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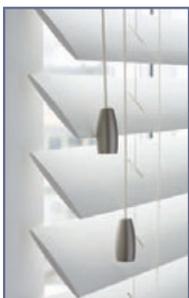


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by **noon** on 11th February
 for the March issue

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

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EDITORIAL



Having always read, and sometimes contributed to the 'Link', I was honoured (please forgive the pun) to be asked to take over from Derek Honour as Editor. It is largely due to Derek's enthusiasm that the 'Link' is the success it is today. The following email from Pete Baker says it all: "It is typical of Derek Honour that he should quietly announce his retirement as editor of the 'Link' in a few throwaway lines (December10/January11 edition). He was one of the founding members of the magazine and was instrumental, along with his dedicated colleagues, in developing it into a community newspaper, both religious and secular, delivered to every Stansted household. It has been my pleasure to know Derek as a friend for many years and to enjoy his gentle air of goodwill and waspish sense of humour. He may be a 'retiring' sort of cove but he is nevertheless a 'force majeure' in a quiet way and I hope he will continue to make his mark around Stansted Mountfitchet. How about freelance globetrotting correspondent, Derek?"

I'm pleased to report that Derek will continue to be involved with the 'Link' as Chairman, and he may well be persuaded to pen the odd 'travel piece', or report on the 'pot-hole' situation! His is a very tough act to follow, but with the support and expertise of the 'Link' production team and Committee, I am optimistic. Please remember that this is a community magazine, and we welcome your suggestions, new ideas and comments.

Reminder: Don't forget to consult the 2011 diary held in Stansted Library when planning your fête, jumble sale or concert etc this year. The diary is there for every local organization to use and will prevent your event clashing with others – but the system only works if **everyone** uses it.

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Ecumenical Accompaniment

Some years ago, in Paris, we chanced to meet up with a French Quaker called Gilbert Lesage, on his way to a ceremony at the Hotel de Ville, where 'Les Justes', non-Jewish people who had saved Jewish lives during World War II were to receive medals from the Israeli ambassador. Gilbert himself was a Juste, who, when faced by the dilemma of all pacifists in times of war, of how to help the oppressed without blowing things up or killing people, found a wonderful way to help Jewish children bound for German concentration camps. By an amazing feat of courage and organisation he managed to have the trains diverted and the children adopted by non-Jewish French families. Thinking about Les Justes in France has made me think of the total lack of peace, equality and justice in Palestine today and to wonder who are the good Samaritans in this land, torn apart by a 40ft high wall and by roads blocked with rubble and concrete, where the Israeli Government is demolishing homes and communities, inexorably and illegally annexing Palestinian land and making the lives of the Palestinian people miserable and untenable. Additionally, bolstered by a US Government annual grant of \$3 billion and an extra \$3 billion for weaponry, the Government interprets its own laws severely to crush any internal protests about the plight of the Palestinians.

There are some chinks of light, however. Quakers all over the world and especially those in Ramallah, where there is a Quaker Meeting and a Quaker school (founded in 1869) are supporting the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme (EAPPI). This began as a small Quaker venture and is now a World Council of Churches project. Its symbol is a cross, a dove and barbed wire, which symbolise the triumph of peace and justice over war and injustice and it aims to 'protect by presence, to monitor human rights, to support Palestinian projects and to provide advocacy.' The latter is sorely needed because most imprisoned Palestinians are denied the right to consult lawyers. A local Quaker, who has applied to take part in the scheme and spend three months in Palestine supporting Palestinians, told me that there are so many applications that it will be some time before her application can be considered. I feel that this is a very encouraging sign and I hope that their peaceful presence will indeed provide practical and morale-boosting support. They will also be able to provide up-to-date information about human rights violations and what we can do financially to make life in Palestine more bearable.

Anthea Lee
Stansted Quaker Meeting



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Ministers Rev'd Allen Morton
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Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

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

Preachers for February

6th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch – New Directions
13th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble
20th 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton - Communion
27th 10.30am Janet Bottoms

Pilots meets 6.00 pm- 7.30pm on Mondays 7th and 28th February.



The Stansted Pilots group welcomes all children aged 5 to 18 years. We meet fortnightly during term time on Monday evenings from 6.00pm to 7.30pm in the church hall, and there is a varied and interesting programme. We are looking for new children to join us. Please contact me for more details

Valerie Trundle
Tel: 813433

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk Mrs Anthea Lee
24 Lea Close
Bishop's Stortford
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Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

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Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm
Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



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Email: church.music@stansted.net

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St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer There are services of Holy Communion on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the month in Norman Court, Hargrave House and Broome End Nursing Homes.

Tuesday
9.00am St John's Tots

Wednesday
9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

Monday-Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

From the Registers

November

Funerals

1st Colin John Lawrence, age 67 - at St Mary's
12th Nellie Elizabeth Price, age 90 - at St John's
26th James Edward Smith, age 60 - at St John's

December

Baptisms

12th Kitty Grace Lees,
Charlotte Alice Mary Harris
Lily Diantha Harris
19th Olivia Barnes
Olivia Amy Harrington

Funerals

1st William Robert Pinnock, age 78 - at St Mary's
8th Barbara Ethel May Lord, age 85 - at Parndon Wood
15th Jonathan Cyril Moore, age 57 - at St Mary's

Christmas Market

Crowds flocked to St Johns Church on Saturday 20th November for the annual Christmas Market. The Church had been transformed by a band of parishioners in to a wonderland of Christmas cheer; thirty stalls selling a myriad of gifts ranging from home made candles to an impressive display of cakes to test the taste buds. The bottle tombola was a busy focal point as were the bric-a-brac and the bookstall. All attracted the visitors looking for a bargain. Refreshments were available including St John's special hot mulled wine, which did a brisk trade on a dull November day. The net result was that over £2000.00 was raised for church funds.

Confirmation

A celebration of Confirmation and Holy Communion was held at St John's Church on 23rd November. The Rt Rev'd Christopher H Morgan, Bishop of Colchester conducted the service. He was assisted by the Rev'd Paul Wilkin, Rector and the Rev'd Giles Tulk, Assistant Curate.



A large congregation took their part in the ceremony as 10 candidates were confirmed; five from the United Benefice of Stansted Mountfitchet with Birchanger and Farnham, and five from the parish of St Mary the Virgin Lindsell. Those confirmed from Stansted and Farnham were Shaun Hill, Sandra Horswel, Matthew Jessup, Malcolm Lloyd and Barbara Stubbings.

Christingle



A packed congregation attended the special Worship for All Christingle Service on 6th December, conducted by the Rev'd Giles Tulk, assisted by the children of St Mary's Primary School who led the prayers. One of the highlights of this service was a performance of the song 'Like a Candle Flame' by the school choir. It was so good they had to do an encore! A number of the children also made a Christingle and these were distributed to many of the congregation. My picture is of Thomas

James West, son of Debbie and Gary West (churchwarden) who was attending his first Christingle service.

Advent

Over 150 pupils from St Mary's Primary School came to the church on Wednesday 24th November for a special afternoon with the Rev'd Giles Tulk to learn about Advent and its significance at this special time.

Derek Francis

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

The winners of November and December were:

Nov:

£100 No 156 Mrs Ann Lee
£ 50 No 45 Mrs Pauline Mantle
£ 25 No 94 Mrs Susan Holland

Dec:

£200 No 33 Mr Charlie Salmon
£100 No 158 Doreen Heals
£ 50 No 65 Pamela Jackson
£ 25 No 173 Mrs A Beresford

The next draws will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 31st January at The Dog & Duck, and 7.30pm on Monday 28th February at The Rose & Crown.

Francine Cope

ST JOHN'S THEATRE OUTINGS GROUP

As soon as I received the Spring Programme from The Arts Theatre, Cambridge I telephoned to make two provisional bookings and managed to get better seats than usual and at the same price - so good news. I have booked for Tuesday 8th March to see 'The Reluctant Debutante' starring Jane Asher, Clive Francis and Belinda Lang and on Tuesday 12th April to see Agatha Christie's 'Verdict' starring Dawn Steele, Peter Byrne, Mark Wynter and Ali Bastian. The cost for each of these shows is £35 including travel and the coach will collect from St John's Church at 6.30pm and the bus stop near the Police Station at 6.35pm. Please contact me very soon if you wish to join us on either occasion.



Rosemary Thomson

Tel: 815551

Email: r.thomson321@btinternet.com



Carol Singing around the village

It was great to have the support of the Mountfitchet U3A singers, who swelled our sound considerably. The magnificent sum of £288.10 was raised for Uttlesford Support Group, Parkinson's UK. This was £102 more than we raised last year - so many thanks to all!



At our AGM in January, we had a very interesting talk by Paula Carey, Regional Manager for Parkinson's UK.

Helen Baker
Tel 814865
Michael Dyer
Tel: 814059



ST MARY'S CHURCH



Christmas Services

Preparing St Mary's Church for the Christmas Carol Services is truly a labour of love; many hours were spent cleaning, dusting, polishing by Jenny Wraith, Ray Rogers and Paula Donovan, preparing the way for the decorators, Stella Rodgers, Margaret Chastney and Ros and Barry Francis.



Piles of greenery, lanterns, candles, baubles and ribbon transferred the ancient building ready for the MMCC Carol Service on 14th December. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Keith Ayres, who has spent many hours during the year restoring St Mary's organ. Our distinguished visiting organist, Christopher Bayston, the Matthew Rowlands School Choir and readers, students and a good congregation combined to make the service memorable. It is so good to see young people in the church - we look forward to more concerts from them.

Sadly many of our usual 'standing-room only' congregation were not able to brave the blizzard on Saturday 18th December - none of us will forget the weather that day! But although there were fewer than in past years for the Churches Together in Stansted Celebration of Christmas, bell ringers, united choir, St Mary's School Choir and over 100 congregation made it an occasion to remember.

The Jonas' family contribution to the 'sound and light' was magical - the ancient stones of the chancel lit only by candles and special lighting was unforgettable. A retiring collection was taken which raised £185.70, to be split between Uttlesford Support Group, Parkinson's UK and the Churches Conservation Trust. For many years, Alan Corbishley has been the organiser for the Celebration of Christmas. The village should be very grateful to him for once again co-ordinating the service, bringing to life our 'Old Church' and uniting us in praise at Christmas.

Audrey Rodgers



Rev'd David Keeble of the Free Church will be leading a Bible study and discussion entitled 'Love is??' based on 1 Corinthians 13 at our meeting at 8.00pm on 14th February, which will be at 7 Blythwood Gardens. Our 'At Home' for this month is at 8.00pm on Monday 28th February at 13 Blackbushe, Bishop's Stortford. All are welcome.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



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QUIZ EVENING

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Saturday 12th February

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Wed 2nd Mar

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VILLAGE EVENTS

February

2	Wed	Mountfitchet Club Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 – 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
3	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Fri	NCT Tea and Toys	St John's Hall 10 – 11.30 am
5	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm
10	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
11	Fri	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
12	Sat	Lib Dem Quiz	Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm
14	Mon	Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
15	Tue – 17	Thu The Wizard of Oz	Mountfitchet College 7.30 pm
17	Thu	U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 pm
19	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm
25	Fri	NCT Messy Play	St John's Hall 2 – 4 pm
28	Mon	Shalom 'At Home'	13 Blackbushe, B/S 8 pm

March

2	Wed	Big Brew Coffee & Fairtrade Mountfitchet Club Mountfitchet Garden Club	Free Church 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Day Centre 2 – 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
3	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Fri	Women's World Day of Prayer	St John's Church 2 pm
5	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm
10	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



2 pm Friday 4th March
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QUIZ NIGHT

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Tue 22 Mar Free Church Hall
Wed 30 Mar St John's Church
Tue 5 Apr Free Church Hall
Wed 13 Apr St John's Church

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The new term got off to an exciting start with a visit from PC Mark Reed and his three Police Dogs Koda, Marty and Frankie. The dogs are trained to sniff out firearms and explosives. Outside, they gave demonstrations of their skills (very successfully despite the rain that day!) then visited each class so the children could meet them close up and ask questions. The questions were thoughtful and relevant, showing how aware the children are of the work of the police and their dogs. The children were able to stroke the dogs although PC Reed did make sure to say that they should always ask an owner or policeman before they approach a dog. Here is what some of the pupils had to say:

'The policemen said the dogs lived outside, and that they were trained with a ball. The policeman wears a stabvest and has been in the police for 22 years.'

'The dogs are specially trained to sniff people and places and were often at the railway stations in London. They sometimes work on the trains or on the Queen's train. They sometimes meet the Royal Family. The outfit [worn by the policeman] is very heavy.'

'The dogs were Marty, a Springer spaniel, Frankie a black Labrador and Koda a Malinois or Belgian Shepherd dog. The dogs are assessed then they take an eight week course to test their obedience skill.'

'The dogs are better at finding things than a machine or a human because a machine has not been invented yet, and dogs can sniff things out five times better than a human.'

'Dogs have different jobs. The tall dogs scan people looking for bombs or drugs; the smaller dogs can get through small cracks in walls or houses.'

If you are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school, please give us a ring on 812212 to arrange a visit. You can also visit the school website at:

www.st-marys-stansted-essex-sch-uk.org.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher



New Year's Day Family Fun Day

Twenty players braved the New Year's Day drizzle to compete in teams playing a variety of fun games, which included serving races, racket and ball relays, forehand drive accuracy and several more. There were four teams, Murray, Federer, Nadal and Djokovic. Each team consisted of five players of mixed ages and genders. Each team had a joker which they could play to double their points on the game of their choice. After two and a half hours of competition, the winning team with 26 points was Team Murray, which consisted of Jenny Kirby, Kirsty Rutherford, Matt Hollis, Richard Mott and Felicity Shakespeare. Players and friends enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies at the event.

Annual General Meeting

This will be held at 8.00pm on Tuesday 15th February at 105 Cambridge Road. Members are encouraged, to attend.

Ladies' Night

The next Ladies' Night will be from 7.00 to 10.00pm on Monday 14th February. All are welcome!

Coaching

If you are interested in finding out more about coaching, please contact Chris Hollis on 319155, or Martyn Taplin (Monday night adult coaching session) on 816386. Chris will be looking to start new classes in February, especially for 7 to 9 year olds. Please contact Chris if you would like to be put on his waiting list.

Used tennis balls

Used tennis balls can be purchased for £1 per tube of four - choose your own! Please contact Jan Hollis on 812073.

Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions: Wednesday from 9.00am and 6.00pm Friday from 9.30am. Sunday from 10.00am

Contacts

Richard Mott (Secretary) 466348, Janet Hollis (Chairman) 812073, Daphne Lunnon (Membership Secretary) 817574.

Chris Hollis

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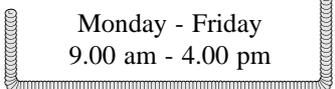
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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Despite unfavourable weather conditions, our December Members' Evening was well attended. Our first presentation by Lesley Hawkes entitled 'Titanic of the Channel Islands', was a story of the ship 'Stella', which was tragically wrecked on 30th March 1899, with the loss of 80 lives. Many heroic actions were recorded relating to the disaster, including Lesley's great grandfather, the Rev'd Clutterbuck. Ken McDonald then gave an illustrated presentation on a significant new project to seek designation of a large local area as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or similar. Ken will keep us updated on progress. Next, David Harrison gave a reading of an 'Ode' found in a 1934 edition of 'The Pen-nant', Official Organ of Benskin's Watford Brewery, entitled 'The Village Inn' relating to the well-known Stansted pub, 'The King's Arms'. This, of course, encompassed some of our village characters who on occasion paid visit to the said house! Roger Barrett then presented extracts from his long and detailed research on the 1901 Census. Among his many findings, he stressed how complications could arise attempting to trace family histories. Finally, Ken McDonald returned to give a presentation on a postcard of Silver Street of earlier years, with a message on the reverse, giving Ken the idea of researching the history of the view and writer. We were taken back to a time long ago to identify shops, premises and traders who were portrayed on the card. This ended the meeting; but before departing we must give our thanks to all who provided festive refreshments throughout a most enjoyable evening. Book your slot early for our next Members' Evening!

For our January meeting, William Tyler gave us a very interesting talk on 'Essex on the Home Front, 1914 -1918'. He spoke graphically about his subject, which he knew exhaustively and it was fascinating to see him prove his initial belief that the effects of World War I still have a bearing on us today. It was wrong to think that before that time all was calm, and actually, the principal fear of Government was revolution. Certainly the war started many changes and he listed the effects, some of which I shall mention. As so many men were in the Forces, women were employed in far greater numbers than before. The result was that the Parliamentary vote was granted just after the War and subsequently equality with men became a watchword. Many examples of illiteracy were brought to light as a result of which there was a greater political determination to improve education. Before the War, society was divided and class barriers were very real. The War improved the situation and there has been a continued reduction in class awareness, together with a distrust of those in authority more than ever before. We were extremely grateful to William for his very excellent talk, which was greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting will be at 8.00pm on Thursday 3rd February at the Day Centre, when David Barlow will be telling us of 'The History of Bottles'.

Peter Brown and Ian Seavers



**Royal British Legion
Stansted & District
Branch**

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL
STANSTED AND DISTRICT**

Unfortunately the deadline date for items for the last edition of the 'Link' was prior to the end of the Poppy Appeal so it must seem like a very long time since you had any information about the 2010 Appeal. Counting has gone on apace and I'm pleased to tell you that the Stansted village collection reached the magnificent sum of £3676.49 and the District total so far is £11,326.29. Many thanks to all those who gave so generously and my special thanks to those who collected for the Appeal, be they House to House Collectors, or the many outlets who have poppies on their premises. Your support is essential to our aims to provide support for all ex-service personnel and their families.

I must now refer to the 2011 Appeal. I have been asking for several years for assistance in Stansted. After twenty-five years, my age and disability have led to the hard decision that I cannot continue to organise Stansted Village this coming year. Whilst I fully appreciate that the House to House is sometimes a hard task, it does generate a large percentage of the Poppy Appeal donations throughout the country. This year it accounted for 39% in Stansted. This is a magnificent achievement as a vast number of streets in the village are not covered at all due to lack of volunteer collectors. Several of our collectors have dramatically increased their commitment to try and cover extra streets, but they cannot be everywhere! There are presently some thirty-eight outlets in the village and, hopefully, more could be recruited. A co-ordinator would distribute the Poppy Cans and Trays a few days prior to the Appeal and collect them in a few days afterwards. After distribution to the House to House collectors they drop their cans and trays into Barclays Bank, who, for many years have been of great service in taking on this task. Presently we have a volunteer counter. Stansted Village has been very involved in the Legion's Poppy Appeal since the Branch was formed in 1926, and has been a valued contributor to its aims. May I please seek an organiser for Stansted? You will not be left to sort it all out on your own in 2011, but without such support I'm afraid that the collection in Stansted will cease.

John L Segar
Honorary Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator
Tel: 813289

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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

It seems a long time since last November when we held our AGM and chose a new committee and a new President and I think I am now delighted to say that I have become President of the WI for the first time, having been a member for 46 years! After many years as the Secretary, it is quite a novelty to be able to walk away from the meeting and not have to write it all up, though as you can see I am still doing this. I discovered what a 'Chinese Auction' was and it raised £37 towards the cost of tree - probably a flowering cherry - which we hope to plant in the village to commemorate our 50th Anniversary.

In December we welcomed Colin Street to our meeting to tell us about the Globe Theatre in London, both the original one built in 1599 on the South Bank and the new one which was the dream of Sam Wanamaker and was finished in 1997. Sadly Sam died before its completion but he did live to see its beginnings and his daughter Zoe is Patron. Colin Street had been an English teacher and is now a London Blue Badge Guide with a special interest in showing groups around the Globe Theatre. He gave us a fascinating insight into the world of Shakespeare's day and with the aid of slides showed us many other sites of theatres and places of interest that were around during the 1660s. The present Globe is the only building in London that has a thatched roof as they were forbidden after the Great Fire of 1666. It can house 1,500 people, which is five times the number that could be accommodated in Shakespeare's day, but then, of course, they wouldn't have had the tourist trade we have now or the population.

This year the National AGM is in Liverpool and takes place over two days. Pearl Wellings has agreed to be our delegate at this meeting for our Group Institutes. Before this we have the County AGM at Colchester when the Duchess of Devonshire is to be the speaker, and several of us hope to attend this. We are looking forward to another interesting year in the WI and are always pleased to welcome new members. Why not come along this month when the speaker will be Karen Adams and the talk entitled 'Artistic Inspiration' and be inspired! We meet at 7.45pm on Thursday 10th February in St John's Hall.



Judy Colliver
President

ST CLARE HOSPICE

The In-Patient Unit has undergone a total make-over with a grant to refurbish it after its first 10 years. Four of the bedrooms have already been completed with state of the art furnishings including remote controlled mood lighting and surround sound. The en-suite bathrooms have been re-fitted beautifully. Both patients and visitors have commented on how warm and welcoming the environment is and, to an extent, one engineered by the patients themselves. Day

Therapy have all their intended groups up and running. A Carer's Drop-in, Brighter Living and a Breathlessness group are examples of current activity. The team will review and expand the groups as more referrals are being received. If you, a family member or friend would like to know more about any of our services please call 01279 773768.

To enable our services to thrive and develop in order to support local communities, free of charge, St Clare is most grateful for the kind generosity of the local businesses for supporting our Christmas Bells campaign and to them for holding fundraising events in aid of the Hospice. The Hospice is holding its first event in Stansted to herald March Madness – a bungee jump – taking place on Saturday 12th March at the Old Bell Hotel. Please speak to Tracy on 01279 773750 for further details. Meanwhile, the Stansted Friends Group has been busy arranging its first Quiz Night at St John's Hall, Stansted on Saturday 19th March at 7.00pm. Tickets are £8 each to include a Ploughman's platter for each table. It promises to be a quiz with a difference and one which will include local knowledge of the area. No more clues. Please try to support our evening of fun while helping to raise much needed funds at the same time. Please call me for tickets or further details. Please, also, look out for publicity on a Flog It! evening which Sue Hitchmough would like to hold in aid of St Clare. Sue's last event was great fun. The Three Horseshoes at Molehill Green is also very keen to raise funds for the Hospice. Their February Quiz evening will be in aid of St Clare and your support will be greatly appreciated. My thanks, in advance, for your ongoing support for your local Hospice.

Caroline Bore
Community Fundraiser
Tel: 773751

Email: caroline.bore@stclarehospice.org.uk

Stop Press

Grab your wellies, it's time for walkies! The St Clare Hospice 5km Winter Walk is on Sunday 30th January and starts at 10.30am from the Hospice grounds on Hastingwood Road. This countryside walk is a great way to burn off a few Christmas mince pies and dogs are very welcome to join in too. Tickets cost £10 for adults, £5 for children or £27.50 for a family of two adults and two children. Included in the price of your ticket is warm soup, rolls and refreshments on your return to the Hospice. There are even treats for the dog! Visit www.stclarehospice.org.uk to register online or call 773750.



Tracy Stratford
St Clare Hospice Events Fundraiser
Tel: 773758

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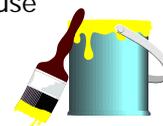
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BUSINESS AS USUAL

I am hoping by the time you read this, our building project at Saffron Walden will have been completed. The 16 week project has inevitably overrun due to unforeseen events, such as pipes where there shouldn't have been any, and no electrical cables where there should have been; and of course the snow adding further difficulties. However, on the whole, the project has run in a relatively smooth and good-humoured way. Clients have been very understanding and interested to know what's going on, and also very patient as they have been directed to go through unusual doors or wait in unexpected places with their animals. We have only had a few stray clients in the 16 weeks. One lady found her way up into the nurse's flat much to our surprise, and asked if that's where we were keeping the dog food now! I think the smooth running of the project has been down to efficient organisation both on our behalf and that of the builders and also good communication. We've had weekly meetings with the builders and then daily updates and discussions as various issues cropped up. Everyone has really pulled together and worked as a team and I'm really proud of all our staff and the way they have managed.

One thing I am particularly looking forward to is having my desk and notice board back. I think your own workspace is tremendously important, as it gives you a sense of place and a calmness and order in which to get your tasks done. I have been missing my notice board particularly, as not only does it have the usual list of handy telephone numbers and the staff rota etc, but I also have pinned up some of the lovely thank you cards and photos of their pets people send me. There's the photo of a young woman hugging her Boxer dog, who I know meant more than anything else in the world to her. There's the photo of the most gentle Saddleback pig I have ever met, who used to sit down and let me trim her hooves for her one by one; and there's the photo of a rather well fed ginger cat lying on the floor with his head resting longingly on his empty food bowl and the owner's handwritten note underneath, saying "You know they don't feed me enough don't you?" Glancing at the photos on a stressful day reminds me of the most important reason I do the job and it can help to put things in perspective. So although I'm looking forward to getting my desk back, I'm also looking forward to seeing some old friends again when I put my notice board up.

Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes
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UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mrs Margaret Rogers was our speaker at a recent meeting and very informative and entertaining she was too, making us all very glad to be living in modern times and not in the far-off days of our female ancestors when a woman's lot was not always a happy one. The theme of her talk was women's suffrage. She began by setting the historical scene, pointing out that in the fortunately dim and distant past it was very difficult for a woman to get a divorce; that if she ran away, her husband could have her traced and returned; that if she separated from her husband she would not be allowed any contact with the children of the marriage; and that if she ran away with the children they could be taken from her.

However, things would eventually change for the better. A change brought about by the suffragettes led by the formidable Mrs Pankhurst, who drew attention to the plight of women with deeds not words - words sadly not having brought about a change. The leaders of the suffragette movement - the term 'suffragette' having been coined by the Daily Mail - and their followers campaigned using fair means and foul to gain recognition for their cause. Windows were broken in 10 Downing Street and the major shopping thoroughfares of London. Churches and politicians' homes were fire-bombed and works of art vandalised. The penalties meted out to the suffragettes were severe and included force feeding. Emily Wilding Davison became a martyr when she died from her injuries after throwing herself under the king's horse on Derby day in 1913. A year later when war broke out, the Pankhursts called on their supporters to repudiate violence, and to patriotically support the Government. They replaced the men who had rallied to Kitchener's call, making munitions, driving ambulances, working on the land and in fact doing all manner of jobs previously done by the absent menfolk. In recognition of the vital role played by women during the four years of war the Representation of the People Act was passed in February 1918 giving the vote to property owning women over the age of 30.

Another entertaining afternoon was rounded off with a delicious tea provided by members of our hard working Committee - the centre piece of which was a mouthwatering 90th birthday cake. The finale was a commemorative photographic session to celebrate our 90 years as an institute - a photo of our new President, Mrs Dorothy Wallace, flanked by past Presidents and a group photo of all our current members. If you would like to be in this 'line up' why not come and join us? You would be most welcome. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in Ugley Village Hall

Andrea Fitt



STANSTED & DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

We will be holding a Quiz on Saturday 12th February, 7.00pm for 7.30pm, at the Stansted Day Centre. Tickets cost £8 to include a ploughman's supper. The Quizmaster is David Morson, and there will be a Bar and Raffle. Everyone is welcome, and for tickets and further information, please ring Ruth Rawlinson on 81422 or Alan Dean on 813579.

Ruth Rawlinson

Ofsted Visit

The second Ofsted monitoring inspection visit for MMCC took place over a two-day period in late November. Four key areas have been identified by Ofsted for us to focus on. The inspection team make judgements against the progress made with respect to these targets and then gives an overall judgement. We are delighted that this visit resulted in a Grade 2 (Good) for progress by the College. Although we are likely to remain in Special Measures until the Summer Term, it is obvious that the work and ethos in the College do not reflect this label, nor is it having a negative effect on morale. Many students were spoken to during the visit and the lead inspector was extremely complimentary about them. Clearly we are challenging, encouraging and enthusing students, which is resulting in positive performances throughout the College. We look forward to the next visit, which is likely to be around March/April and believe that this will be even more positive. My thanks go to everyone who is involved in making MMCC a good place to learn.

Ms C Anderson
Headteacher

Christmas Concert and Church Service

The lead up to Christmas is a busy time for any music



department and this was definitely true at MMCC. Over 100 people attended our annual Christmas concert. The Junior Ensemble, Junior Choir, Year 7 Singers and the College Choir all performed, with solo performances from all year groups. Particular highlights were Isaac Page's guitar solo and Christina Radukic's version of Faith's

Smoke and Mirrors. On 14th December students from Years 7, 8 and 9 went to St Mary's church for the College's Christmas Service, led by Rev'd Giles Tulk. Over 250 students, staff, parents and members of the community enjoyed readings by students and items by the College choir. It is a real highlight in the College's calendar, as I am sure all who attended will agree.

Mr M Rowlands
Head of Music

Children in Need

As in previous years, students and staff showed magnificent support by taking part in various events. Highlights included sponsored fancy dress; beat the teacher at table tennis; Pudsey Bear biscuits on sale in the dining hall; and a highly entertaining staff and student karaoke competition at lunchtime. Thanks go to Mrs Brennan and Miss Gittins as organisers of the day, which raised over £850.

Mr P Smith
Deputy Headteacher

Mission X - 'Train like an astronaut'

On 6th December the College was paid a flying visit by Richard Garriott; an English born American astronaut who was visiting England as part of the build up to Mission X:

'Train like an astronaut'. This is a NASA led international initiative in collaboration with ESA (European Space Agency) to engage students in healthy living through exercise and nutrition, completing challenges that help them to 'train like an astronaut'.

MMCC is the lead school in the UK piloting this project and is running it with the support of five primary schools. Richard gave an interesting and informative presentation to Year 5 and 7 students on life in space.

Ten lucky students then had lunch with him and got to interview Richard personally. All received mission patches from his space flight. The launch for Mission X was held on 14th January at MMCC with over 300 students involved, including a guest primary school, The Grove, from Ilford. For more about this project please visit:

<https://trainlikean astronaut.org/en/mission-data>

We shall keep you posted on our progress.

Mrs C Dunham
Head of Science

Year 10 Gifted and Talented Day

As part of the College Gifted and Talented Enrichment Programme, 12 students from Year 10 spent the day creating an online news website. Students reported on national, local and school news; interviewed both staff and students; created a College advertisement; produced a photographic 'A Day in the Life of MMCC'; created an educational (and very entertaining) film on how to play volleyball; and created a variety of mathematical and language quizzes and activities for students of all abilities in Key Stage 3 and 4.

A little 'blue sky' thinking led to the production of a blueprint for the ideal 21st century College on the current site which readers will be pleased to know included an indoor swimming pool, complete with footbridge to join different departments!

The students worked incredibly well together as a team, showing promising managerial skills in their ability to allocate roles fairly and appropriately. They inspired each other to develop some superb ideas, supported each other through a demanding schedule, and ultimately achieved an excellent addition to the College website.

Mrs S Boggis
Head of English

Wizard of Oz

Rehearsals are well underway and it promises to be another excellent production. Performances are on Tuesday 15th to Thursday 17th February at 7.30pm. Tickets from College tel 813384, Adults £6.00, Children/Concessions £3.50.

Miss C Beard
Head of Creative Arts

Trust Fund Dinner

Rugby legend Gareth Chilcott was guest speaker at the 10th annual dinner held at the Weston Business Centre in November. The fund raising event was attended by some 80 people from the local business community and included a charity auction with 12 lots donated by local businesses. Gareth, a former rugby union star who played as prop for Bath and England, regaled the audience with a scrum of humorous stories about his life and experiences in the sporting world both as a player and a non-player.

His wonderful stories kept the whole audience amused; it was a very enjoyable evening and raised nearly £2,000 for the fund, which supports the fostering of individual student talents within the College.

Mr David Earl
Chair of MMCC Trust Fund

PTA Boot Sales 2011

Sundays 27th March, 8th May, 3rd July and 25th September
from 11.00am – 2.00pm. www.mmccpta.org.uk

THE 'LINK' NEEDS A NEW TREASURER

The 'Link' is looking for a treasurer. The duties are payment of accounts (usually up to four a month) and recording and paying in remittances from advertisers. Help is available for compiling the annual accounts and the few official returns. This vacancy has arisen following Emily Winter's resignation due to work pressures, and is a vital but routine role suitable for a public-spirited person who wishes to see the work of the 'Link' maintained. Previous experience is always an advantage but is certainly not essential. Chairman Derek Honour on 647213 will be pleased to hear from you.



SPANGLES OFFICIAL OPENING

The building featured on our cover this month is the Children's Centre in Lower Street. Many years ago this lovely old building was home to the village school and up to now its attractive red brick façade has barely changed at all. The recently completed modern extension has been done so sympathetically that from the outside it's difficult to see where the old building ends and the new begins - the mark of a well executed, clever design. Those of us who braved the wintry December weather to attend the official opening, received a warm welcome from the friendly Spangles staff with hot drinks, of the non-alcoholic variety of course, and delicious 'festive' food. Suitably refreshed, we were then taken on a conducted tour by Debbie Warwick, the Spangles administrator. The light and airy extension houses a reception area with wheelchair access, new toilets including facilities for the disabled, and additional office space. Sliding doors have been installed, and the well-equipped playroom and youth club hall have new heating. All is freshly decorated and the children appeared very much at home in their comfortable surroundings. County Councillor, Ray Gooding cut the ribbon to officially open the extended building, paying tribute to the hard work and dedication of the staff in making such a success of Spangles in the three years they have been in Stansted, and thanking them for their kind hospitality. All too soon it was time to say "thank you", leave the

bright, cosy Children's Centre and face the sleet outside; a lovely afternoon spent in cheerful company. It's good to know that not only the children are being catered for, and their parents/carers supported by Debbie and her colleagues, but that the building is also being cherished. May the Children's Centre continue to thrive and serve our community for many more happy years to come.

Yvonne Ayres



Last term culminated with the wonderful news that Ofsted removed the school from Special Measures with a rating of 'Good with Outstanding elements' after a two-day inspection. The speed of the progress that the school has made is quite unique and is a result of considerable hard work and serious commitment by staff and governors. A copy of the full report is on the Ofsted website or can be obtained from Mrs Jones at the school office. Mr Terry Reynolds, Director of Learning Services for Essex County Council visited the school in January to congratulate the school on behalf of the Local Authority.

As spring hopefully will soon appear the children have been busy with the Spring term curriculum. Our new pre-nursery group has proved popular and all classes have enjoyed their French tuition. Trips have included the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge for year 5, the British Museum in London for Year 6 and a very cold day visit to Hatfield Forest for Years 4 and 3. Year 5 have been taking part in the joint school project 'Mission X – Train like an Astronaut' hosted by MMCC, and have been very excited by the different tasks and challenges that they have had to perform. They have also enjoyed the opportunity to work with children from the other cluster schools.

As part of our outreach work we regularly work with students from Cambridge School of Education, Cambridge Regional College, Harlow College and the various secondary schools in the region. Recently this work has been extended and we have been able to provide placement opportunities for aspiring head teachers and existing head teachers from the region. This is an exciting new venture where our good practice can be shared with others. After school clubs are still proving very popular with sporting choices of football, netball and hockey; makaton signing; board games; recorders; computer; band and choir. The school also runs a breakfast club from 7.45am and an after school 'kids club' from 3.15pm-6.00pm.

Cathie Bonich
Headteacher
Tel: 813626

OUR COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This month our cover photograph is of Spangles Children's Centre/Youth Centre. Older readers may remember this building as the original St Mary's Primary School. If you have any memories or anecdotes of St Mary's School in former days, for possible inclusion in a future article in the 'Link', the Editor would be very pleased to hear from you.

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

THE PARISH BUDGET FOR 2011/12 HAS BEEN AGREED

Expenditure in 2011/12 is estimated at £163,000, an increase of 11% over the expected outturn in the current year. Allowing for more dwellings, especially at Foresthall Park, the rise in council tax for a property rated in Band D is estimated at 6-7%. To put this rise into perspective, it represents about £3 per year for a Band D property or about 6p per week. In total the Parish Council levies a rate for Band D equivalent to about £1.20 per week.

The main changes affecting the proposed budget are summarised below:

- Expenditure has increased in the following areas - five yearly test on memorial stones (required by law), plant costs including more plants in hanging baskets, recommencing the repair fund for the Windmill and the electrical and structural testing of the street lights (required for insurance) and maintenance of the skatepark. So far as staffing is concerned, an amount has been included to increase staff hours if Foresthall Park becomes part of the parish while holiday cover is now budgeted for litter collection and cleaning and the full fifty-two week cost for checking play equipment. Spending on unadopted road maintenance will be lower.
- Income is likely to rise from Crafton Green car park and interest receipts.

Looking forward to the following year it is likely, but not certain, that Foresthall Park will become part of this parish with the population here rising by about 30 % once the estate is completely developed. Both income and expenditure will rise and over the next months detailed work will be undertaken to assess the impact and ensure that cost effective services are delivered to the larger parish.

POLICING IN STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

At a meeting of the Parish Council, Robert Chambers, Chairman of the Police Authority, indicated that the police station, located at Hargrave Close, is likely to close by the middle of 2011. Whilst the Parish Council does not consider the closure of a rarely open station to be much loss, it is strongly opposed to our local police being based away from the parish.

Once the new health centre is operational, there will be space in Crafton Green to house the local police and provide a reception which will handle information

relating to the police. Once this was in place, it is likely that parishioners will have a better service with accessibility in a location which many visit. A financial contribution would be sought from the police.

However, there is a timing issue given a closure in mid-2011 and the availability of space in Crafton Green perhaps in the first half of 2013. Although an offer of a mobile police station has been made, this will not meet the need and further discussions will be needed to seek a solution.

Currently PCSOs in Essex are not allowed to issue tickets for parking offences including obstruction. The Parish Council is lobbying the Chief Constable to reverse this policy given that this parish has only one police officer. This simple change would improve road safety on the streets.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING FIREWORK NIGHT SO SUCCESSFUL

The response to the firework display in the village has been favourable and for the first time covered all costs.

It is intended to improve the display next year and hopefully, with the growth in the local population, attendance will grow and the event will again be successful, enjoyable and safe.

Helpers are needed to set up on Saturday morning, 5 November 2011 and to clear up on the Sunday morning. If you have your new diaries or calendars to hand and would be happy to help, then please let Ruth Clifford know either by emailing parishcouncil@stansted.net or by telephoning 01279 813214. Thank you again for your support and help.

FILLING GRIT BINS - CHANGE IN ECC POLICY

Formerly Essex County Council offered to fill and refill grit bins and so the Parish Council sought to encourage residents to take advantage of this offer.

This policy has now changed and, whilst ECC will make a bulk drop of grit into a safe place designated by the Parish Council, this leaves the problem of distribution as the Council has no suitable transport while staffing may be an issue.

With the existing bins nearly empty, it is essential to see if these can be filled. By the time you read this, you will know if we have succeeded.

PARKING ISSUES – CAMBRIDGE ROAD

Following representations from parishioners, we met in mid-December with representatives of the Highways Authority, Uttlesford, the Colchester Parking Partnership (enforcement officers) and the Police to look at Cambridge Road and Clarence Road.

It was agreed that there were various measures that could be taken to improve on-street parking (thereby supporting our local businesses) but also to keep the traffic flowing. The items below have now been sent to Essex County Council for comment and, hopefully, implementation. In addition, we hope to persuade Uttlesford District Council to allow one hour's free parking in both of our Pay and Display car parks.

- Junction protection markings for Clarence Road where it meets Cambridge Road, but not to extend beyond the eastern side of the driveway of the first house on the left, nor the start of the white wooden rail on the right.
- No waiting at any time restriction on western side of Cambridge Road from the end of the pedestrian crossing zig-zag markings along to Croasdaile Road.
- Reduce the length of the "no waiting at any time" restriction on the eastern side of Cambridge Road at the southern end of the section outside the Greens Building.
- Reduce the length of the bus stops on each side of the road to increase available limited waiting areas.
- Reduce the length of stay within the limited waiting areas from one hour to thirty minutes.
- White line the limited waiting areas to show individual parking bays.
- Introduce a Loading Bay restriction outside Tesco Express, 6am-6pm – this would serve both Tesco and the Co-op stores, but allow public parking after 6pm.

Dunmow and Stansted Youth Centres 'Right to a Life' Belfast, Northern Ireland Exchange Project

This project began back in April 2008 when youth workers in discussion with 2 groups of 15 year old young people from Stansted and Dunmow Youth Centres planning what they wanted to do in the Summer term. The answer was "don't know, it's boring round here, I hate living here, my life is rubbish". The discussion then continued trying to find out why they



felt that way and how we could help them realise that maybe their lives weren't that bad and how they could make it better. The second aim was to prove to the young people in Belfast that two groups of young people 10 miles apart could be friends and work together and therefore why could two groups of young people barely a mile apart not be friends and work together. One of the youth workers had a friend who lived and worked on the Shankill Road in West Belfast as a Youth and Community worker and had discussed with her in the past about the problems that young people faced living in Belfast and how they were affected by them.

We then decided to speak to some youth centres in Belfast to see if they would be interested in participating in an exchange project. In May three youth workers went to Belfast and visited several youth centres and community centres and spoke to lots of people. It was decided to do the project in 3 parts with Stansted Youth Centre linking with a centre in the Ballymurphy area of the city and Dunmow Youth Centre linking with a centre in the Shankill Road area and then bring both groups of young people together in Essex in April 2010.

On our return the young people were very enthusiastic with the idea of the project and began researching the area we were going to and the history behind the unrest that has caused a lot of the problems for the young people who live there. In August 2008 ten people flew out to Belfast and linked with the Corpus Christi Youth Centre in Ballymurphy for five days. It was an intense, hectic five days of visits, talks, debates and fun.

Places visited were the Crumlin Gaol, Stormont, Northern Ireland's Government, The Republican Museum, the Odyssey Centre. We were given a tour of the "Peace Wall and Murals" by an expert guide who explained the reasons behind them and also took part in a "Youth Fringe" debate for the BBC with a panel of professionals, the Mayor of Belfast, Chief of Police for Northern Ireland, Head of the Youth Service for Northern Ireland and MP's from two of the main political parties in Northern Ireland.

The last two days were spent on the Antrim Coast with 12 young people from the Corpus Christi Youth Centre where we visited the Giants Causeway, Carrick –a- Rede Rope Bridge and Portrush for some fun and chill out time before flying back home. Since that initial visit Dunmow and Stansted Youth Centres have visited Belfast 3 more times and the Belfast young people have visited Stansted. All 4 youth centres have forged strong friendships with each other and speak regularly either by text or on Facebook.

We are now recruiting the next group of young people who would like to get involved in this exciting and very rewarding project. In November it was shortlisted to 6 out of 460 youth projects from all over the country for a Young People Now award for excellent youth work. Sadly we did not win but just to be shortlisted was a

huge achievement and shows what an excellent experience this is for young people to get involved with!! The youth centre (at the far end of Lower Street) is open Wed, Thurs 7-9.30pm and Fri 7.30-10pm and is totally free to young people aged 13yrs+. Come down, say hi and find out more about what we offer!!! Call Linda Barnes on 01371 873156 or 07920 466 923 for more details.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON POTENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT OF ELMS FARM

The Gemmill Family are holding a public exhibition into the potential for residential redevelopment of Elms Farm, Church Road on Saturday 26 February 2011 at the Stansted Day Centre between 9am - 4pm. All members of the public are welcome to attend, community views will be sought and all comments received will be used to inform the planning process. Chris Tivey on 01621 868404/07835 927754 or chris@octaplanning.com

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

Looking ahead to 2011

What will 2011 bring on the council front? It will see the District Elections in May. However, there will be no Parish Council elections in Stansted or Birchanger because of the boundary review relating to Foresthall Park. Hopefully, we will see a definitive local development framework which will finally consign Option 4, the large scale development at Elsenham to the dust. We should also see some progress on the new health centre at Stansted. It looks increasingly as if it will be on the site of the Castle Sports Cars site in Lower Street (see public exhibition details on page 20).

Keeping warm in winter

Keeping yourself warm in winter is very important especially for older people, as it is clear that more people fall ill in cold weather and some of the illnesses people get, such as pneumonia and bronchitis can be fatal.

Being more energy efficient at home could help you stay warm this winter and save you money. Uttlesford is a partner in the Hertfordshire and Essex Energy Partnership (HEEP). This has been established to provide a simple, one stop shop for anyone interested in improving the energy efficiency of their home. HEEP will do the legwork for you by checking to see if you are eligible for a grant from a variety of different funding bodies and initiatives such as Warm Front and the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. The partnership also has its own extra government funding allowing it to offer householders extra grants and loans over and above what is available from these national schemes.

All measures are installed by council approved installers, so you can be sure that any work necessary will be carried out in a high standard. To find out more call HEEP free on 0800 980 6026 or visit www.heepgrant.org

Uttlesford ranked 8th best place to live in UK

Uttlesford has been named as one of the best places to live in Britain. The study has been carried out by the Halifax and the aim is to compare living standards in more than 400 local council areas nationwide. It compares their performance on a range of 'quality of life' indicators such as education, employment and health.

Most residents of Uttlesford would agree that we are fortunate to live here. We are blessed with much attractive countryside, historic villages and towns combined with proximity to London and Cambridge.

Of course, such an award is something of a double-edged sword. Not only does it affect central government funding but also serves to increase development pressures. High house prices makes it more difficult for people to get a foot on the housing ladder.

Cabinet adopted for 2011

A meeting of the Full Council in December passed by 19 votes for and 11 against the recommendation that the Council adopt an executive system of governance. This will mean that from 8th May 2011 Uttlesford will have a Leader and Cabinet. It will replace the existing policy committees. Unfortunately, the voting was largely on party lines. I argued that none of the questions raised about the cost of switching to the new system, how scrutiny and community engagement would work had been answered. The reply from the Leader of the Council was that this would be left to the Constitution Task Group which would meet in the New Year.

Government financial settlement

We also received details of our provisional grant settlement from Central Government. The Revenue Support Grant accounts for 39% of the council's total revenue budget. We have been told that we will receive just under £3.2 million for 2011/12 which is a cut of 17%. In 2012/13 we will receive just under £2.8 million, which is a further cut of 13%. It is perhaps not surprising that the Council has not done well under this financial settlement. Over the last two years we have built up significant reserves. We are unlike most councils not as dependent on central government grant.

(Cllr Geoffrey Sell)

There was a lot of national press coverage just after New Year about the increasing generational divide between those who have a home and those who haven't a chance of getting on the housing ladder. The local strategic partnership economic development group which I chair has been receiving some alarming news in recent months. This can be summed up as Uttlesford increasingly becoming a place for older people and less welcoming for people of working age who want to work and live round here.

The group has been pondering the following information. In the next 20 years the Uttlesford population aged over 65 is forecast to nearly double from 12,000 to 22,000. Yet the number of residents in the working age group is expected to decrease slightly, according to the Office of National Statistics. Already, the proportion of residents round here in the 20-35 age-group is over a third smaller than in places like Chelmsford and for England as a whole. Perhaps surprisingly, pay rates in Uttlesford are lower than in Harlow yet homes here are more expensive; they cost 13-times that average local salary, so are financially out of reach of most people employed locally. One newspaper reports headlined this "House prices run young buyers out of Uttlesford".

The message is fairly clear. Uttlesford needs more higher-paid jobs, more young people and more homes for them to live in that are affordable if Uttlesford is not to become increasingly a place for elderly, retired people.

Planning for new homes has not been going well in the past two months. Uttlesford has lost two appeal cases because its own long-term plans were considered by the government to be inadequate. The first was for a moderately sized development in Elsenham. The second was over a gipsy and travel-site in Little Hallingbury.

The council's plan has to show at least 5 years' worth of future deliverable housing. The Elsenham inspector wrote in his report "In the light of the council now proceeding to review its housing targets, the consequent delay to the Core Strategy and the inability to demonstrate a 5-year supply of deliverable housing sites, dismissing the appeal would not be justified". Because there is no longer a sound council plan, Uttlesford's ability to refuse planning applications has been weakened.

Government ministers were making plain over the Christmas and New Year holiday that new homes must be built and price rises must be kept down by increasing the supply of new homes to meet a growing shortfall. We have heard a lot about localism recently, but it is quite clear that localism doesn't give councils and communities the right to do what they like in the face of a growing housing crisis.

Web-blog: <http://alandean.mycouncillor.org.uk/>
(Cllr Alan Dean)

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

9 February	Finance
16 February	Full Council
23 February	Open Spaces

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<i>John Salmon</i>	Tel: 01279 814789
Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>Geoffrey Sell</i>	Tel: 01279 815925
Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk	

Essex County Council Member

<i>Ray Gooding</i>	Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk	

Member of Parliament

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 0207 219 5214/Fax: 0207 219 5600
Email: haselhursta@parliament.uk

Police

<i>PC Tom Bastendorff</i>	Tel: 01279 812211
Non-emergency number	Tel: 0300 333 4444
<i>PCSO's (Stuart/Kelly)</i>	Tel: 07801 461 666

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<p>STOP PRESS 27th January 11 am to 8pm PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF PROPOSED NEW HEALTH CENTRE, CASTLE LOTUS GARAGE, LOWER STREET</p>
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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	Pilots Age 5-18	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433 Email: pilots@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk
Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Bowls Club	Edward Taub Hon Secretary Tel: 816932 Email: ebtaub@googlemail.com	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk
Brownies/ Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 08442 4 36281
Cubs Scouts Age 8-10.5	Roger Musgrove Tel: 816172	Scouts Age 10.5-14	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk Website: www.skr.org.uk
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144 Email: www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk	Tennis Club	Janet Hollis Tel: 812073
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085 Email: www.mencapgrovecottage.org	U3A	Cherry Venn Chair Tel: 817140
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Huw Johnson Club	Marion and Tom Johnson Tel: 812284	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Lunch Club	Alastair Richardson Tel: 07850 295109 Email: amg.richardson@gmail.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 01371 873156 or 07920 466 923
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 813160	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 the Editor know. (Contact details on page 1.)	
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: www.musicatstansted.com		

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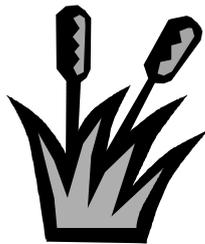
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Where Was The White Bear Inn?

We walked the walk with Tony and noted all things of interest. On arrival at the junction between Bentfield Causeway and Bentfield Road, Margret said, "Of course that house, Latchmeres, was once the site of The White Bear Inn". "Well" said Janet, "I thought The White Bear Inn was on the West side of Cambridge Road opposite Normans Way and hence the name of the adjacent road White Bear". Bart assured me that the deeds to Latchmeres indeed confirmed that it was once called The White Bear Inn. Beneath are beer cellars, albeit strengthened in WWII as Air Raid Warden's Post and it was he, who removed the Warden's bunk from the cellar. The Pub was supplied latterly by The Gravitation Brewery based in Lower Street, Stansted. Ken, our E-bay specialist, came up with two photographs of oil paintings published in Baily's Magazine 1904, a sporting and pastimes journal.



The first picture was of the old, 'Bell', Stansted, in a different age but it is still recognisable today as the former Bell and Feathers now an Indian restaurant. The 'White Bear' resembles nothing in existence today. The Inn in the picture is huge with the coach and four stepping up in fine style. There are also a number of men with their mounts in the middle ground. One may well say, 'an artist's interpretation', which even in 1904 didn't represent the then coaching scene in Stansted. The railways had long since decimated the passenger coaching trade, and certainly the building depicted was not that in either Bentfield Road or the Causeway.

Peter tells me that from his research there were five inns in our parish in 1769 including The White Bear, and the Bentfieldbury manorial documents that I have on loan show a Manorial Court being held at the 'Bear' in 1801. One note of Peter's says that Samuel Gilbey was the licensee of the White Bear in 1810. Toby has a very fine Hassobury Estate map of 1815, the original of which is in the Essex Records Office. It shows a very large building called 'Bear Inn' on the Cambridge Road. The Puckeridge Hunt held their annual dinners there. In 1817 there were still five inns in Stansted, but by 1820 there was no further mention of The White Bear Inn. It would appear that the White Bear went out of business some time between 1817 and 1820. The Tithe map of 1843 shows that large area of land from Walpole Farm down the Cambridge Road to about the tennis courts and up to Pennington Lane as Bear Fields or Bear Pasture. John Raven, Gentleman and Brickmaker purchased Welles Field from the Saffron Walden Quakers' Wyatt & George Gibson trustees of the late William Grover, partner in Greens Stores on the Cambridge Road. On 22nd November 1839 Raven paid £513.13.4d for 3 ½ acres of land in Bentfield End. It was on this site that he built, presumably with his own bricks, The Brickmakers Arms Public house, which in later manorial

deeds was referred to as The 'White Bear' and now 'Latchmeres'.

The picture of The 'White Bear', Stansted, from Baily's magazine, 1904, was drawn by Penry Powell Palfrey (1830-1902). He was a well-known artist. Initially he carved in stone, later he worked in stained glass, particularly church decoration and heraldic work. At the time of his death only two cathedrals were without it. Not until he was 54 did Penry turn to painting horses professionally. His exceptional merit was noted by the Duke of Westminster, Queen Victoria and Edward VII. Penry painted four of the Duke's Derby winners, and they are still with the family.



What was Penry doing painting pubs in Stansted for a sporting magazine? It so happened that Baily's Magazine was created in 1862 by Tresham Gilbey, the third son of Sir Walter Gilbey, of Gilbey's gin fame. In 1866 Tresham married the daughter of Sir John Barker of The Grange, Rye St, Bishop's Stortford who had Whitehall, (now a trade union college) built in 1916 for the couple. At least two of Tresham's forefathers were landlords of coaching inns in Stansted, one being the White Bear on the Cambridge Road. His father lived from 1865 to 1874 in Hargrave House. So maybe the paintings were with his family and only used in the magazine after Palfrey's death.

Ralph Phillips
The Stansted Mountfitchet History Society

PROGRESS

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Or where the buses should go
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Ditch the car - and walk instead!

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Loki

For more on parking issues see page 18

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ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

Weather daunting even for Santa!

The Rotary Club of Stansted Stort Valley devote most of their attention in December to taking Santa to visit friends in Stansted and parts of Bishop's Stortford. When Santa first set out in early December the weather was bad but coming from the North Pole he is used to this and completed his early rounds in fine form. However the very heavy snow and the poor road conditions made it almost impossible to visit all the planned houses in the week before Christmas – a big disappointment to Santa as well as the children, as Santa has a soft spot for the good people of Stansted and was really looking forward to touring the streets in the run up to the big day. So if you missed him in Stansted this year, he apologises and hopes you were satisfied with the presents he left on his magical flying visit on Christmas Eve and looks forward to seeing all his friends next year. The good news is that, despite the particularly challenging



weather conditions this year, Santa's elves managed to collect over £5,000 which they intend to distribute to local charities and good causes. Anyone with suggestions for how some of this money should be distributed, please get in touch. Our Club produces a monthly Newsletter by email for members and friends. If you are interested in receiving a copy let us know, contact details below, and you will be on our emailing list just for the Newsletter until you ask us to remove it.

Peter Latham
Tel: 507294

Email: yp.latham@tiscali.com



At the January AGM, we reviewed the achievements of 2010. We are very grateful to the local community for the wonderful support it has provided. The charity is supported by local fundraising and despite the recession was again able to cover its costs without cutting back on any of the services it provides for people with learning disability. There were two major developments in 2010. We opened a Youth Club for people between 15-25 years. The new leader, Aimee, is doing well and we expect the club to continue to grow in 2011. The second development was an experiment in providing a Holiday

Club for school age children. We ran four full day outings in the summer, one in October and another in December. A great deal has been learned. For example, we found that using a coach was much better than using a fleet of minibuses. We learned the need to arrange contingency plans in case of rain, and our volunteers gained experience. The outings were very popular with about 17 children taking part each time. We hope to offer a comprehensive range of Holiday Club activities in 2011.

Staff training was boosted in 2010. We spent more than £5,000 to ensure that our staff and volunteers are well prepared. Many of our nursery staff completed their NVQ Level 3 courses. We renovated the toilet area of our centre in order to provide hygienic nappy changing facilities, particularly for older and bigger children.

March 8th – Weston Centre Dinner with Ian Robertson the BBC Rugby Union commentator is our next fundraising event. Tickets are £36 and we offer a good meal, good company, an amusing speaker and, of course, support a very good cause. Please contact me for tickets.

David Scott

Email: davidscott47@hotmail.com



Nature Notes

Pennington Lane is frequently mentioned as a place to sample delights such as pleasing views, numerous birds and wayside flowers. Possibly some of the latter are attributable to the alien soil which was heaped as a deterrent to parking in past years. It sometimes yields flowers that are among the less common. October's tally included the old faithfuls like dandelion, tree-mallow, skullcap, hogweed and hedge bindweed, but also the dainty long-stalked cranesbill. However, the harsh winter has brought a colourless interval - hopefully a short one. Happily the wren, a tiny bird that is vulnerable to prolonged cold, is still to be seen. There are gloomy reports in bird magazines of the trichomonas disease which is affecting greenfinches and, to a lesser extent, chaffinches. Fortunately local populations held up in 2010. One species was been seen more during last year is the grass snake. This can mean fewer amphibians (their principal food) so we should ensure that garden ponds are not phased out. The factors affecting all wildlife populations are numerous and difficult to identify due to complex inter-relationships but what is certain is the pressing need for more, not less, natural vegetation. Providing wild parts of a garden, shelter in almost any form, hedges and trees are the most important actions that we can take. Nature can then take care of the detail. It's quite easy to become an important benefactor!

Derek Honour

THE COCK CHARITY NIGHT

On Saturday 30th October we held a charity night in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness – 'Wear it Pink'. We had a karaoke and also a 'Fashion Show'. The fashion show involved our male members of staff showing off the latest in womenswear!!! It was a fantastic night and raised £400 for our charity. We would like to say a HUGE thank you to ALL of our staff and customers who contributed to the evening and helped us raise such a significant amount of money.

Paul Salmon

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STANSTED DAY CENTRE

A reminder that our first concert in 2011 is at St John's on Sunday, 30th January at 3.00pm and will be given by Victoria Sayles (violin) and Martin Cousin (piano). Their programme will include Handel's Sonate for Violin and Piano in G minor Op1 No 6; Brahms G major Sonate Nr1; Sarasate's Zigueneisen; and also music by Ravel and Elgar. We are most grateful to Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers who are sponsoring the cost of hiring the piano, and The Countess of Munster Music Trust.

Our fourth and final concert this season will be at 7.30pm on Saturday 12th March, when the former Royal Harpist, Catrin Finch, will be making a return visit to Stansted. Fuller details will appear in the next edition of 'Link'. Tickets for each concert cost adults £12, children £1 from: Stansted Carpets, Nockolds Bishop's Stortford, Sonia Levy 31 Chapel Hill tel 815282 or at the door. For more information please visit our website – www.musicatstansted.com.

Alan Corbishley



The National Childbirth Trust
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As I write this, we are just getting back into the swing of our normal routine after Christmas. The Stansted NCT group held many events throughout December from an Audley End Santa Ride to our annual children's Christmas party. A big thank you to our Committee members who made all of this year's events so special for the children. To help with our New Year resolutions to keep fit and lose weight, we have organised forest walks from Hatfield Forest. We will meet at the first car park at 11.00am on the last Tuesday of every month for a buggy walk for babies and pre-preschoolers. Why not arrange to meet us there for the children to burn off energy and Mums and Dads to burn off calories? I would like to remind all members and non-members of our Experiences Register that we hold locally. If you would like to talk to anyone in confidence, about any aspect of pregnancy, child-birth or parenting we hold a register of local people who are happy to discuss their shared experiences with you. Issues such as, pre-eclampsia, premature birth, postnatal depression, weaning or temper tantrums. Contact Louise Rich on 07944 981468. Fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates? Why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings, which are informal gatherings held in members' homes? We would love to meet you and it is a great way of making new friends. Contact me for details of our weekly events.

Additional events being held this month

Friday 4th February 10.00-11.30am Tea and Toys at St Johns Hall. £2 per family. For all pre-preschoolers and pregnant mums.

Friday 25th February 2.00-4.00pm Messy Play at St Johns Hall. £3 per child or £5 family. For all pre-preschoolers. Please dress children suitably.

Anna Sedgbeer
Tel: 812257

On 13th December we celebrated our Christmas lunch at the Day Centre. Our cook Sue produced a fabulous dinner, which was followed by our lottery draw and raffle. Our volunteers worked very hard to make the day really memorable. A great time was had by all and we even saw some new faces that we hope will return for lunches in 2011.



Other news

The Day Centre is now available for hire to some private parties. Large dining hall, office and well fitted kitchen available. Please contact the number below with any enquiries. Our next lottery draw is on 25th February.

Drivers wanted

We are still looking for a volunteer to help with some driving. If you have a car and can spare us a small amount of time once every two or three weeks, please give us a call.

Kat Lupton
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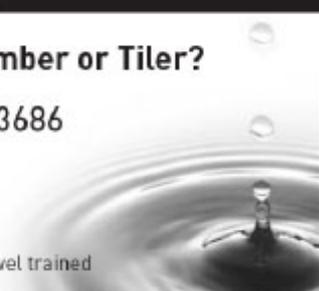
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494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps



November was a quiet month for the Squadron; however we had a main event of the year: Remembrance Day Parade. Over 35 cadets paraded down Chapel Hill to St John's as part of the memorial service. It was a lovely turn out from the village and was a memorable occasion for many. Another Essex Wing sporting event took place on a freezing cold Sunday



morning. The cross-country event was a 5 km run across the fields in South Weald Country Park. Although we were strained for numbers, two of our senior boys, Andy Smith and Richard Smith, came 5th and 6th. Well done boys.

There was another opportunity for three of our cadets to go gliding to Wethersfield. They completed their GICs which is where they control the glider themselves and go through different procedures like turning and dipping the glider.

From 19-24th December many of our cadets were bag packing at Sainsbury's in Jackson Square to raise money for our Squadron's new minibus. We have just started the challenge to raise £30,000 for a new minibus because our current one has finally died. We raised £1700, so thank you if you supported us. Our current minibus has been with the Squadron for over 10 years and even then it was bought second hand; so it has done us very well considering, taking us to all the many events that we help out at, competitions we take part in, and activities we do. Without a minibus we will have to rely on the generosity of the parents to take their children to wherever they are needed, which in many cases is a very long drive. This will mean that many cadets won't be able to participate in activities simply because of transport, which is a shame. So there is a huge need for a new minibus!

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

Alice Brooks

TORTOISE SCOUT GROUP

The troop, which was founded in 1976 for boys with learning difficulties, went into hibernation on 31st December 2010. The Scout Movement has a principle whereby a group or troop that is facing closure remains nominally in being for a further year in the hope that circumstances change. The main reason for our 'hibernation' is that the national policy is for less able boys (and girls) to be integrated into a local troop - something that can carry advantages and disadvantages for boys and leaders. This coupled with a shortage of both in our catchment area has led to the present position. Almost 100 young people have been through Tortoises during our 34 years. A great fund of enjoyment, achievement and happy memories has been built up and many friendships created at Scout and leader levels. To some extent we should be pleased that there are now fewer disadvantaged boys on our patch, but Mark and Judith who form the present team wish it to be known that should there be youngsters 'out there' who feel that they would respond to a quieter and more personally-related form of Scouting, a phone call to 07715 628201 during the coming months could be to their benefit.



Derek Honour

CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Cheesy Bean Potatoes

Try making this simple seasonal recipe with your children – a great tea for the cold months. Can be made a day ahead and chilled before baking

Ingredients

6 large baking potatoes
85g butter
1 tbsp English mustard
6 large spring onions, finely chopped
175g cheddar, grated, plus 85g for sprinkling
400g tin red kidney beans, drained

Method

Bake the potatoes until crispy on the outside and soft inside (about an hour at 200C). Cool a little.
Cut the potatoes in half lengthways and scoop the flesh into a bowl.
Mash the potato with the butter and mustard, then add the spring onions, 175g cheese and kidney beans.
Pile the mixture into the potato skins and scatter with the remaining cheese.
Bake for 20-30 mins at 200C, until golden.

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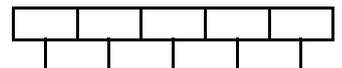
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SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



The Moon is about 2000 miles in diameter and hangs in our sky between 220 and 240 thousand miles in its 29ish day orbit around us. In fact the Earth and Moon go round each other rather like a dumbbell with different weights at each end. The pivotal point, known as the Barycentre, is within the Earth. The 20 odd thousand miles variation of the Moon's distance has a noticeable affect on the tides. When the Moon is closer the tides are higher; all the more so if the Sun appears close to the Moon. At any one time, any half of the Moon is in sunlight and, as the Moon has no atmosphere to reflect and refract light, the other half is in absolute darkness. It can be interesting sometimes, if you can see the Moon in daytime, to compare its phase in relation to the location of the Sun. Occasionally, on a clear night, you can make out the form of the dark side. That is the Sun's light bouncing off the Earth and 'shining' on the Moon. The line that separates the light from dark is known as the terminator. If you have binoculars or telescope, the terminator goes from its nice smooth line into a jumble of jagged mountains and flat areas. We see the Moon most nights and each evening is different; but, of course, the Moon is gently turning all the time. So if you have the patience, as you look at the terminator long enough, you may see the odd peak slide in to the sunlight.

The other side of the Moon is entirely different to 'our' side. There are no flat areas at all and certainly nowhere to land. So why the difference? There is something about the Moon that appears to be unique in the Solar System. The Earth rotates every 24 hours and all planets and their moons have their own individual rotation times. Our Moon does rotate but it does so in exact co-ordination with its journey round the Earth. If it rotated even a little slower or faster then we would, over time, be able to see the entire Moon. This unique orbit and rotation gives us the answer to the two distinct sides of the Moon. As the Solar System was evolving there were lumps of rock flying and colliding in all directions; the back of the Moon was open to that assault but our side of the Moon faced a much bigger planet whose gravity drew the onslaughts away.

Martin West
Mooncraft Productions

CONGRATULATIONS

Jean Chopping is pleased to announce the engagement of her youngest son Mark to Cathy Fitzgerald in Miami USA on 20th December. Much love and congratulations to you both, and wishing you every happiness for the future from Mum, Darran, Helen, and Harry.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.stanstedu3a.org

Our first meeting for 2011 was on 20th January. However this article will not be published till after that date, so I can only tell you what we have in store for our meeting on Thursday 17th February. Our speaker will be Dr Tony Maisey whose subject will be 'The Concept of Pain' - an informative, entertaining and light-hearted look at pain - something we all have had experience of. Dr Maisey comes recommended to us from several other U3As so we look forward to hearing him.

Forthcoming Outings and Trips

There will be more excursions on offer at the January meeting, which I will report on next month. However, at the moment we have:

4th -7th March - 'Springtime in the Lakes'. Three-day holiday, staying in a historic coaching inn in Kendal and visiting nearby places of interest. This is fully booked but there is a waiting list available.

8th May - Spring Wildlife Walk with Barry Kaufmann-Wright. A Sunday walk and talk with Barry through the spring woods and meadows, with a picnic or pub lunch. Suitable for walkers, photographers or just if you enjoy the countryside. Cost £6 per person.

17th May - 'Loose Women'. A visit to the ITV studios for a live recording of the programme followed by a free afternoon to visit one of many nearby attractions such as the London Eye, Tate Modern, Royal Courts of Justice, Houses of Parliament, HMS Belfast or just a leisurely stroll along the Embankment with lunch/coffee etc. Cost £16 per person.

We look forward to meeting new members so why not come along and meet everyone? You will be made most welcome.

Cherry
Chair
Tel: 817140



Huw Johnson Club

At our December meeting we welcomed back Katharine from Rwanda. Everyone was pleased to see her and we look forward to hearing about her work with young people there. We would like to say a special 'thank you' to St John's Choir who gave us a cheque for £100 instead of buying each other Christmas cards. We were sorry not to have our Christmas Concert in December, due to bad weather and lack of rehearsal time. However we are planning a concert on Friday 13th May in St John's Hall to which all are invited. We all enjoyed our visit to 'Abbanania' in Chelmsford and our New Year dinner at the Chequers. We always get a very warm welcome from Dave and his staff on this occasion. We meet on 24th February when we will be celebrating Joanne's birthday,

Marion Johnson
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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

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Our first meeting of 2011 will be on Wednesday 2nd February when we will be welcoming Mrs Olivia Elton-Barratt, who lives locally and is an expert in basket making. Her topic is 'Basket Making – Demo in Willow for the Garden'. Here are some other dates for your new diaries:

Wednesday 2nd March - Mr Rodney Tibbs will be visiting the club and telling us all about 'Restoring a cottage garden'.

Wednesday 6th April - Mini Show and AGM.

More information regarding times etc nearer the date. Show Schedules will be available from the Secretary's Desk at the next meeting.

Wednesday 18th May - A Flower Arranging Evening with Mr Nick Grounds. This will be an entry by ticket only event – so please diary the date and watch the 'Link' for details on where to obtain tickets.

The Programme of Events for the 2011-12 Season, which starts in May, is being finalised. Printed Programme Cards and a website update will be available after the AGM. Club meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at the Day Centre. Doors open at 7.30pm when refreshments are available. The meeting starts at 8.00pm. Visitors are very welcome to our meetings at £2.00 per person. For more information about the Club, its current programme of events or photographs please see our website.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman



Stansted flights hit ten year low

In 2010, the airport handled 143,335 commercial flights compared to 146,500 in 2000. The number of passengers handled also continued to decline, dropping 7% last year to 18.6 million passengers compared to 20.0 million passengers in 2009. At its peak in 2006/07 just over 24 million passengers passed through the airport. There were some unusual circumstances last year, including the Icelandic volcano problem in April and adverse weather both at the start and at the end of the year. Surprisingly however, BAA has told its investors that it expects a further decline at Stansted during the current year. It expects to lose another million travellers, with throughput falling to 17.6 million passengers in 2011 – half the level permitted on the airport's single runway. SSE believe that within this context a commitment to a long term moratorium by the airport operator must now be given, not least since it would help restore community relations, cited by Stansted's new managing director Nick Barton as firmly on his priority list. It would also give those considering purchase of properties owned by BAA which are to come onto the market shortly greater confidence in their investment which would in turn regenerate the local community.

Carol Barbone
Campaign Director
Tel: 07775 523091

Email: cbarbone@mxco.co.uk

Website: www.stopstanstedexpansion.com



HATFIELD FOREST HIGHLIGHTS

Here at the Forest we have been keeping busy throughout the winter and we're very excited about 2011. A good piece of news is that we have received the go-ahead to redo our internal roads. Later this year we will be putting together plans to widen our current exit road to make it two-way and close our entrance road to become pedestrian only. This will allow better access for vehicles through the Forest and safer access for pedestrians parking at the Main Gate Car Park. We will keep you updated throughout the year to let you know how this project is coming along. Why not come and join our Healthy Walk group this year? We meet every Thursday at 9.45am at the Main Gate and come rain or shine we stride out into different parts of the Forest. We have at least 20 walkers every week and we all enjoy being able to get fit while exploring this beautiful Forest.



Some sad news now, unfortunately we have recently lost a number of our sheep to dog attacks. We are asking all dog owners to remember that there is livestock in the Forest; please keep your dog under close control at all times and put the lead on when around our sheep or cattle. If you would like to find out more about responsible dog ownership on the Forest then please call the Estate Office on number below.

Laura Slater
Community Warden
Tel: 870678

Email: laura.slater@nationaltrust.org.uk

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WILLOW TREE

To help generate greater interest in our village I started a debate via email asking the question, "When was the willow tree planted on the island, commonly known as 'The Fountain'?" There have been a number of inputs, one suggesting that it was planted 108 years ago and others suggesting it was 40-50 years ago. If anyone thinks that they know the answer to this question, and has photographic or other evidence to support their claims, please get in touch with the 'Link' with a view to publication, or email me.



Ray Woodcock
Email: raymond.woodcock@bopenworld.com

SIGNUPTOSING

Local youth choir SignuptoSing will be performing an entertaining medley of West End musicals at their next concert on Friday 1st April at Saffron Walden Baptist Church. The programme will include an abridged version of the ever-popular 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat', to be sung by a group of junior singers. Also showcased at the concert will be a selection of familiar classics from the world's longest running musical, 'Les Misérables', performed by a senior choir. Rehearsals began on Monday 17th January at 6.00pm-7.15pm, at Saffron Walden County High School, and will continue at the same time and venue until the 1st April concert. All young singers are warmly encouraged to make a musical New Year's resolution, and come along to SignuptoSing. Singers aged between 8-18 years, are recruited from a wide range of local schools, and sign up for each particular project rather than necessarily making a longer-term commitment. Choral director, Janet Wheeler, is keen to welcome new singers to join her growing youth choir.

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

THE EVERLASTING MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

This year, the week before Christmas somehow seemed particularly special. It gave a number of insights into the tradition, continuity and joy of the Christmas message and how they all impact on spirituality and our lives. A particular high spot for me was a visit to our former parish Church, St

Mary's. The Church and its surroundings were tranquil and the old building, surrounded by light snow, stood foursquare as it has stood for hundreds of years. On entering one could immediately sense the generations of Stansted people who had worshipped and celebrated most of life's rites of passage in this marvellous old building. Personally I was able to think of my own children's and their cousins' Christenings, of a number of weddings, my wife's confirmation, my mother's and many other funerals, and of numerous services with the sunlight shining through the stained glass windows. The Church looked as beautiful as I had seen it: clearly the flower ladies had excelled themselves. There were large arrangements near the altar and pulpit and smaller displays by the windows. Under the memorials to the dead of the two world wars, two bright red poppy wreaths, placed by the Royal British Legion, glowed in the early winter light. To the front of the nave, behind the massive eagle of the lectern stood the familiar nativity crib with its manger, baby Jesus, his mother Mary, the shepherds, wise men, sheep, and oxen. The age of this particular model is not apparent but it has been in use for many years and is just like those I remember from my youth. There was something so familiar and inspiringly good about the whole atmosphere; I remarked that from where we were standing, it might look as if almost nothing had changed and that we could have been standing back in 1950, which we remembered, or 1910, 1800, 1700 or even 1600. We were sure that over many centuries we would have felt very much at home in St Mary's at Christmastide. In that holy place one was very aware of the continuity of the past rolling forward into the present, and the present drawing so much of its meaning from the past. Long may this ever-rolling stream continue. Christmas is clearly a good time to launch 'The Friends of St. Mary's'.

These thoughts had been stimulated by an excellent sermon that Wednesday morning by our Curate, Giles Tulk. He spoke about the increasing secularisation and commercialisation of Christmas and exhorted us to make Christ the heart of our own seasonal celebrations. Christ, he reminded us, was indeed the Christmas message. The next day, Canon Martin Wood, the acting Chaplain for Bishop Laurie of Bradwell, made a similar appeal when preaching at Ford's annual carol service in the magnificent, old Essex Regiment Chapel at Warley near Brentwood. The Chapel is adjacent to Ford's HQ building, which in the 1960s replaced the old barracks where many Stansted men first joined up. It is a very historic building with many 'retired' Regimental Colours, including a fragment of the Colour carried at Waterloo and another that had been seized by Pathans in the retreat from Kabul some 150 years ago. With Royal Anglian soldiers still in Afghanistan one asks if anything has changed! The Chapel is full of artefacts, memorials and furnishings presented by the people and towns of Essex as well as rolls of honour and many memorials to the Regiment's fallen. The Chapel is still in regular monthly use and Canon Martin was dearly thrilled to be conducting our service. He praised the magnificent choir and the very traditional service, largely unchanged from my youth more than half a century ago. He also scorned the season's commercialisation and emphasised the need to take Christ and his promise to return to heart and to make him the centre of our Christmas.



Richard Shervington

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Tel: 01279 851106 Mob: 07754 238968
Email: bindone@btinternet.com

The Kings Arms



Home cooked food served:

Tuesday to Thursday 12 - 8 pm
Friday 12 - 9 pm
Saturday and Sunday 10 - 6 pm



Senior Citizens Wednesday 12 - 2.30 pm 2 courses £5.95

- ◆ Large Beer Garden
- ◆ Smoking Shelter
- ◆ Bingo 2nd Monday
- ◆ Quiz Night last Tuesday
- ◆ Free Pool Table Wednesday nights
- ◆ Live bands/ karaoke every weekend
- ◆ Accommodation

Station Road, Stansted CM24 8BE 01279 812948
kingsarmsph@btconnect.com
www.kingsarmshotelstansted.co.uk

The Dog and Duck



Lunchtime food now available
Wednesdays Pie Night
Thursdays Monthly Quiz Night

Sally & Mark look forward to seeing you soon

58 Lower Street, Stansted
01279 812047

THE COCK *Open all day Sunday*



30 Silver Street, Stansted 01279 812964
www.thecockatstansted.co.uk

Home Cooked Food served 7 days a Week
Families Welcomed ~ Children's Play Area
Children's Menu ~ Heated Decking
OAP Lunches Mon - Fri 12.00 - 2.30 pm
(One Course £4.95 Two Courses £7)

Bar Snacks ~ Sunday Roasts ~ Fish Night Thursday