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by **noon** on 11th July
 for the August issue

by **noon** on 11th August
 for the September issue

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EDITORIAL



Living somewhere deemed to be one of the safest and most pleasant places to live does have its drawbacks. Stansted is currently attracting developers like metal to a magnet, with all manner of proposals. We trust that the authorities will give each fresh proposed development the same amount of time and careful consideration as that spent on Stansted's new Health Centre. With the long summer school holidays looming, it's appropriate to remind all dog owners about the importance of clearing up after their pets in all public areas of the village, especially the places where youngsters play. Children and 'dog litter' can be a lethal combination.

Further to the delightful display of daffodils along the Cambridge Road commented on in last month's 'Link'. They were provided through a legacy from the late Rita Humphreys, a former Chairman of the Parish Council, who was a very active member of the community during her time in Stansted. The bright, cheerful daffodils are a fitting reminder of the lady herself, and an asset to the village. Thank you Rita.

The 'Link's long-serving secretary, Katherine Hurford, has recently been in hospital. We send her our good wishes for a complete recovery.

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

July is a month that is so often full of hopes and dreams. Many of us hope to have a holiday and for those at school, the end of the month sees the dawning of a six week break. Many will dream of wonderful summer weather; warm days and picnics, perhaps sitting outside the pub enjoying a refreshing drink. For cricket fans, the three tests against the Sri Lankans will have come and gone (at the time of writing England are one up with one to play.) The Test Series against India will be just a few weeks away. On Sunday 3rd July will we be cheering Andy Murray to victory in the Men's Final at Wimbledon?

There is so much to hope for and to dream about, but a lot depends on our view of life and indeed on what our interests are and what circumstances surround us. In John's Gospel, in the New Testament of the Bible, Jesus was explaining to folk who he is. He told them that he is The Good Shepherd and that he came to earth, "that we might have life and have it to the full." *John 10:10b*. Jesus also said that he is "The way and the truth and the life." *John 14:6*.

Our lives may be full of hopes and dreams or they may be in a dark corner somewhere, in tatters. Whatever situation we find ourselves in, the amazing news is that Jesus Christ gives us certainty in an uncertain world, hope in a time of hopelessness for many and we can all have life to the full because of Jesus. May you have a wonderful month and let Jesus fulfil all your needs, hopes and dreams.

David Keeble
Stansted Free Church



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

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

Preachers for July

3rd 10.30am Don McGregor - New Directions in
Worship
10th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble - Communion
17th 10.30am Christine Heyhoe
24th 10.30am Gordon Doyle

Rev'd Allen Morton (our URC minister) is currently on long-term sick leave, so all enquiries to Rev'd David Keeble.

Baptism



Recently we were delighted to welcome back the Van de Noort family for the occasion of the baptism of their second son, Dylan. The service was led by Rev'd David Mullins.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

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

Confessions

Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



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

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

Director of Music: Lorraine Everett
Email: lorraine@everett.info

Church Hall Bookings: Rachel Pocknell
Tel or text: 07972 373994
Email: stjohns.hallbookings@gmail.com

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

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

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

DIAMOND JUBILEE FLOWER FESTIVAL

At St John's we are proposing to hold a Flower Festival in June 2012. We want to hold it on the extra Bank Holiday weekend, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, 1st-4th June 2012. We would like this to be a community event and invite all groups in the village to take part. The theme will be 'The Jubilee' and can encompass all achievements and events in the last 60 years. We are asking for help from within the village. You don't have to have experience of flower arranging to participate. If you are a new resident it will be an ideal opportunity to meet new friends over a coffee. So, if you now have some time to spare, do please come to our first planning meeting, on a date to be arranged. Contact details below. We look forward to meeting you and working together to organise this village event.



Pauline Mantle
Email: paulinedmantle@tiscali.co.uk
or Church Office Tel: 815243

From the Registers

May

Baptisms

29th Alexander Munro Ogden
James Munro Ogden

Wedding

28th Lisa Jane Tilbury to Stevie James Warren

EVENSONG IN A COUNTRY CHURCH

During the summer there will be a special series of evening services in Farnham Church which will focus on the topic of 'The Lord's Prayer'. It is easy for us to pray this prayer without thinking clearly about what we are saying. As we look at it together we will discover a depth of meaning which will both enlighten and challenge us. The services begin on Sunday 24th July for eight weeks, always at 6.00pm. They will take the form of Evensong (sometimes Choral Evensong) or Traditional Language Holy Communion. More information is available on a leaflet in St John's Church.



Rev'd Paul Wilkin

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

Exciting plans are in hand for a major building project at St John's Hall. These include:

Improving the access to the Hall for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. This will mean removing the steps and slope and providing wider doors and handrails.

Installing a unisex toilet for disabled users.

Replacing the existing heating boiler with a more efficient system. This will involve the demolition of the boiler room which will provide more kitchen space.

Subject to funding it is planned to have the work completed in time for the Christmas festivities. The Hall is used by a number of local societies including the WI and the U3A; in addition numerous church activities are held here. Recently, a successful jazz evening was held to raise funds for the Hall. Pete Baker and his Half Dozen musicians provided the music for an audience of some 140. Many standard numbers were in the programme including 'Alexander's Ragtime Band', 'Muskrat Ramble', 'Ain't Misbehaving' and a rock'n roll medley which brought the house down! A light supper was enjoyed by all and the event raised £1300 for Hall funds.

Derek Francis

ST JOHN'S TOTS

Every Tuesday morning at 9.15am St John's Tots opens its doors and welcomes mums and their little ones to the 'Tots' event. The children enjoy a friendly atmosphere and are regaled with a story and activities while the parents can have a chat and a cup of coffee in a beautiful church. We are not having a break for the summer period, so please come and see what your parish church has to offer.

Derek Francis

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the May draws:

£100: No 25 Frank Skingle
£ 50 No 203 Delia Joyce
£ 25 No 230 Harry Davies

The July draws will be held in St John's Church following the 9.30am service on Sunday 31st July. There are still numbers available so, if you would like to join the scheme with an opportunity to win a share of the £2,500 prize money, at a cost of £2 per number per month please contact Francine Cope on 814562 or Rosemary Thomson on 815551.



CTS Forum

The next meeting of the Forum will be at 8.00pm on Wednesday 20th July in the Friends Meeting House. The Forum is open to anyone from the churches and we shall be planning future events such as the October Harvest Supper and Christmas events. Please join us.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562



Shalom

Our 'At Home' on 27th June has been cancelled. Our final meeting for this term will be our bring and share party at 8.00pm on 11th July at 7 Blythwood Gardens. Please bring a reading, poem or a piece of music to share as well as food or drink! We will then start again with our 'At Home' on 26th September.

We are very sad to record the recent death of Harry Goreing, one of our longstanding Shalom members. Harry was a generous and kind man, who, along with his wife Edna, was very committed to the Shalom Group, even though they lived in Bishop's Stortford. We will all miss him very much.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

SOUTH COMMUNITY FORUM

28th June 7.30pm Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College. All welcome.

Sue Hayden
Community Development Officer
Tel: 01799 510563
Email: shayden@uttlesford.gov.uk

HELPLINE

Stansted's Helpline is a member of Care Network Uttlesford which supports all similar community care schemes operating throughout the district. Care Network Uttlesford is holding a 'Summer Event' on Wednesday 20th July at which there will be speakers covering the following subjects:

- Vetting & Barring – the new proposals and how they will affect volunteers
- Sheltered Housing in Uttlesford – contributions from local sheltered housing schemes
- Epilepsy in Old Age – recognising signs and knowing what to do
- Alzheimer's Disease – coping with dementia
- Home from Hospital – a scheme to help patients returning home

In addition to the above presentations, there will be stands with information available from Age Concern, Parkinson Society, Abbeyfield, Extra Care in Dunmow and Hanover in Saffron Walden. Everyone is welcome to attend this FREE event which will be held from 10.00am–1.30pm in the Talbert Room, Foakes Hall, Great Dunmow and will include coffee/tea and a free sandwich lunch kindly sponsored by the Council for Voluntary Service Uttlesford.

This is a great opportunity for anyone who has personal concerns in any of these areas or has loved ones facing such problems, to come along and obtain some very useful information from professionals in a very relaxed and pleasant environment with plenty of opportunity to chat individually with the speakers and other attendees. If you would like to attend, please ring Sue or Jacqui on 01371 878400 so that they can have an idea of numbers. If anyone has difficulties in arranging transport, please ring Helpline on 07704 553727 and we will do our best to assist.

Francine Cope
Chair

NEWS FROM THE DAY CENTRE

IT lessons at The Day Centre are still available for anyone wanting tuition. We can now also offer access to a computer, printer and the Internet for anyone who would like to come in for a cup of tea and surf online in private. We are now making our own delicious chocolate truffles on site; these will be available at a very reasonable price in the future in nice presentation boxes. However, over the next month or two we will randomly be handing out free samples to people coming in for a cup of tea or coffee, don't miss out! Movie afternoons will soon be starting at the Day Centre. Drinks and snacks will be served and films will be shown on a large widescreen television. Watch this space and the village notice boards for more information. The toenail cutters will be at The Day Centre on 29th August; to book please telephone: 01245 423334.

If you would like to find out what we can offer you, please do give us a call to find out more. We offer a variety of activities for a variety of people and serve delicious lunches three times a week at a very reasonable price.

Kat Lupton
Tel: 815091 or 812144

UGLEY VILLAGE FETE

2 - 4.30 pm Sat 2nd July

White Elephant ~ Bottle Tombola
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Teas ~ Barbecue ~ Fire Engine
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2 - 8 pm Sat 2nd July

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Tickets Adults £8 advance, £10 on gate, accompanied under 16s free from Kerry on 815496



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Open 1.30 - 5.30 pm
Sun 3rd July

St Mary's Church
Open 2 - 5 pm
Sun 3rd July



Parish Magazines on view

VILLAGE EVENTS

July

1	Fri	Conservatives Pub Evening	Rose and Crown 8 pm
2	Sat	SSE Booksale	Old Sch Hse, Takeley 9 am - 1 pm
		Ugley Village Fête	Crowns, Pound Lane 2 - 4.30 pm
		Music in the Park	Bentfield School 2 - 8 pm
3	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
		St Mary's Church Open	2 - 5 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Mountfitchet Garden Club Visit	Phone for details
8	Fri	W I Quiz	St Mary's Hall 7.30 for 7.45 pm
9	Sat	Canine Partners Jumble Sale	Quendon Village Hall 2 pm
		Bowling Club President's Day	Recreation Ground 2.30 pm
9 Sat/10 Sun		Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
11	Mon	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
		Shalom Party	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
14	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
15	Fri	MMCC Recital	St Mary's Church 1.30 - 2.15 pm
16	Sat	Scouts Centenary Celebration	Scout Hut, Water Lane 2 pm
		Berden Fête	Berden Hall 2 pm
20	Wed	Uttlesford Care Summer Event	Foakes Hall 10 am - 1.30 pm
		CTS Forum	Friends Meeting House 8 pm
21	Thu	U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 pm
23	Sat	Summer Fête	Hargrave House 2 pm
23 Sat/24 Sun		Sun Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
24	Sun	Lib Dem Garden Party	25 Park Road 12.30 pm
		Manuden Singers Glyndebourne	Wilford House, Manuden 6.30 pm
30	Sat	Stort Interfaith Quiz	St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm



Stansted Eve WI QUIZ

7.30 for 7.45 pm
Friday 8th July

St John's Church Hall

Tickets £8 incl ploughmans
Tel 812470 or 816524
Bring your own drinks



JUMBLE SALE

2 pm Sat 9th July

Rickling/Quendon Village Hall
Unwanted items accepted
6 - 9 pm Fri 8th & 10 am - 12 Sat
Entry 30p ~ Tombola ~ Teas

Canine Partners trains assistance dogs
for people with disabilities



Green Waste, Metal & Wood Skip Dates

9 am - 3 pm
Lower Street Car park

Sat 9th & Sun 10th Jul
Sat 23rd & Sun 24th Jul
Sat 6th & Sun 7th Aug

Stort Interfaith Group QUIZ EVENING

Quizmaster David Morson
7 for 7.30 pm Sat 30th July
St John's Hall
Tickets £8 (incl refreshments)
Tel 850209
Bring your own drinks & glass

BERDEN EDWARDIAN FÊTE

2 pm Sat 16th July
Berden Hall

Children's Entertainment
Tudor Dancers ~ Cream Teas
Suffolk Punch Horses
Vintage Car Displays & more..
Adults £2, under 15s free

Manuden Village Glyndebourne

6 for 6.30 pm Sun 24th July
Wilford House, 70 The Street
St Mary's Church if wet

Bring your friends and picnics!

Entry by programme
£10 adults, £5 children
from Fiona 812157 or at the door

All proceeds to Grove Cottage (Mencap)

SUMMER FETE

2 pm Sat 23rd July
Hargrave House

Barbecue ~ Tombola
Cream Teas ~ Raffle
Bouncy Castle and more ..
All Welcome ~ Entry only 20p
Tel Stella on 817272

Uttlesford Care Network

SUMMER EVENT

10 am - 1.30 pm Wed 20th July
Foakes Hall, Dunmow
Topics include
Alzheimers ~ Home from Hospital
Vetting & Barring ~ Sheltered Housing
Entry Free ~ Lunch provided
Tel Sue or Jacqui 01371 878400

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CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Paul Woodford and Amy Dean, youngest daughter of Alan and Catherine Dean, who were married on 4th June. With love and best wishes for the future from all at Stansted Free Church.



We have had an entertaining few weeks, as usual, at Rainbow. The children welcomed some caterpillars into Pre-school and have been anxiously awaiting their metamorphosis into beautiful butterflies! Our older children are due to be visited by staff from a zoo lab who will be bringing some animals in for them to handle. Despite several problems we are looking forward to moving into our new premises. Unforeseen hurdles have included the builders going broke and the accidental sawing through of some hot water pipes! Sadly the premises were burgled and a considerable amount of equipment was taken.

The last few weeks of the summer term are often tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to our older children who will be moving up to Reception. We are confident that they are really ready for life in 'big' school and are delighted to see how much they have all matured and grown in confidence since we met them. And of course we're looking forward to welcoming new children in September! Places for September 2012 are filling up fast. If you have a child who would like to attend Rainbow please put his or her name down as soon as possible (even if only a few months old!). We welcome visits to Preschool – please see our website at www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk or call 07966 506997 for more details.

Katherine Aiken



As the school year comes towards its end the staff and children have been celebrating their achievements. Academically the children have achieved and, in many cases surpassed, their individual and school set attainment targets as well as gaining success in the end of key stage national tests. In sport the school has taken an active part in many local competitions as well as in-house activities and instruction. The children have been involved in many out of doors projects, including several day trips and two residential visits. Our Forest school has thrived and developed for many different age groups. The popularity and success of our afternoon Nursery for our under fours has been a further highlight as were each of the drama productions that were performed in school. A recent visit from some Chinese teachers from Jiangsu was particularly memorable and with it the hope that some international links may be forged in the future. It was particularly gratifying to hear that the visit to our school was the best experience that they had had in their ten day visit to the country.

The many fundraising and fun school events that have been organised by our parental body are another area that should be celebrated, as well as the charity fundraising that the school council has sponsored. Not content with the £800 target set for the water tank in Uganda, the school was able to raise enough money, through parental generosity, to provide a shelter for the tank and usable pipework. Our Year 6 will leave the school with many happy memories and it is hoped that we as a school have assisted them in becoming mature, respected learners with a good set of social skills. We wish them well for the future and that they settle well into the six different destinations for their secondary education. May I thank the whole school community for another successful year at Bentfield Primary. The Autumn term starts on 6th September and we look forward to meeting our new families as well as the return of our existing ones. We also welcome Miss Rebecca Jolley who will join our teaching staff and wish Mrs Jarrold every joy with the birth of her first child, and her subsequent maternity leave. The next article from Bentfield will appear in the October edition of the 'Link'.

Cathie Bonich

PTA News

A reminder that Music in the Park is from 2.00pm–8.00pm on Saturday 2nd July. Tickets available from Kerry on 815496, adults £8 in advance or £10 on the gate, under 16s free if with paying adult.



HARGRAVE HOUSE

A reminder of our third Summer Fête on Saturday 23rd July at 2.00pm, with our added attraction, the Bouncy Castle. All welcome. If you have any unwanted gifts or bric-à-brac for our tombola stall or raffle, we would love to take them off your hands! For more information please call me.

Stella Papworth
Activities Co-ordinator
Tel: 817272

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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

An evening of flower arranging

Over 165 Members and Friends of the Mountfitchet Garden Club were entertained by Nick Grounds from Wisbech at the MMCC on 18th May. The evening was full of wit and laughter as Nick kept everyone amused and attentive with poetry, quotes, tricks of the trade and tales of his life, whilst at the same time creating huge and beautiful arrangements in a variety of containers from a wooden bowl to the enormous teacup shown in the photograph. An auctioneer by profession, he told the audience how he had become interested in flowers as a young boy when his grandmother, who suffered from arthritis, would ask him to arrange flowers for her by telling him where to place each one. Nick is now passionate about his art and recently became an NAFAS National Demonstrator. The seemingly casual ease with which each arrangement appeared inspired and delighted everyone and I'm sure I wasn't the only person envious of the lucky ladies who went home with one of Nick's creations as a raffle prize!



Photo by Simone Harris

June meeting

Mrs Margaret Waddy, a horticultural lecturer from Bottisham College, spoke to members about 'Fragrance In The Garden'. Members were told that a plant's main priority is to reproduce, and scent is one method of attracting pollinators. Initially pollination was by wind only but over millions of years as evolution introduced new insects, birds and animals, the flowers, shrubs and trees evolved too - scent to attract and nectar to reward thus ensuring pollination. Working her way through the year, from Christmas box in winter, through the spring bulbs and flowers to honeysuckle and roses in summer and onto the late summer/autumn flowers, Mrs Waddy gave examples of plants to grow to enjoy fragrance in the garden all year. A selection of flowers, cut from her garden that afternoon, was passed around for members to smell. She explained that unfortunately, many of the modern flowers have lost their scent as selective pollination by breeders to achieve new colours/forms has taken over from fragrance. A list of suggested planting was handed out. The Members' competition this month was 'An arrangement of herbs and flowers in a small jug' and it was won by Christine Hope.

July meeting

Please note this month we are visiting a local garden. Please contact me for details.

August meeting

On 3rd August the Club will be welcoming back Mr Robin Carsberg when his subject will be 'New Zealand - Plants of the Southern Hemisphere'. Members' competition is 'A teacup of home grown fruit and/or vegetables' - one entry per person.

Diary date: The next outing will be on Saturday 10th September to Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire.

Club meeting details

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (unless otherwise stated - see website/notices) at the Day Centre. Doors open at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start - refreshments are available prior to the meeting. Membership is available at £12.00 single and £20.00 double (two members at the same address). Visitors are always very welcome to our meetings when there is a nominal charge of £2.50 per person. Full details of the 2011-12 programme can be found on our website along with photographs of previous events.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144

CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS

It's now time to give your plants a boost, especially hanging baskets. I tend to use Miracle-Gro; just give one feed of this and then return to the regular weekly feed of tomato fertiliser, which is high in potash and encourages the production of more flowers and fruit. In the vegetable garden brassicas will also appreciate a weekly feed of Miracle-Gro, or similar.



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Once again we are enjoying great bowling weather. Our Inter Club competitions are under way, in their normal friendly fashion. We have welcomed new members, who are currently enjoying a roll up on Friday evenings and are now taking part in our friendly weekend games. It's not too late to come and have a go, any Friday evening at 6.30pm, the more the merrier - you will be assured a warm welcome. We have had a visit from a local college which was very successful; great potential was shown and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We look forward to seeing them again. Our A and B league teams are going from strength to strength. Various county games are also underway for the men and ladies - watch this space for results. Next big date for our diary is **Saturday 9th July at 2.30pm - our President's Day** - hosted by John Hollis.

Doreen Scraggs

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SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



You may remember from school physics that everything is made of atoms. They are made up of three particles: neutrons, which are relatively big and have no electrical charge; compared with protons that have a positive charge and join the neutron as the nucleus of the atom, and electrons, which have a negative charge, and orbit the nucleus, somewhat similar to a star with planets orbiting. The simplest atom is hydrogen, the fuel for all stars. The hydrogen bomb that is any star makes the hydrogen so hot (around fifteen million degrees) that the atoms squeeze together to make the next biggest atom, helium. But helium is four percent lighter than hydrogen and that four percent is heat which keeps the fusion going.

The elements are numbered from number one, hydrogen and number 92, uranium. But the most interesting element is number 26, iron. Up to and including iron the elements give off energy but to create the higher elements you have to lose energy. This can only be done with the power, not just of a star but a star that is coming to the end of its life. The star will be expanding as it tries to find more fuel. At the same time the core of the star is becoming denser and denser until it explodes throwing out the higher elements being created in the maelstrom. Those elements thrown out wander the Universe until something else with sufficient gravity grabs them. Something, perhaps, like an evolving planet 4000 million years ago, fairly recently named by its occupants, as Earth.

This is the 36th Skywatch, about which there is nothing in particular. That is with the exception of my contacting our Editor with an idea that has come to mind because of a delightful off-shoot of writing these pieces. Every now and then, someone will stop me in the street and ask me something about one of the articles. I am always delighted to answer, though, as is quite often with astronomy, the answer can take a while and sometimes requires a piece of paper and a pen. So, with the Editor's permission we are thinking of having an occasional Skywatch just answering your questions. There is just one vital rule to anyone wanting to ask anything: No Question Is Silly. Please send your questions to the Editor – contact details on page 1.

Martin West

STOP STANSTED EXPANSION MASSIVE SECOND-HAND BOOK SALE

Thousands of 'new' second-hand books go on sale in aid of Stop Stansted Expansion on Saturday 2nd July between 9.00am and 1.00pm at the Old School House by the Four Ashes Crossroads, Takeley. Books cost just 50p for paperbacks and £1 for hardbacks. More information is available from SSE on 870558 or info@stopstanstedexpansion.com.



Carol Barbone
Campaign Director
Tel: 07775 523091
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1ST STANSTED SCOUTS



Dear Present and Ex Members of 1st Stansted Group

2011 is the 100th Year of this Group and we would very much like you to join us to celebrate this wonderful milestone on Saturday 16th July from 2.00pm until late at Scout Headquarters, Water Lane. There will be afternoon refreshments and a BBQ in the evening, with sideshows and games run by each section. Also photos and memorabilia will be displayed in the Main Hall. If you have any photos or memorabilia to bring for the day – please do.

Centenary Committee

BROOME END JOIN THE BIG LUNCH



Residents invited their relatives to join in The Big Lunch day on Sunday 5th June. Over 20 relatives joined us for Sunday lunch and spent the afternoon in the garden playing games and relaxing in the sun. £115 was raised which will be used towards a sensory room for the residents.



Julia Cracknell
Activities Co-ordinator

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494 (Stansted /Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Over the past few weeks Stansted Airport Squadron has been a hive of activity. Starting out with the annual Inter Squadron Athletics on a sunny Sunday afternoon, we came 7th overall with particular success in the senior girls' category. The cadets' hard work over the last year was acknowledged at our recent AGM and Awards evening, with trophies for working in the community, marksmanship, aviation skills and the coveted trophy for the Inter-Flight competition within the Squadron. Moreover the most recent intake of nine junior cadets was enrolled and formally became members of the Squadron. Following this, our newest intake has potential for fourteen new cadets who turned up at June's open evening, increasing our reputation as a sizable Squadron in Essex Wing. Cadet Sergeant Richard Smith has been lucky enough to be awarded a flying scholarship in Dundee, Scotland for two weeks in June. This will consist of 12 hours pilot training and the chance to go solo in a single engine aircraft. This opportunity will allow him to progress in achieving a Private Pilot's Licence, and his future career in aviation.



Looking to the future many young cadets will see their first drill competition in which Squadrons around Essex participate to show their prowess and skill in military marching and precision manoeuvres. For those keen to go, a trip to London has been arranged to see the Trooping of the Colour in recognition of the Queen's birthday. This will also involve a visit to London's Imperial War Museum. With the summer coming around many activities are lined up for cadets including flying slots, gliding induction courses, shooting weekends and a fieldcraft exercise codenamed 'Long Claw'.

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

Cadet Sergeant Richard Smith

Edith Piaf on stage in Ugley Village Hall? Not quite - just an almost life-sized representation of her with two classic studio portraits of her dating from the 1940s and 1960, surrounded by rather lovely pink roses. This was the sight that greeted our members when they walked into the hall at a recent meeting. The subject was, of course, Edith Piaf, the legendary singer, and the talk concentrated on areas of Paris particularly associated with her. In the course of an afternoon we were taken on a guided tour of a square named in her honour, Place Edith Piaf, the main features of which are a statue of her and a café bar where one can enjoy a coffee surrounded by dozens of images of her dating from 1935 to 1963. Next to the Edith Piaf Museum, an amazing place full of treasures to delight any Piaf fan, including amongst other things one of her iconic black dresses, numerous portraits and photographs and personal items including a pair of her shoes and a handbag and a life sized figure of her produced in 1962 and a huge teddy bear, one of her wedding presents from her second husband whom she married in 1962. One of the amazing things about this place is that it is completely free of charge to visit.

The next place on the itinerary was No.67 Boulevard Lannes and its ground floor flat - her home for a decade. A very opulent building as described by the speaker who read from a passage of Piaf's autobiography in which she commented that she only occupied three of the rooms: the bedroom, drawing room and kitchen, and that her essential pieces of furniture were the pianola, record player, radio and television set, comfortable arm chairs and a few low tables to hold glasses! The ground floor apartment is now the HO for an organisation and no longer privately lived in. From Boulevard Lannes we were taken to the huge and very beautiful Père Lachaise cemetery where she rests with her baby daughter Marcelle Dupont, born in 1933 who sadly died aged two of meningitis, her father Louis Gassion the acrobat, and her second husband Theo Lamboukas who was killed in a car crash in 1970.

A talk about Edith Piaf would not be complete without her beautiful voice that was once described as being like black velvet and we were treated to three songs, one from her first studio session of 1935, followed by 'Autumn Leaves', a very beautiful song from a live recording of her 1956 Carnegie Hall concert, and then her arousing rendition of 'Non je ne regrette rien' from the Olympia 61 Concert, the live recording of which, we were told was the biggest selling album in the world in 1961!

This part of the afternoon was brought to a close by the presentation of a single pink rose to all our members including two very welcome visitors, roses that I had purchased locally to decorate our stage and accompany my two delightful photographs that I had brought with me to illustrate my talk. The afternoon ended with a delicious tea. If this sounds like your cup of tea why not come and join us one afternoon? We meet in Ugley Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm. You would be assured of a very warm welcome!

Andrea Fitt

Thanks to the marvellous response from our request for more helpers in May's 'Link', we now have seven new volunteers embarking on the vetting/training process, which is fantastic! We also received a positive OFSTED inspection for the crèche facilities, which are made available to help parents attend courses run in partnership with Adult Family Learning. Details of the short inspection are on the OFSTED website [www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/ref EY411212](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/ref/EY411212). Our outreach group 'Buddies' in Birchanger has recently passed its Good Practice Checklist with the Pre-School Learning Alliance too. Good news all round we think.

Amanda Fitchett
Tel: 812348



**MOUNTFITCHET
MATHEMATICS AND
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UK Junior Maths Challenge

On a sunny March day, MMCC's Junior Maths Challenge Team, Hannah Coop and Ellise Headley (Yr 9), Alex Lloyd and Chris Lloyd (Yr 8) visited Cambridge University Maths Department for the Regional Final. Ellise Headley wrote:

"There were three different parts to the competition, one was in teams and two were in pairs. The first task was to solve a number of questions and put the answers into an empty crossword. We tried hard and came out with a reasonable result. The second was pair work but unfortunately we found it a bit challenging. After lunch the last task we did in pairs and succeeded with a good amount of points. It was a very fun and interesting day."



Some Year 7 and 8 students also took part in the Junior Maths Individual Challenge in May. They enjoyed the challenging questions, for example:

"Peri the winkle leaves on Monday to go and visit Granny, 90m away. Except for rest days, Peri travels 1m each day (24-hour period) at a constant rate and without pause. However, Peri stops for a 24-hour rest every tenth day, that is after every nine days' travelling. On which day of the week does Peri arrive at Granny's?"

Bronze certificates were achieved by four Year 7 and eight Year 8 students, whilst one Year 7 student achieved a silver certificate. Congratulations to all our students who took part.

Mrs M Storey
Mathematics Department

MMCC students Speak Out!

Fifty Year 10 students practised their public speaking when they took part in the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge; the world's largest youth speaking event. Twenty-five of them were sponsored by Stansted resident, Tom Boggis, through his company, Equipe Real Estate. The Challenge has now become a popular event on the College calendar with this year's students being led by Abi Quine, a former TV producer, and Fiona Whytehead a former actress and presenter, both from the Jack Petchey Speakersbank. The topics of this year's speeches ranged from the benefits of medical research to the importance of charity fund-raising for communities. All the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were able to measure an increase in their confidence: students who were reticent at the beginning were confidently delivering effective speeches by the end of the day. A further event is planned for later in the year where the students' skills will be put to the challenge in the inaugural MMCC Inter House Debating Contest.

Year 11 Dizzee with Delight

Stansted resident, Sarah Davis, chief executive of Futureversity, very kindly arranged for MMCC's Year 11 students to receive a personalised good luck message for their forthcoming exams from superstar Dizzee Rascal. Dizzee's message was recorded at a charity auction held for Futureversity, the charity which has gained recognition locally and nationally as a model of good practice in the field of study support and out of school hours learning.

Mrs S Boggis
Head of English

Year 11 May Ball

Students in Year 11 celebrated their five years at the College by attending a May Ball. They arrived in many different modes of transport including limousines, super cars and even a fire engine. The girls looked stunning in their ball gowns and the boys scrubbed up well in their tuxedos and new suits. The evening was spent dancing to a disco provided by parent Peter Noble, and a live band of students and staff from the College. The hall looked spectacular decorated with a black and white theme. A great evening was had by all.



Mrs S Hutchin
Head of Year 11

**Year 9 Enrichment Day**

In May, an Enrichment Day was held for Year 9 students with a talent for French, led by Miss Foster, with participation by Mrs Huckerby. Sixteen students took part in the activity, which involved French poetry and ICT. Students were introduced to various styles of poetry, after which they worked hard to create some poems of their own. The standard was high, with most students managing to produce poems in a variety of styles. The work was beautifully presented, using ICT. A selection of the students' work will be made into a booklet. Students also got the chance to taste some French food brought in by the teachers. At the end of the day, Miss Foster and Mrs Huckerby judged the poems, to decide on the overall winners. They selected Daniella Hudson's beautiful descriptive poem, *La méduse (The Jellyfish)* as the winner. In second place was Kim McPherson's amusing poem, *Mon amie Joanne (My friend Joanne)*. Small prizes will be awarded to the winning poets.

Participating students were also asked to choose their three favourite poems. Points were then added up to find the 'Students' Choice'. In first place in this category was Harry Moore for his short poem *Le chameau (The Camel)*. The students' second choice was *Poulet sauvage (Wild Chicken)* by Ruben Fourie.

La méduse by Dani Hudson

La méduse nage dans la mer bleue.
Flottant élégamment comme une plume.
Tentacules en satin.
La brise de la mer danse avec les vagues.
La méduse glisse et fonce.
Dans la mer bleue.

The jellyfish swims in the blue sea.
Floating elegantly like a feather.
Tentacles made of satin.
The sea breeze dances with the waves.
The jellyfish glides and swoops.
In the blue sea.

Le chameau by Harry Moore

Je suis un chameau
Je m'appelle Consuela
J'ai une bosse
Je vis dans un pot de thé
Et j'adore le poisson

I am a camel
I am called Consuela
I have a hump
I live in a pot of tea
And I love fish

Mrs T Huckerby
Gifted & Talented Coordinator

MMCC PTA BOOT SALE

25th September 11.00am – 2.00pm www.mmccpta.org.uk
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The image of Grantchester has fascinated me since studying Rupert Brooke's poems; however, I had never heard of 'The Orchard'. My first thought when we arrived and saw all the people lazing in deckchairs was, 'How pretentious'. But I was so wrong! It soon became apparent that the precious area of lawn and fruit trees hadn't changed in well over a hundred years. The history, the atmosphere of a bygone age, is there to be absorbed and enjoyed in comfort, especially under a blue sky made even more brilliant through the stunning blossom on the branches above us. We found some vacant deckchairs and ordered food although we did see a number of groups bringing their own picnics. In late Victorian times Cambridge students started to enjoy a rural tea in this most agreeable setting.

Then in 1909 Rupert Brooke took up residence in Orchard House and history took over. He became the focal point of a disparate group of eminent friends and attracted so many visitors that the occasional rural tea in the garden became a very popular tradition reaching cult status. Brooke spent his days quite actively in these idyllic surroundings. During a visit to Berlin he became understandably homesick and wrote his wonderful poem, 'The Old Vicarage, Grantchester' immortalising afternoon tea in the Orchard:

Yet
Stands the church clock at ten to three?
And is there honey still for tea?

When Brooke returned home he moved into the Old Vicarage, but in 1915 he became ill on a troop ship on the way to Gallipoli and died aged 27 on 23rd April. Brooke and his friends were not the only well-known people to take tea in the Orchard. The list is endless and embraces many of the world's top intellects. Luminaries have been meandering through the meadows or via the river to Grantchester for over 700 years and include Newton, Darwin, Cromwell, Marlowe, Spenser and many others. One can only guess at the conversations and ideas shared in the relaxed atmosphere of this small grassed area. Cambridge alone has won more Nobel Prizes than either France or Germany.

After eating our lunch we indulged in two or more hours of gentle chatter in the dappled but still warm sunshine, and finally forced ourselves to leave this magical place, and move back to the present day. As we strolled to our car we passed the Old Vicarage which prompted a further discussion on the merits of the present incumbents, Mary and Jeffrey Archer. It provided a lively ending to a lovely day out, which included a visit to the Rupert Brooke museum. Outdoor performances of Shakespeare and Mozart are sometimes staged on summer evenings. Grantchester is about 22 miles from Stansted, but to do it in truly traditional style and arrive via the river; you'll need to hire a punt in Cambridge.

Piet de Haan

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

LOOKING AT PARISH SPENDING - LIGHTING

Lighting our streets is regarded by most parishioners as an important priority for the Council. Spending on lighting is shown below and commentary follows:

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
	£	£	£
Energy costs	7,420	8,123	8,500
Maintenance of Lights	3,670	4,087	4,000
Total	11,090	12,210	12,500
Clean & change Electrical/Structural Testing	3,790	-	-
Total	14,880	12,210	16,300
New Lighting	1,000		1,000
Total	15,880	12,210	17,300

Energy costs reflect electricity tariffs. Unless the parish reduces the number of lights or the number of hours in lighting, there is little means of reducing spend. The tariff rate paid is considered to be good.

Maintenance of lights is undertaken by an independent contractor (Cartledge) who also undertakes this function for Essex County Council. The County Council and the Parish Council pay similar tariffs. It should be noted that finding efficient contractors is difficult.

Clean and Change is carried out every three years. Cleaning improves the level of lighting while the change of bulbs reduces outages and thus maintenance costs.

Electrical and Structural Testing is commissioned every six years and is a legal and insurance requirement to ensure the lighting columns are safe.

Looking ahead there are a number of issues relating to lighting which parishioners and the Parish Council will need to consider.

- **Ownership of lighting in the parish** - currently Essex County Council own about 20% of the lights. Another approach to transfer these lights (excluding the B1383) to the parish is being considered.

- **Improving the quality of the street lighting** - the existing portfolio of lights is a mishmash put together over many decades. Modern lighting would be more effective, economic and friendly to the environment. Consideration is being given to identifying the most appropriate lighting and then costing a phased programme.
- **Lighting at night** - discussions will be pursued again to determine a common policy acceptable to most of our parishioners.

It is recognised that lighting is an important element in reducing crime and the perception of being at risk. There will be a continuing need to seek ways to improve lighting standards.

LOOKING AT PARISH SPENDING - WINDMILL

The Parish Council is a trustee together with Molly Clark. The trustees are responsible for looking after the fabric of the Windmill.

In terms of funding tribute must be given to the Millers (if you would like to join or give a donation, please contact Derek Honour on 647213) who undertake many jobs and raise money to maintain the Mill. The Parish Council puts a sum of money each year towards these costs but, if necessary, the Council would need to make good any shortfall for necessary maintenance. Major projects require external finance and as such depend upon succeeding in funding applications.

Spending and income in recent years are shown below together with the budget for 2011/12. Expenditure on the recent major project is not included in these figures.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
	£	£	(Budget)
Expenditure - Regular	800	500	2,000
small projects	-	1,106	6,120
Total	800	1,606	8,120
Income - fundraising by Millers/ donations - small projects	5,000	-	-
Total	5,000	1,106	6,120

The funding of regular expenditure is usually met by the Millers and covers minor works in and around the Mill.

- The small one-off projects include preservation of the wall paintings on the ground floor and additional shutters for the sails. Last year, new chairs and publicity banners were purchased. The Millers have volunteered to fund these helped by donations. To speed up the process, however, the Parish Council provided the finance up-front and has been paid back following the Millers fund raising.
- The Parish Council will set aside £2,000 each year to build up a fund to meet the costs of future repairs and decoration.

Looking ahead the costs of maintaining the Mill are set to increase. In recent years the trustees have employed a specialist architect to keep an eye on the Mill and report on repairs which should be undertaken. Following the recent project, which has increased the moving parts of the Mill, the Millers believe that it is essential that checks are undertaken three or four times a year by Millwrights on this work. The annual structural inspection should continue. Costings are currently being sought.

The recent major project has enabled the cap to rotate and the sails to turn in the wind, as well as refurbishing all of the brickwork, windows, sails etc etc. The cost of the project was substantial and only achievable as a result of grants and donations.

	£
Cost of Project	200,510
Funded by	
Donations - English Heritage	112,000
Essex Heritage	4,000
Viridor	6,500
Millers/parishioners	<u>55,000</u>
Total	<u>177,500</u>
Surplus/Deficit*	23,010

*Funded from the council tax raised by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has clarified recently its policy towards the Mill. The responsibility of the Council is to maintain the fabric of the building so as to conserve this ancient monument. Any proposed projects would need to secure external funding. However, even if such funding was available, the Parish Council would need to consider whether additional on-going revenue costs would be acceptable.

The Parish Council and a large proportion of our parishioners would like to reiterate our thanks to the Millers who give so much time and raise significant resources which continue to sustain the Mill.

DO YOU WANT TO LOOK AFTER THE STATION?

Newport Business Association has reached agreement with National Express to restore the appearance of Newport station which for many years has been sadly neglected. Funding to replace windows, obtain equipment such as diggers and the provision of a new noticeboard have been provided without charge by businesses in the area. Labour has come from two sources - a group of local volunteers including schools and a community work team from Community Payback (formerly the Probation Service). The objectives have been laid out and the steps needed to achieve the objectives have been specified. The Parish Council, although supportive, is not involved. This is a community initiative.

Are there any volunteers in this village who would like to undertake a similar programme at Stansted Station? If so, please contact the Clerk who will provide the necessary contacts in terms of the train operating company, the organisers in Newport and Community Payback.

The station is an entrance into our community and a better appearance will reflect well on the village as well as making commuting or visiting a more pleasant experience.

Although the work required at Stansted is likely to be considerably less than at Newport, the business plan for the labour may be viewed on our parish website www.stansted.net and follow the links.

AN IMPROVED RAIL SERVICE IS EXPECTED FROM DECEMBER

Unusually the revisions to the timetable to take effect in December 2011 appear to benefit those using this station. For this, considerable thanks are due to Sarah Davies who for years has, with persistence, lobbied and negotiated with the train operating companies. Although an uphill struggle, beneficial changes have been achieved over the years with the December changes showing a bigger gain. Given the number of parishioners who use the trains, improved timetables can be of significant benefit in their daily lives. The main changes proposed in the December timetable include an additional train per hour to Liverpool

Street from 10.52-14.52, semi-fast trains to Liverpool Street at 16.24-19.24 and more trains to the airport.

For more detailed information go to the parish website and follow the link.

CHANGES AT UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Following the recent elections, the four members serving our parish will serve on the following committees:

Alan Dean - Performance and Audit
Iris Evans - Scrutiny and Constitution Working Group
Joe Rich - Scrutiny and Constitution Working Group
John Salmon - Development Control, Licensing and Chairman of the South Forum.

FORESTHALL PARK

By the time you receive this magazine, residents at Foresthall Park will have received letters regarding the establishment of a Residents' Association or similar body. The Parish Council has already met with some representatives to discuss practical issues such as dog and litter bins, noticeboards etc. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the authors of the letter.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

I am resuming my monthly column following the election break. Welcome to Iris Evans and Joe Rich, who have joined John Salmon and me on the Stansted team at Uttlesford. My thanks to John Hudson, who stood down from the Stansted South seat after four years. My special thanks to Geoffrey Sell, who, after 13 years representing Stansted North, did not win back his seat. I shall miss Geoffrey in his district role but am pleased that he remains in local politics and community action as chairman of the parish council.

We are in a new world at Uttlesford; one of cabinet government, in which most decisions are now in the hands of about five councillors. It is hoped that Uttlesford will avoid with its cabinet arrangements the sort of controversies that have beset other local authorities.

So, there are four years ahead to deliver on the many issues in Stansted that have arisen in recent months. Top of my list are the footpath, pavement and road safety issues in Cambridge Road, Church Road and Silver Street that are

all well known. I am all too well aware how long it takes to get action out of Essex Highways and how good ideas seem to get forgotten. It will be essential for district, county and parish councillors to work effectively together to ensure that delivery wins over debate. Fortunately, money exists for many of these improvements and Stansted needs to lay claim to a sizeable chunk of this year's £700,000 New Homes Bonus which Uttlesford now holds in its bank account.

District Cllr Alan Dean

There are many issues which are going to confront us all in the District in the next four years. The Local Development Framework (LDF) is certainly one of them. This is a suite of documents which, when finalised, will together guide almost all development within the district. Before this, there are sure to be some more applications for large high-density residential developments, which we all oppose.

Nick Barton, the new Managing Director of Stansted, came to see the Parish Council for a meeting just before the election and explained that he wanted to rebuild links between the business he runs and the local community. He should be in no doubt that we all want Stansted to succeed as a quality business. It is the single biggest employer and contributor to business taxes in our area.

Many businesses depend directly or indirectly upon the airport's success. We are seeing planning applications for facilities to handle very large aircraft – such as the A380 – being made. Stansted is one of the few airports that can handle these noisy aircraft. If they are going to land here in large numbers, we need to be sure that they do so at the right times and in such a way that their nuisance and planning blight is minimised.

Next year will see the Olympics in 2012. Events – such as the Mountain Biking – are taking place in the county. Parish Council elections will also take place in 2012 – delayed because of parish boundary changes between Birchanger and Stansted. We hope that we speak for everyone on the Parish Council when we say that we all want good people to get, and remain, involved – whatever their political persuasion.

If you are interested in standing – no matter what your political allegiance – then please contact us, or the Parish Council offices, for details on how to get involved. One of the hallmarks of a "Quality Parish Council" is contested elections. It is essential that Stansted retains this coveted status. If you care about the area, then please get involved. There is always more work to be done by the Parish Council, and individual Councillors!

District Cllrs Joe Rich and John Salmon

NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

I have written about this subject before but I hope that readers will excuse me if I bang on about the same thing because we need your help.

Essex County Council has just celebrated the end of FOSTER CARE FORTNIGHT where we have held a number of events across the county introducing families to what it means to foster children who are in need of support, love and a stable environment. The result of the events was that Essex signed up 13 families who are keen to undertake what can be a demanding but potentially extremely rewarding task.

The trouble is that we still don't have enough people and given that Essex has nearly 1600 children and young people who are "Looked After" we have a constant need for families who are prepared to assist by providing a home for these young people when their need is greatest.

In conjunction with all this Essex County Council has now produced a Foster Care Charter that outlines the support and commitment we will give to Foster Carers.

I repeat we need your help so, to find out more about fostering a child call 0800 801 530 or visit www.essex.gov.uk/fostering

County Cllr Ray Gooding

SIR ALAN HASLEHURST MP SURGERY

Friday 8th July 5.45 - 6.30 pm Parish Council Offices, Crafton Green

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

July	6	Full Council
July	13	free
July	20	F&GP
July	27	Full Council

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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John Salmon	Tel: 01279 814789
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Essex County Council Member

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

Member of Parliament

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

Police

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

*** Please note that from 1 July there will be a new national non-emergency number for the police - 101- Essex is one of the first forces in the country to introduce this.**



ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

During May we had talks on a wide range of subjects. We learned that Charles Babbage, an eighteenth century engineering and mathematical genius, while failing to deliver fully functioning calculating engines, left an invaluable heritage and developed calculating rules which were used in the development of modern computers. We had a first hand account from the Director of Retail Property Development, Henderson Global Investments, about the controversial Causeway Development. We had a factual account of the thinking and proposed plans stripped of the haze of spin prevalent on both sides of the argument.



We also had a fascinating first-hand account from Rotarian David Earl and wife Elizabeth of a five-day long traditional Parsee wedding in India. The wedding and celebrations were a mix of tradition and modernity. The picture above shows David and his party with the hosts, Rotary friends and the father and mother of the bride, just prior to the wedding ceremony and the one below is of the bride and groom with supporters during the most sacred part of the wedding ceremony.



The most notable event of the month however was the statement of intent from our 2011-12 incoming President. The following is a small extract from what he said:

“Rotary is a global movement which encourages groups of friends to engage in service to the community and the promotion of international understanding. We will concentrate on these core values and adapt to the changes that are occurring in people’s work and social lives so that we remain rele-

vant in today’s community. On 5th July we will enjoy a light meal at The Lemon Tree (tel 757788) followed by a talk and discussion ‘This Immoral Trade: slavery in the 21st century’. It is shocking that there is still slavery in the world today and it appears that the scale is enormous. If you share our ideals, please join us for the evening. Price £14, booking essential (telephone the restaurant) as space is limited.”

We meet Tuesday evenings at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop’s Stortford. For more details about Rotary please contact me.

Peter Latham
Tel: 507294

Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net



Little Scrummers Rugby Ltd have been running classes since March 2009 and is an exciting idea based on non-contact rugby for girls and boys aged 2 years to 6 years, which helps them live a healthier life, with far improved communication, behavioural, and social skills. It will also improve their gross motor skills and sporting ability by introducing them to sport at an earlier age. Due to our success of the classes at Felsted, Chelmsford, Harlow, and Maldon we have now teamed up with both Chelmsford and Maldon Rugby Clubs, to run classes on a Saturday morning on Stansted Recreation Ground. The start date is yet to be confirmed but Little Scrummers are asking you to contact them to add your name to a pre-register. We are delighted that we are now able to offer classes to more children in the Stansted and surrounding areas. We have children as young as two playing tag rugby! In New Zealand children are encouraged to participate in Club Rugby from as young as five compared to six in the UK, and the results speak for themselves – Little Scrummers want to change this, and make the sport more accessible to the children who deserve the opportunity.

Our aims are simple: To introduce younger children into the game of rugby at an earlier age, by equipping them with the basic skills that they can develop later at school or at club level. We are here to help bring the exciting game of non-contact rugby to younger children. Little Scrummers is not about finding the next professional player, it is just about showing the children what is out there, and giving them the opportunity to live a healthier lifestyle by introducing them to this fun and exciting game traditionally played by toughies old enough to look after themselves. All of our coaches are CRB checked, and hold the relevant insurance. The classes are split in to age groups. Cost: £25 annual membership fee, then £5 per class, payable termly in advance. We offer everyone a FREE trial, so come along and see if you like what we do! As part of the membership fee your child will receive a Little Scrummers Rugby bespoke children’s rugby kit. Please contact me for more information.

Andy Poyser
Tel: 07543 330713

Email: info@littlescrummers.com
Website: www.littlescrummers.com

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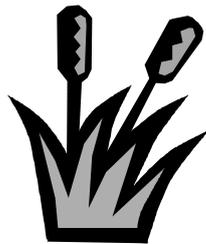
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STANSTED U3A

Our next monthly meeting is on Thursday 21st July. Doors open 1.30pm and the formal side starts at 2.00pm. Our Speaker on this occasion will be Barry Kaufmann-Wright who is returning by popular demand following his wonderful talk last year about Coastal Wildlife. There will be no 'write up' from us in the next edition of this magazine as there is no **meeting in August**. This is our summer break. We will resume again on Thursday 22nd September when we will have an open meeting – this gives people a chance to see what each group is doing and to sign up for any new Trips/Outings and Activities. I hope then to hand over the monthly 'write up' to Alan our new Vice-Chair. Teas/coffee and refreshments are available at all meetings.

Forthcoming Trips and Outings

Midsummer Night's Dream, Hylands House, Chelmsford Friday 22nd July – 7.30pm Cost £10.50 (TBC)

Production by Lord Chamberlain's Men of 'A Midsummer's Night's Dream', a whimsical romantic comedy - one of Shakespeare's best known plays, performed on the lawn of Hylands House. Bring a picnic and enjoy with friends. Contact Chris on 817587.

Paris, Monet's Garden and Rouen 5th-8th August
 Fully booked

Salute to the '40s 17th September - The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent. Cost £22

Life on the Home Front, Period Fashion, Wartime Vehicles and Entertainment! Visitors will encounter bomb-site urchins, 'spivs', soldiers and sailors, coppers and Dockyard Maties. All the galleries and attractions of The Historic Dockyard Chatham will be open as normal, making this an event not to be missed! Contact Maggie on 503848 or Jan on 812481

Cava and Canapés with the Stansted U3A Singers 1st October - 7.30pm

Evening of music and entertainment with the U3A singers and guest performers followed by Cava, wine and buffet at St John's Church. Tickets on sale in July.

'Legally Blonde – The Musical' Thursday 13th October – 2.30pm Matinee performance. Cost £37.50

Award winning Broadway sensation all singing, all dancing, feel good comedy. Contact Jean on 657807.

The next lunch club will meet on 29th July at the Prince of Wales, Broxted. Cost to be confirmed.

Our current list of activities is as follows: Art, Art House films, Book Club, Bridge, Drama and Entertainment, French, Gardening, Knitting and Crochet, Monthly lunch club, Mixed Handicrafts, Trips and Outings, Pilates, Photography, Poetry for Pleasure, Scrabble, Singing, Spanish, Sunday Strollers, Theatre Trips, Walking. Up to date information on all groups is available on our website: www.stanstedu3a.org, or you can contact me on the number below.

Cherry (Chair)
 Tel: 817140

Stansted Tennis Club



Tournament results:

The Cayless Chilli tournament in May attracted 16 players. The final was won by Daphne Lunnon and Matt Hollis who beat Ruby Hollis and Rick Lim 6-3. The trophy was presented by Fran Cayless and a delicious chilli meal was enjoyed by players and spectators.

A successful spring working party took place on Saturday 14th May, after which the courts and clubhouse looked refreshed. A big thank you to all who gave up their time to help!

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 17th July 12.45pm - Bristow Junior doubles tournament.

The next **Ladies' Night** will be on **Monday 11th July between 7.00 and 10.00pm**. All are welcome!

Club Tournament

The draw for this year's competition is now up on the club notice-board. A reminder to look at the draw and arrange first round matches before 16th July.

Hospital Cup

Players are reminded to arrange matches to avoid a backlog.

Coaching

If you are interested in finding out more about coaching at Stansted Tennis Club, please contact either Chris Hollis on 319155 or Martyn Taplin (Monday night adult coaching session) on 816386. There are still vacancies for the following groups:

Monday 4.30-5.45pm - Girls' Match Practice session.

Monday 5.45-6.15pm - Year 5/6- Boys.

Tuesday 4.30-5.45pm - Boys' Match Practice session.

Please give Chris a call if you are interested.

Used tennis balls

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

Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions:

Wednesday from 9.00am and 6.00pm

Friday from 9.30am. Sunday from 10.00am

Contacts

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

Chris Hollis



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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

The month of May is when we discuss the resolutions that will be put forward at the National AGM which is taking place in Liverpool this year. Pearl Wellings will be representing us and three other institutes in this area at this two-day event. This year we encouraged three of our members to put the arguments for and against the proposals and our local librarian Viv Goodfellow joined them.

The first resolution - 'This meeting abhors the practice of factory farming, particularly large animals such as pigs and cows, and urges HM Government to ensure planning permission is not granted for such projects' - had Kath Poole ably putting a case against the proposal. No mean feat when she personally was in favour! It can be said that large scale units can control diet better and that animals are protected from adverse weather conditions, as well as intensive farming being the solution to the growing demands of an increasing population. Food for thought too! Ann Thompson, for the proposal, perhaps had an easier task to point out that large units limit the ability of animals to lead a normal life, the dangers of methane emissions, habitat destruction, high volume of traffic and the odour of slurry that large farms would cause. The resolution was carried with one vote against.

The second resolution is 'This meeting urges HM Government to maintain support for local libraries, as an essential local educational and information resource'. Viv Goodfellow spoke in favour and we were pleased to know that Essex has no plans for closing any of its libraries, although times of opening may be cut. She emphasised the importance of reading for both young and old and the library as a place where you could meet friends and exchange news as well as borrow books. It is also a good source of information and access to computers. Lots of book clubs have sprung up recently and the library does a great job in providing copies of books at no cost. Sally Rich had the unenviable task of putting another side to this, pointing out that children now use the computer more than books, and that books are readily available on line. That the Government has to save money somewhere and maybe some of its services have to be cut including libraries. After much discussion which we all enjoyed, this was also carried and we look forward to hearing how it all goes at the AGM.

Before this we had welcomed Stuart Stranger, our Police Community Support Officer from Stansted Police Station. He decided to do a question and answer session and this brought many questions from the floor on subjects such as cars abandoned on private property, parking on pavements, 999 calls, the stealing of charity boxes, as well as the powers that a community officer has, which are much the same as a Police Officer - he can arrest people! It was a really good evening with plenty of audience participation.

We are going to decorate a Christmas tree at Hyde Hall in December along with more than 70 other institutes in Essex. The idea is to use recyclable materials and Hyde Hall will be open during December to show off this unique display of Christmas trees - sorry to talk about Christmas so soon but

we have to start planning now. We hope to come up with some unusual ideas of what to do with yoghurt pots!

In July we welcome Paul Beard who will be speaking about 'Barnado's Today, Yesterday and Tomorrow' - join us if you can, 7.45pm in St John's Hall on Thursday 14th.

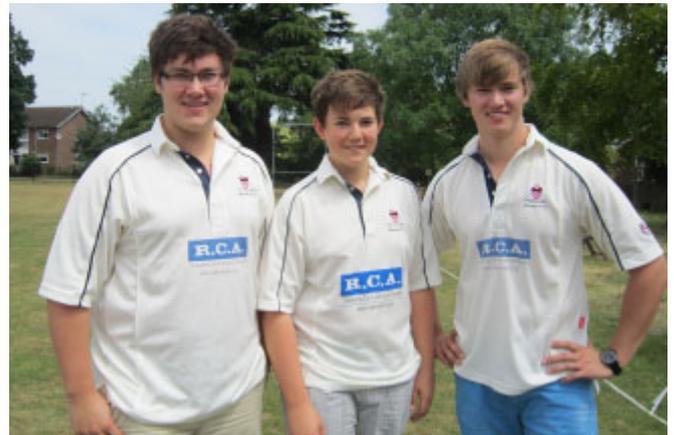


Judy Colliver
President



Stansted Cricket Club

We have had a successful opening to the league season with the 1st XI top of Division 2 with five wins and the 2nd XI third in Division 6 with four wins after the first six Saturdays. The Open Day for Juniors on 2nd May was a great success and junior training sessions continue on Friday evenings. Personal batting achievements to date include C.Kirby (134 no, 71, 59 no), I.Parsons (131 no, 85, 59), H.Kirby (109 no), F.Kirby (103), M.Cope (60, 55), M.Allen (58, 54), M.Chambers (58), R.Gardiner (57), M.Johnson (54) and M.Burgoine (50). On Friday 3rd June the three Kirby brothers each had a league batting average of over 100 (Charlie 139.00, Henry 123.00 and Fred 103.00). However, they all played the following day and got under 30 each, thus destroying their averages! In the League Cup we lost our first round match away at Langley.



Home Fixtures for July are:

Sat 2 Jul	1330	1st XI v Harlow Town II
Sun 3 Jul	1430	Sun XI v Ashdon
Sat 9 Jul	1330	2nd XI v Matching Green II
Sun 10 Jul	1430	Sun XI v Birchanger
Sat 16 Jul	1330	2nd XI v Newport II
Sun 17 Jul	1430	Sun XI v Newport
Sat 23 Jul	1330	1st XI v Rickling I
Sun 24 Jul	1430	Sun XI v Stocking Pelham
Sat 30 Jul	1330	2nd XI v Thorley II
Sun 31 Jul	1130	Sun XI v President's XI

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

David Hedge
Hon. Secretary
Tel: 812509

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STANSTED SCOUTS

Gold Awards

Well done to both Chris Wood and Charlie Jonas on attaining the Chief Scout's Gold award, which is the highest award in the Scout section. Both have now left the Scout section but I'm sure we've not seen the last of them.

Tree planting

The Woodland Trust will give trees to organisations willing to plant them. In early April the Scouts took a mix of wild cherry, silver birch and rowan down to Skreens Park activity centre near Chelmsford. We went down the night before, had a bonfire and a luxurious night's sleep in the Leaman building. As part of the Forester badge we were working on, Mick the Centre Manager, demonstrated the correct use of chainsaws and showed us the necessary clothing needed when using the saws. We then spent the day planting the trees and erecting the fencing needed to protect them from deer, etc. Hopefully the dry weather has not been too unkind to them.



District camp

Our annual District Scout camp in Hatfield Forest was, as always, well organised by the District. Sixteen of our Scouts arrived on Friday evening to pitch their tents and set up their sites. Each Patrol has its own site so along with Scouts from Takeley, Stebbing, Hallingbury and Birchanger we soon transformed our corner of the forest. Everyone's camp is under canvas and they cook for themselves while taking part in a wide variety of activities. These ranged from the aerial runway, archery and air rifles to lacrosse and pioneering, plus the usual skinning and gutting (this year rabbits and pigeons), the cooking competition and Sunday night campfire. The Guides joined us for the Sunday hike around the forest. Fair weather, friends and food, what more could you ask for.

Next up, we are joining 1,000 others at the Essex County Giga Camp.

Mike Byrne
Scout leader



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Stansted and District Neighbourhood Watch website can be found at www.stanstednhw.org.uk. A full report on the Public Meeting held recently will appear next month.

Valerie Trundle



TORTOISE SCOUTS

This single-troop Group was formed in 1976 by three members of the County team which organised the Annual 'Agoonex' disabled Scout Camp that was usually held at Skreens Park. The Troop has always been based at the Stansted Scout HQ in Water Lane. Over the years over 200 Scouts have become members, most of them from within a six mile radius of Stansted. A policy change in the Scout Movement has meant that boys with (mainly) learning difficulties are now accommodated in their local troops - which has brought both advantages and disadvantages for them.



There has also been a reduction in the number of eligible boys in our area, together with a wider school provision for them. The result is that our numbers no longer make for a viable unit, so with mixed feelings the Group was formally closed on 14th June. Naturally, the prevailing feeling was one of regret but this was accompanied by the knowledge that our young people have not been abandoned and that a real need was met for over 33 years. A great deal of enjoyment, learning, care, and mutual friendship was available to the boys (and some girls), together with good fellowship among the Leaders, one of whom, Mark Gerber, joined as a helper at the very beginning and was there at the end. Farewell, Tortoises; you may be gone but you are far from forgotten.

Derek Honour

LUNCH CLUB

In May we drifted *off piste* and took ourselves to *Grill 55 Steak and Fish Restaurant*, which had kindly offered to rescue the Lunch Club when Pearse House closed. The lunch was excellent and I have received much appreciative feedback on the food and hope that we may have boosted Grill 55's clientele. Alan Goldsmith of Mountfitchet Castle and Norman Village, one of the founding fathers of the Lunch Club and occasional speaker at our lunches, entertained us with anecdotes and episodes from his long career as an impresario. Alan never fails to enthral, and his gentle stretching of the boundaries of apolitical correctness stimulated much amusement and fun. It was, as always with Alan, a consummate performance which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. The next lunch will be on 13th July – Weston Business Centres.



Alastair Richardson
Tel: 815959

Email: amg.richardson@gmail.com



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We will be holding a summer garden party on Sunday 24th July at 25 Park Road starting at 12.30pm with a buffet lunch, followed by a programme of music and verse. Tickets cost £10 for adults, £5 for under 16s. For further information please ring 814222 or 813579.

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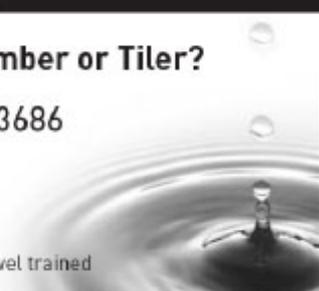
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VETERINARY BOGOFs?!

We've been very busy here at Stansted over the last month preparing for our Practice Standards inspection. The Practice Standards Scheme is a voluntary initiative run by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) to accredit veterinary practices in the UK. It sets out the standards that good quality veterinary practices should attain and then carries out regular inspections to ensure that they are being met. In this way the RCVS hopes to promote and maintain the best quality veterinary care. We became members of the scheme when it started over eight years ago, as we wanted to show our clients that there was some official recognition of the quality of our practice. It can be difficult to know when you walk into a vet's waiting room, what the actual veterinary care will be like, but at least if a practice is a member of the PSS then you know it will have reached a certain quality level. The scheme really does cover everything, from how we use and store medicines, how we communicate with our clients, our health and safety policies, what equipment and facilities we have, how we look after our patients and how clean our premises are to name but a few! So Wendy has been making sure all our paperwork is in order, Emma has been scrubbing the kennels and operating theatre from top to bottom and making sure all our equipment is in proper working order and Angela has been polishing the brass plate with our names on to an even brighter shine than normal! We think we've done all we can, so we'll let you know how we get on.

It did get us thinking about what makes a 'good' veterinary surgery and why clients choose a particular practice to go to. We came up with lots of reasons: location, efficient service, suitable opening hours, etc. Interestingly, we felt important reasons were also to do with building up a relationship with the practice by seeing the same vet for example and being greeted by a friendly receptionist or nurse. At Stansted we certainly pride ourselves on trying to make people feel welcome when they come in and I feel many clients have become friends as I've treated successive generations of their pets over the years. I know a big consideration these days can be cost. The cost of treating pets has risen quite a lot in the time I've been in practice. Some of this is to do with the rising prices of medicines and equipment and some of it is to do with the advances in veterinary medicine. It is possible to do so much more for animals these days. Pacemakers can be fitted, prosthetic limbs have been pioneered, even kidney transplants in cats have been carried out, and pet owners expect so much more, but all this increased knowledge comes with a price. Veterinary practices have had to compete to attract new clients, and I know some practices advertise cheap vaccinations or neutering in order to draw clients in, a bit like loss leaders at the supermarket. If you're attracted by the thought of a cheap vaccine, it might be good to ask what the price of an x-ray or an out of hours call would be and where you have to go to in an emergency. What looks good on the surface may not be so attractive when you dig deeper! It then got us to talking about supermarket offers. Perhaps we could introduce BOGOF's; have one kitten with diarrhoea, get one free! Maybe not, time for a coffee and to open the chocolate biscuits I think ...

Ilse Pedler



HATFIELD FOREST HIGHLIGHTS

Hello everyone. I hope you have been out and about enjoying the lovely weather when given the chance. Here at Hatfield Forest we have been keeping ourselves busy in the run up to the summer holidays when we look forward to welcoming all of you here. This year the wildlife has been springing into action with many successful broods including our great crested grebes on the lake. The return of the



swallows to the toilet foyer has once again proved a popular attraction; last year they managed three successful lots of fledglings, so we will be keeping an eye out on how many they manage this year. From 25th July there will be a variety of activities to have a go at every day of the summer holidays on the theme of spots, stripes and spirals. Make your way to our Discovery Room to start your journey there. As always we are monitoring various species that are living on the forest and for the first time we have been placing beetle traps in Wall Wood and we have also been working with the British Arachnological Society to have a look at our spider life.

If you are looking to come and enjoy the Forest while getting fitter than why not join one of our Healthy Walks? Every Thursday our friendly walkers have been meeting at the main gate at 9.45am to meet up and enjoy a walk round the forest with the benefit of meeting new people whilst getting some exercise and fresh air. As always we look forward to seeing people enjoying the forest and welcome any questions or comments if you see me around.

Laura Slater
Community Warden
Tel: 870678

Email: laura.slater@nationaltrust.org.uk



RED CROSS WEEK

Thank you to everyone in Stansted who supported the Red Cross Week collections from 1st to 8th May. A marvellous total of £1,228.35 was collected for the work of the Red Cross. We are so grateful to all the faithful collectors who made this possible and who deserve a very special THANK YOU.

Christine Stiles

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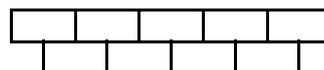
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This month hundreds of households throughout West Essex will be receiving an invitation through their door from St Clare Hospice to sponsor its 4th annual Friendship Appeal. This year we are aiming to raise £20,000 which will help fund our vital bereavement services which families including children rely on after the death of a loved one. One in three families across the UK will rely on their local Hospice at one time in their lives, so it's essential that we are able to continue to provide a lifeline for local people during such difficult times. Hospice care is free for everyone but costs us over £2m each year to provide. We currently only receive 24% NHS funding, so please do support us if you can. You can make a £5 donation by texting CARE to 70777, or send a cheque to St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood CM17 9JX.

Katie Howe
Supporter Development Manager
Tel: 773748

Cate Simmons, upper gastro-intestinal clinical nurse specialist at Princess Alexandra Hospital and Beth Burton, Day Therapy and Creative Living Manager at St Clare Hospice have been running a joint-led clinic at the Hospice for the past six months. The clinic provides an opportunity for patients and families to be seen between oncology appointments to offer additional support. Cate is able to offer advice and information about investigations, treatments and procedures, a facility that is not available at the Hospital. Beth provides specialist palliative nursing advice, support and information about the services available at the Hospice.

During National Volunteer Week last month, Hospice volunteers were invited to an event at the Hospice, some to receive awards commemorating 5, 10 and even 20 years of commitment to the work at St Clare, including volunteers from the shops. Everyone was thanked for all their hard work by the Hospice's Chairman, Michael Chapman.

The work of St Clare Hospice was greatly appreciated by the Countess of Wessex in a visit she made recently. She spent time with many of the patients, both in Day Therapy and in the In-Patient Unit, and members of staff. The Countess was also very chatty to the volunteers 'on duty' that day. All commented on what a lovely, warm lady she is and were most appreciative of the time she gave to the visit.

The Stansted Friends Group of St Clare were very pleased to see many of the Stansted WI members come along to support the Flog It evening last month. Many thanks to those and others from the village who helped Sue Hitchmough to raise a great £234 for the Hospice that evening. The Kings Arms are, once again, raising funds for St Clare. Everyone at the Hospice greatly appreciate their support of events to raise the much needed funds to run our local Hospice.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Hospice should you wish to find out about any of its services, more information and details of what events are coming up.

www.stclarehospice.org.uk



Caroline Bore
Secretary of The Friends of St Clare Hospice

All Mums have a story about their birth or the care they received after the birth. Now there is a place to air our views and our ante natal teacher Philippa Bennett thought it would be of interest to all mums. The site is open to all women who live in West Essex even if they gave birth outside of the area, so please visit www.westsexpebl.com/pebl for the opportunity to comment on all aspects of your maternity care including community midwives.

Tea and Toys this month was a great success; it was great to see children of all ages filling St John's Church Hall with fun, laughter and a lot of noise! All of our events are aimed at combining social occasions for parents and fun for the children, to quote our Newsletter Editor Charlotte Young - "your local NCT branch is so much more than ante natal classes alone, because as we all know, when the baby is born then the really hard work starts!" Fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates? Why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings, which are informal gatherings held in members' homes. Each age group is individually tailored for Bumps and Babes, Toddlers and Pre-school. We would love to meet you and it is a great way of making new friends.

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

For all Pre-schoolers and Pregnant Mums – Friday 1st July 10.00am Henham Church Hall

For all ages - Tuesday 26th July Paddling Pool Fun Bishop's Stortford Paddling Pool. **This activity is weather dependant, please call to confirm.**

For Mums – Friday 15th July 8.00pm Girls Night Out at the Rose and Crown Pub

Anna Sedgbeer
Tel: 812257



Huw Johnson Club

We had a lovely evening on 9th June visiting the Bridge End Gardens in Saffron Walden. Although the day was showery, we were blessed with a dry warm evening. The gardens were beautiful and everyone had great fun getting lost in the maze; however when it was time to go home, a quick count-up proved that everyone had found their way out. We are very grateful to Mark Ropkins, the gardener for giving us such an entertaining evening. Mark's sister Joanne is one of our members and his mother Hannah is one of our leaders. Hannah had prepared a lovely picnic for us including delicious strawberries. This was no surprise as Hannah is an excellent cook and every year she hosts a dinner at her home for friends and neighbours, raising over £1,000 for the Club. So a big thank you to all the Ropkins family and everyone who made the evening a success. If you have never visited these gardens I highly recommend them.

Marion Johnson
Tel: 812284

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Nature Notes

Weeds are wild flowers that grow where they are not wanted - poppies in the cornfields, dandelions and daisies in the lawn, groundsel and chickweed in the vegetable beds. They thrive in all conditions and are not deterred by lack of rain or



late spring frosts. Some wild flowers can establish themselves in gardens and are so attractive it is a pity to eradicate them. Lesser celandine is one of the earliest of wild flowers, flowering in mid-February. Its dazzling golden yellow flowerheads under a shady hedge are a beautiful sight. It was

Wordsworth's favourite flower. Tall opium poppies with their pale purple flowers can look wonderful if a few are left to stand amongst rows of vegetables or in the flowerbeds. White clover which is allowed to grow in lawns survives dry conditions better than grass and will provide welcome patches of green among the yellow-brown dried grass areas. The flowers are very attractive to bees too. Lemon balm, which is also loved by bees, is an escape from herb gardens and is worth keeping for its lemony leaves which can be used to make a very refreshing and calming herbal tea.

Many butterflies lay their eggs on wild plants. Nettles in particular are a source of food for the caterpillars of a number of common butterfly species, including red admiral, painted lady, peacock and comma. Garlic mustard along hedges and ladies smock which can be found growing in damp spots in the garden are both host plants for orange tip butterfly caterpillars. Whether they are beautiful to look at, attractive to bees or play a part in the lifecycle of butterflies, wildflower 'weeds' can have a place in the garden. It is worth bearing in mind the wise words of the nineteenth century poet Gerard Manley Hopkins:



What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and of wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.

Rosina Kirkwood

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

A large injection of volunteer enthusiasm and healthy dollops of grant aid from Essex's Life Raft Trust and Business Link have enabled the Gardens of Easton Lodge to move ahead with regular openings, replanting and restoration work in recent months, as well as the creation of a new user-friendly website. The gardens were one of the most important creations of the Edwardian designer Harold Peto.

His commission in 1902 came from 'Darling Daisy', the Countess of Warwick, who regularly entertained society guests there including the Prince of Wales before he acceded to the throne as Edward VII. Designed in Italianate style

around Warwick House which is set in the grounds, the gardens were maintained until 1950, after which time nature took over. Tantalising glimpses of those designs have been resurfacing since 1993, when restoration work first began. Today's visitors can see Peto's Italian Sunken Garden amongst other examples of his work. Much loved by people across the region because of its beautiful setting, sense of history and unusual plantings, the gardens' 2011 summer Sundays programme features something for everyone.

Sunday 17th July sees a visit by the Chelmsford Croquet Club to show how the game really should be played, with plenty of opportunities to 'have a go' on the famous Edwardian croquet lawn designed by Harold Peto for Daisy, Countess of Warwick. Harold Peto will himself be the subject of a talk at the opening on **21st August**, while the **18th September** opening will boast a birthday party for Daisy who would have been 150 this year. The final open day of the season is on **16th October** when the gardens assume their marvellous autumn mantle.

For more details on the openings, volunteering opportunities and other initiatives visit www.eastonlodge.co.uk or email enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk or leave a message on 01371 876979. The gardens are located in Little Easton, off the B184 (Great Dunmow to Saffron Walden road). Follow the brown heritage signs.

Helen Carter

CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Chicken Pasta Salad

Try this healthy tea when the weather is sunny!

Ingredients

100g pasta shapes
1 baby gem lettuce, shredded
1 tomato, chopped
¼ cucumber, chopped
1 carrot, grated
100g cooked sliced chicken
2 tbsp low fat mayonnaise

Method

Cook the pasta, as required, and rinse under cold water to cool. Drain well. Place the pasta in the serving dish and stir in one spoon of the mayonnaise. Add the other ingredients and the rest of the mayonnaise and mix with a spoon

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



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July is the month when we invite all existing members to renew, and all potential new members, who we are always delighted to welcome, to join *music@stansted*. Next season's programme starts on Saturday **15th October** at 7.30pm, with the English Chamber Orchestra. Their programme includes Vivaldi's Four Seasons. On Sunday 11th December at 3pm we welcome Katy Bray, mezzo-soprano, and William Vann, piano. The fast-emerging Piatti String Quartet come to Stansted on Sunday 29th January at 3.00pm; and on Saturday 17th March at 7.30pm we are pleased to be welcoming back to Stansted one of the most compelling young violinists on the concert platform, Jack Liebeck. Please put all these dates in your diaries now!

music@stansted continues to thrive, not just because of the quality of its concerts, but because of the support that you give. The more memberships we have, the better we can plan exciting, high quality programmes. The big attraction of joining for the season is a discount equivalent to at least a third off the 'door' ticket price of £12. You can do even better by taking advantage of our early payment deal and joining or renewing before 31st July. The cost is the same as for the last three years: individual £32, concession (over 60's and university and college students) £30, or if paid before 31st July, £30 and £28 respectively. To join or re-join, please send a cheque payable to Music at Stansted, together with a note of your name(s), address, telephone number, and email address (if you wish to be placed on our mailing list for information) to: The Membership Secretary, c/o 25 Chantry Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2SD. For more information about us please email us at info@musicatstansted.com or visit our website www.musicatstansted.com.

Alan Corbishley

St Mary's CE Foundation Primary School



Learning together we care, share and prepare

Would you like to get more involved in the local community? The Governors at St Mary's may have just the opportunity for you. We are looking for a community governor to join the team at our school, and would love to hear from anyone living in Stansted or the wider area who feels they have something to contribute. Governors do not need any special skills or educational expertise at all, just plenty of enthusiasm and the desire to help our school become even better. Next year will be particularly important for the governing body as the school prepares to move to its brand new building in Foresthall Park in September 2012. We're very much looking forward to the excellent facilities our new site will provide, and to welcoming new pupils. At the same time, we will be doing all we can to reassure existing pupils and their parents that there will be continuity as well as change. We fully intend to preserve St Mary's ethos and identity after the move, and will work extra hard to maintain our excellent links with St John's Church. If you would like to find out more about the role of community governor, please contact the school office on 812212 and they will put you in touch with me or one of the other Governors. Unfor-

tunately, we can't consider parents of St Mary's pupils because we already have a full complement of parent governors, but any other relatives would be most welcome!

As we approach the end of another very busy and successful year, the Governors would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who help to make St Mary's the school it is. They include: Head Teacher, Mrs Tonkins, and all the staff, the PTFA who work so hard to provide extra funds for resources for all our pupils and the parents who give so much support in many different ways. Finally, we all wish a very happy retirement to our longest-serving teacher, Mr Brown, who is stepping down at the end of term.

Tracey Harrison
Chair of Governors



There was a new 'first' at Grove Cottage in June. We took eight children with learning disability for a long weekend at the seaside at the end of half-term. For most of the nine and ten year olds this was the first time they had been away from their parents. The children had a great time and the response from the parents was fantastic. They really appreciated the break. Some young couples had their first weekend alone for almost ten years. Everyone is asking us to arrange another weekend break later in the year. This was a pilot scheme. Twelve adult carers accompanied the eight children and came back exhausted. We need to take stock of the lessons we learned but I am sure there will be other holidays later in the year.

Children with learning disability can join Grove Cottage's special needs nursery as soon as they are diagnosed. The centre has specialised in learning disability for 40 years. It is well equipped and provides one-to-one care for each child. The nursery follows the same Early Years curriculum as all other nurseries and is controlled by OFSTED. Children with learning disability can join the social clubs at three and then progress through a series of clubs as they mature. The holiday club is the latest addition. In addition to the weekend break for ten year olds there is a day trip in every week of the school holidays and an annual one week holiday in Devon for about a dozen adults with learning disability. You can see photographs of our activities on Facebook: Grove Cottage Bishops Stortford Mencap.

David Scott

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