

FAIRWEATHER WINDOWS

Are you looking to replace those draughty old windows and doors?

Or create more space by adding a conservatory to your home?



- Doors
- Windows
- Conservatories
- Fascias & Soffits
- Extensions



We are your local home improvement specialists, using only the best quality products, sold at very competitive prices. All products can be 'A' rated for extra energy efficiency and come to you with a full 10 year guarantee from a FENSA registered company.

Talk to a tradesman, not a salesman.

Save Energy – Save Money!

Call us NOW on:

01279 813888

www.fairweatherwindows.co.uk



DT Bedroom Design
bedrooms • kitchens • studies

T: 01279 657460

M: 07765 257200

www.dtbedrooms.co.uk



STORT
BLINDS

For all your window blind needs



- Awnings
- Wood Venetian
- Metal Venetian
- Roller Blinds
- Vertical Blinds
- Conservatory Roof Blinds
- Roman Blinds
- Curtains and Poles
- Shutters

ALL WITH FREE FITTING

UP TO 25% OFF RETAIL PRICES!

CALL FOR A FREE HOME VISIT

01279 504121



www.stortblinds.co.uk stortblinds@hotmail.co.uk

ada Decorating

is a professional, reliable painting and decorating business, with many years experience.

Competitive rates and detailed quotations available.

References on request, many clients are repeat customers.

Our services are varied and cover the following areas:

- INTERNAL DECORATING • EXTERNAL PAINTING •
- SLATE & TILE SEALING AND MAINTENANCE •
- DECKING & GARDEN FURNITURE RESTORATION •
- WOOD FLOOR LACQUERING •
- EXTERNAL CLEANING – GUTTERS, FASCIAS & SOFFITS •

Call Andy Richardson on
Office: 01279 817282 Mobile: 07980 439924
Email: adadecorating@googlemail.com



Mayfair Ponds Ltd

Specialising in
"Water Gardens"



Design & Construction
Waterfalls & Fountains
Restoration & Maintenance

Tel: 01279 461052 / 07711 087 004
(Answerphone only) www.mayfairponds.co.uk

VOLUME 32
Issue 2
December 2011/
January 2012

Editor:
 Yvonne Ayres
 01279 814706
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

Advertising:
 Mike and Marion Dyer
 01279 814059
advert@stanstedlink.org.uk
 or check on website for prices

Distribution:
 Emily Winter
 01279 812216
distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk

Treasurer:
 Andrew Sheriff
 01279 815663
accounts@stanstedlink.org.uk

Directors:
 Derek Honour (Chairman)
 Susan Bone
 Katharine Hurford
 Dick Pollard
 Ruth Rawlinson

Printers:
 Copyzone
 01279 657769

CIRCULATION:
 The Link is delivered free to over 3000 homes and businesses in Stansted Mountfitchet. Further copies may be purchased for 50p each or £5.00 for the year.

CONTRIBUTIONS:
 by email (*preferred*) to:
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

or by hand to:
 7 Blythwood Gardens,
 Stansted CM24 8HG

5 Greenfields,
 Stansted CM24 8AH

by **noon** on 11th January for the February issue

by **noon** on 11th February for the March issue

The Link is an independent publication supported by local churches, businesses and the Parish Council. Each edition is also available on line at www.stanstedlink.org.uk

EDITORIAL



One of the contradictions of everyday life is that local volumes of traffic seem to increase with the rise in petrol prices, rather than diminish. The associated problems of congestion, parking, and speeding apparently defy acceptable solutions, although there is the hope that Speedwatch may eventually take off in Stansted. The Police tell us that where nearby villages have adopted the scheme, an improvement has resulted. This issue of 'Link' has information in Network and on page 9 which we hope will encourage some of our readers to respond positively. This is something where individuals can actually make a difference.

The arrival of winter flags up other important considerations. One is elderly or infirm people living alone. A visit or offer of a hot meal, minor repairs or shopping can make a bright spot in their day. Another is keeping the footway or drive near your home clear of ice and trodden snow. This practice is widespread in other countries, but it needs to be sustained, preferably in conjunction with neighbours. Severe weather can and does cause nightmare scenarios in Accident and Emergency, so prevention is always better than cure. Make sure that you have enough salt!

Most importantly, let us all make Christmas what it should be: a time for giving thanks, being as generous as we can, and making other folks' life a little better. The 'Link' wishes all of its readers a New Year rich in fulfilment even where prosperity is beyond our reach.

CONTENTS

Thought for the Month	2	Directory	23
Church News	2-4	MMCC	25
Stansted Fun Run	4	Nature Notes	25
Shoe Boxes Success	4	music@stansted	27
Village Events	5	Children's Recipe of the Month	27
Stansted Mountfitchet U3A	7	Manuden Singers	27
Stop Press	7	Letter to the Editor	29
In Memoriam - Terry Peachey	7	Story Time at the Library	29
ATC	9	'Flog It' Success	29
British Red Cross Gift Fair	9	Post Boxes	29
Important Message from Police	9	Rotary Club	29
St Clare Hospice	11	Harvest Supper	30
Foresthall Park Residents	11	SignuptoSing	31
Treasurer Sought	11	Stansted Cricket Club	31
Stop Stansted Expansion	13	Canine Partners	31
Stansted Conservatives	13	Local History Society	33
A Christmas Carol	13	Spangles Children's Centre	33
St Mary's Primary School	14	Stansted Bowling Club	33
Helpline	14	'Stars in Their Eyes' at the Cock	35
Bentfield Primary School	15	Neighbourhood Watch	35
Rainbow Pre-School	15	Look Good - Feel Great	35
National Childbirth Trust	15	The Girls	35
Stansted Beavers	17	Mountfitchet Garden Club	37
Huw Johnson Club	17	Grove Cottage	37
Skywatch	17	Stansted Evening WI	39
Primary Care Practitioners	17	Ugley WI	39
Stansted network	19-22	Index to Advertisers	40

Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

DISCLAIMER Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of the editorial committee.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A couple of weeks ago I went up to St Paul's Cathedral to join with a group of Christians who had decided to sing the traditional Anglican service of Evensong outside whilst the Cathedral itself was closed. This act was neither a protest against the closure of the cathedral, nor a protest against the camp that is set up outside it. It was not **against** anything. It was rather (for me, anyway) a way of recognising the presence of God in the events that were happening. God speaks to us in the things that happen around us. We need to listen to hear him.

As I looked at the camp I remembered that it would soon be Christmas. The Bible tells us that in Jesus, God became human and 'pitched his tent among us'. God was in the business of occupying places long before the latest protesters. Like the protesters he was also misunderstood and misrepresented by the powerful people of his time. Like them he had a message to share and a lot of people didn't want to hear it. But many, mainly the poorest and the outcasts, did listen to it. Today, amongst the commercial exploitation of Christmas it is easy to ignore the message of Jesus but in the difficult times through which we are living that message is needed more than ever. Come and listen this Christmastime.

May God give you joy this Christmas.



Rev'd Paul Wilkin
Anglican Church



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St Therese of Lisieux (Roman Catholic)

15th December	7.30pm	Carol Service
18th December	2.00pm	Children's Service
19th December	7.30pm	Penitential Service
Christmas Eve	No Morning Mass	
	11.00am-12 noon	Confessions
	6.00pm	Mass
	Midnight	Mass
Christmas Day	10.00am	Mass

St John the Evangelist (Church of England)

4th December	9.30am	Christingle Service
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Children's Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	9.30am	Holy Communion for Christmas Day

Stansted Free Church (Methodist/URC)

18th December	10.30am	Carols and Gift Service for Whitechapel
25th December	10.30am	Christmas Day Service

Quakers (Society of Friends)

25th December	10.30am	Meeting for Worship
---------------	---------	---------------------



CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Saturday 17th December 3.30pm

If you and your family love Christmas, do come and join in Stansted's annual Celebration of Christmas in St John's Church on Saturday 17th December at 3.30pm. We promise it will be lots of fun ... a candlelit church, the good old carols, seasonal readings, some great contributions from Tiny Tots and local schools and a glass of mulled wine to round it off!

There will be one rehearsal for singers in St John's Church on Wednesday 14th December at 8.00pm. We know many of you sing with local choirs, and even if you don't sing in a choir and just like singing, come along to the rehearsal so we can 'raise the roof with singing' on the day. There will be a retiring collection for our Christmas charity - Samaritans.

Alan Wheeler
Tel: 813745



CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE

Come and join in the fun, especially if it's snowy like last year! We meet each evening at 7.30pm, and the singing is followed by refreshments at around 9.00pm.

- **Thursday 22nd December** start at the junction of Walson Way and Palmer Close (enter Walson Way from the mini roundabout in Church Road; Palmer Close is then first on the left). We will finish in Peachey Walk which has rear access from Palmer Close.
- **Friday 23rd December** start at the junction of Cambridge Road and Croasdaile Road (opposite the Jet garage) and finish at the Rose & Crown.

We are always looking for more singers – there is no rehearsing, just come along! Flute and recorder players are also welcome, but please telephone 814059 beforehand so we can bring sufficient music. We will be collecting for Samaritans this year. Please support us – thank you!

Helen Baker
Tel 814865
Michael Dyer
Tel: 814059



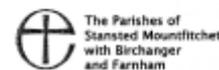


STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC

Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



Minister Rev'd David Keeble
Tel: 01799 522037
Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for December

4th 10.30am Don McGregor - New Directions
11th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion
18th 10.30am Carols and Gift Service for Whitechapel
25th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble - Christmas Day

Preachers for January

1st 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins
8th 10.30am Andrew Brown
15th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble
Covenant Service and Communion
22nd 10.30am Penny Flynn
29th 10.30am Michael Render

Note: During January our services will be held in the hall.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

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

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

Director of Music:

Church Hall Rachel Pocknell
Bookings: Tel or text: 07972 373994
Email: stjohns.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 There are services of
Holy Communion on
the first Tuesdays and
Wednesdays of the
month in Norman
Court, Hargrave House
and Broome End
Nursing Homes.

Tuesday
9.00am St John's Tots

Wednesday
9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

Monday-Thursday and Saturday
5.00pm Evening Prayer

From the Registers

October

Baptisms

16th William James Thomas
Archie Rees Coleman-Raine
30th Violet Buston-Smiles

Funerals

12th Derrick Heals, age 71 years
17th Edwin Nankivell, age 93 years



CTS AGM WITH TALK FROM CARERS UK

Our AGM will be held on Monday 6th February in St John's Church. The meeting will start at 7.30pm with a brief presentation from Mari Hinton and Lorna Bastable, from CarersUK about the emotional and practical support available to those who look after family, partners or friends in the local community. "In order to take care of someone else, it is important to take care of yourself." The AGM will follow at 8.00pm. All are most welcome.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562



Shalom

Our Christmas party is a bring and share Christmas readings, music etc and cold food and is at 8.00pm on Monday 12th December. Our first meeting of 2012 is our 'At home' at 8.00pm on Monday 23rd January. Both meetings are at 7 Blythwood Gardens and all are welcome.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the October draws:

- £100 No. 146 – Yvonne Ayres
- £ 50 No. 192 – D Salisbury
- £ 25 No. 35 – Mrs J Perkins

As the last Sunday in December happens to be Christmas Day, we will be making the draws for December a week earlier than normal, ie Sunday 18th December in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. This should make it an especially good Christmas, not only for the three winners of our normal monthly prizes, but also for the lucky member to win our special additional December prize of £200!

Francine Cope

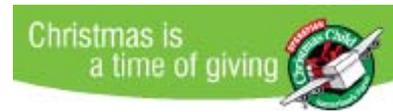


STANSTED FUN RUN

www.stansted10k.org.uk
info@stansted10k.org.uk

2012 will be the time for our bi-annual 10k fun run and walk, which raises a large amount of money for charity. The date will be Sunday 24th June – more information to follow but we ask those who normally help us on the day to book the date in their diaries now. Thank you.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



SHOE BOXES SUCCESS



A magnificent 330 boxes filled with goodies were sent this year from Stansted to Operation Christmas Child, packed by St Theresa's Seniors group and at Stansted Free Church Hall. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way. As well as receiving gifts to put in the boxes, over £600 was generously given to pay for their shipping costs. Donors and packers were not just from Stansted, but from as far afield as Clavering (primary school), Bishop's Stortford (Methodist and URC churches) and Saffron Walden (knit & natter group). Stansted Pilots' group had an Olympic theme for their boxes by decorating them with sporting pictures.



Thanks to all the knitters most boxes had a woolly hat and a puppet. For our children with their electronic gadgets a hand puppet may not seem much, but for a child who has suffered trauma it can be a source of comfort. Our boxes will be going to children in Liberia, where 85% of people live below the international poverty line. In case you think they don't need woolly hats there because it's too hot, those who have visited say it gets very chilly at night. So a big pat on the back for a great achievement and 330 children will have a wonderful box of gifts to open at Christmas because of your generosity.

Catherine, Eileen and Helen

St Mary's School PTFA
St Mary's on Ice

1 - 7 pm Sat 3rd Dec
 30 minute sessions
 £8 adults £6 children £22 family of 4
 Santa 3 - 5 pm ~ Choir at 5 pm
 Further details from 812212
 www.stmarysschool-stansted.ik.org
 Suitable for all ~ Tickets selling fast



Bentfield School PTA

Christmas Fair

1 - 4 pm Sun 4th Dec
 Santa's Grotto ~ Raffle
 Homemade Cakes ~ Toys
 Lots of Games to Play
 Admission 25p or £1 per family



Friends of St Mary's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

10 am - 5 pm
Sat 10th & Sun 11th December
 Carols by Candlelight
 3.30 pm Saturday 10th
 Mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments
 Everyone Welcome

VILLAGE EVENTS

December

1	Thu	Local History	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Sat	St Mary's on Ice	St Mary's School 1 - 7 pm
4	Sun	Christmas Fair	Bentfield School 1 - 4 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
8	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
9	Fri	Elvis Presley Night	The Cock 8.30 pm
10	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
		Conservative Christmas Supper	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
10	Sat & 11	Sun Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's Church 10 am - 5 pm
11	Sun	music@stansted	St John's Church 3 pm
12	Mon	Shalom Party	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
13	Tue	MMCC Carol Service	St Mary's Church 11.30 am
17	Sat	Celebration of Christmas	St John's Church 3.30 pm
20	Tue	NCT Christmas Party	St John's Hall 3 - 5 pm
22	Thu & 23	Fri Carol Singing	See display below
31	Sat	New Year's Eve Celebration	Bowls Club 8 pm

January

5	Thu	Local History	Day Centre 8 pm
7	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
11	Wed	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
12	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
19	Thu	U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 pm
21	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
23	Mon	Shalom At Home	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
29	Sun	music@stansted	St John's Church 3 pm

music@stansted

Katie Bray Mezzo-Soprano
William Vann Piano

Includes music by Schubert, Schumann
 Clara Schumann, Mozart, Wolf, Gershwin
3 pm Sunday 11th December
St John's Church

*Tickets £12 adults, £1 children & students
 from Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;
 Stansted Carpets; Sonia Levy 815282,
 or at the door*

Manuden Singers

7.30 pm Sun 11th Dec
 St Mary's Church, Manuden

*Josef Haydn - The Seasons
 Autumn & Winter*

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

*Proceeds to Manuden Church Building
 Project & Organ Restoration*

Mountfitchet Garden Club



JUMBLE SALE

11 am Sat 25th Feb
 St John's Church Hall
 Entry 20p
 To donate items please tel
 816250 or leave message on
 www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk



Carol Singing

You are warmly invited to join in
 singing round the village
Meet at 7.30 pm

Thu 22nd December

Meet junction Walson Way and Palmer Close (enter Walson Way from the mini roundabout in Church Road & Palmer Close is first left). Park in Walson Way.
Finish in Peachey Walk which has rear access from Palmer Close

Fri 23rd December

Meet junction Cambridge/Croasdaile Rd
Finish at the Rose & Crown

Followed by refreshments at
 around 9pm

Singers & collectors welcome

Collecting for The Samaritans

**Recorder & flute players welcome
 but please tel 814059
 in advance to arrange music**



Celebration of Christmas



Carols, Music, Readings, and Poetry

3.30 pm Sat 17th December
St John's Church

(note change of venue from previous years)

All welcome to this annual
 village event celebrating the
 birth of the Christ child



**Green Waste,
 Metal & Wood
 Skip Dates**

Lower Street Car Park
Saturdays 9 am - 3 pm

10th December
7th & 21st January

**Plus recycle your
 Christmas Tree on 7th January**

Back to Basics Pilates Class

with Hazel Williams Registered Osteopath



Mondays 8 - 9 pm & Saturdays 9 - 10 am

Beginners' Class Fridays 7 - 8 pm

The Quaker Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted.

To book one of the limited spaces available or find out more please call Hazel on **01279 813371** or **07973 409675**

Please wear loose clothing and bring an exercise mat.

Free introductory class throughout this month



Pilates

1:1 Studio Lessons
- latest equipment
Group Matwork Classes
- up to 10 per class

- Strength without bulk
- Longer, leaner muscles
- Improved posture & mobility
- Coordination & balance
- Well-being & confidence
- Rehabilitation after injury

Tony Boardman

Mobile: **07964 325783**
Studio: **01279 813254**
Email: **tonepilates@btinternet.com**
Web: **www.tonepilates.co.uk**



Why live with your aches and pains?

Hazel Williams is one of the few practitioners who specialises in both structural and cranial osteopathy to treat a wide range of patients from babies to the elderly, from the immobile to athletes.

Her treatment can help with: *back, neck, joint, arthritic and muscle pain, trapped nerves, sports injuries, headaches and migraine.*

She also incorporates acupuncture to aid pain relief and provides specially formulated pilate classes to help with rehabilitation.

Her aim is simple... **to give you continual relief from pain wherever possible.**

To claim your **free assessment consultation*** call Hazel Williams at her surgery on **01279 813371**

61 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted, Essex CM24 8HH
osteopathy@hazel-williams.co.uk

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

the osteopath

Lower Street Clinic

36 LOWER STREET, STANSTED, ESSEX
ESTABLISHED 1989

*Osteopathy, Cranial Osteopathy
Aromatherapy, Homeopathy
Chiropody/Podiatry
Infant Massage Instruction*

Pilates Instruction

We have a specialist clinic for pregnant mothers, infants and children.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE TELEPHONE

01279 815907

How are YOU feeling today?

We offer Chiropractic, Acupuncture, Massage and Rehabilitation Exercise for the treatment of:

Back Pain, Neck Pain, Sports Injuries, Migraine and other Joint and Muscle Problems

**** Also offering Physiotherapy - short notice appointments available ****

HPC & CSP Registered

Recent guidelines published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommend the option of spinal manipulation, acupuncture and exercise for the management of certaintypes of low back pain www.nice.org.uk/cg88

We are offering an initial consultation with the **Chiropractor** which includes a thorough physical and spinal examination for **£25** (normal fee £50) on production of this advert.

This offer is also valid with our Physiotherapist

Dexa Scanning for Osteoporosis available

MRI on referral

Digital X-ray available on site

Mark Gurden MSc (Chiro), DC, PhD
Marcel Morelli MSc (Chiro), DC.
And Associates

Stansted Chiropractic & Back Pain Clinic

**Immediate Access
No GP Referral required**

Registered Doctors of Chiropractic

20 Cambridge Road
Stansted CM24 8BZ

01279 815336 BUPA and AXA/PPP

Members of the British Chiropractic Association

Registered with the General Chiropractic Council

www.greatback.co.uk

We have in excess of 300 members and if you are looking for something to keep you occupied why not come along and join? Our next meeting is on Thursday 19th January in St John's Church Hall. Doors open at 1.30pm and the meeting starts at 2.00pm. The talk will be entitled 'The Two Johns Video Show'. This is a selection of amateur films by award winning film makers 'The Two Johns'. So, if you cannot remember when you last went to the pictures why not come along and be entertained as there should be something for everyone to enjoy.

Our activities/interest groups continue to grow and include: Art, Art House Films, Book Club, Bridge, Bus Pass Group, Cycling for Pleasure, Drama/Entertainment, French, Gardening, Genealogy, Italian, Knitting and Crochet, Mixed Handicrafts, Photography, Pilates, Pub grub, Scrabble, Singing, Spanish, Walking & Rambling plus theatre trips, outings and short breaks possibly abroad. Our Cycling for Pleasure group have had their inaugural ride and further rides are being arranged. Here is a quote from one of the cyclists, "I was very hesitant at the thought of cycling for the first time in many years and realised that I would be the least proficient. However, I surprised myself in completing the ride. Yes, I was the slowest and, yes, I did get off and push my bike up the hills but that didn't matter. The whole idea of the group is that the ride is taken at a leisurely pace and is not a race. There were frequent stops for a chat and to look at the countryside around us. There was absolutely no pressure to keep up with the more able riders and once we re-grouped and had time for a breather we were off again. Popping into a village pub for a coffee at the end was a great way to finish off the ride. So please do come along, it was great fun and superb company, I thoroughly enjoyed the ride and will certainly be going again - if I can do it I'm sure you can too".

We are also looking into the possibility of setting up our own Zumba class to dance away your blues.

**Christmas Lunch – Friday 16th December 12.30pm
 Great Hadham Golf Club**

All members are welcome to our Christmas Carvery and entertainment of carols with our own U3A Singers. Contact Cherry 817140 for availability of places and tickets.

We are already planning next year's visits so come along to the monthly meeting to find out more. There will be a trip to the 'Rock of Ages' Musical in January and a long weekend in Wales during March. For further information about U3A please visit www.stanstedu3a.org or contact myself (Vice-Chair), Cherry (Chair) 817140, or Chris (Secretary) 817587.

Alan Bore
 Vice-Chair
 Tel: 139388

STOP PRESS

An exhibition of a proposed development of the Braefields site, Coltsfield, is to be held on Wednesday 14th December. 10.00am-8.00pm. Contact the Parish Council for details of venue.

**IN MEMORIAM
 TERRY PEACHEY**

22nd November 1935-16th September 2011

Terry was born in Walthamstow, the eldest of three children. His first job was working for a manufacturing company that produced scientific instruments. At the age of 18 he joined the RAF to do his National Service, and was promoted to the rank of Corporal. Afterwards he returned home to Walthamstow to follow in his father's footsteps as a clock and watchmaker. He lived with his parents above their shop



in Queen's Road. Terry attended Hackney Technical College in 1958-9, and then enrolled on a two-year evening class studying Horology at Northampton Square Polytechnic in Clerkenwell. He passed his final exams, becoming a Craft Member of the British Horological Institute. Terry carried on working in his parents' shop until they retired. He then set up his own business as a clock and watchmaker. In 1963 we married, and moved to Stansted in 1967 where he worked from home repairing clocks and watches. In the early 1980s Terry decided on a change of career and took employment with Standard Telephone and Communications. Always able to converse with anyone at any level on almost any subject, he put this skill to good use by becoming a Union Representative. Retiring in 1992 Terry continued to pursue the job/hobby that he enjoyed the most – repairing clocks and watches, specialising in classic car instruments, which he found extremely interesting.

Terry was a talented and diverse person. He was very generous and fair, although he could be outspoken, sometimes seeing things in a black and white way. But, he was someone you could always rely on to do the right thing. Terry made many friends and acquaintances over the years, valuing their friendship as much as they did his. He was kind, good-natured and much respected by all, and will be sorely missed by me, his children, Trevor, Steven and Elaine, his two granddaughters, and everyone who knew and loved him.

Maureen Peachey

EDDIE HO



Fish & Chips
BBQ Chicken
Southern Fried Chicken
Pukka Pies
Beef Burgers

Station Road, Stansted
01279 817307

Computer Users! Mac & PC Repairs

software & hardware upgrades
computer repairs

call:

Alan Horsley
Tel: 01279 835475



No call out fee ~ Viruses eradicated
FREE antivirus ~ No job too small

TUITION

Reading ♦ Writing ♦ Maths ♦ Science

I have many years of experience, teaching throughout the primary age range (4-11 years) and as a school SENCO. Give me a call to discuss your child's needs.

Katy Dockerill
☎ 01279 812997

Cambridge[™]

Weight Plan

Real people, real support, real results.

Are you worried about your weight?

The Cambridge Weight Plan could be the answer. Call today.

Your Independent Cambridge Consultant:

Karen Purton

01279 813974 or 07565 930087

Herts & Essex Wills

Will writing service

Fixed Fee

Home visit at a time to suit you

01279 505234



Domestic Oven Cleaning

*Ovens*Ranges*Agas*Hobs
Extractors and much more
Using non-caustic, non-toxic products
in your home

FULLY INSURED & CRB CHECKED



01279 432444



www.ovenbright.co.uk

THE WILL PRACTICE (est 1990)

Fully Regulated **FIXED FEE** Will Writing Service
Husband and Wife/Partner Wills £75 each
Single Will £90 * **FREE** Home Visiting Service *
**** Discount for Senior Citizens ****

Telephone 01279 600 003 for a brochure or visit us at
Allen House, The Maltings, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9JX
www.thewillpractice.co.uk

Regulated by ILEX Professional Standards (IPS)
Member of Institute of Legal Executives

Cooks Oven Cleaning

The Oven Cleaning Specialists • Bringing your oven back to new!
All types of ovens, hobs, hoods and grills • Free from toxins, fumes and hassle
Let us do the hard work!

Freephone **0800 234 3330**

Mobile **07773 707 395**

www.cooksovencleaning.com

Trust us to do the job you hate!



Members of
The Association of
Approved Oven Cleaners

intense *Cleaning Solutions*

Specialists in conservatory cleaning



- Conservatories
- Window Cleaning
- Gutter Cleaning

Call 01245 421855 or 07912 857671 now
for a **FREE** quotation
www.intensecleaningsolutions.co.uk

GO-JO Quality Cleaning

Scrub, Polish & Buffing Services

Domestic ~ Commercial
Office ~ Schools

01279 812524

07828 425944

j.freeman195@yahoo.com

Jo Freeman
25 Years Experience



A.BETTER.AERIAL

www.abetteraerial.co.uk

Freeview

freesat

SKY

DIGITAL TV AERIALS
SKY TV / REPAIRS
FREESAT INSTALLS
EX TV POINTS
FREE ESTIMATES
GUARANTEED.

Tel 08000437251 Mob 07980817251

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD ESSEX CB9

OrionHeating.co.uk

Woodburning Stove & Cooker Shop

Seasoned wood
held in stock

Gas stoves and
fires, efficient
& money saving

Free home surveys

☎ 01279 813591



Fireplace and
full chimney
design service

Cooking Ranges

Established 1977

Visit our shop for advice

25 Cambridge Road,
Stansted Mountfitchet



494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

Our most exciting trip this month was the opportunity for 14 of our cadets to visit Wattisham Airfield for the day during half term. Wattisham is the home to B Flight 22 Sqn RAF who operate Sea Kings, and our cadets and staff, to their delight, were lucky enough to have an hour's ride in a Sea King. Harnessed onto the rigging of the helicopter they flew across Ipswich with the side door open; meaning they could get amazing views of the surrounding countryside.



Sea Kings are used as Search and Rescue helicopters, most famously known because this is the aircraft that Prince William flies. They are bright yellow in order to be easily seen and large so they can take a number of casualties. The day was rounded off with a visit to see one of the Army Air Corps Apache Attack Helicopters and the cadets had an opportunity to sit inside the cockpit and try out some of the pilots' survival equipment.

We also made a trip to the South Downs for a Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition; seven cadets enjoyed the fantastic October weather and completed their silver practice.



On parade nights we have been making the most of the darkness by doing field craft in the next door field and trees. The cadets stuff twigs and grass into pockets and button holes to disfigure their shape, and put cam cream on their face and hands. Anything shiny and reflective is put away (this includes phones!) and they make their way out in the trees to hide. The senior cadets/staff then try their best to find as many cadets as possible – the longer you remain hidden the better your camouflage is! Our newest recruits did their first basic weekend of field craft and adventure training at Carver Barracks in Debden and all had a brilliant time. Archery, navigation, shooting, obstacle course and first aid were all activities they had a go at.

If you are aged between 13 and 16 and interested in joining us, contact us for more information: telephone 01279 681559 Mondays and Fridays 7.15pm-9.30pm (24 hr answerphone) or email 494@aircadets.org.

Alice Brooks
494 Sqn ATC

BritishRedCross Gift Fair

Thank you to all those who came to the gift fair at Parklands, Quendon on 12th October. The net amount raised was £8258.00 - a very pleasing amount.

Rosina Kirkwood

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR LOCAL POLICE

Reminder for residents to remove all valuables from their vehicles. May we please bring your attention to the fact that we have been suffering with a small spate of theft from motor vehicles. This is occurring overnight and items being stolen include: mobile phones, cameras, Ipods, sat navs and tools. Most are from vehicles which were left insecure but some are believed to have been locked and entry has been gained by means unknown. Don't give thieves an easy time. Please make sure that all windows and doors are closed and locked, all valuable items are removed, and do not leave items anywhere in your vehicle on show. If you have any information please contact Stansted Police on 07801 461666 or via the Essex Police non-emergency number, 101.

Community Speed Watch

This scheme is operating successfully in many parts of Essex including Elsenham and Henham. From 1st August to 31st October there were 225 Community Speed Watch deployments across Essex, which resulted in a total of 2,931 first letters to drivers. Community Speed Watch would be an extremely useful way to help solve some of the traffic issues we presently have here in Stansted. Could you help by volunteering? More information on page 19.

Drivers take note!! The Christmas Drink Drive campaign starts on 1st December.

Kelly Roberts
Police Community Support Officer 70472
Stansted Mountfitchet Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Persimmon Part-Exchange Scheme



Foresthall Park Phase 2

Stansted Mountfitchet
Sat nav ref CM24 8SJ

3 bedroom homes from **£299,950**
4 bedroom homes from **£399,950**
5 bedroom homes from **£459,950**

Part-Exchange* can help you sell your current home. We will arrange the valuations for you, agree a price and then market the property on your behalf. There are no selling fees or headaches – we take care of it all for you.

TO FIND OUT MORE CALL JOHN ON

08444 900572[†]

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.PERSIMMONHOMES.COM



Computer-generated image depicts the Arlington house type at Foresthall Park. *Available on selected plots only, subject to status, terms and conditions and stage of construction. †Calls to 0844 numbers cost 5p per minute from a BT landline. Mobile and other providers' charges may vary. Prices and details correct at time of going to press. 306EX

AVEDA

the art and science of pure flower and plant essences

THE GREENS BUILDING

CAMBRIDGE ROAD

STANSTED CM24 8BZ

TEL 01279 812910

LINO THOMAS HAIRDRESSERS

CHIROPODIST & PODIATRIST

Stansted

and Bishop's Stortford

- ◆ Orthotics
- ◆ Diabetic Foot Care
- ◆ Evening & Saturday Clinics
- ◆ Routine Treatment

R Handford & Colleagues

H.P.C. Registered

36 Lower Street, Stansted

Also at 16 Hockerill Street, Bishop's Stortford

01279 652249 info@feet.org.uk

www.feet.org.uk

MILLWAY

OFFICE SUPPLIES & ART AND CRAFT SUPERSTORE
CHAPEL HILL, STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET, ESSEX CM24 8AP
TEL: 01279 816659 ~ www.millwaystationery.co.uk

STOCKISTS OF HORNBY, LEGO, MECCANO, AIRFIX, DMC, ANITA'S CRAFTS, ENCAUSTIC ART, FIMO, SCRAPBOOKING, WINSOR & NEWTON, DALER-ROWNEY, RUBBER STAMPING, FABRIC PAINTS, FACE PAINTS, HELIUM BALLOONS, GREETING CARDS & WRAP.

AT OUR SUPERSTORE WE HOLD IN STOCK OVER 30,000 PRODUCTS

ALL YOUR STATIONERY NEEDS FOR THE HOME AND OFFICE
INKJET CARTRIDGES, LASER TONERS, CDRs, PAPER, ENVELOPES, FURNITURE, FILING PRODUCTS, FILOFAX, PARKER.

OPEN:

MON-FRI 8.30am—5.00 pm SAT 9.00am—1.00pm
FREE PARKING

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET SOCIAL CLUB

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Make new friends in a warm and relaxed atmosphere



- ◆ Children's Room
- ◆ Dropdown TV
- ◆ 3 Full Size Snooker Tables
- ◆ Darts and Pool
- ◆ Gaming machines
- ◆ Jukebox & Live Entertainment
- ◆ Raffles and Bingo

DRINKS AT LOW PRICES

Why wait? Apply now!

Membership forms from the club in Lower Street

Tel 01279 812992

Stortford Audio

multiroom audio visual installations

- multiroom audio systems
- home cinema
- surround sound installation
- home networking solutions
- digital TV and satellite

01279 647227

www.stortfordaudio.co.uk

NEWS FROM ST CLARE HOSPICE

St Clare Hospice announces 35% increase in patients being cared for

Many people think that hospices only provide end of life care, but are often surprised to find out we also care for many more people in their own homes, in day therapy and through counselling and family support. St Clare is doing just that. Since February our community specialist nurses are seeing patients in their homes, in addition to our occupational and physiotherapists. This extension of our care, between February and March alone, increased our work by 35%. However, during the last financial year income for the local charity has remained largely static including its NHS contribution remaining at 24% of the £2.6 million annual costs. St Clare was created by the community, initially by a small group of passionate people and over the last 21 years has grown, but remains sustained by the generosity of local people, funding care for their neighbours, colleagues, family and friends.

The Stansted Friends of St Clare recently donated £1,600 to the Hospice, raised from events attended by the local residents over the past few months: pub quiz nights, a jumble sale, a flog it!, the Friends quiz night, and the Windmill fête all contributed to our funds. They are also holding a quiz night with a difference on Saturday 17th March at Mountfitchet College. Tickets £10, including ploughman's, tables of 8-10 people or individuals from Caroline on 813938. Book early to avoid disappointment.

You might want to take part in this Santastic event?

St Clare is organising its third Santa Fun Run this year and needs Santas to fill Harlow Town Park! Sign up and start practicing your "ho, ho, hos"! The run is a 4k route for all the family. Join us on Sunday 11th December at 11.00am when we hope 300 Santas will gather to raise £10,000. Registration costs £15 adults (16+), £5 children. Every adult will receive a **free** Santa suit and every child will receive a **free** Santa hat. Sign up by visiting www.stclarehospice.org.uk or by calling the hospice team on 773750.



Need a Christmas gift for that tricky person on your list?

Our new lottery gift vouchers could be the answer to your problem! Available in either £13, £26 or £52 values, your friend or loved one will be entered into our weekly draw for a chance to win up to £1,000 a week! For full information and to purchase the gift that not only solves your dilemma but raises money for a local charity, call our lottery team on 773750.

Giles Wright

With Halloween and Bonfire Night safely behind us, it's time to start ramping up for the festive period. The Rotary Club will be bringing Santa up to Foresthall Park on Monday 12th December so keep an eye out for him as he makes his way round (between 6.00pm and 8.00pm). In addition, I have been contacted by Churches Together in Stansted who would like to bring their carol singers up to Foresthall Park on the evening of Thursday 22nd December. The plan is to start at 7.30pm on the corner of Walson Way and Palmer Close, and head west into the development before looping back - this year's charity is the Samaritans. The organisers are hoping that some of the residents of Foresthall Park will join the singing or help to collect the money. For more details please see the article on page 2.

I hope you have also had the chance to look at the website. Like I said in last month's contribution, we are looking to build up the content. One aspect that I was keen to explore was a background to Foresthall Park. I know that the development itself is new but it does not mean that there is not a story to tell. I have already been in contact with the Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society who have provided me with some interesting documents relating to Rochford's Nurseries, and whilst I'm gathering information, it would be good to hear from anyone else who feels that they have any stories, documents, old photos, newspaper clippings or maps relating to this site. Are any of the families after whom the streets have been named still living in and around the village?

I was recently told that the residents of the Mountfitchet Estate are in the process of forming a residents' association. I think this is a positive step and I know that there are a number of issues that we will have in common with that group, such as safety along Church Road. I look forward to working with this new group. We plan on having our next general meeting for residents in January and we will publish details of the date and location once confirmed. And for those of you who use the train, if you are not already aware, the timetable is being adjusted from Sunday 11th December.

Stephen Berry (Chairman)

Email: s.berry@mac.com

Tel: 647652

www.foresthallparkresidents.org

STANSTED DAY CENTRE TREASURER SOUGHT

The Management Committee of the Stansted Day and Community Centre is urgently looking for a new treasurer. This entails only a few hours' work each month. This treasurer has been elusive for some time, but must be hiding out there somewhere. If it is you, please contact Catherine Dean on 813579.



Mob: 07540 145 413
Tel: 01279 814 097
www.uniqueconstruction.com

CHURCHILL GENERAL BUILDERS

All building works undertaken including patios, fencing, decorating, tiling, roofing, extensions, kitchens, bathrooms



Free estimates contact Duncan on
01799 543150 or 07792 254508

Corner Cottage Vicarage Lane Ugley CM22 6HU

ATTENTIVE • COURTEOUS • RELIABLE

A.C. WRIGHT

BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Orchard House, 5 Brewery Lane
Stansted, Essex CM24 8LB

Tel. Bishop's Stortford (01279) 815759

Fax. (01279) 812484

Mobile 07974 989938



DJS BUILDING SERVICES

Contact David Sayer to discuss
your building requirements

new build
alterations **kitchens** extensions
bathrooms refurbishment
loft + garage conversions

01279 813067 / 07973 619739 www.djsbuildingservices.com

Bareham Overy Partnership

RIBA Chartered Architects

Turn ideas into reality

- Residential
- Industrial
- Interior Design
- Project Management
- Planning & Building Regulation Applications
- Leisure
- Commercial
- Space Planning



01279 816040 john@barehamovery.co.uk
The Forge, Stansted CM24 8UE

N & S INSTALLATIONS

Quality Kitchens

Design • Supply • Fit

'Made to Measure' - not just 'off the shelf'

Very competitive pricing

Free estimates and quotations

Call Neil: 07921 632488 or Sean: 07796 172265

jason bagge architecture

ARB RIBA BSc BArch LLM

residential and commercial architecture
masterplanning, interior and landscape design
planning and building contracts consultancy
www.jasonbaggearchitecture.com
jasonb@jasonbaggearchitecture.com
T: 01279 813211 m: 07528 891716

HIBBS WALSH

associates ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

'Restoring the past and building for the future'

Architect: M.A.HIBBS BSoc Sci, BSc, Dip Arch, ARB

Partner: S.M.WALSH LSIAD, BSc (Hons) Arch

Associate: J.A.Hayes BA, Dip Arch, ARB

82 High Street Saffron Walden Essex CB10 1EE

Tel 01799 523660 Fax 01799 509940

Email: office@hibbsandwalsh.co.uk

Website: www.hibbsandwalsh.co.uk

T. F. PLASTERING

All aspects undertaken including:

- ✓ Re-skimming
- ✓ Coving
- ✓ Rendering
- ✓ Pebble Dashing
- ✓ Floor Screeding

Over 15 yrs experience. High standard of work. Fully insured.

For a free estimate call Terry

Home 01279 416311 Mobile 07738 278036

Perfect Plastering Services

- ◆ All Aspects Undertaken
- ◆ Clean, Reliable Service
- ◆ Free Estimates



Matt Freeman

Tel 01279 812524 Mob 07793 887198

freeman223@hotmail.com



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Stop Stansted Expansion's successful campaign forcing withdrawal of plans for a second runway chalked up a further victory this week at the public relations industry's 'Oscars' when SSE lifted the winning trophy in the Public Affairs category of the 2011 PR Week Awards. In their commendation, the judges described the campaign as "highly impressive" and "proof that successful lobbying is not about contact books and huge budgets". This latest award is a tribute to the specialists who led the campaign and to the unswerving support of the army of community volunteers.

Response to Government's Aviation Policy Consultation SSE has provided the Government with a 40-page evidence-based submission in response to its consultation on developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation emphasising five key areas:

1. Stansted's role as a leisure airport rather than a driver of regional business growth
2. Support for the Government's position in rejecting any new runways at Stansted
3. The value of cross party agreement on UK aviation policy to achieve long term policy stability so that communities do not have to face repeated periods of uncertainty and blight due to the recurring threat of airport expansion
4. The need to prioritise air travel so that it is focused on meeting the needs of UK business rather than catering predominantly for the UK leisure market
5. The need for an independent environmental watchdog to monitor the impacts of airports rather than having to rely upon information provided by the airport owner.

SSE's submission is the culmination of months of work by its 22-strong Response Committee, with each member of this committee dealing with a particular specialism.

Home Wanted For 8000 Books – By Christmas Eve!!

SSE is urgently seeking a new home for its collection of 8000 books, which are regularly offered for sale and replenished to raise funds. Please contact SSE on 870558 or by email on info@stopstanstedexpansion.com if you are able to help.

Carol Barbone
Campaign Director
Tel: 0777 5523091
Email: cbarbone@mxco.co.uk



Conservatives

STANSTED CONSERVATIVES

Stansted Conservatives Annual Christmas Supper is on Saturday 10th December at the Day Centre, 7.30 for 8.00pm. Tickets £12.50 (same as last year) from Bridget on 814440 or Joan on 814854. Do book early as this is a popular event.

Bill Stiles

Hark: the Stansted Angels sing,
Young Keith Turner makes 'em swing,
Alto's boom fortissimo
Basses rumble down below:
Lute and timbrel, harp and lyre
All accompanying the choir,
Crowded congregation with 'em
Clap their hands in solemn rhythm;
Hark: the Stansted angels sing
Christmas joys are on the wing.

Trebles all in accents shrill
Obligato's gaily trill
Angela hits all her Top - C's
Conquering competing popsies;
CT painfully has got his
Tonsils round his epiglottis,
Bass Bill Barker roars with zest
More profundo than the rest;
Still the angel choir sings on -
Musical phenomenon!

Hark: those vocalists immortal
Gaily sing and blithely chortle,
Up and down the scale they zoom,
Small boys' squeak to basses' boom,
Each and every mastermind
Leaves the organ far behind.
Congregation can't compete,
Poor old vicar's now dead beat.
Still those angel voices sing -
Stansted choir can surely swing!



Frank Finch

Some may remember Frank, a resident of Stansted in the '70s. Ed.

CHRISTMAS TREES

FRESH * LOCALLY GROWN



at:
ALSA WOOD FARM
ALSA WOOD
STANSTED
CM24 8SU

CLOSED THIS YEAR

We are sorry
we are unable to open this year
but will be open again next year
when we hope to welcome our
customers back.

St Mary's Foundation CE Primary School



Learning together we care, share and prepare

During a busy autumn, St Mary's has been 'In the Pink', gearing up for the Olympics and training up a class of junior versions of Ray Mears! The School Council organised a non-uniform day 'In the Pink'. We had a competition for who could wear the pinkest clothing, raffled two hampers of pink goodies donated by staff, ate pink food, and raised money for Cancer Research. St Mary's is already getting into the Olympic mood ready for next summer. Classes have been working on a range of activities linked to the Games, and Oak class made a visit to the Olympic park in Stratford



to tour the facilities being built. While they were there they took part in a technology workshop, carrying out practical investigations on the construction of the stadium, a structure that can support 100,000 people. The half term was concluded in Church with our Harvest Festival. All the classes contributed art, information and readings to the service on the theme of 'Feast and Famine'. The school go to church regularly for assembly as well as festivals and key times in the school year. The children particularly like the opportunity to light candles and ring the bell!

St Mary's has established a link with the study centre at Gorsefield Hall, and our Year 3 pupils of Whitebeam class have begun a series of sessions in Forest School. This is a Scandinavian initiative, now used increasingly in schools in the UK, where the children are working in an outdoor classroom. Forest School involves weekly visits to a local area of woodland allowing children to develop a connection to and appreciation of their local environment. In particular, Forest School supports children's learning by:

- Creating opportunities for them to be responsible for their own risks
- Building on their natural curiosity to initiate their own learning and to develop activities
- Increasing self-esteem and self-confidence
- Improving motivation and encouraging concentration
- Improving language, communication, social and physical motor skills

We have recently held a very well attended Open Morning – thank you to so many parents for your interest in the school. If you have any more questions to ask, or if you missed the date or are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school, please give us a ring on 812212 to arrange a visit. You can also visit the school website at www.st-marys-stansted-essex-sch-uk.org.

And so to the winter season ... St Mary's PTFA are proud to host 'St Mary's on Ice', an ice skating extravaganza, on **Saturday 3rd December** from 1.00pm-7.00pm. Details of how to book are on our website. Pre-booked sessions last for 30 minutes and cost (including skate hire) adults £8, child £6, family (2 adults + 2 children) £22. As well as skating there will be lots of festive attractions to get the Christmas season off to a good start!

Christine Tonkins
Head Teacher

HELPLINE

Helpline, Stansted's Community Care Scheme, is in need of YOUR HELP!

Helpline has now been operating for 27 years, assisting vulnerable people within our community by collecting prescriptions/shopping for the housebound, providing transport to doctors' surgery, chiropodists and hospital appointments for those who would otherwise have great difficulty in attending, and generally helping out in a variety of ways to make life a little easier for the less able bodied who find themselves in need. All this help is provided by a staunch band of volunteers, who are reimbursed for their petrol when providing transport but who willingly donate their time to be 'good neighbours'. When Helpline started in 1984, approx. 100 kind folk signed up as volunteers but, over the years this number has inevitably fallen for various reasons, and although new volunteers have joined us, the number of people we can call on now has more than halved. Could you help? There is no regular commitment involved. When we receive a request for help, one of our Listeners-In will contact the volunteer/s most suited to the task requested. There is absolutely no pressure on our volunteers to carry out any request put to them – if the timing is inconvenient or they simply have no wish to perform that particular task, they are free to decline and another volunteer will be contacted. Clearly, the larger our base of volunteers, the less frequently they will be called upon. The number of requests that Helpline receive obviously varies but it generally averages out at two or three calls per week, the majority of which relate to providing transport.

Do you drive and have access to a car? Do you have a little time that you might be willing to spare to help those in need within our community? If so, we would love to hear from you. The majority of our current volunteers have been with us for most, if not all of the last 27 years, which is evidence in itself of the rewarding nature of this involvement as well as the wonderful commitment and community spirit of these 'good neighbours'. If you would like to join Helpline or find out more about us, please contact our Organiser, Mrs Yvonne Ayres on 814706, myself on 814562, or come to the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church 10th and 11th December where there will be more information available.

Francine Cope
Chairman

Our Christmas festivities begin with our 'Glitter Morning' held in our old school hall. Children with their parents are able to make a variety of Christmas decorations and cards using plenty of 'glitter'. The school Christmas Fair will be held on Sunday 4th December, 1.00pm to 4.00pm, entrance 25p or £1 per family. With Father Christmas, home made cakes, raffle, second-hand toys and lots of games to play, this is a very popular event raising much needed funds for areas of the school. The annual child-led Carol Concert and the Key Stage 1 Christmas performance will complete the term, alongside class parties. The school choir will also take part in the Cluster Schools Carol Concert at MMCC on Monday 12th December. Our first 'French Day' gave the children the opportunity to find out more about France and the customs of the country, especially at Christmas time. The whole school will be entertained on 6th January by a travelling theatre company with their version of 'Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer'. Class visits this term have included: Braintree Museum for a Victorian School Day for year 6; the National Army Museum for year 5; and Class 4 spent a 'Spooky Evening' in our Forest School. We were also fortunate to win our bid for tickets to see 'The Nutcracker' at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden for years 5 and 6.

The Sensory Garden has now been completed and the children have had great pleasure using this all-inclusive extra play space. Our thanks go to the whole community for their generosity in ensuring that this project could go ahead. The teaching staff have received training in 'story telling' and in planning for global citizenship this term, which have been part of some of the key development areas in our School Improvement Plan. Visits to the school for prospective parents are welcomed; applications for a place in reception have to proceed through central admissions at Essex County Council, however Nursery admissions are processed through the school. Please telephone the office on 01279 813626 for information. Best wishes for the festive season.

Cathie Bonich



We have finally moved into our bright and sunny new premises at The Peter Kirk Centre in St John's Road. All the new children have settled in well and all the children seem to be enjoying the facilities we have to offer. The older children have been out on a 'listening' walk which was very successful. Since their return from the walk they have been identifying more sounds. They have also taken part in a Harvest Festival service at St John's Church and then visited the residents of Norman Court to distribute their harvest baskets, which the residents loved. We continue to use St Mary's School hall for our PE lessons. If you would like to visit us to see what we have to offer your child, or would like to put your child's name on our waiting list, please call Gill Pursglove on 814242.

At the end of this year we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and say thank you to all those who have supported our NCT events throughout the year. Our October Nearly New Sale was our most successful ever, with over 270 buyers through the Hilton doors, and as normal Jane Chate and her team ensured that the event ran smoothly. Believe it or not the organisation for the April sale has begun so if you are interested in selling or advertising please let us know.

Our two events for the children, Halloween Messy Play and Christmas Make and Do also saw record attendance. At the messy play, children made scary mobiles, flying bats, masks and balloon ghosts, and children also had the opportunity to dig about in jelly and cooked spaghetti for treasures, a challenge some of them loved and others decided to shy away from! The Christmas Make and Do saw children making presents for their families, decorating photo frames, place mats and calendars as well as putting their hand and foot prints on ceramic gifts. The events were runaway successes and thank you again to all those members who helped the events run smoothly.



On 20th December we are holding a children's Christmas party and we have been promised a visit from Santa – see below. It is very important that you tell us that you will be attending so please contact me so that Father Christmas comes prepared!

Additional events being held this month - all our events are for members and non-members – for further information on any of the following events or our weekly coffee mornings, please contact me.

For all ages - Tea and Toys on Friday 2nd December 10.00am St John's Church Hall ,

For all ages – Soft Play on Wednesday 14th December from 3.30pm at Tumbledowns

For all ages – Christmas Party on Tuesday 20th December 3.00pm-5.00pm at St John's Church Hall £2 child, £5 family

Are you friends with your local NCT branch on Facebook? By liking us you will then receive reminders of our planned events. Fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates? Why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings, which are informal gatherings held in members' homes. Each age group is individually tailored for, Bumps and Babes, Toddlers and Pre-school. We would love to meet you and it is a great way to make new friends.

Anna Sedgbeer
Tel: 812257

Mitchell School of Dance

Mrs Mitchell LISTD Dip AISTD AES Dip
Fully qualified and registered teacher

*Dancing Displays Examinations
Choreography National Competitions*

Classes at:

**St. John's Church Hall, Stansted
St. Mary's Church Hall, Birchanger**

Tel: 01992 812781



Graham School of Dance



Outstanding tuition for children in **BALLET** (RAD) and **MODERN DANCE** on Mondays after school at the **QUAKER HALL, STANSTED** plus **MELODY BEAR** classes in Stansted for **pre-school children** to introduce children to **dance & movement**



*Including Tap, Jazz, Drama and Musical Theatre
+ Adult Ballet and Adult Tap*

For further details and a Free Prospectus:
Telephone: 01279 654423

Email: info@grahamschoolofdance.co.uk
www.grahamschoolofdance.co.uk

J.D.W.

GAS HEATING SPECIALIST

Boiler Servicing
Fast response to breakdowns
of Central Heating
& all gas appliances

Carbon Monoxide Testing
Boiler Replacements
General Plumbing
Cooker Installations

24 Hour Call Out
Gas Safe Registered
Ex. British Gas

Contact Julian

**1 Church Hill Corner
Tel 01279 816083
or 07967 366585**

Crystal Clear Pond Services Pond Cleaning & Maintenance

*Regular cleaning, maintenance
and servicing **plus** supplying
and fitting all pond equipment*

- Pond Cleaning
- Pond Restoration
- Water Features
- Pond Supplies

For a clean and healthy
pond all year round.
Free estimates & quotes



**01279 812011
07999 536580**

www.crystalclearponds.co.uk
info@crystalclearponds.co.uk

A&I Electrical

All Electrical
Installations and
Repairs

New Fuse Boards
and Rewires



Free estimates

Tel 07711 202423

NICK SHUTES

Painting and Decorating Ltd

High quality interior and
exterior redecoration

All woodwork repairs and replacements
including fascias, soffits and cladding

For a no obligation quotation call

**01799 542385
or 07885 778213**

www.iangillsculpture.com

Ian Gill
Metal Sculptor

Tel. 01279 851 113

Mob. 07530 245 616

e-mail. info@iangillsculpture.com



Ian has redesigned the conventional bird table and created functional, aesthetically pleasing sculptures for your garden.

He has exhibited widely, and his work is held extensively in collections throughout the UK and Europe.



STANSTED BEAVERS

September seems a long time ago now, but looking back we have enjoyed lots of different activities at Beavers. While the warm weather was still with us, we had a scavenger hunt and quiz on the Recreation Ground. Our autumn hike fell on a beautiful October morning, perfect for collecting autumn leaves and other 'finds'. For six of the older children, the highlight was probably taking part in a sleepover with other Beavers from our district. In some cases this was their first



time away from home on their own, but they all coped brilliantly. As well as learning new skills, they all made new friends too. Our theme was 'Cowboys and Indians', so we started off as Indians on the first day, and then the next morning magically we all turned into cowboys! After a Wild West breakfast we set out on a 'gold mine hunt' around the village, where our cowboy scarves came in handy doubling up as sunhats! The Beavers have also made bird feeders, iced biscuits and used their imagination to make collage animals. They have all been working towards the Healthy Eating and Safety badges too. Finally, special congratulations to Sid and Tristan, who have both gained the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. Well done!

Dot Staunton



Huw Johnson Club

Recently we enjoyed a fabulous firework display followed by hot dogs and other goodies, at the home of Chris, Hannah and Joanna in Great Easton. We all agreed that it was the best display ever. At the time of writing, we have not finalised our Carol Singing on 8th December – please look at the posters around the village for further details. That day will be our last meeting until the end of February, as we are likely to be seeing some bad weather over the winter, although we will be meeting in January for our new year dinner. We would like to say thank you to all our new teenage volunteer helpers; they all seem very much at home and are keen to help our members with various activities. Also a really big thank you to our drivers, without whom the Club would not run. We wish you all a happy Christmas.

Marion Johnson
Tel: 812284

SKYWATCH

A few days ago, at the time of writing, an asteroid passed the Earth at a distance of 200,000 miles, of which more in February.

Martin West



OUR PRIMARY CARE PRACTITIONERS

Stansted Surgery would like to introduce our new Primary Care Practitioner (PCP) Leigh Welton who joined the Practice last month. We now have two PCPs at the Practice, Leigh and Karen Bentley, who between them cover the whole week. We thought it would be a good idea to inform our patients about their extended role. Both practitioners provide a high-quality healthcare service similar to that of a GP; they are able to diagnose and treat a wide range of health problems. They will assess your health care needs based on highly developed clinical knowledge. They can order diagnostic investigations, prescribe medication and if deemed necessary, refer you on to other health care professionals or admit to hospital. However, they do not become involved in maternity care and are not able to provide medical certificates, but otherwise you will find they can provide treatment and advice for many problems for which you may have seen a doctor in the past.

They maintain close working relationships with the doctors and consult them as needed. If you present with a medical problem that they feel would be better managed by a GP they will make you an appointment to see one of the doctors. If you are unsure whether Karen or Leigh can deal with a specific illness or issue please check with the reception team who will be happy to help you. If you explain the nature of your problem the receptionist will be able to advise who is most appropriate for you to see within the clinical team. All of our staff are fully trained to respect patient confidentiality. Next month we hope to update you on the wide range of medical services that our Health Care Assistants can offer.

Annual Flu Vaccine

Just a reminder to all our patients who fall into one of the following categories that your annual flu vaccine is now due:

- Patients 65 years and over
- COPD
- Asthma
- Cystic fibrosis
- Emphysema
- CHD
- Stroke
- Diabetes
- Renal transplant patients
- HIV patients
- Polio
- Patients undergoing chemotherapy
- Had a splenectomy
- Chronic renal failure
- Chronic liver disease – cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis
- Immuno-suppressed patients – and household members
- In receipt of a Carers Allowance
- Children over 6 months old who have previously been admitted to hospital with a chest infection

If you have not yet had your flu vaccine please ring the surgery on 813200 after 10.00am to book an appointment.

Annabel Howard
Practice Manager

Pest Control & Prevention

H₂O Plants Environmental Services



- ✓ Ants, Bed Bugs
- ✓ Bees, Cockroaches
- ✓ Fleas, Flies, Foxes
- ✓ Mice, Moles, Moths
- ✓ Pigeons, Rats, Rabbits
- ✓ Squirrels, Wasps

Commercial and domestic works carried out
by fully trained, insured and discreet staff

www.h2oplants.co.uk

Office: 01279 216538 Mobile: 07958 304744

D BONNEY & SONS (Manuden)

MOT Testing ~ Diesel & Catalystr

Selection of New & Used Cars
Accident Recovery Work
Welding & Chassis Repairs
Borg & Beck Clutch Point Centre
Calor Gas Stockist

We help YOU the motorist by

- cheaper labour rate
- guaranteed workmanship
- free collection & delivery in local area

**Familiar with most makes of vehicles
including four wheel drives**

Please ring Malc or Neil on 01279 813315 or 815946

Nouvelle Carpentry & Building

Fully qualified local carpenter
with over 25 years experience

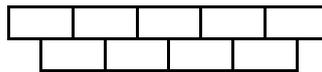
- ◆ Extensions
- ◆ Kitchens
- ◆ Doors & Locks
- ◆ Windows
- ◆ Bespoke joinery
- ◆ Summer Houses
- ◆ Decking
- ◆ Soundproofing

Fully Insured and
Guaranteed

Nick Whitaker

Tel: 01279 813690
Mob: 07973 330731
nouvelleinteriors@live.co.uk
Blythwood Gardens Stansted

CHRIS OSBORN BRICKWORK & GROUNDWORKS



Extensions & Conservatories
Property Improvements &
Structural Changes
Garden Walls & Patios
Flint Work & Traditional Lime
Mortars

T: 01279 850703

M: 07515 284238

EMAIL :
chris_m_osborn@yahoo.co.uk

AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERS

*David
Nunn's
Garage*



Bentfield Road Stansted

TEL: 01279 812686

Do-It-4U General Handyman

Home & Garden Repair, Care & Maintenance

- ◆ Plumbing, Electrical & Carpentry Services
- ◆ Drain Blockages Cleared
- ◆ Gardens Tidied & Maintained
- ◆ Hedges & Topiary Trimmed & Shaped
- ◆ Fences Erected & Repaired
- ◆ Gutters Cleaned, Repaired or Replaced
- ◆ Sheds & Other Sectional Buildings Erected

Tel 01279 814411 Mobile 07774 877320

N&J Westwood

Building and Construction

- Barn loft and garage conversions
- Refurbishment
- Extensions
- Driveways
- Brickwork
- Plastering
- Fencing
- Patios



For a free quotation and advice please call
John Westwood

Home: 01279 771867
Mobile: 07886 509722

STANSTED NETWORK NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Wheel Clamping - page 19

Parking Issues - page 20

Green Waste update - page 21

Adoption Report - page 21

Clerk - Ruth Clifford
Admin Assistant - Anne Court
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10am - 1pm
www.stansted.net

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH – VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Complaints about speeding regularly top parishioners' complaints. Whilst the police undertake checks more effort is needed. Nearly a year ago our local police appealed, without success, for volunteers to be trained for Speedwatch. At that time, Essex Police were offering to fund 120 schemes in the county. This has been achieved so funding will have to be provided through the Parish Council.

In order to launch a Speedwatch scheme, a minimum of 6 volunteers are needed in order to run two teams. However, before investing in the equipment, the Parish Council believes that not less than ten volunteers need to come forward.

Speedwatch volunteers would operate equipment which would monitor the speed of vehicles. Offenders, using number plate identification, will be reported. After second warning letter, offenders will be visited and spoken to by local police.

If you are interested, or want more information, please contact the Parish Council offices (01279 813214) or our local police (07801 461 666).

PREPARING FOR WINTER

Assuming snow and ice makes an appearance or two in coming months, the Parish Council is attempting to see which roads and footpaths could be gritted to improve safety and facilitate moving around.

It is assumed (but a check is being made) that Essex County Council will, as last year, grit the main roads and bus routes along with the footpaths in the main commercial areas. Additional requests have been made to grit Walson Way, Station Road and St John's Road (to help St Mary's School).

Apart from the entry to the Day Centre, Uttlesford District Council has little responsibility in this area, so any further action falls to the Parish Council. Subject to clearance from our insurance company, the Council will aim to grit some of the main footpath routes such as Cooper's Alley and Crafton Green Road. No action will be taken in terms of roads.

Seven grit bins are to be purchased and will be filled so as to be available in severe weather conditions. Taken in conjunction with existing bins there will be eleven bins positioned throughout the village.

BE WARNED - WHEEL CLAMPING OFF CAMBRIDGE ROAD

First of all some facts. The landowner of You're Furnished is within his legal rights to employ a wheel-clamping firm to penalise unauthorised parking. Second, the firm undertaking the clamping is licensed. Third, the level of unlawful parking has increased following the opening of Tesco reflecting the higher level of business on Cambridge Road. Fourth, the wheel-clamping activity has nothing to do with Tesco as a company.

The advice is clear - do not turn into or park along the private road between You're Furnished and Tesco, nor in the car park at the rear, unless you are a customer of You're Furnished. If you remain on Cambridge Road, then the clamping company can take no action against you. The Parish Council is in touch with the owner of the property to see if the warning sign detailing the charges levied, if wheel clamped, can be made prominent from whichever direction a driver approaches.

Following a request to Essex Highways, it is hoped in 2012 to increase the number of short-term parking bays on Cambridge Road, introduce a loading bay for delivery vehicles and discuss a pedestrian link to the Crafton Green car park.

Grit will be delivered by Essex County Council and stored by the Parish Council at a central point.

Residential roads (unless possibly on a bus route) will not be gritted. If residents could clear outside their own properties, this could be a major help. The elderly and those unable to cope will need help from all of us. Hopefully these precautions will prove unnecessary!

RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME IN LOWER STREET/GROVE HILL

The scheme as advertised was implemented by Essex County Council and reflected the views of the majority of the residents. Only a few objections from the Mews were received and these were withdrawn.

This scheme is a trial and Essex County Council has indicated that a review after six months will be reasonable. At that stage changes to the scheme will be considered and, between now and then, the Parish Council would welcome views on the operation of the scheme.

The early issues relate to the large number of empty spaces during the day and the impact on businesses in the immediate vicinity. The Council is conscious of these concerns and will be seeking ways to mitigate the impacts when the scheme is reviewed.

PARKING ISSUES AROUND BENTFIELD SCHOOL

A number of complaints have been received about illegal or inconsiderate parking around the entrance to Bentfield School.

Damage to the verges at the corner of Rainsford Road and Pennington Lane will be prevented by installing wooden posts and, at the same time, limiting parking obstruction.

Residents in the stretch of Rainsford Road from Pennington Lane to Croasdaile Road will be consulted to see whether there is support for the introduction of parking restrictions covering the periods around the arrival and departure of pupils at the school

SURFACE OF WATER LANE

Essex County Council has adopted a stretch of Water Lane to enable the authority to undertake limited maintenance work. This is a route from east of the railway to the station and the village and should benefit the residents of Foresthall Park and pupils at the new St Mary's School. It is hoped that surfacing work will happen in the first quarter of 2012.

BONFIRE NIGHT

Our sincere thanks to all those who helped stage a most successful and well-attended event on 5 November. The weather was kind to us for the setting up, the event itself, and the tidying up on Sunday. We are keen to find more younger volunteers for setting up the event, so if you would like to get involved, please contact the Parish Clerk.

SHAPING THE BUDGET FOR 2012/13

Although expenditure is projected to rise you will be pleased to hear that council tax payments should fall. Both of these conclusions reflect, to a large extent, the inclusion of the whole of Foresthall Park into this parish.

It is assumed that litter and dog bins will be installed on Foresthall Park and will require to be emptied while play equipment and play areas will need to be regularly checked.

The Parish has benefited this year from a rates rebate and insurance premiums below budget plus payment back from the original installers of the skatepark. This surplus will be used to fund a number of small projects and costs relating to the windmill, the Recreation Ground, printing a footpath booklet, replacing the hanging baskets and purchasing grit bins and spreaders.. These gains will not have any impact in terms of council tax. The budget will be confirmed in its final form at the council meeting on 14 December.

BONFIRE TO CELEBRATE THE DIAMOND JUBILEE

On the 4 June, as part of the celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, 2012 bonfires are to be lit across the country.

The Parish Council proposes to be part of this celebration with a bonfire possibly located as on Bonfire Night at Elms Farm. As in 1977 consideration is being given to holding a firework display - more later.

Please let the Parish Clerk know of any events being planned.

PROPOSED NEW HEALTH CENTRE

We have been waiting for the developers of the proposed site in Lower Street to submit a planning application. Just as they announced that they were ready to do so, we have heard that the PCT have changed the goalposts. The Parish Council had not, as we go to print, been made aware of any of the detail and it seems the community is being ignored yet again.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Uttlesford was due to receive during November a planning application for a building in Lower Street incorporating a health centre. For the past three months, the developer has been designing a new road layout for the complicated junction at the bottom of Chapel Hill. The new design is intended to overcome one of the major concerns about a health centre and shop at the former Hilton Cars location - traffic congestion. As Link was going to press, we heard that the PCT wants to redesign the building, creating yet more delay. This is yet another major disappointment.

At the end of October the council's cabinet decided to abolish the garden waste skips that come fortnightly to Stansted's Lower Street car park. The only garden waste service that Uttlesford will provide from April 2012 is a subscription to a doorstep collection. This will use an additional wheelie bin of the same size as the existing green recycling bin. The service will cost £40 per annum and there may be an additional purchase cost for late subscribers. No decision has been made on whether the existing collection service of garden waste sacks will continue.

I carried out a survey of users of the skip over the last weekend in October and found out the following:

- One in three users of the skip comes from outside Stansted
- The wheelie bins service will be no good for six in ten skip users as the bins will not be big enough
- Nine in ten skip users want that service to continue

- Fewer than one in four skip users say they will subscribe to the new service
- Six in ten skip users say they will be forced to drive their garden rubbish to the Bishop's Stortford amenity site, provided that service remains available to Essex residents

I would like to think that the Council will remain open to public representations on the very popular skip service. At the start of October no details of objections had been made public, including in the relevant cabinet paper.

Iris Evans and I took part in a well-attended and successful meeting on 31 October with the aim of setting up a residents' association for the Mountfitchet Estate. Several estate residents have agreed to meet again at the end of November to consider some of the issues that were raised and to take the next step towards creating the association.

(Cllr Alan Dean)

NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

As I write this article we are entering the National Adoption Week, although I do suspect that by the time you read this in the Link the intent will have passed and been forgotten by most people other than those who are inspired to come forward as potential adoptive parents. The trouble is that the media have high jacked all this and now the government has decided to look into the manner in which adoption agencies carry out their business, so maybe it won't be forgotten so quickly.

I write about all this with some passion because Essex County Council is an adoption agency and I have been the member of one of the panels that perform a statutory function in this for nearly seven years. The one thing that I have learnt is the need to set aside our prejudices because things are seldom what we would expect and most importantly, our preconceived ideas are invariably wrong. The first of these is that babies who come for adoption are not as they were in the past, relinquished babies from teenage mums, but are almost exclusively children from mothers suffering with serious drug and alcohol abuse and often those babies need to undergo extensive treatment to withdraw from that addiction. The dreadful fact is that the long-term effects of parental drug abuse or the sadness of foetal alcohol syndrome that has a det-

fect on the life chances of a significant number of children. In fact the largest majority of children who are approved for adoption come from a background of domestic violence, serious neglect or abuse and parents suffering from substance abuse. In fact, in seven years I have only seen one relinquished baby.

Adoption can provide traumatised and needy children with a loving long-term family that they much need and similarly give people the chance to have the joy of being parents. But we do need to get the process right.

So, to get back to the main reason for the National Adoption Week, we need to recruit more adoptive parents. It is, of necessity, a long and exhausting process to become accepted and ultimately have a child placed with you, but when it all works well it is the perfect outcome for all.

For me, as a member of the panel, the joy that adoptive parents display more than offsets the harrowing process we go through reading of the dreadful experiences some children are subjected to.

(Cty Cllr Ray Gooding)

DATES OF MEETINGS

7 December Finance Committee
 14 December Full Council
 11 Jan Open Spaces
 18 Jan Full Council

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford
 Admin Assistant - Anne Court
 E-mail: parishcouncil@stansted.net
 Phone/fax: 01279 813214
 www.stansted.net

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dan Brett	817974 contact@danielbrett.com
Catherine Dean	813579 Catherinemarydean@btinternet.com (vice-Chairman)
Iris Evans	815848 Iris.evans9@googlemail.com
Jo Freeman	812524 j.freeman195@yahoo.com
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489 John@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk
Peter Jones	813252 peter@lowerstreet.com
Janice Loughlin	812346 cllrloughlin@uttlesford.gov.uk
Tudor Owen	812825 tudor@tudorowen.com
Ruth Rawlinson	814222 ruthrawlinson@tiscali.co.uk
Jonathan Rich	813112 joerichlaw@aol.com
John Salmon	814789 cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk (Chairman)
Bill Stiles	813172 candbstiles@tiscali.co.uk
Valerie Trundle	813433 Prtrvt@btinternet.com

Uttlesford District Council Members

Alan Dean	Tel: 01279 813579 Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
Iris Evans	Tel: 01279 815848 Email: iris.evans9@googlemail.com
John Salmon	Tel: 01279 814789 Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Joe Rich	Tel: 01279 813112 Email: cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding
 Tel: 01279 813103
 Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
 Tel: 0207 219 5214/Fax: 0207 219 5600
 Email: alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk

Police

PC Tom Bastendorff	Tel: 01279 812211
Non-emergency No.	101 OR 0300 333 4444
PCSO's (Stuart/Kelly)	Tel: 07801 461 666

Neighbourhood Watch
 www.stanstednhw.org.uk

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 www.musicatstansted.com
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257
Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Bowls Club	Edward Taub Hon Secretary Tel: 816932 Email: ebtaub@googlemail.com	Pilots Age 5 -18	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Brownies/ Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
CAB.	Tel: 08444 775986	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cubs Scouts Age 8 -10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 816172	Scouts Age 10½ -14	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk www.skr.org.uk
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144 www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk	Tennis Club	Janet Hollis Tel: 812073 Email: janhollis@btinternet.com
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085 www.mencapgrovecottage.org	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	U3A	Cherry Chair Tel: 817140
Huw Johnson Club	Marion and Tom Johnson Tel: 812284	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Lunch Club	Alastair Richardson Tel: 07850 295109 Email: amg.richardson@gmail.com	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 01371 873156/ 07920 466 923
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755	Note: This list will be updated as and when we learn of any changes. If you would like the details of your organisation to be added please let us know. (Contact details on page 1.)	

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

Message _____

Sender's Name _____ Tel _____

STANSTED CARPETS CHAPEL HILL

EST. 1969

CARPETS ~ VINYL FLOORING ~ CURTAINS

CURTAIN FABRICS

ROLLER ~ VERTICAL ~ VENETIAN
BLINDS

FREE ESTIMATES ~ PROMPT SERVICE

Call Peter on 01279-812019

E-mail: stanstedcarpets@hotmail.com

www.stanstedcarpets.com

Carpet Fitter

Carpets & Soft Flooring

For a quotation please call



Ken Cabourn

Tel: 01279 815122

Mob: 07799 146181

Fabrications

*is the local company for all soft furnishings,
made from our fabrics or your own.
Wallpapers, tracks and blinds also supplied.*

For free advice and measuring service call

Sue 01279 777465 or Carol 01279 777480

Kate Harrison

**CURTAINS, PELMETS, BLINDS,
CUSHIONS of all SORTS, BED COVERS,
VALANCES - ALL MADE TO MEASURE**

I can supply fabrics, trimmings, tracks & other accessories.
Please call for my free advice and measuring service.

Tel / Fax 01279 777452

email: kateharrison_1@yahoo.co.uk

Herts & Essex Window Doctor

Friendly Family Run Business



Repaired or replaced:

- ✓ Locks, Hinges & Handles
- ✓ Patio Doors
- ✓ Windows & Double Glazing

Call Nigel on 816324 or 07769 274610

Email: nijillpark@aol.com

No Call Out Charge

JOHN WILSON



**Still Manufacturing &
Remodelling**

Bespoke Jewellery

Old Gold Bought for Cash

Mobile: 07900 931 910

Workshop: 01279 647 878

Brown's Painting & Decorating

All sized jobs considered

Please call Simon for a quote

01279 813075 or 07813 086763

simon@simonbrown8.orangehome.co.uk

Stansted based

Painting & Decorating

Lesley Anne

- Interior & Exterior
- From one room to complete house
- Competitive rates and references
- Free Estimates & Advice



Tel: 01279 817055 or 07973 364394

Email: lesleyprowse@aol.com

Copyzone
*Design
& Print*

Design, Printing, Copying, Plan Printing,
Digital Printing and Archiving

01279 657769

printing@copyzone.co.uk - www.copyzone.co.uk

Unit 3, Southmill Trading Centre, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 3DY

Lola Jones
Executive
Assistance

www.lolajonesea.com

Pay as you go virtual PA/Admin services
for small businesses and the self employed.

All secretarial and administrative tasks undertaken.

Call 01279 720856 or email nancy@lolajonesea.com



Jack Petchey Achievement Awards

Ten MMCC students have been recognised for the outstanding contributions they have made to the College and local community at an awards evening held at the Rhodes Arts Centre in Bishop's Stortford. They were presented with their Jack Petchey Achievement Awards by Cllr Christina Cant, Vice Chair of Uttlesford District Council. The Jack Petchey Achievement Award scheme is at the heart of the Foundation's work. The awards are given to young people who make a wholehearted, unselfish and dedicated contribution to the College. The award scheme provides £9,000 funding each year to schools in Uttlesford and the Foundation's aim is to help develop the potential in young people aged 11 to 25 in London and Essex.



Back row L—R: Safwan Chowdhury, Christopher Venables, Chloe Dawkins, Tom Bush, Jacob Walker.
Front row L—R: Stephanie Cohen, Joanne Edridge, Cllr Christina Cant, George Smith, Molly Bell.

Mrs H Caiafa
Jack Petchey Co-ordinator

Mountfitchet – here we come!

Year 7 spent our recent collapsed timetable day getting to know the local area and its history. They were taken on a walk around the village to see the windmill, war memorial, the famous sign post and the old houses of Stansted Mountfitchet. As always, the castle was very popular with the students. Once they got over the shock of seeing heads on the gateway and the man hanging from the gallows, the students soon explored the various reconstructed huts of the villagers of 1066. The students really enjoyed their day and were praised by the staff at the castle who award certificates. Well done Year 7!

Mrs Smith
Head of History

Year 8 Mission X – Update

The Year 8 students worked towards becoming astronaut trainers on Thursday, 6th October 2011. The students completed training activities that will form part of Mission X 'Train like an Astronaut' 2012 - a unique international mission to boost health, fitness and science knowledge which is led by NASA, European Space Agency and with leadership in the UK from the UK Space Agency. Last year these students carried out the pilot mission as the lead school in the

UK. The missions this year built on those carried out on the pilot programme. The two Science missions 'Energy of an Astronaut' and 'Oxygen' were designed to show the importance of oxygen on the body and how exercise can help to increase our lung capacity and how this makes us more efficient at burning the energy we take in as food. The Screaming Jelly Baby demonstrated how we burn the food we eat and a heart dissection demonstration showed students that the heart is a very important muscle. The balance between food eaten and food used within the body was highlighted and supported the energy used in their PE mission, 'Explore and Discover'. Students carried out the Cooper Run and were able to calculate their maximum volume of oxygen they can use per minute as a direct test of their fitness levels. They learnt how to test their heart rates and their recovery time as another measure of their aerobic fitness. Students had the unique opportunity to watch a film about the astronaut they met last year, Richard Garriott, the first space tourist. Visitors on the day included John London, a rocket scientist and Vicky London, an astro-physicist, to answer their questions about rocket and space travel. The whole day was a real success and all the students had a fun and full day of learning.

Mrs C Dunham
Head of Science

Christmas at MMCC

The College's Christmas service will be taking place on Tuesday 13th December at 11.30am in St Mary's Church. All members of the community are welcome to join us as we celebrate the lead up to Christmas. MMCC's annual Christmas Concert will be on Thursday 8th December at 7.00pm in the main College hall.

Mr M Rowlands
Head of Music



Nature Notes

A writer in a national daily has recently drawn attention to an increase in predators. Predation, per se, is a natural phenomenon upon which most animal and insect life depends, so we should be cautious in our comments. Nevertheless he has a point. There are more foxes, buzzards, red kites (historically a scavenger), grey squirrels, magpies (both bird nest raiders), and sparrow hawks than in the recent past, plus, of course, cats. Small birds are likely to be the main victims, so safer nesting and winter bird feeders are ways in which we can improve their chances. Dense hedges are invaluable, so please defer pruning until mid-summer. Mention of insects could recall that a buzzing hedge and fly-spotted windscreen are now a memory for the middle-aged. The reason for this loss of insect life largely remains a mystery, especially as agricultural pesticidal sprays are now in declining use.

In a more encouraging vein, this season's berry and seed crop was outstanding. The weight of acorns and hazel nuts has bent many branches, and holly berries are prolific - all good news for squirrels and birds. Moreover, leaf colour has been better than average. The Parish Council's new footpath map should induce us to take advantage of this free annual display since vestiges of it will linger into the winter. Whenever possible let us get out more and so help to reduce the heating bills.

Derek Honour

**ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING
STANSTED**



New Course Directory out now

Lots of courses to choose from this year including:

- Arts and Crafts
- CACHE
- Computers
- Creative Writing
- English and Maths – some courses are free
- Family History
- Food Safety
- Fitness
- Languages

Get your free 2011-12 Course Directory from the Peter Kirk Centre in St. John's Road or go to our website www.essex.gov.uk/adultlearning

Phone 813319 to book your place

High House Nursery

- ◆ Children from 3 months to 5 years
- ◆ Highly qualified experienced teachers
- ◆ Emphasis on creativity and cognitive development
- ◆ Established since 1985
- ◆ Family run nursery
- ◆ Beautiful surroundings, set in 2 acres
- ◆ Outstanding Ofsted report
- ◆ Walking distance to Stansted Airport



Tel: 01279 870898

www.highhousenursery.co.uk

CARERS UK

Uttlesford District Branch

"Caring about the Carer"

Support group for carers held in Stansted Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill on 2nd Thursday in each month from 2 pm to 4 pm

**For more information call 01371 875810
or email: uttlesfordcarers@btconnect.com**

Registered Charity No. 246329



Cooking Classes, Workshops & Parties for Children aged 2 - 11 years

Come & make yummy recipes, explore new flavours & learn about food through games & experiments!

Weekly classes for 2-4yrs olds.

Monthly workshops for school children aged 4-11yrs.

**For more information call Jane: 07796 270068
www.kiddycook.co.uk stansted@kiddycook.co.uk**

LAN ONE COMPUTERS



Unit 2 Rear Of
16 Cambridge Road
Stansted
Essex CM24 8BZ

Phone 01279 816116

Email: info@lanone.co.uk

Your Local Computer Accessory & Repair Shop

Taylor Computer Services (Stansted)

On-site Computer Maintenance/Repairs for Home or Business

DON'T BE RESTRICTED TO OFFICE HOURS, I CAN VISIT YOUR HOME OR OFFICE DURING THE DAY, EVENINGS OR WEEKENDS AT A TIME TO SUIT YOU.

Wireless Networking and Broadband Setup, Data Transfers, Hardware & Software Installation, Virus & Spyware Removal & Protection, New PC Setup & Training

Call Derrick on 01279 816418 ~ 07926 289749

Email: info@tcsstansted.co.uk

**SAINT NICHOLAS
INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL**

FOR GIRLS & BOYS
AGED 4 - 16 YEARS



LOCATED IN THE RURAL OUTSKIRTS OF OLD HARLOW, SAINT NICHOLAS HAS BEEN EDUCATING CHILDREN FOR OVER 70 YEARS, PROVIDING A UNIQUE & DISTINCTIVE PLACE TO LEARN & DEVELOP:

- OUTSTANDING FACILITIES FOR LEARNING, SPORTS & ARTS
- SMALL FOCUSED CLASS SIZES
- PROVEN EXCELLENCE IN RESULTS
- BROAD & BALANCED CURRICULUM
- OUTSTANDING PASTORAL CARE



TO ORDER A PROSPECTUS, ARRANGE A TASTER DAY OR PRIVATE TOUR, PLEASE CONTACT OUR ADMISSIONS SECRETARY, JULIE BRADLEY ON 01279 429 910 OR ADMISSIONS@SAINTNICHOLASSCHOOL.NET



WWW.SAINTNICHOLASSCHOOL.NET
SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL, HOBBS
CROSS ROAD, OLD HARLOW, CM17 0NJ

As announced in last month's 'Link', our next concert is at 3.00pm on Sunday 11th December in St John's Church, and will be a recital by Katie Bray (mezzo-soprano) and William Vann (piano).



Katie Bray is a scholar at the Royal Academy of Music, taught by Elizabeth Ritchie and Iain Ledingham, and was awarded First Prize in the Academy's Richard Lewis Singing Competition this year. During her time as a postgraduate student there, Katie was the recipient of many prestigious awards including the 2009 Major van Someren-Godfrey Prize for English Song and the 2010 Elena Gerhardt Lieder Prize.

William Vann is establishing himself at the forefront of the current generation of young British accompanists. He was born and brought up in Bedford before reading law and taking up a choral scholarship at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He is a Samling Scholar, and a Yeoman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians. He works as a coach at the Oxenfoord International Summer School and is the Director of Music at St Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road.



The concert is being generously sponsored by, and we are most grateful to, Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers who are covering the piano hire cost, and The Countess of Munster Musical Trust. The programme is as follows:

- Schubert** Frühlingslied (spring song); Daphne am Bach (Daphne at the brook); Nachtgesang (night song)
- Schumann** Die Lotosblume (the lotus flower)
- Clara Schumann** Liebste du um Schönheit (if you love for beauty); Warum willst du and're fragen (why ask others)
- Schumann** Novelette in F, Opus 21 (piano solo)
- Mozart** Dans un bois solitaire (in a lonely wood)
- Wolf** 'Zu Ruh' (to rest)
- Weill Nannas** Lied (Nanna's song); Je ne t'aime pas (I don't love you); Youkali (the land of our desires)
- Arlen** The man that got away
- Gershwin** Piano solos: The man I love; But not for me; Our love is here to stay

The first concert in 2012 will be at 3.00pm on Sunday 29th January and will be given by the Piatti String Quartet. (Charlotte Scott, first violin, Michael Trainor, second violin, David Wigram, viola, and Jessie Ann Richardson, 'cello). Winners of the St Martins in the Fields Chamber Music Competition, the Piatti Quartet are fast emerging as one of the UK's leading young string quartets. Strings to their bows include the Tunnell Trust Award, Park Lane Group Young Artists in 2009/2010, a second year as Leverhulme Chamber Music Fellows at the Royal Academy of Music and the St Peter's Eaton Square Prize 2011. Their programme will be Haydn's Quartet Opus 76 No 3 The Emperor, Smetana's

Quartet No 1 From My Life, and Schubert's Quartet No 14 Death and the Maiden.

Tickets for both concerts: adults £12, children £1, are available from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy tel 815282; or at the door. For further information please visit www.musicatstansted.com.

Alan Corbishley

CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CHRISTMAS TRUFFLES

"And we all love some figgy pudding ..." If you're a fan of Christmas pudding, get making these fabulous truffles – great for Christmas presents too!

Ingredients

125g dark chocolate, finely chopped
350g leftover Christmas pudding
60ml brandy (or orange/cranberry juice)
2 x 15ml tablespoons golden syrup
To decorate:
100g white chocolate
red/green sprinkles or glacé cherries



Method

Melt the dark chocolate over a pan of simmering water. Crumble the Christmas pudding in to a bowl. Add the brandy and golden syrup and stir mix briskly. Pour in the melted chocolate and stir again. Roll small amounts in to balls (makes about 30). Cover with cling-film and leave to firm up. Melt the white chocolate and drip a little on to each truffle. Add cherry pieces to resemble holly berry and leaves.

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

MANUDEN SINGERS

For their concert on 11th December, the Manuden Singers, accompanied by the Manuden Players, are taking the passing of the year as their theme with the 'Autumn' and 'Winter' sections from one of the best-loved works in the repertoire - 'The Seasons', by Josef Haydn. Over the past ten years or so the Manuden Singers have put on three performances each year for charity. All the proceeds of their performances are devoted to supporting local charities: Grove Cottage, the Bishop's Stortford chapter of Mencap, benefited by £2,700 for this summer's concert.

Our autumn concert will support the final leg of the building project for St Mary's Church in Manuden, which is the final connection of the toilet facilities, and will also contribute to repairs for the organ. The concert is at 7.30pm in Manuden Church. Tickets £10 (£5 children) are available from Fiona Bengtson on 812157, or at the door.

Teresa Priest

Stansted Electric

From fitting a light to a complete rewire

Partial or Full Domestic Electrical Inspections.
Replacement Fuse Boxes. Handyman Services.
Cookers, Hobs, Ovens and Showers installed.



For a Free Estimate
Phone Jim on 07921 908214

Telephone: 01279 816399
Email: enquiries@stanstedelectric.co.uk

ETHICAL ELECTRICAL

Need a local, reliable friendly Electrician?

All Electrical work undertaken including:

Full and part re-wires, Maintenance and repairs,
Fuse board and earthing upgrades,
Electrical Inspection, testing and certification, PAT testing
Security lighting / Garden lighting, power and ponds,
Garden decking laid and lights installed.

Call Mark for a free estimate
07794159549 / 01279 814213



ALBURY ELECTRICAL SERVICES

LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS Est 1984

All Electrical Installations
Electrical Inspection, Testing & Certification
of fixed wiring & portable appliances

NICEIC APPROVED. ALL WORK GUARANTEED
FREE ESTIMATES AND ADVICE



Tel: 01279 771510 or 01279 652588
info@alburyelectricalservices.co.uk
www.alburyelectricalservices.co.uk

STEVE KING

STANSTED GAS SERVICES

07956 855328 01279 817581

Servicing, Breakdown and Repair to
Gas Central Heating and appliances.
Installation of Bathrooms and Showers
Gas Safe Registered. Ex - British Gas

GILLSON CARPENTRY & JOINERY



- First & second fix carpentry
- Site & bench joinery
- Extensions & building projects
- Kitchens
- Wooden flooring
- Decking design & construction
- No job too big or too small

Office 01279 812101
Mobile 07525 061661

Email: gillsoncarpentry@btinternet.com

NEWMAN'S LICENSED APHC MEMBER
Plumbing Heating Electrical
HOME SERVICES LIMITED
Plumbing • Heating • Electrical
Kitchens • Cloakrooms • Bathrooms • Showers
Tel/Fax: 01279 814437 Mobile: 07831 233681

JONES & CO



Plumbing and Heating Engineers
Installation and Maintenance
Boiler and Cylinder Replacements
Bathrooms ~ Gas and Oil Services

Please contact David Jones
Tel 01279 815877 Mobile 07860 213760
Email djonesco@talktalk.net

A. T. PLUMBING

- ✓ BATHROOMS
- ✓ SHOWERS
- ✓ PLUMBING REPAIRS



Free Estimates

Call Alvin on 07958 730838

JP Tiling

Wall and Floor Tiler

All types of tiling undertaken including:
Ceramic, Porcelain, Natural Stone,
Under floor Heating.
Bathrooms, Wet rooms, Kitchens

Contact Jon Pichel 01279 815117 / 07846 760393
Email: jon.pichel@btinternet.com

Chris Campbell
Photography

www.chriscampbellphotos.co.uk

A new photography service, based in Stansted, Essex. A fully mobile solution providing a first class service in the comfort of your own home or on location.



- Individual Portraits
- Family Portraits
- Model Portfolio Shots
- Events
- Corporate / Business Promotion
- Performers Headshots



Please visit the website for further details on the full range of services available
mob: 07590398013
email: chriscampbellphotos@yahoo.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

Dear Editor

Following many difficulties trying to find the best possible solution(s) to the Highways issues in the Lower Street/ Chapel Hill/Church Road area, Pelham Structures are expected to submit a planning application to UDC by the time the 'Link' is next published. I spoke to the PCT on 10th November following another delay with the planning application. This most recent delay has been due to a minor change in the PCT's requirements; they now need fewer administration offices. Pelham Structures are now incorporating these changes into their planning proposal and expect to submit an application within the next 10 days. The PCT is fully supportive of this application and it satisfies the community's needs and those of our GPs. It will give us a 'state of the art' health centre in the centre of the village and close to existing public transport and car parking.

Some in our community might suggest that the health centre should be in another place in the village. Many sites have been suggested by a community group and Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, and all have been examined by the PCT and others, including the Foresthall site. The only site to come forward which is fully acceptable to the PCT and which is in the centre of our village and existing public transport is the Lower Street site. Let us all support the anticipated planning application so that we can have a health centre that our community needs and deserves.

Ray Woodcock
Tel: 816468

STORY TIME AT THE LIBRARY



We have started an extra story time session at the library on Thursday afternoons from 2.30pm-3.00pm. This is in addition to our story time on Tuesday mornings from 11.00am-11.30am. We look forward to welcoming you with your little 'bookworms'.

Lizzie Hall
Deputy Supervisor Stansted Library

'FLOG IT' SUCCESS

On behalf of Bishop's Stortford Tangent I would like to thank all who supported the 'Flog It' on Wednesday 9th November in the Day Centre. It was a super evening and a lovely community event which raised £600 for Bowel Cancer Screening Research.

Pauline Mantle
Chair

POST BOXES



We hope you have enjoyed our present cover photograph. There will be an article on post boxes in the February edition of 'Link'; no room this month to fit it in.

Editor

SANTA'S ON HIS WAY

Last year saw the worst December weather in the 16 years since Rotary first brought Santa on his sleigh for his pre-Christmas visits to Stansted. Despite the fact that Santa is no stranger to bad weather, coming as he does from the North Pole, sadly, he did not manage to complete his entire schedule in Stansted. Those who know Santa will be aware that he only flies with his reindeers and sleigh during the magical Christmas Eve night and for the rest of the time he confines himself to running on the normal roads accepting the conditions he finds. The good news however is that this year, in order to ensure meeting all his friends, he has decided to visit Stansted early directly following his first appointment in the area at Waitrose Supermarket, Bishop's Stortford on Saturday 3rd December. His schedule for Stansted is listed below and he is hoping children will be listening out and come to greet him as he passes their houses. Santa starts his rounds at 6.00pm and tries hard to see all his friends before 8.00pm. Should anyone be unfortunate enough to miss Santa during his time in Stansted, he will also be meeting friends at: Market Square, Bishop's Stortford 10th December; Tesco, Thorley 17th December; and Sainsbury's, Thorley 21st December. He will also be touring the streets of Thorley after leaving Stansted. The picture shows a fan venturing out for a word with Santa last year.



Wednesday 7th December: Five Acres, Croasdaile Close, Gilbey Crescent, Croasdaile Road, Rainsford Road, Queens Close, White Bear, Alderbury Road, Poultney Road, Mary McArthur Place, Longcroft, Loates Pasture.

Thursday 8th December: Spencer Close, Greenfields, St John's Road, St John's Crescent, Burnells Way, Brewery Lane, Meadowcroft, Coltsfield, The Campions, High Mead, Birchalls, High Lane, Lower Street, Gall End.

Friday 9th December: Canons Mead, Bentfield Gardens, Cawkell Close, Bentfield Road, Wetherfield, Bentfield Causeway, Blythwood Gardens, Old Bell Close.

Monday 12th December: Foresthall Park

We meet on Tuesday evenings at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford. Anyone interested in Rotary or helping Santa, please contact me.



Peter Latham
Tel: 507294
Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net

VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER



The Harvest Supper

Anglicans, Romans, Frees and Quakers
All came here to give thank for maker's
Gifts of grains and fruits galore,
Apples and blackberries and more -
Plus wheat to please the bakers.

(No, not those Bakers, Helen and Pete,
I meant the ones in shops);
And then there are the brewers
Who make massive use of hops.

We've not had shepherd's pie this year
The shepherd's were too busy
But have you seen the price of lamb?
It makes your brain go fizzy!



So fish in batter, served with chips,
Followed by apple crumble
With lashings of cream it passed our lips
Now we can barely mumble.

Entertainment flowed, as did our wine,
And now our thanks should go
To all who worked so hard and fine
To give our cheeks a glow.

So put your hands together
And give them all a cheer
And then maybe they'll do it again
So we'll all be here next year.

Elizabeth Jennings

Photos by Judy Colliver & Yvonne Ayres



This was a sell out again, and the bought-in fish/chicken and chips followed by hot home-made pudding were favourably received. There were contributions to the entertainment from all the churches, and the £115 profit was sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee Africa Appeal via Churches Together in Stansted

SignuptoSing

Calling all young singers aged 8-18. Come and join us in an exciting landmark venture!

MazeMusic will see SignuptoSing Saffron Walden Youth Choir joining forces with other local choirs to perform with the award-winning orchestra Britten Sinfonia in a gala concert in St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden on 3rd March 2012. This innovative project is part of 'Music Nation' – a national programme of events that celebrates the Cultural Olympiad in the run-up to the Olympic Games 2012. SignuptoSing will perform its own items by Bob Chilcott and Sting and then sing along with Saffron Walden Choral Society and Granta Chorale in 'Maze', a new cantata composed for the event by Janet Wheeler. Be a part of this project! Young singers aged 8-18 are warmly encouraged to sign up for this event. The subsidised course fee for this project is £10 per singer, and you can sign up online at www.signuptosing.org or contact me. The deadline for applications is 6th December so sign up now! Auditions will be held on 7th and 13th December - places for this project are limited so may be decided by audition. Weekly rehearsals begin on Monday 9th January from 6.00-7.20pm at Saffron Walden County High School.

SignuptoSing is a youth choir based in Saffron Walden, made up of singers aged between 8 and 18 years and directed by Janet Wheeler. It draws singers from primary and secondary schools in the town and surrounding villages, as well as further afield from Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. Singers sign up for each particular project, rather than making a longer-term commitment, though many come back again and again. Janet Wheeler is a highly regarded composer and conductor who enjoys introducing young people to the challenges and rewards of choral singing. Janet currently directs eight choirs, including the Saffron Walden Choral Society, Granta Chorale and the Saffron Walden County High School Chamber Choir.

Steph Green
Choir Administrator
Tel: 01799 521614
Email: info@signuptosing.org



Stansted Cricket Club

Our fundraising for our pavilion extension has continued with the Club being the grateful recipient of £221 from being chosen by Waitrose (Bishop's Stortford) as one of their three charities for October. Work is in progress for a permanent site for the new scoreboard, which was acquired last July. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season 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



The Essex Satellite of national charity Canine Partners, which provides specially trained assistance dogs to people with disabilities, is pleased to announce the formation of a new Fundraising Support Group in Saffron Walden. I am leading the group, and I am keen to recruit local volunteers to help me raise funds for Canine Partners through a series of events and collection days. Last year I came close to spending the rest of my life in a wheelchair due to illness. Fortunately a dedicated team of health specialists got me through that difficult time and I am now restored to health. I have been very lucky to have the support of my friends and family during this illness, but I wouldn't have coped without the unconditional and constant love from my animals - especially my dogs who gave me a reason to get up each day. I can only begin to relate to the stresses of the disabled and just how important an assistance dog can be. My own experience has given me a true passion to raise both awareness and funds for Canine Partners.



Lorna Marsh from Hertfordshire has quadriplegia, a form of cerebral palsy that affects all four of her limbs. She graduated with canine partner Eli in 2008. Lorna says that Eli can do so much, it's difficult to believe unless you can see it for yourself. She knew that having a canine partner would help her independence but didn't realise quite how much. Every time Eli does something for her, she feels like it's her doing it for herself, so she is not so dependent on people anymore.

The first fundraising event will be a Christmas Zumba by Luisa Curbelo on Tuesday 13th December from 6.00pm-7.30pm at Great Chesterford Community Centre. Pre-booking is required at a cost of £7 per person. A raffle and refreshments will be available and we would like to encourage everyone to dress seasonally, although this is optional! All profits will go to Canine Partners. To book your place please call me or Luisa Curbelo on 07842 213554. Please join us and help make a difference – that is my reason for volunteering, what's yours? If you feel you could help in any way, please contact me or the Essex Fundraising Office 01245 608355 or visit www.caninepartners.org.uk.

Angela Thomas
Tel: 01763 838462

CHIROPODIST

Mrs Julie Golden

HPC Registered
State Registered

Home Visiting Practice
Est. 1994

01279 817810

07916 075451

A professional service...
...at a competitive price

J R JOHNSTON C&G RFS

Qualified Tree Surgeon

Fully Insured



Pruning

Dismantling

Hedge Trimming

Trees/Shrubs supplied & planted
Contract Maintenance

Tel 01920 821595

Ray Morton

PAINTER & DECORATOR
GENERAL HANDYMAN

No Job Too Small!
Free Estimates

Tel 01279 812792

8 Mill Close, Elsenham

CARERS UK

Uttlesford District Branch

"Caring about the Carer"

Carers are the biggest provider of
health and social care in the UK.
We offer help, support and advice

For more details call us now on:

01371 875810

Email: uttlesfordcarers@btconnect.com
The Old Police Station,
45 Stortford Road, Dunmow CM6 1DQ
Registered Charity No. 246329

HELPLINE

07704 553727

If you have a **PROBLEM**
or are in need of
ASSISTANCE

Monday - Friday
9.00 am - 4.00 pm

Standed's voluntary community care service

MEMORIALS

Direct From Stonemason

J. Day & Son

Station Road, Bishop's Stortford
FOR BROCHURE & PRICES
OR A HOME VISIT CALL

0800 7837521

Bishop's Stortford 01279 654555
Edmonton 0208 807 3712

NATURAL HYPNOBIRTHING®

FOR A MORE COMFORTABLE BIRTH

The birth of your baby should be the most amazing
experience of your life, but for many women, it is
one of pain, lack of control and disappointment
HypnoBirthing® can change this.

Let me share it with you, call: **07961 134 099**

www.naturalhypnobirthing.co.uk e: debs@naturalhypnobirthing.co.uk

Certified Practitioner trained at the Institute of HypnoBirthing® Practitioners in 2007

Reflexology and Maternity Reflexology

Stress and tension, back pain, sleep problems, migraine,
digestive disorders, hormonal imbalances, fertility and
pregnancy discomforts can all benefit from reflexology.
Enjoy a relaxing treatment while maximising your well-being

Contact me for information, appointments and gift vouchers

Sally Thorp 01279 812277 or **07740 948910**
sally@sole-reflexions.com



www.babygorgeous.co.uk

BabyGorgeous
unique quality products

- Browse our online shop
- Baby/toddler essentials
- Swaddling bags
- Sleeping bags
- Toys
- Gifts, accessories and much more

FREE delivery in Standed
Just email your enquiry to
info@babygorgeous.co.uk



Some items available in Emily's Flowers, Chapel Hill.
Beautiful Bouquet for Mum and Gorgeous Gift for Baby!

Naturalfamilyhealth.org.uk

Jan Rickwood



Lower Street Clinic 36 Lower St
Stansted Essex CM24 8LP

01279 815907

07889 375200

jan.rickwood@btinternet.com

Homeopathy
Aromatherapy
Baby Massage

Fancy Fingers

Nail and Beauty Studio

10% off

your first treatment with this advert

Visit us on
www.fancyfingers.co.uk



52a Silver Street, Stansted CM24 8HD
Tel 01279 647646

Jo Jo

- ♥ Semi-permanent Eyelash Extensions & Maintenance
- ♥ Eyelash Tinting
- ♥ Eyebrow Tinting
- ♥ CND Shellac Nails
- ♥ Minx Nails

Call for prices
and appointments
in Stansted

01279 647177

07977 847489



**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Our meeting Thursday was very well attended, with Rosalind and Roger Peck, giving a very well presented, informative and researched account of the life of William Douglas Caroe, architect and designer of St John's Church and other buildings in Stansted Mountfitchet. Born just north of Liverpool in 1857, Caroe soon showed he was destined to become an architect, a skilful artist sketching buildings and all their different features. Studying maths at Trinity College Cambridge, where his fascination in geometry would prove invaluable for solving structural problems by scientific means. In 1880, Caroe was working for John Pearson, one of the most important church architects of the 19th century. He was profoundly influenced by him, particularly in his approach to church restoration and the planning of new churches, gaining first hand experience in the construction of Truro Cathedral. Four years on, Caroe was confident enough to set up his own practice, and it was at this time that he started his work in and around Stansted. James Blyth of Wood House, commissioned Caroe to upgrade his home set back off Silver Street, as it was not large or grand enough. Caroe designed Blythwood House complete with cupola, elaborate chimneys and Caroe's hallmark gables, it became an impressive building. Clearly pleased, Blyth then commissioned a Dairy, the upper for social occasions and the semi-basement lined with marble served with spring water for the production of a superior brand of butter. Unfortunately Blythwood House was destroyed by fire the year after the death of James in 1925. The present Blythwood House was built in 1927 by Robinson's Builders, using some of the original timberwork, which is still intact. Blyth's younger brother Henry also moved to Stansted and like his brother employed Caroe to improve Croft House and design a new stable block which was erected in 1886, a very imaginative design which is unrecognisable in this present day.

Caroe's most enduring legacy to Stansted is St John's Church. In 1887 after many years of discussion, it was agreed to build a church using Caroe. Finances were arranged from



many sources including the Pulteney family who gave the site at Chapel Hill, as well as a large contribution; the Blyth family; and many events being carried out throughout the village to raise the £5000 needed. The first phase was completed in 1889, with more money needed to complete the tower, which again was mainly donated by the Pulteneys. Caroe used locally sourced bricks from Birchanger

and dressings of cream stone from several quarries further afield, and finally the church was completed in 1895. This picture shows the proposed interior of St John's, designed by Caroe, which did not happen due to costs.

Also in 1895 Caroe, still in his 30s, became President of the Prestigious Architectural Association. Also the Church Commissioners appointed him architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, going on to design and create buildings and work at Pembroke College, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners building in London, Butley Priory in Suffolk, Cardiff University, City Hall, Law Courts and Welsh Museum, writing in 1907 to his sister of 100 projects being carried out at his practice. In 1938 Caroe died in Kyrenia, northern Cyprus, where he spent the last years of his life, leaving us with many imaginative works in Gothic Revival, bridging the Arts and Crafts movement and Edwardian Baroque.

Future meetings at 8.00pm in the Day Centre

1st December Christmas Special with 'unknown content'.
January 5th William Tyler talks about Winston Churchill.
All are welcome.

Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177



Spangles Childrens' Centre would like to send a big thank-you to everyone who sent donations for our family in need appeal. The Stansted family, although still in need of many things to equip their new house, are very grateful for your kindness and generosity. We would also like to thank everyone who took part in the Pink Breast Cancer Appeal days and are pleased to send a donation of £30.00 for this very good cause helping combat a distressful disease which touches the lives of so many of us. Last but by no means least, we sent a donation of £10.00 to The Royal British Legion to help fund their welfare work. A small wooden cross inscribed with the tribute, "With grateful thanks - Spangles", has been planted on Plot 82 in the field of Remembrance in Royal Wootton Bassett, the town made famous for its respectful repatriations of service men and women killed in Afghanistan. We thank you for your support.

We hope you all have a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2012. You will find our new timetable on the website www.spangleschildrenscentre.org or call 812348 for information.

Debs Warwick



**STANSTED
BOWLING
CLUB**

Dates for your winter diaries:

Saturday 31st December – New Year's Eve Celebration from 8.00pm.

Friday 3rd February– Games Night 8.00pm. Bring along your favourite board games for an evening with a difference! All members and their families/guests welcome.

Doreen Scraggs
Tel: 815036

TEE FINANCIAL

For All Your Personal Financial Planning Needs



Tee Financial is excellently placed to provide comprehensive professional advice on all personal financial planning matters, specialising in retirement planning, trust and portfolio management, care fees and equity release.

For an initial no-obligation meeting, please contact Kersi Deboo on 01279 713390 or kersid@teefinancial.com

Rutland House, 47 Dane Street, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 3BT

Tel: 01279 658304 Fax: 01279 757672

www.teefinancial.com



Tee Financial plc is a firm of Independent Financial Advisers and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority

Greenways Financial Planning

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS

An Authorised Representative of Sesame Ltd. which is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Services Authority



Professional friendly advice
on



Investments ~ Pensions ~ Mortgages
Life Assurance ~ Critical Illness
Income Protection ~ Annuities
Estate Planning ~ Long Term Care

David Turner Cert PFS CeMap
Principal

'Greenways' Park Rd Elsenham CM22 6DF

Tel/Fax 01279 816622

e-mail dturner@greenways-financial-planning.co.uk

CHIMNEYS
Guest House



Exceptional standard of accommodation

ETB 4 Diamond Rating with Silver Award

All guest rooms have ensuite facilities

Free WiFi in all rooms

Open All Year

Iain & Selina Rankin
Chimneys

44 Lower Street, Stansted,
Essex CM24 8LR

Tel: 01279 813388

Email: info@chimneysguesthouse.co.uk

Web: www.chimneysguesthouse.co.uk

HOME

SWEET

HOME

Keep your home clean
with
Country's Sparkle

You will receive a
passionate clean,
accompanied by:

- ✓ Honesty
- ✓ Reliability
- ✓ Friendliness

Please call Sue on
07879 811878

Registered and Insured



RAINBOW

PRE-SCHOOL

(STANSTED)

Registered Charity No. 1107560

Peter Kirk Centre

St John's Road

Stansted CM24 8JP

www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

Welcome Children
Aged 2½ to rising 5's

Experienced Friendly Staff

'A happy place to learn'

'The children engage in a good
range of purposeful learning and
play activities' (OFSTED)

For further information
please call 01279 814242

DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

Independent Family Funeral Directors
& Monumental Masons

24 hour Family Careline

For help, advice and assistance, please telephone:

79/81 South Street
Bishop's Stortford
(01279) 655477

3 Bullfields
Sawbridgeworth
(01279) 722476

146 High Street
Epping
(01992) 560890

Wych Elm
Harlow
(01279) 426990

Haslers Lane
Great Dunmow
(01371) 874518

Shire Hill
Saffron Walden
(01799) 523314



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

www.drobinson.co.uk



D. C. Poulton & Sons

Funeral Directors and Memorial Masons



The Traditional
Funeral Directors
Caring for families
for over 120 years

With over 70 years combined experience, Mr Howard Poulton, his Funeral Director Peter Wright and their team of funeral professionals are available to assist you with your individual requirements giving you peace of mind and confidence that your loved one's funeral will be conducted according to your wishes.

24 hour service

STANSTED

2 Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex CM24 8AG

01279 813219



ONGAR
01277 366009

BISHOP'S STORTFORD
01279 460055

EPPING
01992 572609

www.dcpoulton.co.uk

'STARS IN THEIR EYES' NIGHT AT THE COCK

At the 'Stars in their Eyes' night held on Friday 28th October, the kitchen and bar staff each performed a song. Some of the artists were as follows:

Paul Salmon (Landlord) performed as Robbie Williams singing 'Angels'
John Felts (Manager) performed as Freddie Mercury singing 'I Want to Break Free'
Noreen Felts (Head Chef) performed as Debbie Harry singing 'Heart of Glass'
Angie Gatland (Cook) performed as Amy Winehouse singing 'Valerie'

In addition to the staff, the customers also took part, and in all we raised £358 for the charity 'Wear it Pink 2011' - our best so far, as we support this event every year. We would like to thank all the customers and staff for their support for a fantastic night.

Note for your diary: Friday 9th December 'Elvis Presley' will be performing all his classic songs from 8.30pm. Come along and have a great night.

Please note that we are now serving food at The Cock on Sundays from 12.00pm to 8.00pm.

Paul Salmon
Tel: 812964



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

At the NhW Public Meeting on 26th October, PCSO Kelly Roberts gave an update on police work in the village. This update was fully comprehensive and points were raised and discussed. All the new NhW reflective signs are now in place and a new noticeboard has been erected at the top of the footpath joining Stoney Common and Forest Hall. Co-ordinators and deliverers of the Observer magazine are continuing to cover the village well, but we still have to find someone to deliver the magazine in Burton End. If anyone is able to do this please let me know and it would be greatly appreciated. The website continues to operate well thanks to the dedicated input of Richard Portway. We need someone from the village to attend the NAP meetings, to represent the NhW. These meetings take place every six weeks. If anyone would like to know more about NAP and would be able to give up some spare time to do this please let me know. At our meeting on 25th May, due to a request by a member of the public at that meeting, it was voted to hold two meetings per year in order to keep the public updated with NhW matters; but due to the fact that only nine members of the public attended the October meeting (maybe due to the darker evenings) it was voted unanimously to have just the one meeting in the Spring, with area co-ordinators' meetings when necessary to keep the work of NhW updated and running. The full minutes of the meeting can be found on our website: www.stanstednhw.org.uk and we hope to see as many members of the public at our next meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30th May 2012 in Stansted Free Church Hall.

Cllr. Valerie Trundle
Tel: 813433

LOOK GOOD – FEEL GREAT!

How to create the perfect smoky eye

My favourite party make-up is undoubtedly the smoky eye. It is a classic, sultry look and needs a lot less maintenance than a bold lipstick. To create smoky eyes follow these easy steps:

1. First apply a light base to the lid to ensure your make-up stays put all night - you can purchase specific eye shadow primer, or just use a nude eye shadow.
2. Use a dark kohl pencil to line the inside rim and top lid of the eye - fairer complexions should steer clear of black which can be ageing and harsh and use a grey or brown pencil instead for a slightly softer look. Don't be scared about making the line too thick - smoky eyes are all about drama! Now take the line back under the eye making it stronger and thicker on the outside corner to create a wide eye effect.



3. Pat a dark eye shadow into the upper lid and over the liner to give the colour staying power, before blending with a slightly softer colour, winging the shadow out, and taking under the eye. You can introduce colour to perhaps match your outfit or your colouring. Remember to keep using your eye shadow brush to blend.
4. Once you have built up the level of intensity you desire re-apply your liner to really define your eyes and apply some concealer over dark circles. This will really open your eyes. Define your eyebrows and put a little bit of highlighter on the brow bone.
5. Next load up the mascara adding a few coats to enhance the look even more.

And there you have it – my perfect smoky eye. As Cleopatra (the original smoky eye wearer) understood – a slick of kohl draws someone's gaze to your own, and helps keep it there. In my eyes – the perfect recipe for a great party!

Liz Willetts
Style Me Beautiful
Tel: 813413

THE GIRLS

There's been a great deal of interest in the photograph of 'The Girls' printed in last month's 'Link'. Thank you to all who have been in touch with relevant information. I hope to be able to 'piece together the jigsaw' ready for February's issue.

Editor



STEVE HALL
GARDEN SERVICES

CALL FOR HELP IN YOUR GARDEN

Tel **01279 817739**
Mobile **07778 049063**



THE SECRET GARDENER
www.thesecretgardener.net
Email: scottyduncan@gmail.com



- ✓ **GARDEN DESIGN**
- ✓ **CONSTRUCTION**
- ✓ **MAINTENANCE**

Friendly service ~ No job too large or small
Call Scott on 01279 899005 or 07968 121016
for a free consultation
References available - fully insured

N W Brown Landscapes

All aspects of landscaping undertaken including fencing, paving, turfing, pruning & hedge cutting

Nigel Brown
07917 611945 *RHS Qualified*
01279 507255 *Registered waste carrier*

Gardening Services & So Much More...

- **Most Aspects of Garden Work**
- **Grass Cutting**
- **Pressure Washing**
- **Letter Writing / Proof Reading**
- **Any tasks considered – try me!**

No job too small, call me today.
GILL OWEN : 07903 375225 or 01279 814616

Ugley Village Hall

With two halls, ample parking, facilities for the disabled and competitive rates, Ugley Village Hall on the B1383 (Cambridge Road), is available for hire throughout the year for children's parties, adult parties (over 25s), functions, clubs, classes and social meetings.

For bookings or further information please contact Susan Bone
Tel: 01279 814052/Email: ugleyvillagehall@gmail.com



- * *Qualified*
- * *Insured*
- * *Council Approved*
- * *All Aspects of Tree work Undertaken*
- * *All works completed to BS3998*

Uppercut Trees

At Uppercut Trees we pride ourselves on our local professional service. We deliver high standards of work in all aspects of tree and hedge care, from aesthetics to safety, conservation and ecology. Please contact us for advice or a free no-obligation quotation today!

Mobile 07703 308232 Office 01279 812553
www.uppercuttrees.co.uk

THE
POCKNELL FOOD & CATERING CO



Pocknell Food can cater for almost any occasion. Whether it be at a venue or in your own home we can offer a flexible high quality service.

Please call to discuss your event or visit
www.pocknellfood.co.uk

01279 816 215 or 07875 391 701
email: olly@pocknellfood.co.uk



BED & BREAKFAST

Comfortable family house in Birchanger

Tel: 01279 815012
Mob: 07714 819040
www.harrisons33bb.plus.com
Email: annieadams@harrisons33bb.plus.com

All rooms have blackout blinds, beverage trays, toiletries, LCD Freeview TV/DVD & thermostatically controlled radiators

PAR Bookkeeping Services
NEED HELP WITH PAPERWORK?

A local, friendly and professional service to help with all your accounting needs.
VAT Returns, Payroll Bureau
Financial Accounts.



For further information please call 07907 115765 or Email: info@parbookkeeping.com

www.parbookkeeping.com

FAMILY NEWS
13 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AB

Wide Range of NEWSPAPERS and MAGAZINES
GET IT DELIVERED AT YOUR DOOR STEP

Foreign Language Newspapers and Magazines
(Irish, Spanish, Polish, German, Italian etc) also available

We deliver 7 days a week

Please call us for more information on 813485

OPEN: Mon - Sat 5am - 5.30pm; Sun 5am - 1.30pm



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

(www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk)

November's Meeting:

Our speaker, Mrs Hilary Thomas, opened her talk entitled 'Right Plant – Right Place' by asking members "Have you ever been to a Garden Centre and just bought a plant to fill a gap or been tempted to buy a plant just because it was different – then on getting home, planted it in that gap and wondered months later why it's not doing so well???" Yes, most people are guilty of doing this! However with a little investigation either before buying or planting, gardeners can look forward to enjoying their purchases without the worry of "It looks as though it's going to die". Gardeners can give plants a 'good start' by checking:

- (1) Position - sun, shade or a bit of both - what suits the plant best as opposed to 'just filling the gap';
- (2) Aspect - North, South, East or West facing;
- (3) Soil - heavy clay or light sand or somewhere in-between (It is worth buying a ph test kit and checking your garden. This area tends to be clay soil so plants/shrubs which prefer ericaceous soil are best grown in pots.);
- (4) Drainage - free draining to bog conditions;
- (5) Country of origin - checking this feature is often overlooked but it can give you clues as to the type of conditions the plants grow naturally in – eg a plant originating from the hot dry Savannah would not be happy growing in a damp, shaded woodland garden. Investing in a good photographic encyclopaedia is recommended - the RHS and Reader's Digest produce very informative books. Mrs Thomas explained that she had recently moved from Hertfordshire (clay garden soil) to the borders of Suffolk/Cambridgeshire where she was now gardening on the complete opposite - a very free-draining sandy soil. She admitted that even to a seasoned gardener this is a challenge and that she was "having to re-think" what to grow in her garden completely. Mrs Thomas advised that you cannot change your type of soil, but you can improve it. Sourcing a supply of/or producing your own compost/humus and then mulching your garden regularly is recommended for whatever soil type you have. Members were then shown a selection of photographs of gardens from around the country showing various planting schemes to complement the differing conditions. A visit to Beth Chatto's garden was recommended as over the years she has planted her garden to suit her land and has both a drought and a bog garden, with woodland walks and open sunny borders. A motto to remember: if it doesn't thrive - it won't survive – so do your homework first!

Members' Competition

Congratulations to Mrs Dorothy Harrison who won the 'A stem of autumn berries or fruit' competition. The next competition is on 1st February - 'A photograph of water in the garden'. One entry per person.

7th December Meeting: Members' Bring and Share Christmas Party, 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre

Dates for your new 2012 Diaries!!!

Please Note – There is no meeting in January 2012.
Wednesday, 1st February 'The Yellow Book - My Story' by Ms Helen Riches

Saturday 25th February - Jumble Sale at St John's Church Hall. Doors open 11.00am. If you are having a post-Christmas tidy up/sort out please keep your jumble/bric-a-brac etc for us - please call Linda Gurr on 816250 or leave a message on contact link www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk.

On behalf of the Mountfitchet Garden Club, may I take this opportunity to wish all the readers and editorial staff of the 'Link' magazine ... A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful 2012.

Maralyn Harris



Our Holiday Club has been a great success in 2011 and there is no doubt that the parents want us to continue in 2012. At half-term we took 27 children to Chessington World of Adventure. This was the biggest group we have ever taken out. By the end of the year we will have spent almost £8,000 on 20 trips so, even though the parents contribute, this is a big financial commitment and we are extremely grateful to the many individuals and organisations that encourage us with generous support. The second highlight of the year is our Youth Club. Ten teenagers attend regularly so we are more or less full. One or two people will join us each year as they reach their teens so we are confident that the group will create friendships that will survive for many years. The club leader, who is only 23, has a great relationship with the members and their parents and we hope will stay with the young people as they develop. There have been lots of adventurous activities. In October there was an encounter with animals in The Zoo that Visits You.



Our Special Needs Nursery is now open three days a week offering 15 hours of one-to-one care. The nursery has 40 years of experience of caring for children with special needs and is well equipped with facilities and equipment. We follow the same Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum as a mainstream nursery but all our staff are experienced with special needs and above all we provide one-to-one support to care for and stimulate the children. Christmas is special at Grove Cottage. We are looking forward to lots of Christmas parties and special outings. If you haven't already done so, look on You Tube at 'Grove Cottage a happy place'.

David Scott
Tel: 656085

Get the most out of life
Clinical Hypnotherapy

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy

One session help with
smoking therapy
(plus support)
Weight & Eating
Confidence ~ Exams
Stress ~ Anxiety
Phobias ~ OCDs
Irritable Bowel Syndrome
Relationships
and much more

Glynis Cheers

MA, CIPD, DPM, BSCH,
Diploma Clinical Hypnosis

01279 812165

threecheers@btinternet.com

**Stansted
Psychotherapy**

*10 years of serving our
community*

Resolve unhelpful issues,
feelings & behaviours

Develop your potential

Counselling & Psychotherapy

Life Coaching & Skills Training

Principal: Sian Lloyd

UKCP Registered Psychotherapist &
NLP/PTCA Recognised Supervisor

Tel: 01279 817976

sian@stanstedpsychotherapy.com

*Referrals welcome from health
professionals and private individuals*

**HEARING HELP
UTTLESFORD**

FREE HELP

for problems with
NHS Hearing Aids

at

Stansted Day Centre

2 - 4 pm

on the last Tuesday
of every month

For more information ring

01799 599790

(9 am - 5 pm)

Registered Charity No. 289280

ESSENTIAL GEM'S



Mobile beauty therapy by Gemma Wright

All of your beauty needs in the
comfort of your own home:

✓ Waxing, Tinting, Manicures and
Pedicures, Massage, Facials...

✓ Fully Qualified, Fully Insured

Plus distributor of:

Bare Minerals 100% natural make up
and MD Formulations Skincare



Call to arrange an appointment
07921 522380

CJ FITNESS

personal training and nutrition

*Personal training available at your
home for all ages and fitness levels*

- Fully Qualified Personal Trainer
- One to One Personal Training
- Couple & Small Group Sessions
- Pre / Post Natal Specialist
- Nutrition and Dietary Planning
- Bride to be Fitness Packages
- Qualified First Aider

If you're looking to lose weight, tone up
or get in shape for a special occasion,
call Claire to arrange a free consultation.

Call Claire 07740 720 036

Email info@cjfitness.co.uk

*For £5 off your first session just
mention where you saw this advert*



- Colour Analysis
- Style Consultations
- Personal Shopping
- Manicures / Pedicures
- Spray Tanning
- Eyelash Extensions
- Waxing
- Bridal Make-Up

**Appointments 7 days a week
including evenings
Parking available**

*Trained by Colour Me Beautiful and
London School of Beauty and Make-Up*

Tel: 01279 813413 or 07745 639554

Email: liz@stylemebeautiful.co.uk

Web: www.stylemebeautiful.co.uk



Deb's Dog Walking!

~ I CAN SOLVE YOUR PET CARE PROBLEMS ~

Dog Walking & Domestic Pet Care

Professional & fully insured

Prices, Services & References available online at: www.debsdogs.co.uk

Call me for a chat

Deborah Hibbert

M: 07842 125503 H: 01279 647309

- ✓ Sleep Overs
- ✓ Home Visits / Vet Visits
- ✓ General Everyday Care From Someone Local You Can Trust!





Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Ian Kirby is a director of Talk-Tourism, an agency service for London, which he created after becoming a City Guide in 2003, to bring together the expertise of the many businesses that work in the tourism and hospitality sector. He came to speak to us about the forthcoming 2012 Olympic Games, which he is very passionate about, giving us a history of the Games that have been held in this country. London is the first city to host the summer Games three times, the first being in 1908 at White City, which was built for this in 18 months, for the sum of £44,000. Apparently the ladies' gymnastics caused quite a stir as they dared to wear skirts above their knees and Maud Allen, a notorious exotic dancer (and possibly mistress of the King) appeared in the Arena to sell tickets. Unlike today people were not clamouring to attend. Britain triumphed by winning more gold medals than America, who left our shores very disgruntled. The second in 1948, of which I have strong memories, living close to Wembley Stadium at that time, were labelled the Austerity Games. Rationing was still in force so that supplies and money came from the Commonwealth. It hailed the first outside television broadcasts and local schools were used to house the athletes. Stoke Mandeville Hospital hosted a games, thus sowing the seed for the Paralympics. Essex had a training Camp at Butlins, Clacton for British athletes, where as part of the uniform, all men were presented with Y-fronts! These Games produced some amazing athletes including Fanny Blankers-Koen who won four gold medals and was later declared Female Athlete of the Century.

The 2012 Games is bringing much development to Stratford, East London and 540 acres of industrial land has been regenerated. Good rail links have been created and everything has been incredibly well planned and produced on time and in budget. The main Stadium has 80,000 seats, the AquaticCentre 17,500 and the Velodrome 60,000. The Olympic torch has been designed to represent the 8,000 people who will bear it. The new shopping centre is the biggest in Europe and it is hoped that visitors will flock there and spend their money. Ian Kirby is incredibly enthusiastic about the 2012 Games and passed his enthusiasm on to us - we especially liked him because he said our rendering of 'Jerusalem' was the best he had heard when visiting WIs!



Nineteen of us spent a really good day learning new crafts, which included card making and pyrography (burning designs into wood and leather). We made a wooden coaster

and a leather bookmark using the special heated tool without burning each other. We also made a Christmas wreath using wire coathangers and a roll of plastic bin-liners - the result is much better than it sounds!

We are having a 'bring and share' evening in December with Ray Spiller as our entertainer for the evening. He has every hit record from the '60s onward and with a fund of stories guarantees a good night out. January too promises to be an evening with a difference. Vic Botteril's talk is entitled 'Who Killed the Baroness - a murder mystery evening'. Come along and find out and join us for the start of our New Year in St John's Hall, at 7.45pm on 8th December and 12th January.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The entertainers at our last meeting were our very own Marion Pretty and Judy Colliver, Judy being no stranger to the readers of this magazine as she is President of Stansted WI. The afternoon intriguingly entitled 'Bits and Bobs' began with Kipling's 'The Glory of the Garden' and included Joyce Grenfell's amusing version of 'Come into the garden Maud'. In fact Joyce was a member of Cliveden WI. Pam Ayres was also represented in two poems: 'Oh no I got a cold' and 'They should have asked my husband', their sentiments obviously striking a familiar note with some of our members! Former poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman's 'Blame the Vicar' was also included in the varied programme, as was a very clever piece by Charlotte Mitchell entitled 'Just in case', its subject being the dilemma of what to pack for a short holiday just in case! Judy read an amusing item written some years ago by Rita Humphries, a lady who was very active in our local community and I am sure that many of our readers will remember the miniature dolls in period costume that she lovingly and very cleverly created. The final readings included a section entitled 'Did I read this right?', being a collection of amusing signs. Their very entertaining 'Bits and Bobs' ended with an interesting London Landmarks quiz. A most enjoyable and entertaining afternoon ended with a tea, the centrepiece of which was a beautiful birthday cake made by our President, Mrs Dorothy Wallace and presented to one of our members who had celebrated a special birthday in October. Our December meeting, the festive finale, will be held in Ugley Village Hall at 2.00pm on Wednesday 7th December when we will be entertained by the Nazeing handbell ringers. If this appeals to you why not come and join us? You would be very welcome.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

10.00am-12 noon

Ugley Village Hall

Saturday 17th December

for all your Christmas goodies

and Saturday 21st January 2012

Index to Advertisers

	Page		Page		
Animal Care	Debs Dogs	38	Household Furnishings	Easy Chair Sofa Company	BC
	Mercer & Hughes	BC		Fabrications	24
	Stansted Dogs Pet Services	BC		Kate Harrison	24
Art and Craft	Millway Stationery	10	Ken Carpet Fitter	24	
	Audio Visual	A Better Aerial	8	Stansted Carpets	2
Services	Stortford Audio	10	Stort Blinds	FC	
	Ballet	Graham School of Dance	16	Household Services	A&M Collins Roofing
Car Services	Mitchell School of Dance	16	Do-It-4U	18	
	D Bonney & Sons	18	D T Bedroom Design	FC	
	David Nunn's Garag	18	Fairweather Windows	FC	
Cleaning	Cooks Oven Cleaning	8	Finch and Son	BC	
	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	8	Gillson Carpentry & Joinery	28	
	Intense Cleaning	8	Herts & Essex Window Doctor	24	
	Oven Bright	8	N & S Installations	12	
Community & Care	Carers UK	32	Nouvelle Carpentry & Building	18	
	Hearing Help	38	Pest Control	18	
	Helpline	32	Painting & Decorating	Ada Decorating	FC
	Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club	10	Brown's Painting & Decorating	24	
	Uttlesford Carers Support Group	26	JP Tiling	28	
	Ugley Village Hall (for hire)	36	Lesley Anne (Decorating)	24	
Computing	Alan Horsley (Computer Repairs)	8	Perfect Plastering	12	
	Lan One (Accessories & Repairs)	26	Ray Morton (Decorating)	32	
	TCS (Set Up & Repairs)	26	Shutes Painting & Decorating	16	
Education	Adult Community Learning	26	T F Plastering	12	
	Kiddy Cook	26	Personal Services	Bonne Santé (Beauty)	BC
	High House Montessori Nursery	26	Cambridge Weight Plan	8	
	Rainbow Pre-School	34	Essential Gems	38	
	St Nicholas School	26	Fancy Fingers (Beauty)	32	
	Tuition	8	Glynis Cheers (Hypnotherapy)	38	
Electrical	Albury Electrical Services	28	R Handford (Chiropody)	10	
	A&I Electrical	16	Natural Hypnobirthing	32	
	Ethical Electrical	28	Julie Golden (Chiropody)	32	
	Stansted Electric	28	Jo Jo (Beauty)	32	
Financial & Legal	Greenways Financial Planning	34	Lino Thomas (Hairdressing)	10	
	Mansell & Co	BC	Lola Jones Executive Assistance	24	
	PAR Bookkeeping Services	36	Lower Street Clinic	6	
	Tee Financial	34	Jan Rickwood (Baby Massage)	32	
Food & Lodging	Chimneys Guest House	34	Stansted Chiropractic	6	
	Eddie Ho Fish & Chips	8	Sole Reflexions (Reflexology)	32	
	Pocknell Food Co	36	Stansted Psychotherapy	38	
	The Cock (Stansted)	BC	Style Me Beautiful	38	
	The Dog & Duck	BC	Williams (Osteopath)	6	
	33 Harrison's B & B	36	What'sa name's (Hairdressing)	BC	
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	34	Pilates	Back to Basics (Pilates)	6
	J Day & Son	32	Tone Pilates	6	
	D C Poulton & Sons	34	Photography	Chris Campbell Photography	28
Garden Supplies, Services & Floral	N W Brown (Landscapes)	36	Printing	Copyzone	24
	Crystal Clear Ponds	16	Property Services	Bareham Overy (Architects)	12
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	BC	Chris Osborn (Brickwork)	18	
	Ian Gill Sculpture	16	Churchills General Builders	12	
	Steve Hall Garden Services	36	DJS Building Services	12	
	J R Johnston (Trees)	32	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	12	
	Mayfair Ponds	FC	Jason Bagge Architecture	12	
	Gill Owen (Gardening Services)	36	David Fortune (Builder)	BC	
	The Secret Gardener	36	Persimmon Homes	10	
	Uppercut Trees	36	Unique Construction	12	
	Heating & Plumbing	Harpers Plumbing & Heating	BC	Westwood Building & Construction	18
	JDW Gas Heating Specialist	16	A C Wright Building Contractors	12	
Jones & Co (Plumbing)	28	Retailers	Babygorgeous	32	
Newman's Home Services	28	Family News	36		
Orion Heating	8	John Wilson Jeweller	24		
Stansted Gas Services	28	Sport & Fitness	CJ Fitness Academy	38	
A T Plumbing	28	Will Writing	Ruggerbugs	BC	
			Herts & Essex Wills	8	
			The Will Practice	8	

Mansell & Co. Est. 1970

Chartered Certified Accountants, Registered Auditors

All aspects of accounts, audit and taxation

We are an established firm offering a cost-effective and professional service to businesses of all sizes, both start-ups and existing businesses changing advisor

Please contact us for a free consultation, quoting "Link"

Mark Williams FCCA or Jeremy Fozzard FCCA

5 Ducketts Wharf, South Street, Bishops Stortford CM23 3AR



01279 658499

info@mansellandco.org



WHAT'SA NAME'S

UNISEX HAIR SALON

- Haircutting and Restyling
- Colouring
- Perming
- Children Welcome
- 20% Discount for Senior Citizens
(weekdays only)

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Friday - 9.00am to 6.00pm

Saturday - 8.30am to 4.30pm

01279 817899

1 Lower Street Stansted CM24 8LN

DOG
EAT

Stansted Dogs Pet Services



www.stansteddogs.co.uk

- Dog walking
- Sleepovers
- Day care
- Puppy socialising & care
- Feed chickens
- Collect eggs

Other pet services such as feeding and caring for Cats, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Fish etc.

Please contact Linda on

01279 812008

07786 253610

linda@stansteddogs.co.uk



A & M COLLINS ROOFING

Guaranteed Workmanship



- SLATING • TILING • LEADWORK •
- ZINCWORK • GUTTERING • FLAT ROOFS •
- REPAIRS • UPVC FASCIAS & GUTTERS •

Tel/Fax: 01279 816491 Mobile: 07956 873230

35 Gilbey Crescent Stansted CM24 8DT

Email: axmcollins@talktalk.net

www.roofer-essex.com

DAVID FORTUNE MASTER BUILDER

For a free quotation please call
01279 816883 or 07576 753811

All aspects of building work undertaken

Easy Chair & Sofa Co

The Leading Seating Specialist



T: 01279 465863

E: enquiries@easychaircompany.co.uk

W: www.easychaircompany.co.uk

34 Twyford Business Centre, London Road,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 3YT

Trade in your old chair or sofa

Save up to £300 on your new chair or sofa when you trade in your old one – whatever the condition.



BONNE SANTÉ STANSTED
BEAUTY SALON & LASER CLINIC
TEL: 01279 899965

- ❖ Waxing, Manicures, Pedicures, Acrylic Nails
- ❖ CACI Non-Surgical Face Lift and Facials
- ❖ Laser Hair and Tattoo Removal
- ❖ Massage (including the use of hot stones)
- ❖ GELeration no chip, long lasting nail vanish

Open daytime and evenings by appointment
64 Bentfield Road, Stansted CM24 8HP

FINCH & SON

**KITCHENS
BATHROOMS · BEDROOMS
PLUMBING · CARPENTRY
SMALL BUILDING WORKS
DECORATING · TILING**

Paul Finch (BEng)
07981 907 624 finchandson@gmail.com

Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgery



Saffron Walden
Tel 01799 522082 / 521406
Devon Lodge,
14 Radwinter Road,
Saffron Walden,
Essex, CB11 3JB

Great Dunmow
Tel. 01371 872836
49 The Causeway,
Great Dunmow,
Essex,
CM6 2AB

Stansted Mountfitchet
Tel 01279 813780
80 Cambridge Road,
Stansted,
Essex,
CM24 8DA

www.mercerandhughes.co.uk



- FULLY EQUIPPED HOSPITAL - ULTRASOUND - ENDOSCOPE -
- DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHIC FACILITIES - FREE NURSE CLINICS - IN-HOUSE LABORATORY -
- LARGE ANIMAL AND EQUINE WORK - NURSE ON SITE 24 HOURS -
IN-HOUSE 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE



Heating & Plumbing Ltd
www.harpersplumbing.co.uk

All Plumbing, Heating & Gas Repairs
Servicing & Installation
Bathroom & Water Softener Installations
Power Flushing ~ Gas & Oil Specialists
Air & Ground Source Heat Pumps
Solar Hot Water Installations



Tel: 01279 771981 Mob: 07885 597063
Email: nharper114@aol.com

D. Honour & Son (Landscape) Ltd.

Your local Marshalls approved Installer
Brickwork Paving Fencing



Tel: 01279 813160

www.honourlandscape.co.uk

The Old Brickyard, Elsenham Road, Stansted, Essex CM24 8ST



RUGGERBUGS® "HAVE YOU CAUGHT THE BUG YET?"



**INDOOR CLASSES HELD ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY MORNINGS
AT SPANGLES CHILDRENS CENTRE, CM24 8LR
AND ROMEERA LEISURE CENTRE, CM24 8TZ**

THE UK'S PREMIER AWARD
WINNING FUN AND EXCITING
PRE-SCHOOL SPORTS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
FOR CHILDREN FROM
18 MONTHS TO 7 YEARS.

in Partnership with:



A Sure Start Children's Centre

For more information go to
WWW.RUGGERBUGS.CO.UK

or contact us

TEL: 08456 432 462

E-mail: info@ruggerbugs.co.uk

in Association with:



The Dog and Duck

Lunchtime food now available
Wednesdays Pie Night
Thursdays Monthly Quiz Night

Sally & Mark look forward to seeing you soon

58 Lower Street, Stansted

01279 812047



THE COCK

30 Silver Street, Stansted
01279 812964

www.thecockatstansted.co.uk

Pub Lunches & Evening Meals served 7 days a Week
(except Sunday evening)

2 for £12 menu served Mon - Fri 6 - 9 pm

OAP Lunches Mon - Fri 12.00 - 2.30 pm

Cask Ale ~ Lagers ~ Wines

Family Garden ~ Decking Area ~ Fish Night Thursday