's readers may be considering participating in a distance run, such as the Stansted 10K Fun Run and Walk on 13<sup>th</sup> July. It is always sensible to begin training as early as possible so that you are ready for the challenge, minimise your risk of injury and have a great day. If you are new to distance running, there are a series of simple steps to bear in mind which will help you be in top condition, ready for the starter's gun. The most important place to start is with the right equipment – your running shoes. Choosing the right shoes is vital as incorrect footwear can cause serious injury to feet and knees, damaging muscles, tendons and bones. Select a pair of trainers that offer good shock absorption, space for your toes and firm arch and heel support. Remember, some events involve off-road running as part of the course. Specialist retailers, such as 'Fast Feet Sports' in Bishop's Stortford, can offer expert advice about the shape of your feet and ensure that you have the correct footwear to meet your needs. Future articles will cover developing your training routine progressively and summarising what is best to eat and drink as part of your preparation. For anyone needing more detailed training advice or treatment for injuries, please contact me. To register for the Stansted 10K, please go to [www.stansted10k.org.uk](http://www.stansted10k.org.uk).

George Cooper  
George Cooper Sports Injury and Physiotherapy Clinic  
Tel: 813253



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our February meeting saw the welcome return of Mr Edward Pretty MBE. Last year, he entertained us with his memories of working at Audley End House; this year he took us on a beautifully illustrated guided tour of other interesting historic buildings that he had worked on - a tour that took us from Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London to Chiswick House and Wrest Park in Bedfordshire, the beautiful ancestral home of the De Gray family. Other interesting places on our armchair tour included the Bishop of Lincoln's house, St John's Abbey Gate House in Colchester and Colchester Castle, which has a unique memento of the Battle of Waterloo - a tree planted to commemorate the victory. Mr Pretty obviously enjoyed the part that he had played in preserving our architectural heritage, and thanks to him and his colleagues we and future generations will be able to enjoy it! A very interesting afternoon ended with a good cup of tea. Other highlights on the horizon include a celebration of England in April, a talk on the work of an Essex Children's Hospice in June and a presentation on the work of a horse sanctuary in July. If this sounds like your cup of tea, why not come and join us? We meet in Ugley Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm. You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt  
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## STANSTED YOUTH CENTRE

The Stansted Youth Centre is open Mondays to Fridays, with various groups running activities every night, operating for youth aged 13-19 years, and up to 25 years in the case of those with special educational needs. At present the following activities are offered:

### Monday and Friday 7.00pm-9.00pm

Youth Strategy Group – funded youth club with Essex County Council staff. The centre is a free social space for young people to meet with friends.

### Tuesday and Thursday 7.00pm-9.00pm

Gemini – Parish Council-funded youth club – all sessions are free. On Tuesdays the first hour is spent delivering the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh scheme to 11 young people while others play pool. Then, table tennis, football, basketball, table football, arts and crafts, gardening, cooking, TV and the Internet are offered as activities. Events have included film nights in the past and there have been sessions on graffiti art, music and boxing training projects. Extra funding allows for trips out; in the past the Club has been to Adrenaline Alley in Corby (skatepark) and Harlow Outdoor Centre for kayaking and climbing. The Centre has also got an exchange project running with two youth centres in Belfast, although they haven't been to Belfast for two years due to lack of funding. The Centre is fundraising and so far has raised £200 – staff are hoping that with more fundraising, external funding and a contribution from the parents a trip to Belfast will be possible in August.

### Friday 12.00 noon-2.00pm

Onwards and Upwards for 13-19 year-olds:  
Job and training search  
C-card outlet  
Team on hand to provide support with applications, crisis and other issues  
Free internet access and coffee bar

The building is also used for Social Care contact visits once per week; community volunteer events and youth work training sessions and meetings. Once a month on Fridays, there is also access to c-card, chlamydia testing and advice from a nurse. Forest Hall School recently used the centre for their year 11 mock interviews.

The Centre is currently looking for volunteers. If you are aged 18+ and would be interested in giving three hours a week to the Youth Club, they would be pleased to hear from you. Volunteering adds to your CV, develops your skills and experience and can be very enjoyable. They offer a variety of free training from safeguarding, basic youth work skills and resourcing to a City and Guilds qualification. To find out more, please drop into the Centre on a Monday or Friday evening, or email: [vicky.young@essex.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.young@essex.gov.uk).

Anna Nolan



## ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

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

Some years ago Nico Kooij, a long standing member of our Club, with wife Caroline decided to abandon the English winters for the sunshine of South Africa. Nico's South African Rotary Club has recently received a Rotary International endorsement and the citation for their 'Significant Achievement Award' reads as follows:

"In order to address child illiteracy in the community of Helderberg, South Africa, the Rotary Club of Helderberg Sunrise initiated the 'Literacy for All' project in 2010. By involving the majority of their membership, they were able to undertake an ambitious fundraising campaign both domestically and abroad. The funds were used to train teachers and to provide books in eleven official languages for children in ages 6-8. The Club also applied for and received two Matching Grants from the Rotary Foundation. Within three years the project helped more than 5,000 children learn how to read and write in their native languages. The project even inspired other South African Rotary clubs to carry out similar projects in their own communities". The number of schools involved has recently doubled to 14 and the Club are engaging the Cape Department of Education. Nico thanked us on behalf of his Cape Town Club for our continuous support for this spectacularly value for money project. In the picture are children of Marvin Park Primary School students reading books provided by Nico's Club.



We meet on Tuesdays, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Bishop's Stortford. Rotary provides the opportunity to enjoy convivial activity whilst learning more about our community and our world. We support a range of good causes, and anyone wishing to be involved please contact me or visit our website.



Peter Latham  
Tel: 507294

Email: [yp.latham@uwclub.net](mailto:yp.latham@uwclub.net)

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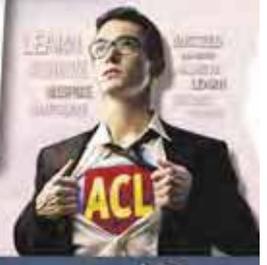
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