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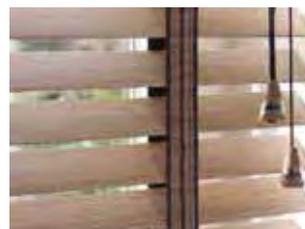
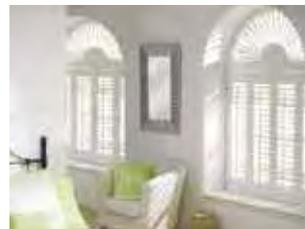
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Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

The Link is produced by Stansted Mountfitchet Magazine Community Interest Company and supported by local churches, businesses and the Parish Council. Each edition is also available online at www.stanstedlink.org.uk.

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by email (*preferred*), up to 300 words in a Word document, please, to:
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk
by **noon** on **11th January** for the February issue
or by hand to:
7 Blythwood Gardens,
Stansted CM24 8HG
by **noon** on **8th January** for the February issue

EDITORIAL



This year will be remembered for the magnificent Magna Carta 500 celebrations. Hopefully 2016 will be marked by the grand opening of our brand new Health Centre, Castle Maltings in Lower Street. Still covered in scaffolding it's quite difficult to see how it's progressing, or how the completed building will fit in with its surroundings - time will tell. The Link production team heaved their usual sigh of relief on completion of this double issue; it's not easy squeezing two months copy into one. Thank you to everyone involved with the magazine, especially contributors and advertisers, without whom there would be no Link, for your hard work and support. Please keep sending in your articles and photos; new ideas, suggestions and comments are also welcomed from anyone in the community. The 2016 Village Diary is in Stansted Library (for opening times see page 21) for local clubs/organisations to note down future events, so please make good use of it. Enjoy the festive season and a 'Link deadline-free December'.

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

ROOM AT THE INN

The Christmas story has captivated people for centuries. Who is not moved by the plight of Mary and Joseph? As fellow humans, we feel for Mary in her fear and discomfort after a long journey and about to give birth, desperately hoping she can find suitable shelter. Equally, we share in Joseph, her husband's sense of desperation, unable to offer comfort and protection to his wife.

Humans, like animals, have needs: food and water, shelter, clothing and sanitation. Above all, humans need dignity. Migrants are no different. Humans have always migrated. Our ancestors made their way across the globe in search of those basic needs and hoping for a better life for their families. In modern times, people's need to migrate is further intensified by war and oppression. Our world is facing a humanitarian crisis and we can no longer look away.

In Matthew's Gospel we hear a more unknown side of the Christmas story which sees Jesus and his family become refugees themselves. It tells how following the birth of Jesus, an angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him to "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod (Mt 2:13-15).

Which one of us would not flee in order to protect ourselves and most importantly our children? So when we look at the refugees on our doorstep, remember that Jesus Christ, in His early life, was also a refugee.

Anna Watkins
St Theresa's Catholic Church



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



STANSTED FREE CHURCH
Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AG
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

St John's

Sunday 13th 9.30 am Christingle and Family Communion
Sunday 20th 9.30am Choral Eucharist
Thursday 24th 3.00pm Children's Christmas Eve Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass (carols 11.00pm)
Friday 25th 9.30am Christmas Day Worship
Sunday 27th 9.30am St John's Day, Patronal Eucharist

Minister

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

St Theresa's

Saturday 19th 3.00pm Celebration of Christmas
Sunday 20th 10.00am Mass
2.00pm Parish Children's service and party
Thursday 24th 6.00pm Family Christmas Eve Mass
10.00pm Vigil Mass (no Midnight Mass)
Friday 25th 10.00am Christmas Day Mass

Lettings

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

Free Church

Sunday 13th 10.30am Carols and Gift Service
Sunday 20th 10.30am Communion
Friday 25th 10.30am Christmas Day Worship
Sunday 27th No service

Preachers for December

6th 10.30am Rev'd Charles Martin
13th 10.30am Carols and Gift Service
20th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion
25th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Christmas Day
27th 10.30am No service

Friends

Sundays 13th, 20th and 27th 10.30am Meeting for Worship

Preachers for January

3rd 10.30am Mike Render
10th 10.30am Rev'd Christine Fowler
17th 10.30am Mary Whittle
24th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Covenant
31st 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH



Festival of Angels and Christmas Trees

A reminder of our annual event on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December 10.00am-5.00pm when village organisations will delight us once more with their shows of imagination and artistic talent. On the Saturday at 3.30pm we have Carols for All, so why not sing with us and share in our mulled wine and mince pies afterwards? On Sunday 13th December at 10.00am is the **Light up a Life** service for St Clare Hospice. All welcome.



Audrey Rodgers
Tel: 812162



SHALOM

Our Christmas party is on Monday 14th December at 7 Blythwood Gardens – bring and share some finger food and a reading, poem or a piece of music. Our 'At Home' on Monday 25th January is at 62 St John's Road. Both meetings are 8.00pm and all are welcome.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



www.stanstedchurches.com

All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
 St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
 Tel: 815243
 Office hours: Mon 9.00am-12 noon Mon,
 Wed, Fri
 Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com
 Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btik.com

Rector: Rev'd Paul Wilkin
 Tel: 812203
 Email: stansted.rector@gmail.com

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

Church Hall Bookings: Simon Wilson
 Tel or text: 07582 856689
 Email: stjohns.hallbookings@gmail.com

Carol Singing in the Village

Come and join in the fun, especially if it's snowy!
 We meet each evening at 6.30pm:



- Saturday 5th December at the Christmas Market in Crafton Green to sing to the shoppers for an hour
- Tuesday 22nd December meet on Bentfield Green where we will sing for a while and then proceed along parts of Longcroft, Loates Pasture and Rainsford Road
- Wednesday 23rd December meet at north side of the junction of Newell Road and Felstead Crescent. We will sing in the courtyard opposite the flats for a while and then proceed along parts of Felstead Crescent, Bentley Drive and Bayford Way ending up back at Newell Road

On 22nd and 23rd December the singing is followed by refreshments around 8.00pm. We welcome more singers - there is no rehearsing, just come along. We also need collectors; this year we will be collecting for the Red Cross Europe Refugee Crisis Appeal. Please support us - thank you!

Mike Dyer Tel: 814059
 Helen Baker Tel: 814865

Celebration of Christmas Saturday 19th December 3.00pm
 Everyone is warmly invited to this special community event of carols and readings in St Theresa's Church, High Lane. Historically, the setting for the Celebration has been St Mary's, but for the last four years it has been at St John's, and St Theresa's Parish is delighted to provide the venue this year. The Celebration will be followed by mulled wine, soft drinks and biscuits to which all are invited. There will be a collection for the Red Cross Europe Refugee Fund. We really look forward to seeing everybody at this lovely community event. See below for details of the choir.

David Morson
 Tel: 850209

Calling All Singers!

Anyone who enjoys singing is most welcome to join the choir which is being formed especially for this occasion. There will be three practices in St Theresa's:
Thursday 3rd and Thursday 10th December 7.30pm-8.45pm
Saturday 19th December 1.30pm
 If you would like to sing, please contact me so I have an idea of numbers. The music is available in advance from me.



Kathy West
 Tel: 816293
 Email: kewest@btinternet.com

Quiz Evening Saturday 16th January 7.00pm for 7.30pm

The quiz, in aid of CTS Funds, is in St John's Hall and quiz-master is David Morson. Everyone is welcome whether in a team or not. Tickets £8 (includes light refreshments) from 814059, 814865, 850209, St John's Office 815243 (Mon, Wed, Fri 9.00am-noon) or on the door. Bring your own drink and glasses.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

- 8.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday

- 9.00am St John's Tots
- There are services of Holy Communion on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Wednesday

- 9.00am Morning Prayer
 - 10.00am Holy Communion
- of the month in Norman Court, Hargrave House and Broome End Nursing Homes.

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

- 5.00pm Evening Prayer

From the Registers

October

Baptisms

- 4th Harry Thomas Marchant-Gear
 Eliza Alexandra Marchant-Raw
- 18th Imogen Grace Pomfrett
- 25th Thomas Barkley Alvin

Funerals

- 9th Ida Grace Hudgell, age 93 - at Parndon Wood
 Cynthia Lilley, age 93 - burial of cremated remains in St Mary's Churchyard
- 14th Wendy Joy Petts, age 41 - at St Mary's
- 21st Elsie May Power - service at St Johns' followed by burial at St Mary's
- 28th Vivian Desmond Jack Hitchings - at St Mary's

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the October draws:

- £100 No 240 – Margaret Trigg
- £ 50 No 131 – Katy Dockerill
- £ 25 No 216 – Paul Tarran

The draws for December, including the second of the year's extra draws for £200, will be held on **Sunday 20th December** - a week early to enable the lucky winners to enjoy their windfalls for Christmas! The following draw is on Sunday 31st January, both in St John's Church following the 9.30am service.

Francine Cope, Tel: 814562



www.stanstedfamilychurch.com

Contact: Howard and Ros Page
Tel: 810813

Email: contactstanstedfam@yahoo.com

Our Christian beliefs are conventional, we are just doing church differently.

We are very pleased to be involved with Messy Church on Sunday 6th December and the Churches Together Celebration of Christmas. Our December @27 meeting (contemporary worship and Bible-based talk/discussion) will be a social, and the following one is on Wednesday 13th January. Please contact us for details of topic and venue if you are interested in coming. A big *thank you* goes out to all of our wonderful volunteers who help at various events and community groups throughout the year. Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a very blessed New Year in 2016!



Ros and Howard Page

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

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

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

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

Meeting for Worship Sunday, 10.30am every week

Light Group 10.30am-11.30am 9th January, 12th March, 14th May
This is a guided meditation for personal enlightenment. You are warmly invited to attend.



SHOE BOXES

The Link copy in date is just before the packing evening so we cannot yet report on the total number of boxes packed, but we have been delighted with the response on our collection mornings, with a steady stream of people bringing us things. Thank you to everyone who has contributed items for the boxes, the many knitters of hats, scarves and puppets, the Tennis Club for the usual mountain of tennis balls and Millway for stationery. Thank you also for the many generous donations of money, which means we should have enough to cover the shipping costs of all our boxes. Look out for an update in the February Link, when we will know to which country our shoe boxes were sent.

Helen Baker Tel: 814865
Catherine Dean Tel: 813579
Eileen Quinn Tel: 812109

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux

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

Priest Father John Garrett

Office Tel: 816889
Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Masses Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 10.00am
Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 7.30pm
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9.30am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

Christmas Shoeboxes

For the last four weeks, our Wednesday Afternoon Seniors' Club has been holding raffles in order to sponsor our Christmas Shoeboxes, whilst the congregation has been busy bringing in lots of items to put in them. This year instead of spending weeks covering old shoeboxes we decided, with a donation from one of our members, to buy them flat packed from Operation Christmas Child which meant much kinder and faster work for arthritic fingers!



We had 100 boxes put together, sellotaped and ready for action in just one afternoon, which left us much more time then to sort out all the goodies to fill them with. In all we filled 88 boxes and, with a few more completed and donated by other parishioners, we were able to send on 91 in total.

Eileen Quinn
Tel: 812109

ST MARY'S ELSENHAM CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Sat 5th and Sun 6th December
10.30am-5.00pm

If anyone wishes to decorate a tree please call Jill on 812397. Entry free (donations welcome). Mulled wine and other refreshments served all day.



Lyn Segar



Stansted Messy Church

3.30 - 5 pm Sun 6th Dec & Sun 31st Jan
St Mary's School, Hampton Rd

Activities ~ Celebration ~ Food

An exciting and informal style of church for families, particularly with children under 12
Older children also welcome - bring an adult!

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch



Huw Johnson Club

CAROL CONCERT

7.30 pm Fri 11th December
St John's Church
Admission Free

All welcome
Followed by Refreshments



www.stanstedchurches.com

Village Carol Singing

You are warmly invited to join us

Sat 5th December 6.30 pm
Meet Christmas Market, Crafton Grn

Tue 22nd December 6.30 pm
Meet Bentfield Green
Finish Rainsford Road

Wed 23rd December 6.30 pm
Meet Newell Road / Felstead Cresc
Finish Newell Road

Followed by refreshments
around 8 pm on Tue & Wed

Singers & collectors welcome

Collecting for
Red Cross Europe Refugee Appeal

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

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

December

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 1 Tue | Stansted is Well Read | Dog & Duck 8 pm |
| 2 Wed | Mountfitchet Seniors
Mountfitchet Garden Club | Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm |
| 3 Thu | Stansted History Society | Day Centre 8 pm |
| 5 Sat & 6 Sun | Christmas Tree Festival | St Mary's Elsenham 10.30 am - 5 pm |
| 5 Sat | Santa Dash for Grove Cottage
Christmas Market
Rotary Santa - Christmas Market
Carol Singing - Christmas Market | Sworders Field 11 am
Crafton Green 10 am - 8 pm
Crafton Green 4.30 - 5.30 pm
Crafton Green 6.30 - 7.30 pm |
| 6 Sun | Messy Church
Skips | St Mary's School 3.30 - 5 pm
Lower Street Car Park 9 am - 1 pm |
| 8 Tue | Christmas Lunch
Dementia Café
Rotary Santa | Day Centre 12 for 12.30 pm
Quaker Meeting Hse 10 am - noon
Foresthall Park 5.30 - 6.30 pm |
| 10 Thu | Stansted U3A
WI | St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
Day Centre 7.45 pm |
| 11 Fri | Huw Johnson Carol Concert | St John's Church 7.30 pm |
| 12 Sat | Family Café Christmas Event
Carols for All
Herts & Soul Concert | Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
St Mary's Church 3.30 pm
St John's Church 7.30 pm |
| 12 Sat & 13 Sun | Festival of Trees & Angels | St Mary's Church 10 am - 5 pm |
| 13 Sun | Light up a Life Service
Herts & Soul Concert
Manuden Singers Concert | St Mary's Church 10 am
St John's Church 5.30 pm
Manuden Church 7.30 pm |
| 14 Mon | Shalom Party | 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm |
| 16 Wed | The Place Christmas Event | Free Church 10 - 11.30 am |
| 19 Sat | Celebration of Christmas | St Theresa's Church 3 pm |
| 22 Tue | Village Carol Singing | Bentfield Green 6.30 - 8 pm |
| 23 Wed | Village Carol Singing | Newell Rd/Felstead Cres 6.30 - 8 pm |

January

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 5 Tue | Stansted Seniors Group
Stansted is Well Read | Day Centre 1.30 - 3.30 pm
Dog & Duck 8 pm |
| 7 Thu | Stansted History Society | Day Centre 8 pm |
| 9 Sat | Christmas Tree Recycling | Lower Street Car Park (time tbc) |
| 11 Mon | Link copy due in today | before 12 noon |
| 14 Thu | WI | Day Centre 7.45 pm |
| 16 Sat | Quiz for Churches Together | St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm |
| 17 Sun & 23 Sat | Family Café | Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am |
| 21 Thu | Stansted U3A | St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm |
| 24 Sun | Music@stansted | St John's Church 3 pm |
| 25 Mon | Shalom At Home | 62 St John's Road 8 pm |
| 29 Fri | Fish and Chip Friday | Day Centre 12.30 pm |
| 31 Sun | Messy Church | St Mary's School 3.30 - 5 pm |



Friends of St Mary's Church

Angels & Christmas Tree Festival

Sat 12th & Sun 13th December
10 am - 5 pm

Carols for All 3.30 pm Sat

St Clare Light up a Life 10 am Sun

Refreshments ~ All Welcome
Entry Free ~ Donations Welcome



COMMUNITY CHOIR

Charity Christmas Concerts

with audience participation

7.30 pm Sat 12th Dec

5.30 pm Sun 13th Dec

St John's Church

Adults £7, Conc £6, under 13s free
Tickets from Chris 07903 009569
Ray 813270 or choir members



3 pm Sun 24th Jan

St John's Church

Ugne Tiskute ~ Viola

Alexandra Vaduva ~ Piano

Includes music by
Bowen ~ Schubert ~ Brahms ~ Chopin

*Tickets adults £15, under 18s free
from Absolute Travel, Chapel Hill;
Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;
Sonia Levy 815282; or at the door*



www.stanstedchurches.com

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 16th January
St John's Hall

Tickets £8 (incl light refreshments) from
814059, 814865, 850209,

St John's Office 815243 (Mon, Wed, Fri
9.00am-noon) or on the door

Bring your own drink and glasses

In aid of Churches Together in Stansted

Quiz Night



Celebration of Christmas

Carols and Readings

3 pm Sat 19th December
St Theresa's Church, High Lane

Collection for
Red Cross Europe Refugee Appeal

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

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Marcel Morelli MSc (Chiro), DC.
And Associates

Registered Doctors of Chiropractic

STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Our 55th Anniversary Evening was a great success and we opened proceedings with both verses of *Jerusalem* accompanied by Marion Dyer. Margaret Chastney, Marion Pretty and Margaret Meadows, our three founder



members, cut the wonderful cake made for us by a former member's daughter, Julie Coy. A toast was made to them and to our WI and its future. Margaret Chastney related memories of being on the very first committee in 1960. Stansted After-

noon Institute gave us a generous donation of £10 to start us off. Sadly they were discontinued some years ago, but several members joined Ugley WI instead. Marion Pretty read some entries from the first Record Book. "Miss Player, a teacher at St Mary's Primary School, convened a meeting to discuss a formation of an Evening WI in Stansted to cater for young mums who were unable to get to an afternoon meeting. It was very popular from the beginning and there was never a problem finding people to serve on the committee or to serve as officers! By 1961 there were almost 100 members with all sorts of classes running and money-raising efforts discussed. These included snow-ball teas, whist drives and, of course, raffles. Dressmaking and handicraft classes were very popular and a Drama Group was formed and would entertain members each year." Margaret Meadows spoke of the babysitting group which was a real boon to members with children. Our entries in the Stansted Carnival always gained a prize.



After a wonderful supper prepared by Julie Beck and her helpers from the Day Centre (thank you Julie), Chris Bishop, retired Manuden Vicar and currently Chaplain at the Airport, sang folk songs and got us joining in the choruses. He told funny stories and jokes in between, leaving me wishing I had heard one of his sermons! I asked him if he was okay being the only man in a roomful of women and he said he was used to it - lucky Chris! Altogether an evening to remember.

At our meeting on 10th December, Cheryl Blighty will be presenting 'Artistry in Cocoa', and on 14th January we have Richard Thomas with 'A Walk with the Admiral'. Meetings are at 7.45pm in the Day Centre, and visitors are welcome.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

The past month has certainly seen some dramatic changes at the Club with the issues surrounding First Team Manager position changing hands three times. This can be very unsettling to the players as it completely disrupts the schedule of fixtures, training and team morale; however the Committee now believe we have a manager who will pull the team together, be better organised on the pitch and will continue to seek out and develop more local talent. With that as his brief we welcome Mark Ashford on board. The Club would also like to thank Dave Roach who again came in to steady the role whilst the transition was made - a true stalwart of the club! December is a particular heavy month for us with consecutive home games on all Saturdays leading up to Christmas; in fact we were scheduled to play on 26th, but this has now been moved to the Holiday Monday 28th. Forthcoming fixtures below, all at 3.00pm

December

5 th vs Clapton	ESL Premier Division
12 th vs Barking	ESL Premier Division
19 th vs London Bari	ESL Premier Division
28 th vs Basildon United	ESL Premier Division

January

2nd vs Greenhouse	ESL Premier Division
30th vs Takeley	ESL Premier Division

On behalf of the Committee and Players we wish all our supporters and Stansted residents our very best wishes this Christmas Festive Season.



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842

Stansted Family Café

www.stanstedfamilycafe

The picture shows one of our autumn-themed crafts from the past few weeks. If you have been to the café over the last few months and have not yet collected your advent calendar, the last few will be available on 28th November.



Our **Christmas Family Café** will be on Saturday 12th December 10.00am-11.30am at the Day Centre, with a wide range of Christmas craft ideas to choose from, suitable for children of all ages. Everyone welcome! There will also be seasonal treats and as usual a great range of coffees and teas, plus hot chocolate and the ever-popular 'babycinos'. If you have never been before, why not come and enjoy a uniquely family-friendly café experience? Everyone welcome - crafts are most suitable for ages 3-11, but younger children are welcome to participate with parental help. See our website for details.



Ros Page
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STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch

Sunday 6th December 3.30pm-5.00pm at St Mary's School
Messy Church returns to Stansted for a second time following its successful introduction in October. This exciting and informal style of church for families has activities, celebration and food, and there is plenty of **FUN!**

We welcome families, particularly those with children aged under 12. However, older children are also welcome as long as they come with an adult. On 6th December we will be celebrating Christmas with a variety of craft activities linked to the theme that we will explore in the celebration. After the celebration comes sandwiches, drinks, cakes, crisps, and fruit. The event is arranged by Churches Together in Stansted and there is no charge. The third Stansted Messy Church will be on **Sunday 31st January**. For more information visit our website, or for general information about Messy Church visit www.messychurch.org.uk.



Marion Dyer Tel: 814059
Richenda Whitehead Tel: 813875
Publicity Team

Email: messychurch@stanstedchurches.com



As part of developing our understanding of people and communities we had a visit from the Stansted Fire Service.



This half term we explored festivals and cultural events, from glitter and powder paints for fireworks to finger-painted petals and tissue paper modelling for our version of Remembrance Day poppies. The children loved making Diwali Rangoli patterns, using their fingers with flour, rice and coloured chalk. They were captivated by a puppet performance of Rama and Sita and tasted Indian foods. They also learnt about Hanukkah and modelled nine-branched menorahs. We are now looking forward to our Nativity. We welcome the children back in the New Year with the much anticipated topic of Dinosaurs which will give us a chance to measure, count and explore our imaginations as we head out on a dinosaur hunt with a colossal surprise at the end! Huge thanks to all who contributed towards our Quiz Night which raised money for new facilities and equipment. For school details contact administrator Jen Munton on 810800 or email: admin@birchangenursery.org.

Nadine Lloyd
Birchanger Nursery Committee

St Mary's C E Foundation Primary School



What a busy half term. For the Foundation Stage topic *Dragons, Princes and Princesses*, the children have been devising questions they would ask if they should happen to bump into royalty, not knowing their surprise treat was yet to come! They could not believe their eyes when two royal visitors arrived in their classroom - the questions then came thick and fast once 'Elsa and Ana' arrived. Many thanks to Mrs Ledain and her colleague from Pixie Dust Parties.

Following our article about our outdoor provision, parents, children and staff came together on 17th October for our pond and allotment clean-up day! Many hours were spent pumping out water from the pond, squelching about in mud, oh, and rehoming some goldfish, which we didn't know we had! Amongst all this drama the hole in the pond lining was eventually found which means we are now in a position to lay a new one and have our wildlife pond up and running again. The allotment area was dug over and the first onion bulbs planted. Everyone worked so hard and we were delighted with what was achieved. Look at the photo gallery on our website to see just how much fun was had! All children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage One enjoyed a cinema trip to Bishop's Stortford in November to see *'Tangled'*. Huge thanks to Stansted station for their patience in the printing of 130 tickets and to Abelio Greater Anglia for putting on extra carriages and staff to help us travel safely. Thank you to those who visited St Mary's to see the school at work during our 'open' sessions this term. Some of the groups were rather large! If any prospective parents have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher
Tel: 812212
Email: admin@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk



STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting is on Tuesday 1st December, when we will be discussing *A Long Walk Home* by Judith Tebbutt. To add some festive spirit we will each wrap a book that we have enjoyed and bring it to swap. Please email me if you would like to come or just turn up, but bring a book if you would like to join in our swap. At our meeting on Tuesday 5th January we will be reporting back on the book swap. Both meetings are 8.00pm at the Dog and Duck.

Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com

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GERARD WILLIAM FROGLEY WRITES

Dear All

If you don't recognise the name, you might recognise me from the not very flattering picture. I'm the old boy who shuffles around the village with the wheelbarrow picking up the litter and emptying the bins. I appreciate that some of you are not that impressed when you see the litter bins in Lower Street overflowing or the dog bins in Cambridge Road filling and starting to 'whiff' a bit. I've always tried to do my best for you, but people don't always appreciate that I can't be in two places at once; so if I had to spend time sweeping up broken glass, some of the 49 bins in the village might have started to overflow before I could get to them.



You may well feel it is time I hung up my litter grabber, parked up my wheelbarrow and let someone younger and more dynamic take on the challenges of the job - in which case you have got your wish! My wife has convinced me that it is the right time to downsize and seek the sun on the south coast. We have found a nice bungalow in Peacehaven which, with a bit of work, will be perfect for our retirement and it is just down the road from where our son and grandchildren live. I have really enjoyed being part of the Stansted community and it has been a great place to live and bring up my family, so I will miss it very much; but I am looking forward to being able to spend more time with my family and pursuing my many hobbies and interests. Please treat whoever takes over from me with the same respect you have shown me over the years. Ah well, you know what they say about the 'new broom sweeping clean' - it probably has never been more appropriate! With very best wishes.



RSPB STORT VALLEY GROUP

www.rspb.org.uk/groups.stortvalley

Tuesday 8th December Christmas Social Evening

A get together for a chat, tea, food and mulled wine plus short presentations from members and some fun things!

Tuesday 12th January Developments in Lee Valley Park

Our speaker is Cath Patrick, Senior Conservation Officer, who will give a brief history of the park and an overview of some of the key sites and the wildlife they are home to. Both meetings are at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre (next to Tesco) entry £2 members, £3.50 visitors.

Sunday 3rd January Walk at Wickham Hall

Meet 11.00 am at Rosie Lea Car Park, Wickham Hall. Starting the year with a local walk and a well-known Tea Room! Free, but donations to Local Group welcome.

Sheila Bowles, Tel: 814973
Email: shandalb@btinternet.com



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Members welcomed back to the Club Barry Kaufmann-Wright, our local naturalist, conservationist, author and photographer, who spoke about *Wildlife in the Garden*. From his collection of over 70,000 slides, a selection showing birds, insects, reptiles and mammals that can be seen in or encouraged into our gardens was chosen. With each slide, members were told about the subject's lifestyle, feeding habits, which plants to grow, any problems the species are encountering and how we can help. Advice was also given on which species, nests, and roosts are protected by law. Many of the photographs were taken in his own garden and members enjoyed the humorous anecdotes of how he got the 'perfect picture'. A lovely selection of cards and his books were available to purchase at the end. Many congratulations to Ann Howarth who won The Members' Green Bowl Photographic Competition, and to Jean Sendall 2nd, and Maralyn Harris 3rd. The title was Autumn - a popular topic - and a lovely selection of photographs of autumnal views and colours were displayed.

To start the build up to the festivities - the meeting on 2nd December will be the Members' Christmas Bring and Share Party. There is **no** meeting in January, so the first meeting of the New Year will be on Wednesday 3rd February when we welcome Michael Perry of Thompson and Morgan talking about *New, Different and Unusual Plants* - so remember to make a note in your new diaries! We meet at the Day Centre, adjacent to the Library and Car Park at the top of Chapel Hill, doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. The Garden Club wishes all Link readers a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144

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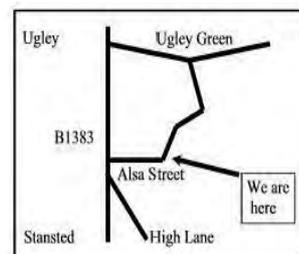
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Caroline Armon-Jones



Christmas Events

We are all getting quite excited about our special Christmas event planned for **Wednesday 16th December**. The Place will be open as usual from 9.30am, with planned activities between 10.00am and 11.30am. There will be seasonal



craftwork including making Christingles, which will become the focus for a short time of reflection on why we celebrate Christmas. This will be followed by fun and games and of course a visit by Father

Christmas! Everyone is welcome, even if you have never been before. There are no age restrictions, so whether you are 1 or 100 please do come and join us. On **Friday 11th December** from 10.30am we shall be decorating the crib and Christmas tree in the church, and we invite anyone, young or old, to help us!

The Place on the Hill is a free drop-in held at and organised by Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, which is open every Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Do come and join us - all ages are welcome. Please note that we will **not** be open on Fridays 25th December and 1st January.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

1ST STANSTED HUSKIES CUBS



Some of you may know that this time last year Cubs in Stansted took a giant leap forward and one pack became two. Thanks to a group of enthusiastic parents who had caught the adventurous scouting bug we were later able to start a second pack and have now been running two packs for a year - Bulldogs on Tuesdays and Huskies on Thursdays. If you like adventures and are aged between 8 and 10½ you will love Cubs - both packs attended the county Mega Camp in the summer attended by over 2000 people. Activities ranged from rifle shooting, canoeing, gyroscoping and light painting. Skydivers closed the ceremony and exhausted but happy Cubs went home after two nights away. September saw Huskies pack go to Phasels Wood on another action-packed camp trying crate stacking and zip wiring amongst other things, and Bulldogs attended the District camp in Skreens Park for more rock climbing, go karting, etc fun.



Over the year we have run a multitude of activities including night hiking, den building in the woods, navigation skills and many others. I am pleased to say the scouting bug is alive and well in Stansted with over 50 Cubs now regularly attending and forming a proud part of the world Scout family of 31 million Scouts. We are about to take our sixers and seconders on a Monopoly Challenge Day in London to get to as many places on our board using as many forms of public transport as possible - another adventure beckons! For more information contact Membership Secretary Angela Madigan email: mickj4@hotmail.com.

Anthea Harrison

Stansted Tennis Club



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Ladies' Nights

Mondays 14th December and 11th January at 7.00pm. All lady members (especially new ones) welcome to play.

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Contacts:

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574. Visit our website for more information.



Chris Hollis

STANSTED VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER



An entertaining sketch (complete with props) from the Free Church in Fairyland



The audience were amazed at the quality of the entertainment!

This year's event was the usual sell – out where those lucky enough to obtain a ticket feasted on fish (or chicken) and chips followed by a choc ice



The after-supper entertainment was great fun and enjoyed by all. Already looking forward to next year - where can we buy a ticket?!!

Quaker Sue and Fran from the Free Church with their unique rendition of Winnie the Pooh



Liz & Kathy from St John's 'In the Office'



Sophie from St Teresa's demonstrated her agile dancing skills

Photographs by Anna Watkins & Alan Wheeler

FRONT COVER COMPETITION

In the tradition of the last couple of years, we have invited local schools to design The Link's Christmas issue cover. This year, St Mary's Primary School took to the task with much enthusiasm. The standard of artwork was particularly high and The Link Committee really struggled to agree on the winning design. Congratulations to Hannah Cunningham and Niamh Madigan, the pupils who worked collaboratively on the winning design – well done girls, we love your Father Christmas! Maple Class produced a stunning bauble picture which looked very professional! Rosie Deane created her idea of a Stansted Mountfitchet Christmas and Aaron Philpott contributed with an imaginative festive design.

Those who came close are printed below.



Maple Class



Rosie Deane



Aaron Philpott

Well done to the winners and the runners up, with thanks to the staff at St Mary's for running the competition.

Anna Nolan



HATFIELD FOREST

Winter provides a particular challenge in Hatfield Forest. The ground is mostly clay, so becomes very easily waterlogged. The paths become very muddy and the ground is easily damaged by lots of people walking over it; we currently welcome half a million visitors every year. This is all very bad news for the Forest, as it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve, so there are special steps we must take to look after it. This means we cannot turn any more precious grassland into hard standing, so can only let vehicles in when we have space.

You can help us care for the forest by considering visiting during the months of May to September, when the ground is drier and all our car parks are open: by keeping to the road and boardwalks, which are easier to walk on; by visiting on a weekday which is quieter. To manage damage to the paths we have closed some to let them recover, and where areas are very badly affected we have restored drainage channels and cut back foliage to allow sunlight and wind to the path surface. We're working with local authorities to ensure that places to walk and visit are part of local planning policies, and exploring options that could allow us to provide additional parking areas or green spaces outside the Forest. We're also investigating areas to create hard paths for walkers whilst protecting the ground from damage. We are thankful for your support whilst we look into ways we can care for the Forest in winter while enabling everyone to enjoy it whenever they wish. It is going to take us a while to get there, so please do bear with us, and feel free to chat to any of our team to discover more.

Fiona Harrower
Visitor Experience Manager
Tel: 0344 800 1895



www.birchangerwoodtrust.org

There are no Christmas trees in Birchanger Wood, however there are a few evergreens which have crept in over the years, the most obvious one being the holly which provides dense cover and good nesting opportunities for birds, and its deep, dry leaf litter can be used by hedgehogs and small mammals for hibernation. The flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects during the spring and summer and the leaves are food for caterpillars of the holly blue butterfly and various moths. In autumn and winter the berries are a vital source of food for birds, and are eaten by small mammals such as wood mice and dormice although I am not aware of any dormice in the wood. The leaves are a winter source of food for deer.

Holly wood is the whitest of all woods, and is heavy, hard and finely grained. It can be stained and polished and is used to make furniture such as walking sticks or in engraving work. Holly wood also makes good firewood and burns with a strong heat. Holly branches are used to decorate homes and make wreaths at Christmas. The rest of our trees will be dormant, winter being the season of bare trees and hibernating animals, but woods are still full of life. This is a great time to watch and listen for our resident woodland birds such as jays, blackbirds, wrens and long-tailed tits amongst others. Don't forget to look down at your feet where there are muddy patches around the pond or simply on the paths if it has snowed, and notice the prints of bird feet, squirrels, muntjac deer, dog or cats. Who has been creeping around before you? Buy your firewood from the Compound Saturdays 9.00am-10.00am and 2.00pm-3.00pm - £10 per wheelbarrow, or £70 per cubic metre. Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Email: secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org

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STORT VALLEY ROTARY

Recent Meetings

Martin Read spoke about **Send a Cow**. Providing a cow for a family in a deprived region of Africa produces many benefits, including providing nourishment for the family and income to educate the children. The idea arose in 1992 when Friesian cattle were sent to Kenya to help solve Europe's butter mountain surplus. Friesians can produce seven times as much milk as indigenous cattle so have been helpful for interbreeding to raise milk production. When a pregnant cow is provided for one family, the resulting calf is given to another needy family. In regions of Africa and where cows would not survive, goats are provided. Sister Pat of **St Elizabeth's** told us St Elizabeth's was one of only two organisations specialising in educating children with epilepsy and other serious neurological disorders. They offer over 40 leisure, therapeutic and study activities and have 20 outreach centres to take their skills into the community. **Professor Tony Kinloch** of Imperial College London spoke to us on the fascinating subject of glue. There is a general mistrust of glue going back to Greek times and Icarus, but in fact glue is used widely - from aeroplanes to Formula 1 cars, and hip replacements to dental fillings - and is one of the most useful materials around. We would be delighted to welcome you at our meetings. Please book with Gwenda Deal on 863194 or email: gwendadeal@ntlworld.com.

Santa's Sleigh will be at the Christmas Market on 5th December 4.30pm-5.30pm and at Foresthall Park on Thursday 8th December 5.30pm- 6.30pm.

Jan Durkin
Tel: 01799 516186
Email: jandurkin94@gmail.com

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Poppy Appeal

At the time of writing there are no figures available but I must thank everyone who has contributed, and the house to house collectors, street collectors and other outlets who took time and space to promote the Appeal. We continue to support all service and ex-service men and women as the results of conflicts throughout the world take their toll on them both physically and mentally, and we care for and help the families of those who die. A full report follows, but meanwhile I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

John L Segar
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser
Tel: 813289

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Alice Connolly to David Wilson on 12th December.
May this be first of very many happy days together as Mr and Mrs.
With lots of love from your bridesmaids xxxx



As we head towards Christmas, the Club has been keeping very busy. We had great fun on our First Aid evening; we tried CPR and learnt techniques to deal with choking, as well as practising the Recovery Position on each other. Thanks to Brian for helping out. We have also had a fish and chip supper at the Chequers Pub in Ugley – thanks as always to the team there for hosting us so well. The Bishop's Stortford Woodwind Band came one evening and entertained us with a range of musical numbers, which we sang, danced and played along to. For Halloween, we had a fancy dress competition - it was difficult to judge, but Esther's spidery costume, Joanne dressed as a skeleton and Clare as Dracula were the three winners this year. By the time you read this, we will have had our annual Fireworks Party (actually on 5th November this year!) at the Ropkins' house, and we have a disco, a quiz night and bowling all to look forward to before the end of term. Our annual Carol Concert is on Friday 11th December 7.30pm in St John's Church. Please do come along – there will be a raffle, and tea and coffee afterwards and we would love to see you there! As the year comes to a close, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has so generously volunteered, driven, escorted, run an activity, donated or fundraised for Club over the past year and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a very happy, healthy 2016. If you would like more information on Club, please contact Sandra Embleton on 812627 or myself; we desperately need new minibus escorts so do get in touch!



Katharine Collis
Tel: 461270

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD



In October we welcomed Chris and Jenny Giffen from Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. They showed pictures of when they went with the distribution team to Eastern Europe. The sheer joy and delight on the children's faces when they receive a shoebox was wonderful to see. During November, we helped make up 78 shoeboxes.



There is no meeting in December, but the rest of the year we meet on the fourth Tuesday at the Day Centre. New members warmly welcomed - further details from President June Milne on 01371 875370 or myself.



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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – HOW TO GET INVOLVED

People who live and work in Stansted Mountfitchet have the opportunity to help shape the future development of the village thanks to a group of volunteers from within our community. In early 2015 a Steering Group comprising of volunteers with an interest in Stansted was established to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Once adopted, the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) will be used by Uttlesford District Council in the determination of planning applications within the village. The NDP must be in conformity with the Uttlesford Local Plan (ULP) and crucially cannot propose less development than that proposed in the ULP. As a community we have the opportunity to influence how and where the village should evolve and grow into the future.

In order to prepare the NDP the group is seeking the views of those who live and work in the village through a series of initial public consultation events. The first launch event will be a stand at the Stansted Christmas Market on Saturday 5th December from 10am – 8pm. We will be seeking your views on what it is like to live and/or work in Stansted, and what improvements or developments would enhance the village for the benefit of the community. We will also be capturing the views of the community through some video feedback between 10am and midday.

If you would like to find out more information, or would like to give us your feedback, we would be pleased to talk to you at our first consultation event.

Where

Stansted Christmas Market, Crafton Green Car Park, Chapel Hill, Stansted

When

Saturday 5th December from 10am – 8pm

www.stanstedneighbourhoodplan.com



Your views are also wanted by Uttlesford District Council, who are actively working on the new Local Plan for our district, and the first of three public

consultations has started. You can access the consultation by visiting www.uttlesford.gov.uk/lpconsult. The Neighbourhood Development Plan Strategy Group and the Parish Council will hopefully agree a joint response to the initial Consultation on Issues and Options – to be received by 4 December. Two further consultations will take place on the draft late in 2016 and before presentation for examination in 2017.

RETIREMENT OF GERARD WILLIAM FROGLEY

During the thirteen years Gerard (William to his family and closest friends) has been our village litter picker, he has become the most recognisable face in the village. Many of you who are around during the day will have had conversations with him as he goes about his daily routine and will have some appreciation of what Gerard is like as a person. The old expression "you shouldn't judge a book by its cover" was probably never more apt than when applied to Gerard. There are so many stories he has told us in the Council Office over the years, I am convinced I could produce a best-selling biography! My personal favourite is the one he tells about his father who represented Great Britain in the Berlin Olympics in the air acrobatics and who so impressed the watching Adolf Hitler that he was summoned to an audience with the Fuhrer.

Gerard has lived in his 'rambling house' in the Causeway for over 30 years with his wife Sharon and his children, who went to school in the village. Manning the rescue boat at Broxbourne Sailing Club is the highlight of his week in the summer months and he is also heavily involved with youth work and is a very active member of the church.

You may well see his job as having something in common with being President of The United States, i.e. not a job any sane person would want, but Gerard genuinely finds the work very rewarding and I doubt there are many people who enjoy their job as much as Gerard does his. The fact that he lost his sense of smell after a motorbike accident probably helps here!!

Gerard has always been prepared to go the extra mile to accommodate requests from residents and always wants to do the job as well as possible, but above all he is just a very nice, decent and caring individual. We're going to miss him and replacing him won't be easy, but we thank him for his years of sterling service

and wish him and his wife a long and happy retirement on the South coast.



Parish Chairman Maureen Caton joins Gerard on his tea break after he announced the news of his retirement.

LITTER PICK

A big thank you to all the volunteers who turned out for the Autumn Litter Pick. Thankfully we had just enough Churchill's vouchers to go round and we are really grateful to our local "chippy" for sponsoring us again. It was great to see a good range of ages getting involved and particularly nice to get a couple of families supporting us. The next litter pick in the Spring



will be part of the national campaign "Clean for The Queen" which is an initiative launched by Country Life magazine in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to clear up Britain in time for The Queen's 90th birthday in 2016, so please mark Saturday 6 March on your new

calendars. Our photograph shows the Durak family, Julie Gerard and Nelson preparing for action.

LITTER MANAGEMENT

A number of our volunteer litter pickers commented on the fact that most areas of the village were relatively litter free, which is a reflection of the good work our two litter collectors do and also the fact that the vast majority of our residents are responsible citizens and bin their litter. This does mean that the bins can fill up very quickly as it doesn't take many large soft drink bottles or fast food cartons to fill a litter bin. The challenge the Parish Council faces is trying to ensure the bins get emptied before they start overflowing, which is not always easy particularly at week-ends when the fast food outlets are at their busiest and our litter pickers have their day of rest. Currently litter collection on Foresthall Park is still the responsibility of the developer although we do empty the litter and dog bins. At some point in the future we

will be taking on responsibility for the whole of this estate as well as the Elms Farm and Walpole Farm developments when they happen. We are currently undertaking a review of how we manage litter, which involves finding more money in the budget and looking at new ways of working including, possibly, investment in new equipment. Please feel free to contact us with any observations or suggestions you have.

FOOTPATHS

We get frequent reports of issues with the network of footpaths (or twitchells) in the village and surrounding countryside. Bill Stiles, who wrote the 'Saunters Round Stansted' booklet, also prepares a regular report on the state of footpaths which is considered by the Open Spaces Committee. The Parish Council has limited powers and resources to respond to many of these issues, which is a great source of frustration. Generally it is the responsibility of the owner of the land which the footpath is on to maintain it, but there are a number of paths in the village where it has proved impossible to identify who the responsible landowner is. Essex Highways and the Uttlesford Ranger Service are reluctant to set a precedent by undertaking work to footpaths on land which is privately owned. At different times the Community Payback team have undertaken some clearance work, but they are not available on a regular basis. We are currently considering how we can put in place a structured maintenance plan for some of our paths, but given the financial challenges faced at all levels of local government we may need to look for an element of volunteer labour to cover all of them. We will keep you posted on developments.

PARISH COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE

The Parish Council now has its own Facebook page in addition to its website. Please log on and give it a 'like'. We also try to keep you informed with posts on the Stansted Matters Facebook page and on Street Life.



LOWER STREET AND GROVE HILL RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME

If you are a car owner, live in Lower Street or Grove Hill and don't have access to off-street parking, we would encourage you to join the Residents' Parking Scheme. Full details of the Scheme and how to apply can be found on the Uttlesford District Council website. We have reports that some residents, who could be using the Scheme, are instead parking in other nearby roads to avoid paying for their parking permit. These roads already suffer problems with airport parking and at times access for emergency vehicles has been compromised.

BONFIRE NIGHT

The organisers and volunteers endured some pretty unpleasant weather as they set up for the bonfire night event, but thankfully the weather had improved by late afternoon so a large crowd was able to enjoy a spectacular display. The organisers were very heartened to see the positive comments on social media. A big thank you to the scouts for building the bonfire and running the BBQ and to our pyrotechnic volunteers for the fantastic display, which received a well-deserved round of applause at the end.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



The weather was also very kind to us on Remembrance Sunday and over 400 people gathered in the Memorial Gardens to pay their respects to the men and women of the village,

who have been killed or injured in active service. We were particularly pleased to welcome representatives of the bomb disposal team based at Carver Barracks, who joined our parade for the first time.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

December

2nd Finance and General Purposes
9th F & GP and Full Council

January

13th Open Spaces
20th Full Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10.00am - 1.00pm
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ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

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

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Your Councillors and all the staff at The Parish Council would like to wish you all a

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Christmas Market



Saturday 5 December
10.00 am-8.00 pm



Crafton Green Car Park

The first Christmas cards were spotted in the shops back in September, but the Stansted Christmas Market really marks the official start of the Christmas celebrations! Some of you will have already started your Christmas shopping, but this a great opportunity to find something a bit different from what you will find in the High Street. There is also a good selection of seasonal food to enjoy whilst you browse the market or to take home with you.

There will be a good selection of Christmas trees on sale on the day but we recommend you get there early to get the best trees.

Some of the village carol singers organised by Churches Together in Stansted, together with members of the U3A Singers, will sing carols at 6.30 pm while you sip your Gluhwein! Our old faithfuls the Steam Engine and Organ will be there along with some fairground rides. You could also be the lucky winner of our £100 raffle prize, courtesy of Lino Thomas Hairdressers. Father Christmas will be arriving around 4.30 pm and is looking forward to meeting as many children as possible so make sure you have got your wish list ready.



Saira Hamilton, a Master Chef runner-up, will be doing a festive Cookery demonstration at midday

The Cork House are generously sponsoring Saira's involvement

The market is organised by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council to promote the village and foster community spirit so please come along and support the organisers, who have put a lot of effort into planning the event and get your festive celebrations off to a flying start

There will be free car parking all day in the Lower Street car park

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Vivian Falk, Chairman Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs, Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rotary Club	Jan Durkin 01799 516186 Email: jandurkin94@gmail.com
Brownies/Guides/	Jennifer Jarvis District Commissioner Tel: 814434	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	U3A	Helen, Chair Tel: 812945
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver, President Tel: 812945
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Inner Wheel Club	June Milne, President Tel: 01371 875370 Email: june.milne@ymail.com	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232		
Magna Carta 800th Celebrations	Nigel Collingwood Tel: 813428		
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213		
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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STANSTED SCOUTS

Super Troop competition

This is our sports themed weekend when we take on other scout troops from our District to see who is the 'Super Troop'. This year we entered a fairly young team with fingers crossed. I'm pleased to say we won the competition, coming first in the football, athletics, darts, cross country, archery and the rounders events. We came second in the remaining two events. Excellent result guys. This does mean that our winning streak continues with this being the sixth event in a row that we have won?



We meet Monday evenings for anyone interested. Currently we have seven scouts practising for the Expedition Challenge as part of their Gold Award. We are also covering first aid, and practicing for the Night Hike competition, our next District event, will it be lucky??

Mike Byrne
Leader
Tel: 812780

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Having been scared witless by lots of mini witches, monsters and a nine-foot wizard at our final open day, we have now closed after another successful season. We had more than 3,000 adult visitors to the Italian Garden and the Walled Garden. The hundreds of children who visited enjoyed the activities in our new children's area, and we plan to have themed Children's Trails each month alongside everything else next year. We have volunteer days on Thursdays and alternate Saturdays which continue over the closed season and we always welcome new recruits – usually with a hot drink and piece of homemade cake! We need more volunteers for gardening and to help on open days so if that sounds like your kind of thing please call 01371 876979 or email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk. We have lots planned for 2016 with Snowdrop Sundays on 21st February and 6th March, and Open Days on 24th April, 22nd May, 26th June, 24th July, 21st August, 18th September and 16th October. We would like to thank everyone for their support, hope that anyone who visited this year will come back, and those who have seen the brown signs and thought "I really must go there" will make 2016 the year in which you do.

Helen Carter
Trust Administrator
Tel: 07899 974107



BEEKEEPING

It will soon be Christmas, and I am writing about an ideal present for your loved ones – a 'Beginners Course in Beekeeping' run by Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association. At the end of the course the student will be capable of becoming a 'hobby beekeeper', knowing how to source bees, maintain a colony in a hive and extract their honey for sale, through the gaining of the following skills and knowledge:

- Understanding the life cycle and role of each type of bee
- Being able to complete hive inspections competently
- Understanding the reasons for swarming and carrying out preventative measures
- Knowing the different types of hive and understanding the advantages and disadvantages of each
- Being able to build a hive and frames
- Being able to identify common diseases and carry out solutions
- Being capable of extracting honey hygienically
- Being able to source a nucleus
- Knowing how to use the basic equipment

The course is on 11th, 18th, 25th April and 16th, 23rd May and consists of five two hour evening sessions at Hopley's Garden Centre, High St, Much Hadham, and at least one weekend practical live session at the Association apiary. The cost is £60, which includes a course text book, refreshments and protective clothing. Even if you don't intend to keep bees, you will have fun and enjoy learning about them. Why not come as a husband and wife team and revive the fun of doing things together? Or bring the kids - juniors are welcome and we only charge half the price. If you email me I will put you on the list to receive more details in the New Year (without obligation); but hurry, as places go very quickly and if you want to book now, just let me know.



John Dockerill
Email: training@stortfordbees.org.uk
Chairman Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association

WAR MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Each week a rota of over 30 people has arranged two vases of lovely flowers on Stansted's beautiful War Memorial in the Memorial Gardens from Easter to Remembrance Sunday. It is to honour the people in Stansted who sacrificed their lives for us in the two World Wars. I am so very grateful for the immense trouble and care taken with this act of remembrance, and it is heart-warming that the number of people attending the Service and Parade on Remembrance Sunday increases each year. I would be delighted to hear from anybody who would like to join the rota for just one week each year. Sometimes people move away, so we can always fit new people in. Please just telephone or email me. *On Remembrance Sunday I was handed a pair of spectacles that had been left on the War Memorial. Please contact me if they are yours.*

Janet Hollis
Tel: 812073
Email: janhollis@btinternet.com

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- Contact your supplier who may be able to change your payment options, move you to a cheaper deal or install a pay-as-you-go meter
- Get the best deal see www.goenergysshopping.co.uk or contact us for help
- Consider a bulk energy buying scheme like Essex Energy Switch. See www.uttlesford.gov.uk/essexenergyswitch or call 01376 552525 (ask for the Energy Advice Team)
- Essex Rural Community Council run an Oil Club tel 01376 574340 or visit www.oil-club.co.uk or www.boilerjuice.co.uk
- You may be eligible for a winter fuel or a cold weather payment. Participating suppliers offer a discount of £140 off your electricity bill if you are eligible. You do not have to apply and should receive a letter by 24th December. If you think you qualify but have not received a letter call your supplier before 29th January
- If you are worried, call us as we have trained volunteers who can check your benefit entitlements.

Did You Know ... You cannot be disconnected between October and March if you are of pensionable age and live alone, or if you live with people who are of pensionable age or under 18. We offer a free, impartial advice and specialist help dealing with serious debt problems, benefit issues, employment disputes, housing and family issues.

Jo Hancock

Tel: 01799 618840

Email: bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk



www.farnham-school.org

We were thrilled to welcome so many families at our open day. Children from Horse Chestnut Class showed parents around and were much praised for their excellent manners and mature attitudes. They had a fascinating trip to Colchester Museum where they learned about Iron Age Britain before the Romans invaded, the circumstances of the Roman invasion and everyday life in Roman times; they even got the chance to build a Celtic roundhouse and a Roman villa. Y5 and 6 attended a dodgeball tournament and Y3 and 4 a multi-skills sports day, both at Joyce Frankland Academy. Y6 pupil Jamie Hitchman was a member of our federation partner Rickling's football team which came second in the Essex FA primary football tournament. Willow Class have been learning about fractions, reading the silly poems of Michael Rosen and enjoying writing their own. They also made tree decorations and Christmas pictures for our Christmas bazaar. We soon have our Christmas disco, Christingle service and Christmas lunch. Farnham is lucky to have so many excellent teaching staff and we were all very excited to hear that Mrs Haughey, our higher level teaching assistant was a finalist in the Best Teaching Assistant awards for the Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire area. For school details call school reception on 771339 or see our website.

Katherine Aiken
Friends of Farnham

In November, Martyn Lockwood, gave a talk entitled *Victorian Murders in Essex*, including 'A Short History of the Essex Police Force'. In 1839-40 police forces were formed and Essex was given 100 constables. Prior to this magistrates swore in special constables for an investigation, but only for that occasion, and if required the Yeomanry could be called upon. Every county had its Yeomanry and ours were based in Colchester, with accounts of them being despatched to Halstead and Braintree when riots occurred. Executions were carried out twice a year at Chelmsford Prison or outside where Marks and Spencer is now. Two Famous Murders that happened locally:

The murder of Constable Henry Trigg from Berden in 1840. Henry was shot by either Pratt or Turner from Bishop's Stortford who, whilst robbing Trigg's father's shop, got into a scuffle with Henry and his father, and Henry was shot. Due to Henry being the only constable in the area, there wasn't anyone else to investigate this crime, so two Bow Street runners were called in and paid to resolve the crime. Pratt and Turner were arrested in Bishop's Stortford one year later for carrying out several other robberies and finally admitted to the murder of Trigg and were executed.



Moat Farm Clavering in 1899 where Samuel Herbert Dougal murdered Camille Cecile Holland, a wealthy spinster from London. Samuel, being a serial womaniser, who was later found to have murdered two previous ladies before meeting Camille, was well thought of in the village. He was one of the first locally to have a car and gave money to many local causes including the church, using Camille's money. Samuel carried on womanising, having relationships with Mrs Cranwell and her three daughters, allegedly having children with them all. In the trial, it came to light that he had taught many local ladies to ride their bicycles on the farm naked! Finally in 1903 he was arrested in London for forgery, at the same time that an investigation was being carried out on the disappearance of Mrs Holland, known nationally as the mystery of Moat Farm, where her body was eventually found in a drainage ditch. Hundreds turned out to see Moat farm and the body. Dougal was charged with the murder and hanged, leaving numerous children around the local area. Letters can be found in Saffron Walden Library.

Please come to our next meeting which is our Christmas event on 3rd December. On 7th January we have a members' evening but all are welcome. Both meetings are at 8.00pm at the Day Centre, Crafton Green (behind the Library).



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

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STANSTED PUBS



The reasons for the closure of the original Rose and Crown Inn in 1884 are lost in the mists of time. Its white panels still grace Silver Street and the last vestige of its name survives as the Crown House. Something must have sparked residents to petition for its delicensing. Maybe trade had declined after 1882 when the hanged body of suicide Alfred Knight was laid out in the inn! Or perhaps there was a grudge against the landlord after Stansted labourer, Henry Grey, was charged with killing one of the landlord's ducks (value 2s 6d) with a catapult and hiding the bird in a hole in a tree!

By Christmas 1891, the former *Waggoners* beerhouse on Bentfield Green now bore the name *Rose and Crown* and it was here that Elliot Smith in an unwise moment placed four turkeys under the counter of the public bar and briefly popped into the minuscule snug adjoining the 'jug and bottle' (off sales). On his return, one turkey had disappeared and with it Henry Patmore, whose arrest swiftly followed at *The Willows* pub in Bentfield Road. Even with the 1975 merging into one bar, the pub is small, so with three tiny rooms in 1891, it is hard to understand Elliot failing to hear the bird's departure (I imagine clucking!).



A century later Jan, John and Ruby were retiring from a 21 year tenure, an event marked by the presentation of the above painting by Jenny Wood in 2006. They had witnessed a lot of hi-jinks during their time including a spoof millennium menu with weird items on offer and the brief appearance of the scurrilous *Daily Stir*, providing a dig at most of the residents of Bentfield Green. By this time occasional unusual entertainments became a feature including the notable gig by renowned US jazz pianist, Joe Albany. This tradition continues with Matt and Stacy who last year staged a flight night with the staff in full uniform and issuing safety announcements over the tannoy. With perhaps an unintended doffing of the cap to the earlier *Daily Stir*, a gallery of Bentfield Green characters has recently appeared on one wall. No turkeys though!

Alan Wheeler

I originally came here in April 2014 as Manager, bringing with me my friend Ann Ashton-Jones, a great self-taught home cook, but now own the pub. My husband Matt continues his work as a plumbing and heating engineer along-

side looking after the cellar and working behind the bar. Ann's daughter Ella and my son Charlie work with Ann in the kitchen. We have redecorated the pub, and are planning to add a 'snug' to accommodate more diners.



We were delighted to win the Best Traditional Pub at the Essex Tourism and Hospitality Awards earlier this year. Despite being a small pub we host events for all age groups and seem to appeal to all types of customers: young professionals, families, senior citizens and of course our core local drinkers. Without sounding corny this is truly the best thing I have ever done and I look forward to many more good times at the Rose and Crown.

Stacy Whiffen

THE CRAFTON ROOM

As 2015 comes to a close it is time to look back on the year and look ahead to the New Year. Despite a lack of volunteers sometimes, the number of people enjoying our home-cooked meals have continued to grow. We have celebrated the life of one of our customers with a lovely afternoon of entertainment, hosted a Safer Living Event laid on by UDC and been treated to afternoon tea provided by Daniel Robinson with musical accompaniment from Bishop's Stortford Ukulele Group. Our Christmas Lunch is on 8th December 12 noon for 12.30pm and on 16th December we are visiting Forest Hall School for a panto followed by complimentary lunch. Thanks to grants and the generosity of various organisations, the New Year will see the updates to the Day Centre completed. We will be relaunching the Stansted Seniors Group on Tuesdays 1.30pm-3.30pm from 5th January; we are still in the development stages, but are thinking along the lines of card games, dominos, bingo, outings, entertainment, and, of course, home-made tea and cake. Friday 29th January at 12.30pm will be our next Fish and Chip Day.

That just leaves me to say a huge thank you to everyone who supports us throughout the year: customers, volunteers, Committee members, local organisations, people who just pop up out of the blue with raffle prizes and last, but by no means least, Jo for her wonderful meals and unwavering support - you all make the Day Centre the special place it is. If you would like to join us, or have any activity ideas that you would like to see happening at Seniors Club please don't hesitate to contact us. Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will be closed from 19th December to 4th January inclusive.



Julie Beck
Centre Manager
Tel: 815091

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Our next concert by Ugne Tiskute (viola) and Alexandra Vaduva (piano) is on Sunday 24th January at 3.00pm in St John's Church. Ugne will be playing music by English composers Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979) and York Bowen (1884-1961), as well as Schubert's *Arpeggione Sonata*. Alexandra will perform three Brahms *Intermezzi* and two Chopin *Nocturnes*. As is the custom at our New Year Concert, mulled wine will be served in the interval.



Our final concert this season, which also celebrates our 20th anniversary, is on Saturday 5th March at 6.00pm, given by the Wells Virtuosi, outstanding players from Wells Cathedral School - an occasion to look forward to! Tickets for both concerts: adults £15, under 18s free, from Absolute Travel; Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy tel 815282; or on the door. Check out our website for general information or if you have a specific enquiry please email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk.

Alan Corbishley



www.mencapgrovecottage.org

Help us start our 50th Anniversary celebrations by joining our Santa Dash and Reindeer run on Saturday 5th December at 11.00am in Sworders Field and Castle Gardens, Bishop's Stortford. Enter online or register on the day from 9.30am subject to availability. All entrants receive free Reindeer Antlers and flashing red nose or Santa Suit! See you there!

Natalie Trapmore

Email: natalie@mencapgrovecottage.org

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Monday 14th for Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland

Tuesday 15th for Canada, Finland, Sweden, USA

Wednesday 16th for Austria, Iceland, Ireland, Portugal, Spain

Thursday 17th for France

Friday 18th for Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland

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The children enjoyed collecting images for an autumn sponsored alphabet, which was very successful. They created



splatter firework paintings and discussed the noises fireworks make. The noise ideas were then displayed in speech bubbles and placed along their pictures on the wall. The Adventurers made poppies and took part in the two minute silence on 11th November. Rainbow Committee members and staff assisted at a stall at the St Mary's School Christmas Fayre which raised funds for

Rainbow, and it was lovely to see many of the children who had previously attended Rainbow at the event. Christmas celebrations began with the Adventurers taking part in the Nativity Play at St John's Church, with parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles coming to support them. They were offered hot drinks and mince pies and the Christmas raffle was drawn. The Rainbow Committee paid for the Theatrebugs Company to bring a pantomime to the children telling the adventures of Ellie Elf, who has one of the most important jobs in the North Pole: the Silly and Nice Book! One Christmas Eve, before Father Christmas takes off on his journey, the Silly and Nice Book disappears. "Oh no" I hear you cry. Well, along with the help of her friends and the children, they track down Silly Dino the Dinosaur, who is the main suspect. Lots of fun and laughter was had by all. The staff and Committee members would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, you need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place. Contact Gill Pursglove, the Pre-School Administrator email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net or call 814242.

Clair Rava

Parent/Committee Member



Christmas Celebration

Come and sing and raise some funds at one of the Herts and Soul charity Christmas concerts in St John's Church on Saturday 12th December at 7.30pm, or Sunday 13th December at 5.30pm. The festive programme includes Christmas carols (with audience participation) and Christmas music. Tickets at £7 (£6 concessions, under 13s free) from Ray Smith, telephone 813270, email raysmith9@btinternet.com, Chris Humphreys 07903 009569 or from any choir member. Mince pies and wine will be available during the interval on Saturday, with a cup of tea option on Sunday.

Liz Jennings

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

The U3A Singers' October concert *Do you hear the People Sing* was a great success. There were well-known songs of praise, love, knowledge, friendship and comfort, with the second half devoted to a selection from *Les Miserables*.



The Bus Pass Trip to Chelmsford Market was well attended and provided a good shopping opportunity as well as a chance to see the Stansted Magna Carta tapestry on display at the Library. The Halloween Dance was great fun with lots of dancing to the live band 'Words and Music'. Kind donations from local businesses provided raffle prizes which helped to make a very successful and enjoyable evening with a fish and chip supper provided by Churchills. Many heartfelt thanks to Lower Street Clinic, Cork House Bistro, Barnet Fair, King's Butchers, Linden House, Tesco, Yeomans, The Bean House, Paris Legore Florist, Lino Thomas Salon, Steve Golding Greengrocer, Elsenham Taxis and The Brasserie. Also to Maggie and Jan for organising the event and contributing to the entertainment as Vintage Velvet.



Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th December in St John's Hall at 1.30pm with tea, coffee, mince pies and a Christmas Quiz and the Christmas Lunch is on Thursday 17th December at Bury Lodge Hotel. The January meeting is on Thursday 21st with the Matching Hand Bell Ringers. Contacts: Helen (Chair) 812945, Liz (Secretary) 813270. For more information see our website or email: stanstedu3a@live.co.uk.



Suzanne Parra

THANK YOU

I would like to thank family, friends and everyone who helped me following my accident earlier this year. All your cards, flowers and good wishes have been much appreciated.

Barbara Harrington

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR CHOCOLATE!

As you may have guessed, our staff undergo extensive training on dealing with various scenarios and emergencies, as well as how to remain calm and professional at all times. This was tested recently with a rather unusual phone call starting with the client saying, "promise you won't laugh". She went on to explain that her Yorkshire terrier had eaten her husband's tablets, the blue ones...the ones shaped like little diamonds ... Yes, you may have guessed, Viagra! Wendy, who gets our *receptionist of the week* award for remaining professional in unusual circumstances, asked "and is he a male dog?" before saying "I'll just get the vet". The outcome was a happy one - the thought of the effects of two tablets of Viagra on a small Yorkshire Terrier was too enormous to contemplate, so we quickly had him in and made him vomit before the drug could take effect. The other favourite at this time of year is chocolate poisoning. Chocolate contains theobromine which is toxic to dogs when eaten in large quantities. The darker the chocolate the more theobromine; cocoa powder and cocoa shell mulches used on the garden also contain it. The symptoms are vomiting, thirst, restlessness, salivation and becoming unsteady when walking, which can progress in severe cases to blood in the urine, heart arrhythmias and convulsions, and several deaths have been reported. Symptoms usually occur within three to four hours and may last up to three days. If you suspect your dog has eaten a large amount of chocolate and is showing any of the above symptoms, call your vet immediately. Sometimes just making the dog vomit is enough, but if several hours have elapsed, specialist treatment and hospitalisation are needed. To put this in perspective, before Cadburys' sales plummet - a dog does have to eat a lot of chocolate for it to be poisonous! We also have a handy toxicity calculator at the surgery which allows you to work out if the amount of chocolate the dog has eaten is toxic or not. So as with all things animal related, if you are worried give us a ring - we have a vet on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year including Christmas day!



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Our Race Night was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended - some even won and went away very happy having made a profit. This was all due to the hard work of Richard Thomas and his family. At the time of writing we are preparing for our coffee morning and our Committee are working hard to make this a success. If you are looking for stocking fillers don't forget to come and see us at the Christmas Market on 5th December, where we will have our full range of souvenirs. Alternatively I can supply these at any time - just give me a ring. On behalf of the Committee I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful 2016. If you are thinking of making a New Year's resolution consider volunteering as a Steward for the Windmill. We want to encourage as many young people as we can to visit the Mill in 2016. Remember the Windmill belongs to everyone in the village.



Molly Clark
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Tel: 816768

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STANSTED SUPERS

18th October saw a game between London GD's development squad and Stansted Supers, only the second match in the latter's three year history. The game was at the Copper Box arena in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the venue for many events in the 2012 games. The match was split into seven 10 minute games, to give each team a breather and a chance to give everyone a run out. GD were very thin on the ground, with only two substitutes; the Supers had two full squads, 18 people, so were fresher.



This showed towards the end of the event when the goal difference extended to a flattering 13-22. The age range of Stansted Supers was much higher than that of London GD, with the former having two 16 and two 17 year olds, and players at the top end of their 50s. GD's youngest and oldest players were much closer in age, and this may have contributed to the fatigue that they suffered in the latter stages. The home team made some great counter attacks, their all-round technique and ability was very good and they defended and attacked very competently; however, the ability to rotate the players was a key factor in Stansted Supers' victory. The youth on their team meant that they had athleticism, but also strength and power from the majority of the men playing. The win will provide good publicity for them and the sport in general. We meet at the Romeera Leisure Centre on Fridays 7.00pm-8.00pm. It is fitting that the message of the Olympic Games was to 'Inspire a Generation', and the improvement that the Club has undergone in attendance and ability is very inspiring.

Hamish Arnold
Email: hamish.arnold11@gmail.com



*Stansted
Cricket
Club*

After five matches, the Club are third in Division 3B of the six-a-side HECC Sport Indoor Cricket League, having won two and lost three matches. Two Club members won individual awards in the HECL last season: Charlie Kirby got the highest individual score (168) in Division 1 and Steve Peachey was joint winner of taking the most wickets (26) in Division 4. Our congratulations go to both players. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring next season on a regular basis to contact me. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



David Hedge
Hon. Secretary
Tel: 812509
Email: dchedge49@gmail.com



We have had a busy year with many businesses applying to join. We now have over 70 members and are probably the largest local networking group. What are the benefits? Well the number one benefit is that you have a large number of businesses who may need your services - we have a high rate of return from internal customers. Our directory is also a wonderful showcase for businesses. Our Summer Fayre has been and gone (the next is on 2nd July) and we are very pleased with our community links, particularly with local schools. This month our business spotlight is on Simon Brown from Brown's painting and decorating. He



has lived in Stansted for 16 years and finds it a great place to live and work. He has a lot of experience working on a wide range of properties from listed buildings to brand new properties. Simon really enjoys his work and takes pride in ensuring customers benefit from a high quality service. He says that the best thing about

his job is seeing the customer happy when the work is finished, and he will take any size job, interior or exterior, commercial or residential. For contact details see Simon's ad on page 32. If you are a local business make it your New Year resolution to come to our next breakfast meeting on 5th February at Linden House 7.00am for 7.30am. For more information telephone 813318 or email: peter.james@murdochspropertyshop.co.uk.



Iris Evans
Treasurer



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The restored timber-framed 15th century Finchingfield Guildhall was the venue for a members' social evening. An illustrated talk by Ken McDonald, whose photographs of the agricultural landscapes, picturesque villages, fine churches and other listed buildings helped to explain what makes this area so special, was followed by the AGM. Members then enjoyed a guided tour of the Guildhall whose recent restoration programme was funded by grants from the Lottery Fund, English Heritage and other organisations. Our guide, Des Fahy, explained that the restoration had revealed fascinating details of the building's construction, as well as the range of skills of the original carpenters, tilers, plasterers and others who had toiled to create such a long-standing building from what is believed to have been a limited budget. Their modern counterparts have sympathetically rejuvenated it so that today it is fully accessible and all can use and appreciate this Grade I-listed building. Finchingfield's library is on the ground floor alongside a museum where modern technology enhances the presentation of Finchingfield's history. The upper floor provides a venue for a popular programme of varied events. For details see www.finchingfieldguildhall.org.uk.

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Nature Notes

Sphagnum Moss. *S. papillosum* *S. cymbifolium*

The poppy is most often associated with the First World War; however much more significant is an unassuming little plant, sphagnum moss, which is often found in damp places and on grave stones. The use of this plant as a wound dressing saved lives and limbs of many a soldier. Throughout the centuries those wounded in battle sought out mosses to pack their wounds, a fact recalled by Charles Walker Cathcart, Senior Surgeon of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. When the research was carried out, it was found that this plant had the potential to absorb up to 25 times its own weight of moisture, and had antiseptic qualities.



Injuries from trench warfare were exacerbated by fragments of uniform being carried deep into the wound, taking with it all the filth found on the battlefield, and therefore the antiseptic qualities of the moss were invaluable. This combined with the plant's sponge like capacity to take fluid away from the wound meant that dressings required changing less frequently. Cotton wool had been employed as the wound dressing of choice but there was a scarcity of it, and much of it was used in the manufacture of munitions. As it happens, the sphagnum moss was more effective than the cotton wool. The need for sphagnum moss involved thousands of volunteers around Britain gathering it from boggy ground from Shetland (where they had their first Sphagnum Moss Day on 17th August 1917) to Princetown on Dartmoor, where the Prince of Wales provided a depot fit to deal with the gathered moss. Once cleaned, dried and measured into two ounce pieces the moss was packed into flat muslin bags, parceled up and sent to the front.

Sources *Tim Sandles, Peter Ayres, Richard Lindsey*

Bees Daughter

MANUDEN SINGERS

On Sunday 13th December at 7.30pm in Manuden Church the Manuden Singers will perform Vivaldi's *Gloria*, together with Magnificats by C P E Bach and Schubert. Tickets £10 adults, £5 children from 812157 or on the door. All proceeds will go to the Syrian Refugee Appeal.



Ian Priest
Tel: 647050

GARDENING TIPS

Protect young bare root trees when planting if you have a problem with rabbits wandering in, as they love to nibble at the young bark. The dormant season, now until end of February, is a good time to propagate roses, shrubs and fruit from hardwood cuttings; herbaceous perennials can often be propagated from root cuttings or by lifting them, splitting and dividing. Hellebores can suffer from hellebore leaf spot, which is a fungal disease that causes unsightly brown patches on leaves and stems. Cutting off all the leaves helps to prevent it, and new fresh strong leaves will soon grow to replace them. It is a busy period for pruning fruit trees and bushes to encourage fruiting in the coming season. Medlars only require light pruning to keep an open airy framework. They do not like heavy pruning; similarly it is best to only lightly prune apple and pear trees. If you have a spur bearing variety (fruit not just on the ends of branches) shorten last year's growth on main branches by a third and cut back side shoots to five buds. Redcurrants, white-currants and gooseberries need all dead growth removing, and for bush shaped plants, cut all side shoots back to one to three buds from the base. Shorten branch tips back by a quarter to an outward facing bud. For cordon plants, cut the side shoots back to the bottom two buds, and take the main tip back by a third. Blackcurrants need to be rejuvenated, which can be performed by cutting out no more than a third of the oldest stems back to the base, along with any weak spindly stems. Weeds can be easy to spot and removed at this time of year; it can really check their growth even if you do not manage to extract all the root. If the soil is wet and sticky enough to stick easily to the boots, then stay off it!

Paul the Gardener



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A rolling pin, knitting needles of uneven size, pastry cutters and moulds in the shape of Snow White and her seven friends – just some of the items that the speaker at our October meeting brought with him to illustrate his talk. Sean Brady's subject was porcelain jewellery making and the above items were just a minute sample of the tools of his trade – a trade that he very entertainingly demonstrated, telling us something of the history of porcelain whilst producing very delicate items which were greatly admired by our members. His talk at an end, he kindly judged our jewellery competition and enjoyed a cup (bone china not porcelain) of tea with us.

Now for a sneak preview of our programme for 2016! Topics include the work of the Woodland Trust in January, The Tennant family of Orford House in February, maritime songs and readings in April, hats galore in June, a view of Tobago in July, the Queens of Henry VIII in September, growing up in the 40s and 50s in October, the history of the hospice movement in November and magic and comedy in December! So a lot to look forward to for our members. If any of these appeal to you, do come and join us - you would be most welcome. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Andrea Fitt
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Walks for December/January:

13th December: 5/6 miles 10.00am St Mary's Church Standon. G/Ref: TL396222. SatNav: SG11 1LA
 10th January: 5/6 miles 10.00am Tally Ho, High Lane, Stansted. G/Ref: TL515255. SatNav: CM24 8LQ
 24th January: 5/6 miles 10.00am Parish Church, Henham. G/Ref: TL544285. SatNav: CM22 6AN

Normally I do not refer back to walks past, but our walk on 1st November was completely amazing. The day started cold with a thick mist and whatever scenery was out there was completely hidden. Then with glimpses of sun, the trees appeared glistening in their autumn colours; and we saw barrows, moats, hills and houses, followed by brilliant sunshine and the bluest of skies, fords, hills, a lost church, and views. Our Leader had chosen a walk with absolutely no fields, superbly wide footpaths and bridleways chiefly with gravel underfoot for almost all of the five miles - amazing, brilliant and companionable and with hardly a trace of mud! December is a time when weather can be unpredictable and newly ploughed fields can turn the footpath into a pudding bowl with its muddy contents attached in heavy clods to your boots. Unploughed fields and meadows can contain soaking wet grass which challenges the feet and encourages water to go through the most minuscule of cracks in a worn or woven boot. However, some days smoke winding up from a cottage on a still day looks stunningly beautiful, a herd of deer are a welcome surprise, the robin that joins the group when we stop for drinks is so friendly, the buzzard being mobbed by crows is hypnotising to watch, the bird that is singing its heart out but which is impossible to glimpse is frustrating, but a marvellous sound. Have you 'walked' this week?



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
 Publicity Officer

Email: secretary@walksaroundstortford.org.uk



www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

The 2016 SSE calendar costs £6, with gift mailing available for a small extra charge. See the SSE website for stockists.

In July this year the Airports Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir Howard Davies published its final report. It recommended one extra runway at Heathrow by 2030, and suggested another might be needed in the UK after that; Stansted could be one of the options to be considered. The Commission is only advisory and the Government may well reject its recommendations. In the meantime the Manchester Airports Group (MAG), the owners of Stansted airport, are arguing that the case for increasing the authorised throughput on the existing runway should be considered sooner rather than later.

Peter Sanders
 Chairman
 Tel: 870558

**IN MEMORIAM
 MARGARET LEHNER**

16th December 1915-20th August 2015

Margaret was a courageous and remarkable lady as well as Farnham's oldest resident. She died just a few months before her 100th birthday. Age did not prevent her from taking part in many village activities, and she remained at the



very heart of the Farnham community, editing the Farnham Monthly News with great verve until June this year! She was sadly missed at the recent Remembrance Day Service in Farnham where in previous years she always laid the wreath at the War Memorial. This honour was due to

Margaret having had a fascinating and successful career during the war about which she had many stories to relate in her inimitably descriptive way. In 1941 she had been called up to the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service which took her to Africa and the Far East where she became a Sister in Charge. Her considerable responsibilities and achievements earned her a Burma Star Military award, which she rarely mentioned during her day-to-day life but was justly proud to be able to tell the social worker who visited her the day before she was taken into hospital for the last time.

After the war she returned home and trained as a midwife in Scotland, marrying in 1949 and having an interesting, if less dramatic life in the intervening years, eventually moving to Farnham to be nearer to her son Robert, a well-known vet for many years in Bishop's Stortford. In recent years her main delight had been the arrival of three great-grandsons, so the name of Lehner will carry on for many years to come. Her family has arranged a party for her Farnham friends in the newly renovated Farnham Village Hall, on 16th December when Margaret would have reached her 100th birthday. She will be remembered for so many admirable qualities including her creativity, her wisdom, her fierce independence and her great sense of humour. She was indeed a truly amazing lady.

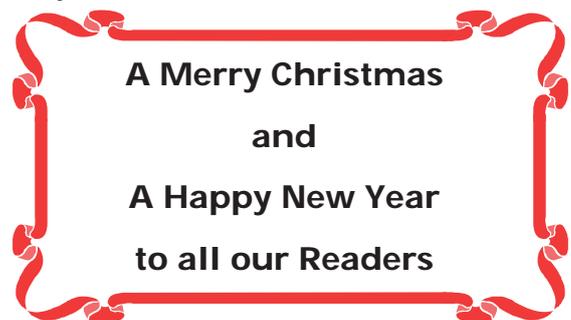
Leila Riddell and Sue Moloney

MISSING ATTRIBUTION

The fantastic firework image on last month's cover should have been attributed to Sean Clark. Apologies to Sean for the omission.

Editor

And finally ...



**A Merry Christmas
 and
 A Happy New Year
 to all our Readers**

Next edition: February

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