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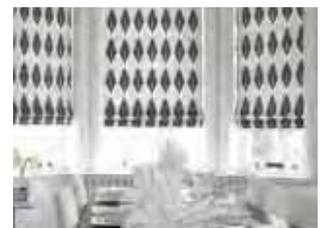
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Footpath from Gall End
To High Lane

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

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EDITORIAL



Last year was a memorable one for many different reasons, not all of them good. It started badly for the businesses in Lower Street that were flooded and life was made more difficult for both businesses and residents when Barclays decided to close Stansted's last remaining bank. Together with the rest of the country we remembered the fallen as we commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of WW1. Everyone who saw the fantastic 'Sea of Blood' represented by 888,246 ceramic poppies at the Tower of London will never forget it. In July we all had the opportunity to witness the famous Tour de France cycle race at first hand as it sped through part of our county, and at the end of the year work finally began on our long awaited new Health Centre. This year Stansted, along with other communities, will be marking the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. Volunteers have been working hard on a specially designed embroidery project and are also busy organising various events including a Medieval Fayre in June (see page 4). It promises to be an experience not to be missed. Hopefully 2015 will be another memorable year – for all the right reasons.

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The beginning of the year 2015 was marred by the terrible events in Paris which saw 12 people killed in the offices of the magazine Charlie Hebdo. The world has united with the people of Paris in condemning this awful act of violence. We are challenged once again with the question of how we respond to such violence. There is a danger that in responding to these acts of terror we become the thing we hate. We can blame whole communities for the actions of an aberrant few and refuse to see beyond the headlines to the complexities which lie at the heart of any human situation. Such a response is doomed to failure.

A different response could be to reject not the person but the action. To say "I will not reject you but I will not be like you". This means we need to look as closely at ourselves as we do our neighbour. To discern in ourselves the pride, anger and hatred that lead to violence and to cast them out. It is a much harder path than simply responding to hatred with hatred. Living that way got at least one person who tried it crucified. But if the world is ever to know the end of violence it is the only way forward. God Bless You in this New Year.



Paul Wilkin
Rector of Stansted



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www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

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

Preachers for February

1st 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
8th 10.30am Andrew Brown
15th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion
22nd 10.30am Richard Lewnsey

Internet Access

We are pleased to announce that we now have free internet available for all users of our church and hall.



www.stanstedchurches.com

Village Christmas Events

The Celebration of Christmas was well supported and raised £305. The carol singing raised a further £387.50 (including Gift Aid). Money raised from the Harvest Supper was added to these amounts and the final total of £755 was split between the Huw Johnson Club and the Red Cross Ebola appeal. Many thanks to all who supported these events.

Website

Churches Together in Stansted now has its own website which has information about CTS activities, links to all the churches in Stansted, and links to news items from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, to which we are affiliated.

Meetings

The AGM is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th February in St Therese's Hall, followed by the usual quarterly forum, when we will be discussing future events. All are welcome.

Francine Cope
Secretary
Tel: 814562

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux

High Lane

Priest Father John Garrett

Office Tel: 816889
Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Masses Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 10.00am
Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm
Tuesday-Saturday 9.00am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AE

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am



On Monday 9th February at 7 Blythwood Gardens, Rev'd Stuart Veitch will be leading a bible study entitled *Honesty, boasting and exaggeration, not as black and white as one supposes*. Our 'At Home' on Monday 23rd February is at 49 Recreation Ground. Both meetings start at 8.00pm and all are welcome.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059





All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
Email: stjohs.church@btinternet.com
Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btik.com

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

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

Church Hall Bookings: Simon Wilson
Tel or text: 07972 373994
Email: stjohs.hallbookings@gmail.com

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer
Tuesday 9.00am St John's Tots
Wednesday 9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion
Monday-Thursday and Saturday 5.00pm Evening Prayer

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

From the Registers

November and December

Baptisms

2 Nov Hugo Arthur Duncan Mills
21 Dec Daniel George Thomas

Funerals

1 Dec Megan Williams - at St John's
11 Dec Doris Robinson - at St Mary's

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

The winners of the November and December draws were:

November:

£100 No 215 Kath Johnson
£ 50 No 86 John Curtis
£ 25 No 256 Diane Watts

December:

£200 No 13 Audrey Rodgers
£100 No 145 Stuart Ayres
£ 50 No 3 Kathy West
£ 25 No 194 Alastair Bone

The February draws will take place on Sunday 22nd February following the 9.30am service in St John's Church.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562

www.stanstedfamilychurch.com

Contact Howard and Ros Page
Tel: 810813
Email: contactstansfam@yahoo.com

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

We have a **Resources Library** with books and DVDs which are available for **anyone** to borrow – whether you are connected to Stansted Family Church, another church, or no church at all! Firstly, we have a good selection of titles for those exploring Christianity for the first time, so if you would like to know why people believe in God and his goodness in our current troubled times, or to find out about the evidence for God's existence, and Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we have multiple copies of several of the best books available on these subjects. Many of these have been New York Times' bestsellers but there are also books by British authors and from writers based in other countries too. For those who would prefer thought-provoking DVD resources to holiday reading, we also have a variety of DVDs on similar subjects available. In addition we have a good selection of inspiring books for Christians too – from those which help us grow in our faith, and our understanding of the Bible, to those which explain how, with God's help, we can overcome the challenges of everyday life and enjoy all the new possibilities that life with God affords. Most include examples and anecdotes and examples from everyday life, and are very practical rather than academic in their approach, but there are others which deal with quite weighty theological subjects too. A small sample of the titles available is listed on our website in the *About You* section, but to be sent a full list of titles please phone or email us using the contact details above. Items can be collected or delivered to you, usually for a month or three months, as you prefer.



Ros Page

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations Eddie Laird for your 90th Birthday on 4th February. With lots of love and best wishes from Tony, Lesley, Lloyd and Rachael.



The Club restarts for the Spring Term on Thursday 26th February at 7.00pm. We wish you all a very happy, healthy and successful 2015. If you have any questions about Club, please contact me.



Katharine Collis
Chair
Tel: 461270



MAGNA CARTA 800

The stitching on canvas of a selection of Stansted buildings is almost complete. The central panel of stitched scenes from history, designed by Carole Crosby and worked in wool on linen, is well under way. The picture shows Iris Wood with her nearly completed embroidery.



The Medieval Fayre will be held at Stansted Hall where previous pageants to celebrate the Magna Carta have been held. We are able to recreate history by holding another pageant to initiate the Fayre on the afternoon of 27th June thanks to the General Manager Tanya Smith and the Arthur Findlay committee. The bells of St Mary's Church will ring to start the event and the pageant will process from the church across the meadow to the front lawn of the Hall. Displays of Morris Dancing, falconry, archery and jousting will then follow on the lawns and meadow, and visitors will be able to have a go at the archery. There will be stalls, medieval games, activities and displays, together with a hog roast and light refreshments. Together with the unveiling of the embroidery panels there will be a photographic exhibition which will include old photographs of the village and the pageants previously held at the Hall.

There will also be a series of cultural evenings at St Mary's Church: Friday 11th September, a concert by Trouvère, a duo of musicians performing medieval music and comic drama, and Friday 25th September, an evening of local talent, music and drama. Peter Saunders has agreed to give a history lecture in September - further details to follow. A website www.stanstedmagnacartaevents.com has recently been set up and information and details about the above events will be added in due course.

Liz Hedge
Tel: 812509

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Our principal aim is to spread the word about our area's rich heritage, raising the profile of the Hundred Parishes. This may indirectly bring extra visitors to some of the 260 places including libraries, museums, churches, pubs and tearooms that display our leaflets, explaining the scope and rationale behind our society. When distributing leaflets we were pleasantly surprised to find that the number of tearooms has increased to over 20. We try to keep the list of pubs, and tea rooms updated on our website so visitors know what to expect, whether exploring by car, bike, horse or on foot. With pubs regularly closing and re-opening, if you know of any changes or spot that our information needs updating, please let us know via the website feedback form.

The What's On page is an important element of our website, and we ask for your help to keep it updated. We hope that event organisers will benefit from the publicity we can give for an event that encourages appreciation of the area - a history society talk, cultural event, walk or conservation exercise. So please check it out. Although it looks relatively sparse for the next few months, there is still much that may be of interest. Some excellent educational attractions remain open through the winter, such as:

- Saffron Walden Museum (Tuesday to Sunday)
- Imperial War Museum at Duxford (every day)
- Great Dunmow Maltings and Museum (weekends)
- Linton Zoo (weekends)

Opening times etc can be found by using the links to their websites on our Attractions pages. There are also downloadable walk routes available to explore the area.

With 75% of our parish introductions now complete we aim to finish the rest by the Spring. Every parish has a story to tell and they are quite varied. One that we have recently updated and added to the website is for Helions Bumpstead in the far northwest of the Hundred Parishes. Their story includes a brief summary of their role in the Agricultural Strike, which engulfed part of Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire in 1914. Do please take a look at the website, selecting Parishes from the Menu and then click either on a map or the list of parishes.

Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com

MISSING CAT



Gordy has been missing from Stansted since early November. He is dark grey with white chin, chest, tummy, front toes and back legs; neutered and chipped. Generous reward for information leading to his safe return. Please check outbuildings. Any information gratefully received. Please call Julia on 810826 or 07546 469693.

Sun 8th Feb 3 pm

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WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

2/9/16/23 Mon Magna Carta Embroidery

4 Wed Mountfitchet Seniors
Mountfitchet Garden Club

5 Thu Stansted History Society

6 Fri Business Forum

8 Sun Family Café
S W Symphony Orchestra

9 Mon Shalom

10 Tue Churches Together AGM
Tennis Club AGM

11 **Wed Link copy in due today**

12 Thu WI

18 Wed Caring for Carers

19 Thu Stansted U3A

21 Sat U3A Table Top Sale

22 Sun St Clare Winter Walk
Snowdrop Sunday

23 Mon Shalom At Home

24 Tue Inner Wheel

26 Thu U3A Astronomy Seminar
Huw Johnson Club re-starts

Day Centre 1.00 - 3.00 pm

Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm

Day Centre 8 pm

Linden House 7.30 am

Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am

Saffron Hall 3 pm

7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

St Theresa's Hall 7.30 pm

105 Cambridge Rd 8 pm

before 12 noon

Day Centre 7.45 pm

Mtfitchet Hse 11 am - 3.30 pm

St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm

St John's Hall 10 am - noon

St Clare, Hastingwood 11 am

Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 4 pm

49 Recreation Ground 8 pm

Day Centre 7.30 - 10 pm

Day Centre 7 - 9 pm

St John's Hall 7 pm

Astronomy Seminar

A Voyage Round Saturn

by Dr Carolin Crawford

7 - 9 pm Thurs 26th Feb
Day Centre

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Email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com

Limited places - advance booking only



QUIZ NIGHT

St John's Hall

7 pm Sat 21st March

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Nature Notes

I looked through old photographs from my younger days and was struck by the pictures of snow drifts and floods year after year in this area. There were photos of the frozen river and lake where we used to skate on thick ice every winter.



This photo above was taken four hundred yards west of Hazel End on the road to Farnham, just before the sharp right hand bend. We all know that winters are now warmer and there is no more ice skating or roads blocked by snowdrifts. Over the years the average rainfall has remained much the same and we still have floods but they seem to occur in different places. This is possibly due to improvements in land drainage and waterways management which has released more land for housing development in areas that were once subject to flooding. Mother Nature adapts to such changes.

Along our local lanes and hedgerows summer flowers can be seen blooming throughout the winter and the green growth of spring is appearing in January. If all our rainwater is rushed efficiently down the water courses to the sea resulting in the water table falling every year, then a different range of plants will take over the once marshy areas. If the whole place is turned into a lifeless desert, nature will just bide its time until conditions change in the millennia to come. The whole fabric of life is vastly intricate, but the basic laws of nature are simple and inexorable, just like simple arithmetic. Such thoughts come to one during idle moments on a dull winter day – enough of that, let's get back to the cosy fantasy world.

Felix

We are still looking for more 'Noters of Nature'. For details please contact the editor on 814706 or email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk



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THE MAN BEHIND THE NAME



Stansted's first post-war estate, on the west side of Church Road was built by the District Council and has road names that reflect village history. Maitland Road is one that's named after the Fuller-Maitland family, who, as owners of Stansted Hall from the 1800s - 1922, were Lords of the Manor.



Ebenezer, an MP for over 15 years between 1807 and 1830, and his wife Bethia were the first Fuller-Maitlands to own Stansted Hall. However, it was their son and grandson, both named William, who are best remembered. The first William was a great traveller and art collector. He commissioned

the re- building of Stansted Hall to provide extra space to display his priceless collection of paintings and other artefacts. In 1876 the building work was completed, but in that same year William died before he could take up residence in his new home. His son, who was a first class cricketer playing for Oxford University and the MCC, made the mansion his family home, living there until 1921. William married the Hon Evelyn Coulston in 1881 and they went on to have four children. In 1912 their youngest son, Robert was killed by an elephant in East Africa when he was just 25 years old. Sadly they were also to lose their eldest son, a Captain in the Coldstream Guards two years later during the First World War aged 32.



William (the younger) followed in his grandfather's footsteps by becoming an MP for Brecon, 1875- 1895. He also went on to be Deputy Lieutenant for Brecon as well as a JP for Essex. A wealthy Victorian philanthropist, he took great interest in the village, and many local organisations benefited from his personal interest and generosity. In 1867 he gifted land in the centre of Stansted to be used by mothers and pushchairs. Now known as the 'Rec' it's still an open recreational space appreciated and well used by local families. He also donated the land on which Fullers House in Church Road stands, built in 1883 as Almshouses.

The Hon Evelyn Coulston died in 1902 and William subsequently married Frances Maitland Halford. He died at Kemp Town in Brighton in 1932 and his two surviving children restored the Lancaster Chapel in St Mary's Church in memory of their parents. Various monuments to the Fuller-Maitland family can be found in St Mary's Church, Churchyard and on the Rec. The naming of Maitland Road also ensures that the last Lords of the Manor and their significant contribution to village life will always be remembered.



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For our Christmas event, 28 adults and 15 children, assisted by ten of our helpers, made Christingles.



We then we had a short chat from Ros about their meaning, followed by the singing of a few Christmas carols, and lastly a visit from Father Christmas. Judging by the photographs, everyone had a great time!

The Place is open every Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm with Art for All on the first Friday, and storytime on the third Friday of each month. Free refreshments and internet, good

company, space for the children to run around, plus a quiet area with comfy seating. Come and join us – all ages are welcome.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059.

A DRINK AT STANSTED

This Town of Stansted, for distinctions sake
Doth unto it the name Montfitchet take,
From the Monfitchets once Lords of great fame,
And who ere while were owners of the same.
There at the Bell, at my old friend's George Perrin,
We drunk and tipleed like unto a Herring;
For there is Ale and Stale-beer strong and mighty,
Will burn ith' fire like unto Aqua-vitae;
And that the reason is, as you may know,
That this Bell's Liquor makes Men's Clappers go;
Then when men's brains begin for to grow addle,
Some talk of riding, ne'r sat on a Saddle.
And every one doth think himself a Prince,
Though he in's Pocket scarce hath Thirteen-pence.



Taken from a book of selected poems by William Winstanley (1628 – 1695) who lived in Quendon, courtesy of the editor Alison Barnes. Copies of the pamphlet 'Selected poems of William Winstanley' are on sale in Quendon Church, with any money raised going towards the upkeep of the church.

BIRCHANGER WOOD IN WINTER

February is an excellent time to visit Birchanger Wood and exercise off those extra ounces won over the Christmas period. The Wood has approximately 5.5k of all weather, 2m wide, winding woodland paths on the Stortford side of the A120, and just over 1k of paths on the Birchanger side. For the Stortford side, park opposite no 148 Heath Row and walk up the public footpath to the Wood; from Birchanger, please park respectfully in Birchanger Lane and take one of the public footpaths which lead to the Wood - the shortest route is via the one round St Mary's church. Please take care as the public footpaths can be very muddy and slippery. You will find much less mud on our paths than most of the local public footpaths, so there is less time spent looking where to place your feet and much more time for you to enjoy the woodland environment. Using the paths is free and they are available 365 days a year. Come on down!



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Secretary and Trustee

Email: secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org



NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

Possibly the best new year's resolution you can make is to give yourself a money makeover. Take the time to look at your income and outgoings and make sure you're not spending beyond your means. Then make and stick to a budget each month. The Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) website www.adviceguide.org.uk has a useful budgeting tool. If you need some more help, book an hour's appointment with a CAB money doctor on 01799 618840. Our money doctors can also check you are getting the best deals on utility bills, insurance, memberships, TV, telephone, internet and find out whether you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to. If you know you need to cut back on your spending, making sensible choices can make a big difference. Look at everything you pay for and see if there is a cheaper or even free alternative. Swap TV service subscriptions for Freeview, look at newspapers online, use the library for books and DVDs or swap with friends. Going for a walk or run instead of taking out an expensive gym membership could save you £600 over the course of a year, and ditching a weekly takeaway could save over £1,000! Always make a list before you go shopping and give up impulse buys, especially in the sales! Join local Facebook and Freecycle sites to keep your eye out for second-hand bargains, or sell your own unwanted items on Facebook or ebay. Shopping online and paying a delivery charge can work out cheaper than travelling to the shops when petrol and parking charges or train and bus fares are taken into account. If you sign up to cashback sites such as Topcashback and Quidco, you may find you are even better off. If you have got money worries, **never pay** for debt advice. The Uttlesford CAB offers a free, impartial and independent service, with a wide range of support available from general advice to specialist help dealing with serious debt problems, employment disputes, housing and family issues. You can make an appointment to speak to an experienced and friendly adviser in Stansted 9.30am-12.30pm on Thursdays (by appointments only).

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FAREWELL TO STANSTED CARPETS

Stansted Carpets, the iconic family business that has been at the centre of village life since 1969, closed on 6th December. Peter White, and partner Carol Knights, have retired from their Chapel Hill shop to focus on breeding pigs at their farm in Ugley. One of the oldest businesses in Stansted, the carpet shop has supplied over 18,000 customers with blinds, curtains and vinyl flooring. The shop premises have now been cleared to bring the curtain down on a happy chapter of life for Peter and Carol. Stansted Carpets began when Peter, who was manager of a carpet shop in Harlow, decided to branch out on his own. He was helped in setting up by Ray Lee, who later left on amicable terms.



Photo by Thomas Nugent and licensed for reuse under a Creative Commons licence

Peter noted that village life had changed considerably during 45 years of trading. "The difference now is that there are so many more people and cars and a lot less [range of] shops - Stansted was more or less self-sufficient [in 1969]." Peter recalled that, in times gone by, Stansted had been home to four or five other carpet shops. The now defunct London & Stansted Furnishing Company, which occupied a space next to the ex-Barclays site in Cambridge Road, was already established when Peter set up. On hearing of Stansted Carpets' arrival, the manager reputedly uttered: "I'll give them six months." Peter outlasted the competition, though, and built up a reputation in the area for good service.

Alongside Stansted Carpets, Peter and, more predominantly, Carol have for the last 20 years run *Alsa Farm* in Snakes Lane, Ugley. There, they have bred pedigree Gloucestershire Old Spot pigs. They will continue to do so for the foreseeable future and will also take the time to visit weekday markets in Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden. Peter will pursue his passion for photography too. "I haven't had a Saturday off in years," he said. "I'm quite looking forward to it." Peter has met "hundreds and hundreds of nice people" through the years and some have taken to social media to congratulate him and Carol.

GOOD LUCK

Chougou have moved to Home & Eat on Stansted Road and are now able to do a larger range of embroidery and printing. Wishing Darran and Helen Chopping the very best of luck in their new venture. We know you will do well as you have worked so hard. Love from all the family.



www.farnham-school.org

The autumn term ended in a flurry of activity with carol services and concerts, discos, a visiting pantomime and the performance of the school play, 'Baboushka' - a musical take on a traditional Russian folk story about an old lady who hears the news of the birth of Jesus but at first refuses to listen. Invitations were delivered to everyone in Farnham and both showings were standing room only. Charlotte Morris (Y5) shone in the title role but each child had a part and performed beautifully. We are grateful to Mrs Haughey, our higher-level teaching assistant, whose imagination and drive mean we are able to put on productions far beyond what can be expected of a very small school.

The spring term has got off to a busy start as we look forward to a science day organised by local company Fab Science. The children will be conducting exciting experiments to learn about the weather to tie in with this year's Science Week. Willow Class's topic for this term is growth and change, which will include the growth of living things in science, the changes in weather around the world in geography and the changes in tools and housing through the ages in history. Horse Chestnut class will be learning about Hinduism in RE, poetic style in literacy and evolution in science as well as beginning the all-important preparation for Y6 SATS in the summer. Farnham is a small school which is open to children resident in Essex and Hertfordshire. Several families in Stansted send their children to the school and are available to discuss the advantages with anyone who is interested - please call the school reception.

Katherine Aiken
Friends of Farnham
Tel: 771339 (School reception)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Recently we have had to pick up a lot of dog poo from the front lawn of our house. The large stretch of grass from Stansted tennis courts towards Hargrave House, nearly opposite Mercer and Hughes vets, is blighted by 'doggy deposits' despite our erecting a yellow sign asking dog owners to please pick up after their animals. As dog owners ourselves we understand the need for pets to 'go' somewhere, but owners please show some consideration and clear up after your dog. Thank you.

Cambridge Road Resident



Bags containing dog waste can be placed in your non-recycling bin at home, or in one of the specially designated red 'dog bins' placed around the village. There are two red bins just off the Cambridge Road; one at its junction with Croasdaile Road and one at its junction with Norman's Way by the Jet Garage. Please make use of them.

Editor

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1st February – Author **Michael Morpurgo** narrates his children's book *The Mozart Question* accompanied by an actor and live music, bringing the moving, inspirational story to life.

7th February - The 'unforgettable' **Penguin Cafe**, whose music has infiltrated daily life from films like *Napoleon Dynamite* to countless theme tunes, selling out the Royal Albert Hall and headlining Bestival, combine acoustic folk charm, minimalism and a classical twist to perform works from their 2014 album *The Red Book* alongside favourites from the seminal **Penguin Cafe Orchestra**.

8th February – **Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra** afternoon of popular film music. See below for details.

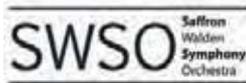
14th February - Countertenor **Iestyn Davies** in a programme of beautiful English songs.

20th February - Intimate recital from pianist **Paul Lewis**.

22nd February - Sunday morning coffee concert from rising star of the UK classical music scene, violinist **Callum Smart**.

For further information and bookings see our website or call the box office on 0845 548 7650.

Samantha Walker



We are pleased to welcome you on Sunday 8th February 3.00pm in Saffron Hall to an afternoon of popular film music. The programme includes music from *ET*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Dr Zhivago*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Harry Potter*, *Out of Africa*, *Gladiator*, *James Bond*, *The Mission*, *El Cid*, and *Exodus*. When the grip of the Nazis tightened in Germany, some of the country's most daring and adventurous young composers fled to Hollywood and brought a new sophistication to the music of Tinseltown which exists to this day. Come and join Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra as it shows how artistic depth can marry populist pizzazz, and thrill to the silver-screen's most stirring love themes, most heroic tunes and most soaring anthems. Tickets adults £12, concessions £10, children free from: Saffron Hall tel 0845 548 7650, www.saffronhall.com or in person at the box office; Saffron Walden Tourist Information, 1 Market St, tel 01799 524002; or on the door.



Marion Dyer

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INNER WHEEL

The Bishop's Stortford Club ended the year with a great Christmas Dinner Party at the Day Centre. Members were waited on at table by our 'Magnificent Four' - loyal husbands who support all our endeavours! Many thanks to them and also to Julie Beck at the Day Centre who did us proud with a wonderful Christmas Meal.



For those who don't know about Inner Wheel, we are one of the largest women's service organisations in the world, with over 19,000 members in the UK and Ireland, and over 100,000 members from more than 103 countries across the globe. Inner Wheel is women in action - working together to make a difference and improving lives, giving humanitarian aid nationally and internationally, and making a positive impact on the lives of millions of people. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Stansted Day Centre 7.30pm-10.00pm. Please contact me for more information.



Brenda Cox
President
Tel: 812191

Email: brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk



www.swchoral.org.uk

Bach St Matthew Passion Saturday 28th March 6.00pm
Prepare to be uplifted by Bach's dramatic and powerful retelling of the Passion of Christ in the stunning acoustics of Saffron Hall. In the week before Easter, Saffron Walden Choral Society will be joined by Granta Chorale to perform **St Matthew Passion** in English, accompanied by the Chameleon Arts Orchestra and conducted by Janet Wheeler. After almost three hundred years, Bach's Passion is still considered to be one of the most affecting settings of St Matthew's account of Christ's betrayal, trial and execution. In a work of enormous variety, Bach balances narrative urgency with meditative arias and, arguably, the greatest opening chorus ever composed for an oratorio. An outstanding line-up of distinguished soloists will include Mark Wilde (Evangelist), Nicholas Merryweather (Christ), Gillian Keith (soprano), William Purefoy (counter-tenor), Stuart Jackson (tenor) and Victor Sicard (bass). Tickets from: a link on our website to the Saffron Hall booking system; Saffron Walden Tourist Office on 01799 524002; and on the door, subject to availability.

Helen Sterling

MOUNTFITCHET HOUSE CARE HOME

Celebrations went with a swing recently at Stansted's newest care home when local people joined the Care UK team, along with residents and their families, for a 1950s-themed Grand Launch. The ribbon cutting was performed by two guests of honour: Ex-Colonel R A Shervington who holds many titles in and around Stansted including County President of the Royal British Legion and President of the Royal Anglian Regiment Association (Essex), and nine year old Jessica Penny from Bentfield Primary School, who won a competition to name one of the suites at the care home.



It was fantastic to welcome so many local people to Mountfitchet House, and the vintage-style entertainment and activities were a great success at bringing all generations together. Musician Holly Rose had everyone singing along while our very own Activities Coordinator, Adriana Potts, led the rock and roll dancing. We really did celebrate in style and our Grand Launch was a day to remember. Mountfitchet House provides a range of care services for older people, including residential, nursing and specialist dementia care, as well as short term respite, palliative, and sensitive end of life care.

Sally Anderson

Forthcoming events at Mountfitchet House

Caring for Carers 18th February 11.00am-3.30pm

Are you caring for a family member or loved one and in need of a short break? Why not take some time off and come along to our free event where you can be pampered with treatments and receive advice from services that can support you. Free treatments, by appointment only, include:

- hand/ head massage
- holistic therapy
- nail treatments

plus complimentary refreshments and the opportunity to get the information and advice you need to care for your loved one from local charities.

Recognising the Signs of TIAs 5th March 10.30am-12.00 noon

The Stroke Association is giving a presentation to the general public on recognising the signs of a Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA), also known as a mini-stroke. For more information on either event, or to book your free place please contact me.



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As a nation we love travelling and taking our holidays abroad. But the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is concerned that as many as four million of us are heading overseas each year without adequate travel insurance. Another survey revealed that nearly one in five of us think that an EHIC (the European Health Insurance card - the old E111) makes travel insurance redundant. Not true! Your travel insurance policy should cover you for: medical and health cover for an injury or sudden illness abroad; 24 hour English speaking emergency assistance; personal liability cover; cancellation and curtailment and for lost or stolen possessions. Even when you do buy insurance, don't forget that many activities such as skiing and water sports are commonly excluded from standard policies. What's more, we all travel everywhere with smart-phones and tablets these days and seem unable to live without them! But they are often not covered unless you pay an additional premium. Even good quality insurance doesn't absolve you from taking care of yourself and your belongings and insurers won't take kindly to a claim when you've left your new camera on a sun lounger while you take a dip in the pool. Of course booking your trip or holiday with a reputable travel company is always an excellent place to start. Remember to buy your travel insurance when you book your holiday or trip to ensure you're covered in case you need to cancel before you travel.

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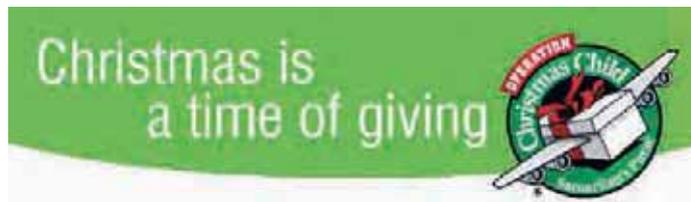
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UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Beatrix Potter and the Lake District, and Christmas around the world were the fascinating subjects for the last two meetings of 2014. The wonderful world of Beatrix Potter was brought to us by Dudley Chignall, who enthralled us with his beautiful photography of the Lake District and in-depth knowledge of Beatrix Potter and her characters. He took us on a guided tour of her home and spoke so passionately about the place that you felt as if you were walking along the paths with him and her characters. I am sure that the lady herself would have been very impressed. Our December meeting was held in our President's lodge and what a beautifully decorated and cosy place it was! We sat enthralled as we listened to Anita Sackett and her reminiscences of Christmas past spent in foreign parts - Malta, New Zealand, Jamaica and America to name just a few. She illustrated her talk with a superb collection of Christmas decorations that she had amassed over the years. Our festive finale, which was enjoyed by guests from Stansted, Elsenham, Manuden and Berden WIs, was rounded off with a superb tea; and the icing on the Christmas cake, so to speak, was a surprise visit from Father Christmas who came bearing gifts! A wonderful end to an entertaining year for our members! Why not come and join us? You would be most welcome. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall. Our February meeting will be held on 18th February when we shall be hearing about the work of a medical mission to the Ukraine.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



Thank you to those who helped at the Shoe Box packing evening in the Free Church Hall and to everyone who contributed to the success of Operation Christmas Child in Stansted.

Helen Baker, Catherine Dean, and Eileen Quinn

Photos by Brian Quinn



At Christmas, 204 children in Kyrgystan (formerly part of the Soviet Union) will have received presents from Stansted, which will no doubt have made them very happy. Kyrgystan is the second poorest country in Central Asia and has cold winters, so the knitted hats, scarves and gloves are much appreciated



Boxes packed at St Theresa's

The shoe boxes were packed at St Theresa's church and at the Free Church with gifts generously donated.

We also covered the transportation costs from the proceeds of a quiz and other donations.

Children receiving Shoe Boxes in West Africa

At a recent Shalom meeting, we were delighted to see the pictures below. They were brought by Rosanna, a Brazilian missionary working in Guinea Bissau, who had seen first-hand the sheer delight of children receiving the shoe boxes.

She told us that many of them had never received a present before, and amongst their most treasured gifts were pens, pencils and paper which they needed for school, as they normally have to pay for them!



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BISHOP'S STORTFORD BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

It is the time of the year to launch our 'Introduction to Bee-keeping' course which starts on 31st March for five two-hour evening sessions, held at Hopley's Garden Centre in Much Hadham, and at least one weekend practical live session at the Association apiary. The course costs £60, and includes the text book, Associate membership of Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association, use of protective clothing, and refreshments during the evening. At the end of the course the student will be capable of becoming a 'hobby bee-keeper' - that is knowing how to source bees, maintain a colony in a hive and extract their honey for sale, through the gaining of the following skills and knowledge:

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

So, come along and learn about this fascinating hobby – you don't need to go on to keep bees, the course is worth it just to learn about them, but if you do, you will know you are helping one of the most important pollinators in the country. Contact me for the full course syllabus and application form.



John Dockerill
Chairman BSBKA

Email: training@stortfordbees.org.uk



rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

The children completed a sponsored Autumn Alphabet activity raising funds for the Pre-school. Congratulations to Bernardo for collecting the most money and winning a book token. All the children received a certificate congratulating them on taking part. We took the children to see Father Christmas at Van Hage Garden Centre in Great Amwell. Much fun was had by all and every child received a pre-Christmas gift. We also welcome two new members of staff, Julie Butterfield and Sarah Tunnicliffe, and all the new children starting this term. This year we are looking to hold a number of events to raise funds for the Pre School; however we are always looking for new ideas as well as new Committee members. Please contact Gill if you are interested in becoming a member or helping with fundraising events. Just a reminder, the Pre-school is listed on the

Giving Machine website. It is a great way to do your internet shopping and donate to the Pre-school for free. Further details can be found on the Giving Machine website: www.thegivingmachine.co.uk - just in time for those Valentine and Easter purchases!

Quiz Night

Open to all, the quiz will be taking place on Saturday 21st March at 7.00pm in St John's Hall. Tickets £10 (includes fish and chip supper from Churchills) can be purchased at the pre-school. Teams maximum of eight.

Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place. Contact Gill on 814242, email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net. Places for September 2015 are filling up fast!

Clair Rava
Parent and Committee Member

NEWS FROM THE WINDMILL



The end of 2014 was busy with Windmill events. Our Autumn Coffee Morning was well supported and it was encouraging to see some new faces. There were mothers and children who were keen to say that they had visited the Windmill and indicated that they intended to do so again this year. At the Christmas Market people who visited our stall were interested to learn about our events and were very happy buying our souvenirs. I suspect many of you may

have found our key rings, mugs, and fridge magnets in your Christmas stockings. If anyone wants to purchase any souvenirs when the Windmill is not open, I will be happy to supply them – just give me a ring please. The Festival of Christmas Trees at St Mary's church was splendid. Our tree, which was the work of Shelia Clark, stood tall among the exhibits – my grateful thanks to her.



Our AGM is on Friday 6th March 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, where we will provide Wine and Nibbles. Please do come along and hear about our plans for 2015. We are looking for a Secretary, so if you, or someone you know, would be interested please give me a ring; I would love to hear from you and we will make you very welcome. Our Spring Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 18th March at the Day Centre 10.00am-noon. Coffee, tea, soft drinks, hot cross buns, all for £2.00. There will also be stalls and a raffle. We look forward to seeing you.



Molly Clark
Co Trustee
Tel: 816768

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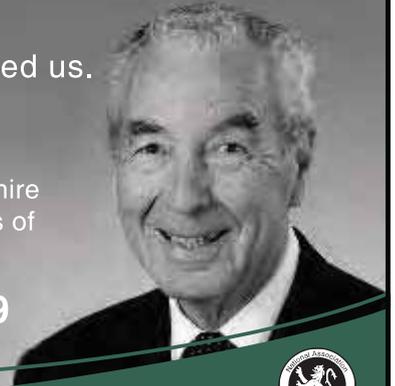
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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

A BUSY YEAR AHEAD

The year 2015 is going to be a busy and eventful one for the village. The Parish Council have three projects that will start to come to fruition after a lot of hard work. In this newsletter you will read about a major refurbishment of the Bentfield Play Area, progress on the skatepark, and developments with the new community building. Hopefully by the time you read this the picture on the new health centre will have been confirmed and we will start to see the new building rise from the foundations.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

This was the third year the Parish Council have organised the market. It was good to see that the market is now so well known and an expected feature of the village calendar, and that the proposed change in name for the event got so much coverage on Stansted Matters. Despite the generator serving the lights to some of the stalls being delayed in transit, the stall holders and folk visiting on Friday night felt that the change in location to Crafton Green, and the added bonus of access to the Day Centre was a great hit.

Thank you to our schools, St Mary's and Forest Hall, for their choral contributions, and of course our regular supporter, Emily Yarrow, with her festive musical delights.



Two big treats on Friday night were Father Christmas (thanks to the Rotary Club), who was mobbed by children; and the dog Nelson in his Xmas outfit, seen selling raffle tickets and pulling in the punters! Saturday was a real frosty delight - everyone thoroughly enjoyed the festive atmosphere so much that the Gluhwein stall could only just keep up with the demand.

Overall the weekend was a success. There was a good variety of craft stalls and a range of food providers.



Councillor Richards' dog Nelson

Planning will start again for next year, and anyone with any ideas or offers of help please contact us via the Parish Office.

SKATEPARK

We have been successful in winning bids for funding from the Essex Environment Trust and Essex County Council Community Infrastructure Fund. This means that we are now very close to our target of £150,000 which we need to build the park. We are still awaiting the outcome of funding bids to add flood-lighting. At the outset of the project we developed a business plan which envisaged starting construction work in the Spring of 2015 and an opening event in July. We are currently on course to meet these targets but we still have a few hurdles to overcome. A lot of the design and planning work has already been done and we are very hopeful that by the time you read this we will be ready to press the red button. We will post updates on the Parish Council website and on the skatepark Facebook page. This is the design that won overwhelming support from the Skatepark Action Group which resulted in Freestyle winning the contract to design and build the new park.



BENTFIELD GREEN PLAY AREA

A gap in the funding for the Bentfield Green Play Area has been covered by a grant from Essex County Council Community Infrastructure Fund and we are now in a position to start work the refurbishment. A key part of this project has been to incorporate play equipment which can be accessed by children with disabilities and there will be other new equipment which we hope will attract lots of youngsters and families. We are expecting contractors to be on site in March which will necessitate closing the play area for two weeks. We intend to organise some kind of event to mark the official opening of the play area some time around Easter.



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections for Parish Councillors take place at the same time as the General Election which is scheduled for May this year. For electoral purposes Stansted is divided into two wards North and South. The former comprises the Bentfield, Cambridge Road, Hargrave, High Lane, Lower Street, St John's Road and the Woodfields areas. It returns eight Parish Councillors whilst Stansted South comprises Blythwood Gardens, Church Road, the Mountfitchet Estate and Foresthall Park areas. It returns seven Parish Councillors. Stansted is one of the few communities in Uttlesford where there are regular contested elections for the Parish Council. Apart from Saffron Walden it is also the only one where all the councillors are elected under a political party label but there is nothing to stop any resident standing as an independent candidate if they want to.

PARISH WEBSITE

We are monitoring the use of our new website through Google Analytics. In November we had 1,186 visits to the site with the average visitor spending 1.38 minutes exploring the site. Although 92% of our visitors are from the UK we get some international interest with visitors from Brazil and Italy at the top of the list. If you want up-to-date information about the village check out the website at www.stansted.net

VOLUNTEER FLOOD WARDENS NEEDED

The Environment Agency are due to produce a feasibility study early in the new year with suggestions on long term preventative measures to ensure that residents and businesses in Lower Street do not suffer the horrors of flooding again, but any work will take several years. In the meantime the Flood Action Group are putting together an emergency plan detailing how we will respond to any potential flood risk. A key part of the response will be to prevent traffic entering flood areas by closing roads. The Parish Council are funding the purchase of the equipment that will be needed but the plan can only work if there are enough trained volunteers able to respond should an incident occur. At any one time it is unlikely that all volunteers will be available so the Action Group have a target of recruiting and training twenty volunteers which should mean there will be enough people to cover all the roads that need to be closed. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Parish Office.

KEEPING WARM IN UTTLESFORD

Uttlesford District Council has produced a brand new 'Keeping Warm in Uttlesford' leaflet, which can also be downloaded from their website at www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk/news/item/keep-warm-in-uttlesford-2014



Copies have been sent through the post to everyone in the district who is registered for assisted bin collection and will also be distributed by Uttlesford Community Transport, Day Centres, GP Surgeries and libraries.

PARISH COUNCIL TAX

The parish share of council tax will see little change for 2015/16 and our projections for 2016/17 suggest the position will be repeated and we are happy to report that our reserves remain satisfactory.

2014/15 - Net spending in the current year at an estimated £158,000 will be below the original budget of £175,000, helped by reduced insurance premiums and CCTV maintenance charges coupled with higher revenues from Crafton Green car park, burial fees and recharges to the clinic.

2015/16 - The sharp increase in projected net expenditure to £190,000 reflects three factors. First, no rent from the Library during the build period. Second, higher costs (energy, elections, professional fees, salaries, CCTV maintenance on new system and greater support for The Link). Third, caution over the level of income from Crafton Green car park and burial fees.

2016/17 - Assuming the clinic leaves Crafton Green House to move to the new Health Centre, this will affect the budget adversely by £18,000 to which will need to be added increased costs for gardening and grass cutting (after new contracts), play equipment maintenance on Foresthall Park and salaries (litter collection on FHP). On the other side, lower election costs and professional fees coupled with higher income from Crafton Green car park will help. Taken together net expenditure is projected at £210,000.

Projects - a year of advance

The new CCTV system is installed (with two ANPR cameras on Cambridge Road to follow) and operating well while the redesign of the Bentfield Play Area, the new Skatepark and the Community Centre at Crafton Green have all been commissioned with the first two scheduled for completion in Spring 2015 and the last in Spring 2016.

The Parish Council voted unanimously to raise a precept of £217,000 for 2015/16. Council tax (parish share) for Band D will be £66.38, an increase of just under 1%. This figure is approximately half the rate charged by Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow.

NEW COMMUNITY BUILDING TO GO AHEAD

We are delighted to report that after protracted negotiations with Essex County Council a new lease has been agreed for the library, and the Parish Council has voted unanimously to go ahead with the project to build a new community building in Crafton Green. Subject to no unforeseen hitches, the new building should be in use by the Spring of 2016. During construction work the library will operate from a temporary home, the location of which is still to be determined.

NEW CCTV SYSTEM

Another of the protracted projects we have been working on has also come to fruition with the installation of a new state of the art CCTV system located at strategic points in the village. Within days of going live the police were able to make an arrest after they identified a suspect who appeared on camera. Even though the incident was in the dark, the quality of the pictures was good enough to provide evidence that could be put before a court. In the near future the system will be enhanced with automatic number plate recognition cameras funded by UDC.

LOCAL PLANS/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The inspector's rejection in its present form of the Local Plan prepared by UDC means that no plan can now be adopted before 2016 at the earliest. A revised plan will have to identify locations for an even greater number of houses and a site for a new town. This will require a lot of consultation and analysis but planning issues are al-

ways likely to be divisive and there will be inevitable conflicts. While all this is happening construction companies will be planning new developments in and around the parish. The Parish Council have decided it would be beneficial to the community to produce a Neighbourhood Plan but we will need the help and support of residents if this is to happen. Our plan will need to be in line with the Local Plan that UDC will be preparing but by doing a good job on our plan we hope to have a more positive impact on the Local Plan and get a better outcome for our community.

HEALTH CENTRE UPDATE

We have been assured that all the partners at the Stansted Surgery are totally committed to the new build project. There are a few legal and administrative issues that need to be resolved but the practice is doing everything it can to move the project forward as quickly as possible.

ST JOHN'S ROAD SCHOOL SITE

Essex County Council are working on plans to bring the St John's Road School site back into educational use but as we go to print no detailed proposals are available. We will keep you informed on developments as we get news through our website and future newsletters.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Neighbourhood Watch team need volunteers to deliver their newsletter. If you would like to offer your services please contact Cllr Valerie Trundle on 813433.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

From Cllr Alan Dean

For Uttlesford, the year 2014 ended with a major blow for the council and the district. The Local Plan was thrown out by a government inspector. It was found unsound on two fundamental points. The proposal for 2,100 homes to the east of the railway at Elsenham was ruled out as being unsustainable, principally because the location is "embedded within a network of rural roads acknowledged as currently unfit to serve expansion on the scale proposed".

In a 17-page letter published on 19th December, Inspector Roy Foster made much of the unacceptable impact of traffic congestion on Grove Hill and the centre of Stansted Mountfitchet to which no solution is on offer. Mr Foster was also critical that the traffic impact on M11 junction 8 from the NE Elsenham proposal and other neighbouring developments in Essex and Herts had not been properly assessed. He criticised Uttlesford's "decision-making on the basis of incomplete evidence".

There was further consolation for Stansted. The inspector considers we should remain in the Key Village cate-

gory and not be placed alongside Dunmow and Saffron Walden with higher rates of growth and development. One developer with interests to the north of the village had claimed that potential growth here "had been artificially suppressed". The inspector disagreed, saying that whilst Stansted's local services were better than most Key Villages (such as Newport) they are far less than at Dunmow and Walden and the proximity of Bishop's Stortford meant there was no justification for a major shift in the way Stansted is developed. The second key weakness in the plan is that UDC has not yet – after eight years' work - assessed its future housing need in line with recognised procedures. Mr Foster thinks the total may have to go up by around 10% from the present annual figure of 523, or more than 1,100 extra over the 15-year plan period.

If this is added to the 2,100 from Elsenham that are now looking for a new home, it looks like the council will have to spend the next two years finding land for 3,200 to 4,000 homes. We won't know before mid-2015 what the new total will be. The inspector hints that a new settlement may be the right solution.

SIR ALAN HASELHURST SURGERY DATES

February

13th Parish Council Offices Stansted 5.45-6.30 pm
The Old Armoury Saffron Walden 7.00 -7.45pm

March

6th Broomfield 5.15-6.00 pm
30th- Town Council Offices Dunmow 6.30-7.15 pm

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

February

11th Full Council
18th Open Spaces

March

4th Full Council
11th Civil Protection
18th Annual Parish Meeting
25th Full Council

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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Geoffrey Sell (Vice Chairman)	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
Valerie Trundle	813433 prtvt@btinternet.com

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Iris Evans	815848 cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Salmon	814789 cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Joe Rich	813112 cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding	813103 cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk
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Member of Parliament

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

Police - PC Neil Russell
Non-emergency 101
PCSO (Stuart Stranger) Tel: 07889 702340

Neighbourhood Watch

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

Parish Public Transport Representatives

Valerie Trundle	813433
Joy Thomas	813871

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Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Email:kewest@btinternet.com
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Pilots (age 5-18)	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbow Tots (age 1½-rising 3)	Tina South Tel: 814371
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
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Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1 @btinternet.com
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
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History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Inner Wheel Club	Brenda Cox, President Tel: 812191 Email: brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk	U3A	Christine Chair Tel: 817587
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@music@stansted.co.uk		
NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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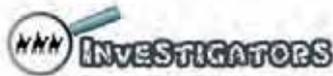
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Care UK homes are operated by highly qualified and caring professionals who are focused on ensuring your loved one continues to lead a fulfilling and enjoyable life.





Last term we did some drama activities where the children made up their own sketches with stories including very diverse characters such as talking flowers, minions (from the cartoon film *Despicable Me*) and art-dealers! As usual the leaders were very impressed by the imaginative ideas and entertaining performances as these characters were brought to life. Our latest project has involved designing and



making our own puppets, devising stories in small groups, then performing the puppet plays using simple but effective puppet stages. Not all our activities are drama-related; we also investigate Bible-stories and other topics such as recycling, and make crafts and art-work too. Recently we looked at the 'bigger picture' of the full Christmas story, as recorded by Luke (eg Did you know there are actually two babies in the full story?). We also play lots of different types of games (both lively and more thoughtful), with challenges and other activities thrown in! New Investigators aged 7-10 are welcome. Investigators meet on most Fridays from 6.15pm-7.45pm in the Free Church Hall. For more info and dates go to www.stanstedfamilychurch.com/whats-on.



Ros Page
Tel: 810813

Stansted Tennis Club



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Festival of Angels and Trees

We were pleased to have a Christmas tree exhibited at the Festival of Angels and Trees at St Mary's Church. Thanks to Sarah Hollis for her inventive tennis ball Christmas tree!

Ladies' Night

Monday 9th February from 7.00pm All lady members (especially new ones) are welcome to come along and play.

Annual General Meeting

All Club members are warmly invited to attend the AGM on Tuesday 10th February 8.00pm at 105 Cambridge Road.

Adult Club Sessions

Sunday mornings, Wednesday mornings and evenings and Friday mornings. All members welcome. Please use the website page to indicate sessions you will be attending.

Tennis balls

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

Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574. If you would like to find out more about Stansted Tennis Club, please visit our website.



Chris Hollis

NEWS FROM THE VETS

What an interesting start to the year we've had here at Mercer and Hughes with a variety of unusual cases, most of which seem to have involved removing things that shouldn't be there from dog's intestines! After Fifi the Tibetan Terrier was recovering from her surgery, looking distinctly happier minus the pair of socks in her stomach, we got to reminiscing about the most unusual thing we've removed. Of course between us we reckon we've removed enough stones to make a small rockery, several corn cobs, walnuts and peach stones, enough tights and pants to stock a lingerie department; but then came the more unusual, the plastic duck still with its quack, a packet of staples which had distributed themselves along the Jack Russell's intestinal tract, a packet of giblets still in their cellophane wrapper, the rather nice lacy thong from a dog belonging to a large man with many tattoos, and perhaps most bizarrely, a strange curvy bit of foam, which when I showed the owner, she said "Oh I wondered where my toe exerciser had got to." Yes, you read that right, a toe exerciser ...

Now I'm not really one for New Year's resolutions - I gave up making them a while ago as I couldn't bear the feeling of disappointment when it got to around 5th January and I had failed miserably yet again; however we've decided to give you all a bit of a helping hand with a New Year's resolution for your pet, if you'd like one. Throughout February we'll be running a vaccination restart scheme. If your pet's vaccinations have lapsed, you can book an appointment to get them started again which will normally mean two injections at a 2-3 week interval but you will only have to pay for one injection! People often worry, understandably, about over-vaccination of pets but in recent years there has been quite a change in the way we vaccinate dogs in particular. The vaccine manufacturers have collected more evidence that has shown that although it is still really important to vaccinate dogs for Leptospirosis every year, in most cases the other diseases can be vaccinated for at two or three yearly intervals. Here at Mercer and Hughes our policy is to vaccinate against Leptospirosis every year, and against Parvovirus, Distemper, etc every third year. In this way, we believe we give the optimum protection without the risks of over vaccinating.

I think the most important thing is to discuss any concerns that you may have with your vet as they can then explain what they think is the best vaccination schedule for your particular pet, taking into account its lifestyle, environment and other risk factors. These days we tend to take more of a holistic view of pet health rather than 'one size fits all'. So if you have any worries about vaccination, ring us for a chat.



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons

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Saturday 21st February

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our Members Evening was held on 8th January in the Free Church Hall and was very enjoyable and well attended with talks on varied subjects from our members.

Derek Francis started the evening with a picture quiz, on various buildings or part of buildings which he had photographed, and members had to try and guess what they were.

Tony Wellings gave us an insight into his family's part in the Great War, sharing with us his grandparents' letters on their thoughts and experiences during this period. Tony also gave us snippets on trips he had taken part in, looking at the war memorials such as the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

Rosalind Peck talked to us about Frederick and Aarthur (yes unusual spelling!) Griffith who were thought to have had a laboratory in a garden off Silver Street studying Tuberculosis and the possibilities of transfer between bovine and humans, which was thought to have saved many lives with their findings. Rosalind went on to inform us about their further studies including Frederick's 'Griffith's experiment', conducted in 1928, which was one of the first experiments suggesting that bacteria are capable of transferring genetic information through a process known as transformation, and Aarthur who went on to work with Watson and Crick developing the double helix model of DNA.

David Perry brought in his 'Ship in a bottle' and generated a discussion on the aspects of the production of creating such an article, such as the manufacturing processes of the bottle and the ship; also how the ship was placed into the bottle.

Paul Embleton was the last speaker of the evening, who gave us an informed talk on chromo-lithograph calendars which were thought to have been introduced during the 1850-60s mainly in Germany; Paul showed us several examples digitally together with examples that he had brought with him on the evening, giving us an understanding of their history and types used.

The next meeting will be 'Magna Carta 1215-2015 100 years commemoration' by Peter Sinclair, at 8.00pm in the Day Centre, Crafton Green on 5th February. All welcome.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177



TIME BANK UTTLESFORD

Supported by CCVS and funded by the Public Service Reform Unit

Not so long ago we all knew our neighbours. Life has changed, although many people in our local communities do help each other; our friends and family do not always live nearby and it is not always so easy to ask neighbours for help these days or even pass the time of day with someone. Time bank Uttlesford aims to help get people of all ages talking to each other and helping one another by safely exchanging help and skills. It's easy to become a Time Bank member and free to join. This is how **Time Bank** works:

- People list the skills and experience which they can offer and those that they may need
- Once you are a time bank member you can start exchanging help and skills
- Everyone's skills are valued equally - one hour always equals one time credit
- A record is kept of all the time credits earned and spent
- You can volunteer when you want to, when you have free time.

Some examples of skills on offer

General help: shopping, plant watering, housework

Gardening: weeding, grass cutting, pruning, tidying

Pets: dog walking, cat grooming

Basic crafts and cookery

Should you be unable to offer any skills or time at present, we have a community pot of credits to give to people who need help, but are unable to volunteer themselves. Please contact CVSU on 01371 878400 or myself.

Pat Lodge
Volunteer Uttlesford
Tel: 01799 510525

STANSTED FAMILY CAFÉ

www.stanstedfamilycafe.org

We celebrated our Family Café's 3rd birthday in November with balloons, birthday cake and Pass the Parcel, as well as the usual children's craft activities and great coffee, juice and cakes. This year we decided to support a local charity, and Christine from Steph's Wishes visited us to raise money with Christmas cards. The café donations from that day



were also given to the charity, which provides special memory days for young people with terminal illnesses. See www.stephs-wishes.org.uk for more information. As The Link went to press we were able to confirm Family Café dates for Saturday 31st January and Sunday 8th February 9.30am-11.00am at the Stansted Day Centre, behind the library. For more February dates, please see our website – all welcome. Craft activities are suitable for children aged 3-10, with toys provided for younger children. If you have never visited the café before, why not join us? Spend time, not money, at Stansted Family Café!



Ros Page
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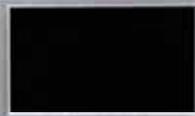
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STANSTED SCOUTS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our last meeting before Christmas is usually bowling or similar, but this year we decided to have a Troop Christmas Dinner. There were 33 Scouts and Leaders all looking smart in full uniform seated at tables replete with crackers and Scout-made table decorations and a small Christmas tree.



Mark G cooked turkey, peas, carrots, sausages and bacon and for the leaders - juicy sprouts. Mark P cooked the lovely roast potatoes. This was followed by mince pies and custard with coffee or soft drinks. Christmas music was playing in the background, cards were exchanged, and by 9.30pm all the Scouts left for home with full tums. We were pleasantly surprised that nearly all the food was eaten, with very little waste - always a good sign! Thanks to all, especially the two Marks for catering and the parents who helped wash up.

Mike Byrne
Scout Leader
Tel: 812780



Our **Presentation Evening** took place at the end of November - winners were as follows:

Perrin Rose Bowl - Dave Hunt
Cawkell Cup - Yvonne Sharp and Stella Rodgers
Bert Grub Memorial Shield - Edward Taub
Charles Wilson Memorial Cup - John Scraggs
Memorial Cup (Chris Bushnell) - Patricia Perry
Last Bowl - Michael Shewry
Newman Rose Bowl - John Scraggs
Dolly Thompson Cup - Doreen Scraggs and Stella Rodgers
Buck Cup - Norman Barfoot and Peter Short
Brett Cup - Stephen Hill
Ladies Challenge Shield - Doreen Scraggs
Novices Cup - Barry Aston
Alcock Cup - Dave Perry
Eleanor Irwin Cup - Ann Conroy
Fletcher Cup - John Scraggs

Very well done to all participants and a big thank you to Peter Brown for his pantomime production after the presentations!!

New Year's Eve – an enjoyable get together to see in the New Year - good food, great company plus the **very** high-brow quiz.

Ladies Changing Room – many thanks to John Scraggs for making and fitting new lockers - they look very smart.

Doreen Scraggs
Hon Secretary
Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178
Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net

STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB



The weather was not too kind to us over the Christmas period as both games scheduled were cancelled due to waterlogged pitches; however if the players thought they were having a break the manager had different ideas by organising training schedules which helped maintain their fitness levels. February, as always, is a critical calendar month in our season as results can give an indication as to where we will finish in the league come April; being unbeaten can launch us into the top half, losing and all the hard work done earlier, can mean finishing in the bottom half. Fortunately we are playing the majority of the month at home so plenty of local support will give the team a real boost. Thoughts at this time of the year also look ahead to next season when Stansted FC are working on a feasibility plan to introduce a younger team, restricted by age, to compete in a midweek league. We recognise that in the area there are a number of talented youth players who once they reach the age of 18 can drift away from the game as the options to play league football are limited. It will also enable our Managers and Coaches to work and develop these players.

Upcoming home fixtures

31 st January	v FC Romania	KO 3.00pm
6 th February	v Clapton	KO 3.00pm
10 th February	v Haringey Borough	KO 7.45pm
14 th February	v Barking	KO 3.00pm
28 th February	v Canvey Island Res	KO 2.00pm

With thanks to the Stansted Sports Association who have financially supported us in refurbishing our Clubhouse, we are pleased to announce that the Clubhouse is now available to hire for private functions; please contact either our Chairman Glyn Warwick (email Stanstedfc@yahoo.co.uk) or myself for details.

Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842

ELSENHAM VILLAGE FETE & CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 20th June 1.00pm-5.00pm

This year's plans are coming together and we have been so inundated with requests that we have asked all our regulars to confirm their booking by the end of January, thus allowing us plenty of time to respond to the other enquiries. If you would like to book a pitch please contact me as soon as possible. This year we see the return of Bishops Stortford's Ukulele Band plus the usual pony rides, Punch and Judy, bouncy castles, BBQ, teas, bar and raffle along with over 40 various other stalls run by local people and organisations. In addition, we will again have a small selection of crafters who will set up in the marquee. As the fete is run by people from the village for the village, if we have any budding crafters who would like to try and sell some of their gifts why not fill in a booking form and come along. We cannot guarantee the weather but good company and lots of people make the day worthwhile. For more information, to book a pitch or donate a prize please contact me.

Jennifer Jarvis
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The December meeting was our Annual Bring and Share Supper, when Sheila Bowles, our Secretary, shared photographs of her holiday in the lesser known wetlands of Brazil - the area known as The Pantanal. This unspoilt region is rich in wildlife – jaguars, crocodiles, monkeys and many very colourful birds. The winners of the Table Quiz ‘How well do you know the USA’ was won by David Harrison and Paul and Sandra Embleton - congratulations.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th February in the Day Centre, when we will be welcoming Christine and Keith Hayward talking about ‘Glorious Cannas’. Doors open at 7.30pm when refreshments are available; the meeting starts at 8.00pm. Visitors are always very welcome, entry £2.50.

Future events

Wednesday 4th March ‘Plant Breeders – What are they doing to our flowers and vegetables?’ by Mr Thady Barrett
 Wednesday 1st April Mini Spring Show and AGM. More information nearer the date. Show Schedules are available from the secretary's desk. The Programme for the 2015-16 Season which starts in May is being finalised. Programme Cards and an update on our website will be available after the AGM. For more information about the club, its current programme or photographs please see our website.

Maralyn Harris
 Chairman
 Tel: 07919 478144

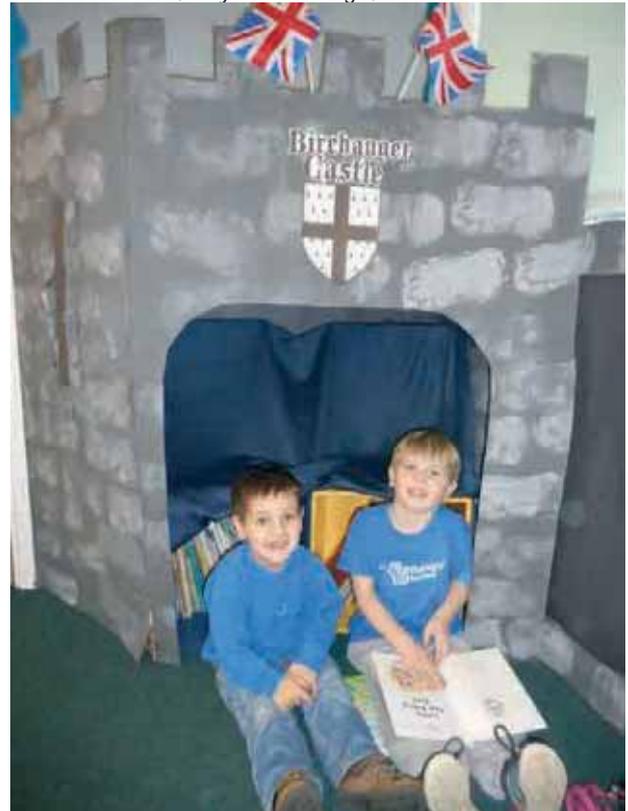
GARDENING TIPS

Although it can still be jolly cold, February will see the sap begin to rise on trees as well as shrubs and perennials. Daylight is perceptively getting longer and buds on your plants are beginning to swell in anticipation of the burst into life. If the ground is wet, frozen or even under snow, then keep off until conditions are more suitable, unless you use an old scaffold board or plank of wood to spread your weight to avoid damaging the structure of your soil. If you have a cloche, you can sow some seed of lettuce, beetroot, peas, broad beans and even onions, ready for planting out in March. Try to ensure they get plenty of daylight. Lime your vegetable plot if necessary for reducing clubroot risk. Snowdrops are traditionally available for purchase at quite cost effective prices at this time of year (referred to as 'in the green'). They can also be divided at this time too; this is also the case for winter aconites. Before planting, work into the soil some well-rotted compost or leaf mould to give them a good start in life in their new spot. Look for overcrowded clumps in your garden for dividing, doing so carefully with a fork. Plant them singly in drifts at the same depth as they were originally growing. If we have some warm dry weather, consider giving the lawn a very light cut on a high setting on a nice dry warm afternoon. Some outstanding plants to look out for in nurseries this month are: Clematis cirrhosa 'Freckles', Helleborus orientalis, Camellia spp, Viburnum tinus, as well as crocus and daffodil bulbs. Go on, get out in the garden!



Paul Elby

The beginning of this term has seen us welcome some new children into the nursery and to help them settle, we have been reading Oliver Jeffers ‘Lost and Found’, a lovely story of friendship which they have all enjoyed. The children have been very busy with lots of art and craft activities all linked to the story and have made paper-plate penguins, played with arctic animals and engaged their imaginations turning cardboard boxes into boats. Our recent topic has been fairy tales and nursery rhymes and we have created ‘Birchanger Castle’ in our reading corner where the children can choose tales to take home or to listen to at nursery. Here are two of our butterflies, Haydn and Hugo, with the castle.



Following on with this theme, we will be creating a grandfather clock and counting the hours as the mouse runs up, making a gingerbread house for Hansel and Gretel to nibble on and exploring the texture of different fabrics as we make a bed for the princess and the pea. Great fun! Money recently raised by parents has been used to buy some new art units which will hopefully arrive soon. These new units will mean that the children will be able to access art materials themselves encouraging independence and self-directed play. A big thank you to parents, committee and the wider community for their on-going support and fund raising efforts, we’re very grateful. Birchanger Nursery is a preschool facility in the grounds of, but separate from, Birchanger Primary School. In our rural setting and well-equipped building we provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2½ to 5. To arrange a visit, telephone our administrator Jen Munton on 810800, email: admin@birchangernursery.org or see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery.

Kirsty Moore
 Birchanger Nursery Committee

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ST MARY'S C E FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Everyone came back to school after Christmas well and rested, ready for the new term. The children were all surprised and excited by a makeover that had taken place in their absence: every alcove and major display board in school is decorated with a scene or episode from the story *The Snow Queen*. As you walk through the school the tale unfolds, with questions inviting the children to reflect and speculate and reason. It looks beautiful – many thanks to the staff for their hours of work and impressive creativity! The whole school is using the theme for the first weeks of term, starting by watching an excellent theatre production of the story. The work in each class will be based on this theme, a tale very rich in possibilities for learning in a wide range of subjects and areas of development.



We are looking forward to taking part in Mission X with Forest Hall School once again this year. Our Year 5 pupils, and their teachers, are prepared and ready for the start of the project. Sport continues to feature strongly - we have the remainder of the football and netball matches to prepare for, Sports Hall athletics at Forest Hall, and here in school we are introducing Golf into our range of extra-curricular clubs.

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, or email: admin@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk. You can learn more about the school from our website.

We are looking to appoint a new caretaker. Full details are on our school website and at www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk Applications close 30th January; interviews 4th February.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher

A huge thank you to Stansted residents for all their wonderful support for the Hospice throughout 2014, culminating in our Light Up A Life service in St Mary's Church in December. It was a lovely service with many local people coming along to remember loved ones in a beautiful setting. We would like to thank them and the Friends of St Mary's for their generosity as almost £170 was raised as well.

Our next event is our annual Winter Walkies on Sunday 22nd February at 11.00am. This is a 5km sponsored country walk to which everyone is welcome – you don't have to have a dog! The walk starts and finishes at the Hospice in Hastingwood and you can register online at www.stclarehospice.org.uk – adults £10, child £5, family £27.50. Looking further ahead, do make a note of the annual Quiz on Saturday 14th March 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Forest Hall School! It's a great evening which is always very popular and attracts around 100 'quizzers' (of varying ability!) each year. If you fancy coming along and pitting your wits against the other teams, tickets are £10 (includes Ploughman's) available from Caroline Bore on 813938 email: carolinebore@gmail.com or from me. Teams of up to 8 people and you are welcome to bring your own drinks and nibbles. Contact me if you are interested in any of the above or for more information about the work of St Clare's.



Sarah Calder
Tel: 07528 520016
Email: sarah.calder@stclarehospice.org.uk

FOREST HALL SCHOOL



Working Together to Inspire, Support and Achieve Success

I feel very privileged to be asked to lead Forest Hall and having worked here for a few days now, my first impressions are very positive. Students are well behaved and keen to learn. Both teachers and support staff are professional, extremely hardworking and committed. I believe that students get one chance at success and by getting them, their parents and staff working together, we can ensure that they enjoy their time here, make outstanding progress and leave us as responsible, well-qualified, mature young people, ready to make a valued contribution to society.

I will put learning at the top of my priorities at Forest Hall School. Students must use every moment of each lesson to learn something new and leave the school each day excited and curious for more. I want them to aspire to excellence and aim for the highest academic results to allow them to go on to the best universities in the country. I have been impressed with the strong community ethos in the school with everyone treating each other with respect and courtesy. The vertical house system also helps to create a happy, safe and supportive atmosphere for all. At Forest Hall we are going to work together to inspire, support and provide challenge to students to allow them to reach, and even better this success!

Mr Hehir
Acting Head Teacher
Tel: 813384

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STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Our December Meeting showed the talents of some of our members when we had demonstrations of flower arranging, card making, Christmas decorations and how to make a cut-out paper snowflake. Betty Francis came along from Ugley WI to show this and was extremely patient with her pupils who did have some problems with carrying out fairly simple instructions – me included, even though I had done it before! Margaret Chastney did a beautiful flower arrangement using three amaryllis flower stems; Ann Howarth showed us how to decorate plain candles using wax crayons, which looked most effective, and Sally Smith used a potato covered in foil as a base to make a lovely door hanging, as well as showing her selection of handmade cards. We sat around tables for this meeting so were able to continue with craft works, refreshments and of course plenty of chat, a really lovely Christmas meeting. We are looking forward to hearing Sue Mott at our February Meeting on the 12th in the Day Centre in the Day Centre at 7.45pm. Sue is a sports writer and will be telling us of some of the sports people she has met during her career. I am writing this on a hot summer day in Sydney; hard to think of winter at the moment, but I will be back by the time this is published and remembering all this - great way to spend January!



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

At our December meeting we held a fun music quiz. The following week we held our Christmas Lunch with entertainment from the U3A choir. Both events were great fun and enjoyed by all. Many groups enlivened their December meetings with mince pies and cakes and even the odd glass of wine! The U3A Singers entertained at Stanley Wilson Lodge and at the Hadham Golf Club's Christmas lunch, and took part in one of the St Clare Hospice Light up a Life services, singing outside on a very cold and frosty night. Members enjoyed a trip to *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Jean Gifford said "The show, a musical comedy, is a little saucy but very tongue in cheek. It has a wonderful cast, full of energy, and excellent performances were given by all."

The next meeting will be 1.30pm for 2.00pm on 19th February in St John's Hall, for what promises to be an interesting talk from Brian Curtois '30 years a BBC Reporter In and Out of Parliament'. Prospective new members are welcome. On Saturday 21st February 10.00am-12 noon we are running a **Table Top Sale** in St John's Hall. Please call Chris on 817587 to book a table at £5 each. The popular **Seminar** programme has two new seminars: on Thursday 26th February, Dr Carolin Crawford is presenting an Astronomy Seminar 'A Voyage Round Saturn' at 7.00pm in the Day Centre. On Saturday 21st March, Jo Brooks returns after her popular 2014 pre-renaissance art seminar, with 'Siena, City of the Virgin', a beautifully illustrated exploration of the beginnings of Renaissance art in Tuscany. Tickets for seminars are members £4, non-members £5 in advance only from Alan tel 07790 213510 or email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com.



Sally Rich
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com



STORT VALLEY ROTARY

www.stortvalleyrotary.com

Our normal programme of meetings was suspended in December to allow us to concentrate on street tours with Rotary Santa and his sleigh. The event raised more than £4,000 for local charities but we equally aimed to bring some real moments of Christmas magic to children as the Christmas music rang out and Santa appeared waving from his illuminated 'sleigh' and children rushed out to greet him. We had a great response from everyone in Stansted where £750 was raised – thank you for making the tours such fun.



Photograph by Stephen Cox of his son Charlie Braddick

We contribute to international as well as local projects, and recently we had a talk by one of our members, Robert Muir, who is working on relief projects in Haiti and by Paul Harvey who has first-hand experience of working to help eradicate polio in India. In the 1980s, Rotarians realised that polio could be eradicated by methodical mass immunisation. The vaccines were cheap and effective and by 1988 Rotary had persuaded the World Health Organisation to become involved, followed later by the UN and the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. Most countries are now declared polio free and five million children who would otherwise have been paralysed are walking today. There have been no new cases of polio in India since January 2011 but it takes three years to suppress the disease so the immunisation programme must continue. It was a privilege to hear Paul's account of his experiences. We invite you to visit our website to find out about our club, read the latest edition of our lively award winning newsletter and get a flavour of our range of activities and our speaker programme. We meet on Tuesdays, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2JZ.

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

SCARF FOUND

A very nice navy blue, men's, Harrod's, cashmere scarf was left behind at St Mary's after the Carol Service on 13th December. Please call 812073 if this is yours.

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GUESS WHO I AM

I was born in Carlisle but moved to Stansted with my parents and two siblings in the 1950s. I enjoyed my time at school in the village and Saffron Walden, leaving full time education at 15 years old. My happy childhood in Stansted was very busy and revolved around the Church choir, Cubs and Scouts. The latter was based in the Windmill and I have a fond memory of our Scout Leader telling us ghost stories by torchlight on dark winter nights at the mill. I remember being terrified but loving it and always looking forward to more scary stories. Going swimming meant cycling to the open-air swimming pool in Bishop's Stortford early on a Sunday morning, enduring the freezing cold water in all weathers, and cycling back in time for the 9.30am church service!

My first job was as a teenager, mucking out stables at a large house then known as Chesters on Pines Hill and occasionally doing holiday relief delivering meat for the local butcher on a trade bike, which was incredibly hard work. After leaving school I was an apprentice railway-signalling engineer based in Cambridge, where I attended day release and evening classes to gain a City and Guilds qualification in Industrial Electronics and Remote Control. This led me on to a different career; working on large financial and scientific computer systems.

I am married with two children and two grandchildren. I've always liked visiting different places and meeting new people and have travelled to the Far East, USA, Canada and various countries in Europe both for work and family holidays. I enjoy skiing and playing cricket. I'm also interested in all types of music and have been known to sing in a rock choir. Since I retired I've started mentoring young people both locally and further afield. It's great to be given the opportunity to pass on the knowledge I've gained to the next generation. I hope they get as much out of it as I do!

Claim to Fame: I've taught engineers what, at the time was the world's largest Super Computer (water cooled).

Guess who I am.

JAM JARS

By the time you read this I'll have finished filling all the empty jam jars that people have kindly donated with marmalade. I still need more jars of 1lb size or less (not those that have contained coffee or pickle thanks) ready for the jam-making season. Thank you to everyone who has contributed empty jars – please keep them coming!

Sandra Ayres
49 St John's Road
Tel: 814471

GUESS WHO I AM ANSWER



Keith Ayres



www.eastonlodge.co.uk

The gardens closed last autumn after a hugely successful season. We had well over 3,000 adult visitors to the gardens and were delighted that we could open the Italian Garden to them for the latter part of the season. The hundreds of children who visited really enjoyed the extra children's activities and we plan to expand these further this year. We now have three volunteer days each week, up from just one a year ago, and the results of the added attention are everywhere to be seen. The extra maintenance work has improved the overall look of the gardens while the team working in the Walled Garden has started to reveal the hidden gem that was buried beneath a sea of nettles. We need more volunteers to help on open days - if that sounds like 'your thing'; or if you are interested in history, we need an archivist. Details of our volunteering vacancies are on the website, or you can email for more information. If you 'don't do the web' call 01371 876979 and leave a message – we will get back to you.



Our first two open days are on 22nd February and 1st March 11.30am-4.00pm (last entry 3.00pm). The annual snowdrops event has become a must-see feature of the garden lovers' calendar. Entry remains at £3.50 adults, children **free**. Delicious and warming homemade soup will be on sale until 2.15pm along with bacon rolls and sausage baps; hot drinks and homemade cakes available all day. There will be children's activities and one guided tour at 1.00pm. As always dogs are welcome on leads. We will be selling snowdrops in the green and the details and order form are on our website for those who would like to pre-order. We will also have snowdrop mugs and vases on sale.

Other events for the year are:

19th April Open Day with the Dunmow Rock Choir
17th May Open Day with the Dunmow Wind Band
14th June Open Day with the Saffron Walden Town Band
19th July WWII Open Day with The Perfect Vintage
16th August and 20th September - Open Days
18th October Open Day – Spooky Halloween Fun

We would like to thank everyone for their support over the past season and hope that anyone who visited last year will come back; and that those of you that have seen the brown signs and thought "I really must go there" make 2015 the year in which you do.

Helen Carter
Trust Administrator
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We had a really good Christmas lunch at Linden House to celebrate our second year as a business forum. The food and company were really good and we are proud that we are attracting new members to our monthly meetings.



Our summer fayre is on Saturday 4th July 12.00 noon-5.00pm in Station Road; so come on stall holders, book a stall. The music and other activities will be great for families. As ever, we are very keen to work with local schools and we will be involved in celebrating the Magna Carta in Stansted by sponsoring the printing and distribution of booklets about it for school children. We will also be publishing our Forum directories.

Always keen to promote our businesses, this month we spotlight Peter James from Murdochs Estate Agency who says: "I have been in the business for nearly 15 years and have worked with local agencies in the area. I was attracted to the profession, as you get to meet many people who you are able to guide and support to take the stress out of moving house. I am pleased to have found premises in Station Road. We are a one-stop shop with estate agency and solicitors under one roof so we can provide the best financial interest for everyone. We have had our best year to date and our fees of 0.75% plus vat for local residents have been very popular. So come along and see us."

Our AGM is on 2nd February and the next business breakfast meeting will be at Linden House on Friday 6th February 7.00am for 7.30am start. To book a stall for the fayre or for the business breakfast, please contact Peter James at Murdochs, telephone 813318.



Iris Evans,
Treasurer
Tel: 815848



*Stansted
Cricket
Club*

The Club would like to express its sincere thanks to Toro for the gift of a new Hayter mower as part of the Toro Giving Centennial Annual Product Donation Program. It will make a great difference to the maintenance and appearance of our ground around the boundary and the seating areas adjacent to the pavilion. No other club activities are planned until the resumption of indoor nets, probably in mid-to-late February.

The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact me. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



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

DID YOU KNOW?

An Augustinian priory of St James the Apostle, Thremhall, (Tremhall) was founded in the middle of the 12th century by Gilbert de Montfichet, (1120 -1186) or his son Richard. Gilbert is said to have given Thremhall to a Scot named David whom, "he so loved to build a church and monastic edifices, viz the Priory of Thremhall". A grant to the cannons by Richard the elder is mentioned in a charter by his son, Richard (d.1267) the younger. Some members of the Montfichet family are buried at Thremhall. In 1250 the Prior and Convent established a chantry (monetary fund to employ Catholic priests to sing masses for the spiritual benefit of a deceased person) for Richard de Wendover (d.1252) senior Canon of St Pauls, London and physician to Pope Gregory IX. In return he gave them 40 marks to buy land. During the Middle Ages regulars, (canons) had little to do with the service of parish churches, which were served by neither religious nor irreligious seculars. At Thremhall there were 12 Canons and 2 Seculars, who were "much burdened by being near the highway", (Stane Street). The right to nominate the parish priest belonged to the manor of Stansted Mountfichet by a settlement acquired in 1305.

In St Mary's Church is a small brass strip commemorating the first recorded priest. It's engraved in Latin and reads, 'Here lies Robert of Bokkyngg (Bocking) first Vicar of Stansted Mountfichet, who died August/31st/1361'. He and 13 other priests were given the living by the Prior and Convent of Thremhall, until James Spooner in 1520.



The priory was dissolved among the smaller monasteries in 1536. An inventory dated 16th June, valued the goods in the various chambers, at £17 2s 3d, cattle £8 10s 4d and corn £14 16s 8d. Twenty ounces of plate were valued at £3 12s 0d. Along with other manors, the Priory was granted to John Gary and Joyce Walsingham (widow) whom he was about to marry, in 'tail male', thereby restricting future sales keeping family estates intact in the mainline of succession. Of the four religious brothers at Thremhall who applied for dispensations, Prior Simon Spooner received a pension of £16 and £10 and John Danyell became Vicar of Herne Hill, 1541.

The Reformation in Essex to the death of Mary – Oxley, A History of Essex: Vol 2 (1907) pp163-164. Seax D/DWv/T1/6

Ralph Phillips

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	Monique's Childminding	10		Stansted Chiropactic	6
	Rainbow Pre-School	18		Stansted Psychotherapy	12
	St Nicholas School	12		Williams (Osteopath)	6
	Tuition	10	Photography	Photosound	26
Electrical	Albury Electrical Services	30	Pilates	Akasha Wellness (Pilates & Yoga)	8
	Dean Mason	34		Back to Basics (Pilates)	8
	Ethical Electrical	30		Tone Pilates	8
	Stansted Electric	30	Plumbing & Heating	Harpers Plumbing & Heating	OBC
Financial & Legal	Greenways Financial Planning	26		JDW Gas Heating Specialist	34
	Lever & Co Solicitors	18		Jones & Co (Plumbing & Heating))	30
	Mansell & Co Accountants	IBC		Knight Plumbing	30
	Mosby Financial Service	26		KS Group Heating & Plumbing	30
Food	Crimson 8 Chinese	24		Newman's Home Services	30
	Lower Street Brasserie	IBC		Orion Heating	30
	Pino Pizzeria & Grill	24		Stansted Gas Services	30
	Sonargow Indian	24	Printing	CZ Design & Print	28
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	18	Property Maintenance & Improvement	Aaran Glass	36
	J Day & Son	16		Camwood Home Improvements	30
	D C Poulton & Sons	18		Do-It-4U	34
Garden Services	N W Brown (Landscapes)	38		Fairweather Windows	IFC
	Cox Farm & Forestry	38		Finch and Son	OBC
	Crystal Clear Ponds	34		Garden & Property Maintenance	36
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC		Herts & Essex Window Doctor	36
	H2O Plants	OBC		Todd Welding & Fabrication	36
	Steve Hall Garden Services	38	Retailers	Family News (Londis)	10
	Lawn Supremacy	38		Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts)	IFC
	Mowtivated	38	Spiritualists	Arthur Findlay College	18
	Gill Owen (Gardening Services)	38	Travel	Absolute Travel	IBC
	The Secret Gardener	38	Will Writing	Herts & Essex Wills	24
	Uppercut Trees	38		The Will Practice	IBC

IFC - Inside Front Cover

IBC - Inside Back Cover

OBC - Outside Back Cover

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