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EDITORIAL



Witnessing a case of gridlock along the Cambridge Road recently, it's easy to see how 'road rage' happens. Two cars parked in the loading bay outside Tesco, forcing the lorry driver trying to make a delivery to stop in the middle of the road until the car owners returned and moved their vehicles, caused the problem. The lorry driver's frustration and anger was expressed verbally on this occasion. But how long will it be before someone resorts to physical violence? It's bound to get even worse once Sainsbury's opens. To ease the problem clearer road markings and more prominent signage might help to deter unauthorised parking in the designated loading bay? Besides traffic concerns, the new Parish Council has a daunting list of projects to address (see page 19), including research into the possibility of a village hall - a subject hotly discussed and debated for decades - and the outcome will be of great interest to many. Last month we had the special Magna Carta celebrations to enjoy and July has much to offer too with various outdoor events taking place locally (see page 5). Let's hope the sun shines on them all.

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

It is said that the eyes are the window of the soul. I remember at the age of 15 when our Geography teacher told us about an incident which happened to him when he was fighting in the jungles of Burma in World War II. It had a profound effect. He was part of a platoon ordered to round up some Japanese soldiers who had been dislocated from their regiment. The British soldiers were spread out in a line walking through the bush to ensure no escape for the Japanese. Out of nowhere, a young Japanese soldier appeared directly in front of him carrying a bayoneted rifle. For a moment they looked each other in the eyes and then walked past as if they hadn't seen each other.

Is it easier to shoot a moving target on the horizon or bomb a city than to look into the eyes of someone's son or mother, or indeed a fellow member of God's family? When we see pictures of individual children or adults looking out on us in poverty, hunger or despair from our television screens, it has more effect than bland statistics, however shocking. We are told in the Gospels that when Jesus encountered individuals He looked upon them. The look of Jesus into the eyes of the rich young man challenged his very existence, not out of condemnation but out of love. He continues to do the same to us today.

David Morson
St Therese of Lisieux



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

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

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

Preachers for July

5th 10.30am Christine Heyhoe – New Directions
12th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion
19th 10.30am Andrew Brown
26th 10.30am Penny Flynn

The Place on the Hill – every Wednesday and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm

Our free Wednesday and Friday drop-in, with Art for All on the first Friday, and storytime on the third Friday of each month. Free refreshments and internet, good company, space for the children to run around, plus a quiet area with comfy seating. Come and join us – all ages are welcome. For more information or if you need transport to get to The Place, please contact us.



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



SHALOM

Our last meeting for this term is our party 8.00pm on Monday 13th July at 7 Blythwood Gardens. Bring and share finger food plus a reading or some music. All welcome.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

ROMAN CATHOLIC St Therese of Lisieux High Lane

Priest Father John Garrett

Office Tel: 816889
Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AE

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am every week

Light Group

The 'Experiment with Light' is a process that helps people deepen their spiritual lives by discovering what it means to 'wait in the Light' as early Quakers did. Everyone is welcome to attend this meditative half hour led by one of the present group. Dates are Saturdays 11th July, 12th September and 14th November 10.30am-11.15am. For more information contact Sue Moloney 771405, email: suemol@uwclub.net.



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

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

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

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

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer	There are services of Holy Communion on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the month in Norman Court, Hargrave House and Broome End Nursing Homes.
Tuesday 9.00am St John's Tots	
Wednesday 9.00am Morning Prayer 10.00am Holy Communion	
Monday-Thursday and Saturday 5.00pm Evening Prayer	

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

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

Apart from our special summer events, (including the Bouncy Picnic- inflatables on the Rec, everyone welcome, on Saturday 22nd August), July and August are a quieter time as our volunteers have a rest from regular activities. We are very grateful to everyone who helps us with various events and community projects on a weekly, monthly or occasional basis. The Summer is also a time of planning ahead for the coming year. We will be supporting the 'It's Your Move' project which helps Year 6 children settle in to their new secondary schools. There are a few spaces left for Investigators in September (see separate article) so please contact us as soon as possible if your child would like a place for September, or would like to try out Investigators before the end of this term. Finally we wish all families a great end-of-term, and everyone a blessed, refreshing Summer - whether you spend it at home or away!



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

It has come to our attention that members of The Friends who receive information by email have not received the copy of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting with Treasurer's Report & Statement of Accounts for 2014/15, together with a letter from the Treasurer reminding members that subscriptions for 2015/16 are now due. All other members received their information by post or delivered by hand early in May. The Committee offers apologies for this oversight and looks forward to receiving renewed subscriptions. July will be a very important and busy month for the Friends, when St Mary's Church will entertain the splendid Embroidery and Exhibition to mark the Celebration of the 800th Anniversary of the Presentation of Magna Carta. The Church will be open every day in July 11.00am-4.00pm. Tea and biscuits will be served each day. If you are able to help to welcome visitors or serve tea we will be most pleased to hear from you. We suggest a two or three hour shift. We look forward to seeing many of you and your friends for this truly memorable occasion.

Audrey Rodgers
Tel: 812162

From the Registers

Baptism

24th May Oscar Jack Bye

Funerals

March Christine Waterman
Michael Funnel
Ronald Lawrence

April Iris Patmore
Olive Edwards

May Molly Brown
Trevor Sage - at Parndon Wood
Peter Bush - Burial of Ashes

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners in the first draws for the new year of the 300 Club which were held at the end of May:

£100 No 156 Ann Lee
£ 50 No 72 Tom Johnson
£ 25 No 229 Hannah Pelly

The draws for July, which will include the extra bi-annual draw for **£200**, will be carried out on Sunday 26th July in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. Numbers are still available at a cost of £2 per month per number. Please contact me for an application form.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562





Tribute to Marion Johnson

We were all devastated to learn of the death of Marion Johnson a few weeks ago. Marion, along with Tom, her husband, founded the Huw Johnson Club just over 40 years ago in memory of their son Huw, who had passed away a few months before. In the face of such tragedy, they decided to start a social group for children with learning disabilities and their parents, in recognition of the lack of support services that were available at the time. Over the years, many children, teenagers and adults have been, and still are, members of the Club, and it has had an impact on the lives of so many local people. Years of activities, day trips, week-long holidays, Christmas concerts and Club nights mean that the two of them had so many stories and memories to tell. It is only in the last few years that Marion and Tom have taken a step back from Club and its day-to-day running, although they remained in touch. To all of us, Marion always seemed so unstoppable – she had the energy of someone half her age, and even in her 80s would dance the Hokey Cokey with us at the end of Club discos. She was a huge inspiration to me and to so many, and we will miss her greatly. Our thoughts and love are with Tom and Ann at this sad time – through the Huw Johnson Club, Marion’s legacy lives on.

Club Activities

Over the past few weeks, we have had a Karaoke evening, a sausage and mash dinner at the Chequers in Ugley, a games evening and an aerobic class – thanks to Amelia from ‘Fit And Better’ who gave us a specially targeted exercise class, with everything from boxing to weight-lifting! As always, we are looking for more drivers, mini-bus escorts or helpers. Please contact Sandra Embleton (812627) or myself for more information.



Katharine Collis
Tel: 461270

GOOD FRIDAYS WITH MARION JOHNSON

When we moved to Stansted in 1972 I joined the congregation at St John’s Church and soon met a wonderful lady called Marion Johnson. I think in those days she was in charge of the Sunday School as well as teaching full time at St Mary’s Primary in the village. The following year a call went out for people to help at the Good Friday Project, run by Marion. I remember going along to a preliminary meeting at St John’s Hall when Marion set out her ideas for that year’s project. I was amazed at the detail and preparation that she put forward that evening, and immediately felt that I wanted to be a part of this. Each year there seemed to be a new theme for the event, always based on the real events of Good Friday of course. In the first years I was involved the story always stuck closely to the biblical account, and had children playing the parts of Pilate, Mary, Jesus, the disciples etc; in later years Marion invented stories with more modern themes but still telling the story of Good Friday. The organisation of the day itself was something quite unique. Before the day, forms were given out at the local primary schools asking the children which activities they would like to take part in. This gave Marion time to assign the children to suitable groups, providing them with their chosen favourite activities.

On arrival at St John’s Hall at 9.00am on Good Friday, the children would be offered a drink before joining their allotted groups. They would then go off to their first activity, and after about 40 minutes Marion would ring a bell, the signal for everyone to move onto a new activity. This was repeated throughout the morning, including a break for hot cross buns and drinks. Marion always put an adult or a sensible teenager with each group to guide the children to their next place and ensure that nobody got lost. The group leaders were creative folk who could sing, dance, paint, act etc. During the morning children learned songs, drama, painted scenery and made things for the play that was to follow. After a rehearsal, which was often quite amusing, many parents arrived at the Church at 3.00pm to watch the children perform. It was just wonderful to see the results of all the hard work. On behalf of all the many children who took part and their parents, I would like to say a huge ‘Thank You’ to Marion and her family for all those Good Fridays. I feel sure that some children, now grown-up, will remember those days with affection.

Stella Skingle

An ‘In Memoriam’ to Marion Johnson will be in next month’s Link.
Editor



Nature Notes

Judging by the number of ‘babies’ flocking around the feeding station in my garden last month, this spring has been a good one for breeding birds. Quite an assortment of fledglings was seen including blackbirds, starlings, blue tits and even a single robin. Well it was either a young robin whose ‘red breast’ was half covered in baby fluff or a harassed mum having a bad feather day! (Perhaps someone with more bird knowledge than I have could let me know which is the more likely.) Unfortunately I wasn’t quick enough with the camera to record this bumper crop of baby birds, but it was a lovely sight.



However, I did manage to take this photo of the sea of scarlet poppies that took over from the red nettles pictured in the May issue of The Link. Poppies are such a cheering sight and for me a sure sign that summer is almost here.



Yvonne Ayres
Editor
Tel: 814706
Email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk



St Mary's Church Open

11 am - 4 pm daily during July for the Display of Embroidery and Exhibition to mark Magna Carta 800th Anniversary

Tea and Biscuits - All Welcome
Tel 812162 for further information
Church normally open daily 11 am - 3 pm



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12 noon - 5 pm Sat 4th July
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WHAT'S ON IN JULY

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
3	Fri	Stansted Business Forum	Linden House 7 for 7.30 am
4	Sat	Summer Fayre Music in the Park	Station Road noon - 5 pm Bentfield School 2 - 8 pm
5 & 19	Sun	Skips	Lower Street Car Park 9 am - 1 pm
5	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
8	Wed	Speech & Language Therapist	Spangles 9.30 - 11.30 am
9	Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.45 pm
10	Fri	Hill Chilli	31 Chapel Hill 7 - 10 pm
11	Sat	Link copy in due today U3A Seminar Light Group Grove Cottage Tea Party	before 12 noon Free Church Hall 9.30 am - 12.30 pm Quaker Mtg Hse 10.30 - 11.15 am Bury Lodge 2 - 5 pm
13	Mon	Shalom Party Ladies' Night	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm Tennis Club 7 pm
14	Tue	Dementia Café Stansted is Well Read	Quaker Meeting House 10 am - noon Dog & Duck 8 pm
16	Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm from Pig Lane 10 am - 4 pm
19	Sun	Rotary Walk for St Clare Open Day Village Glyndebourne	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 4 pm Wilford House, Manuden 6.30 pm meet Day Centre 8.30 am
25	Sat	Garden Club Outing	Mercer & Hughes, S W 11 am - 1 pm
26	Sun	Children's Activity Day	Windmill 2 - 4.30 pm
29	Wed	Afternoon Tea	



Stansted Windmill

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AFTERNOON TEA

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Children's Day

11 am - 1 pm Sun 26th July
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Art & Craft for children aged 4 - 9 years

Have fun drawing, sticking and making animals from craft materials

Live Animal Models

Please register in advance on 01799 522082

www.mercerandhughes.co.uk

Manuden Village Glyndebourne

6 for 6.30 pm Sun 19th July
Wilford House, 70 The Street
St Mary's Church if wet

incl Kurt Weill 'Ballad of Magna Carta'

Entry £10 adults, £5 children from:
Fiona on 812157 or at the door

Bring your friends and picnics!

All proceeds to Manuden Park Group



Saturday Seminar

Autonomy & the Regulation of Care
by Dr Wayne Martin

Professor of Philosophy at Essex University

9.30 am - 12.30 pm Sat 11th July
Stansted Free Church Hall

Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members
from Alan tel 07790 213510

Email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com

Limited places - advance booking only

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Sunday 19th July

11.30 am - 5 pm (last entry 4 pm)

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Bouncy Castle • Brass Band

Refreshments • Face Painting

To book tel Derek on 832580

Arranged by local Rotary in aid of St Clare

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www.greatback.co.uk



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

With the funds raised at the Fun Day, the pre-school has purchased a new water tray which has been enjoyed by all, including the staff!



As another academic year passes we say goodbye to the older children and wish them all the best of luck in their new schools. We very much look forward to welcoming the new children to the Pre-School in September and working with the new older group, making their transition to school an enjoyable one. We also look forward to welcoming the new parents to Rainbow and hope that some will look to support the School and children by joining the Committee and bringing fresh ideas for fund raising. Details of future events will be confirmed and we are hoping to rearrange the postponed quiz night, so look out for further information. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place. Contact Gill Pursglove, the Pre-School Administrator, for further information on 814242 or email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net.

Clair Rava
Parent/Committee Member

BIRCHANGER BOWLS CLUB

Birchanger Outdoor Bowls Club is looking for new members – experienced and novice. Our league team plays at 6.00pm on Wednesdays, and we also have weekend games when the less-experienced can join in. On Tuesdays and Fridays, also at 6.00pm, we have a two hour roll up when anyone can play. If you would like to try your hand at the game, you would be made very welcome. For more information please call Rosemary on 813820, or Dennis on 813338 or email: bonzo32@hotmail.com.

Dennis Bonney



Are you concerned about your child's speech or language development?

On Wednesday 8th July 9.30am-11.30am at Spangles there will be an opportunity for parents/carers to discuss their concerns with a Speech and Language Therapist. She will find out about your child's needs through observation, play and possibly an informal assessment, then give you advice and agree a follow up plan if appropriate. This drop-in clinic is for children who are pre-school age.

Do you enjoy being with families with babies and young children and have 2-3 hours to spare each week?

We would like to recruit more volunteers to join our team, working both at the Children's Centre and in the local villages. If you would like to know more about these opportunities please call me to arrange an informal visit to Spangles. Please find us on Facebook for a full timetable of activities and our latest updates.



Lesley Murdoch
Community Engagement and
Volunteer Coordinator
Tel: 812348
Mob: 07964 106378



Thanks to additional volunteers, including some parents, we are now able to accommodate visiting children again without advance notice, and have space for two or three more children who wish to attend regularly. We are very grateful to all those who give up their time to help with Investigators on a Friday evening. Valerie, who ran Pilots, originally asked us a couple of years ago to start a new group which would provide something for children when Pilots stopped, but in the end decided to continue for a while, so we have been running both groups in parallel on different days for about a year and a half. However Valerie and Peter Trundle have now retired from running Pilots after many years of faithful service so we wish them well in their retirement and extend an open invitation to any former members of Pilots who wish to come. We already have some former Pilots attending, but any others who wish to try out Investigators are very welcome to do so. By the time this article goes out, there will only be one or two Investigators' sessions left before the Summer break (see www.stanstedfamilychurch.com/whats-on for dates) so anyone with children aged 7-10 (approx) who may wish to start attending in September should contact me as soon as possible. There are limited places left and these will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. We meet at the Free Church Hall on **Fridays 6.15pm-7.45pm** for a mixture of games, Bible stories, challenges, creative activities and other items of interest. Recently we have had a visit from some parrots and snakes (not together!), decorated a life-size version of Joseph's coat (with music from 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'), made lanterns from glass jars, planted seeds, and discussed topics as diverse as favouritism and Elvis!



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The school has been saddened by the recent loss of Nigel Holland who passed away on 22nd May. Nigel had been an active and effective member of St Mary's governing body for many years, at various times serving as Chair, advising on finance and representing the church and diocese. He was ever a staunch and loyal advocate for this school. I speak for all the staff when I say that he was greatly appreciated and we regarded him with respect and very much affection. As Headteacher, I valued his warm welcome and his support when I joined St Mary's, new to headship and to Stansted. He was the most active of governors when it was proposed to enlarge and relocate the school, attending all our planning meetings, debating with contractors, architects and the county for the best outcomes for the school. When we drafted the school Travel Plan, Nigel plotted on a local map the areas where all the pupils lived, and walked all their journeys to school himself so that he could lobby Essex Highways for safer routes. The weather at the time was wet and cold and I recall him arriving back at school needing a



dry towel and a hot drink! The photo shows Nigel next to the children at the 'topping out' ceremony during the building of the new school. In memory of Nigel, and to acknowledge his contribution and long standing connection with the school, at our Awards Assembly at the end of term we will be presenting a new prize, the Nigel Holland Award for Leadership.

School Activities



The Year 3 pupils have been following the Forest School programme at Gorsefield Hall, and as part of the maths and technology curriculum, the whole school enjoyed three afternoons working with Lego constructing a huge model village; the school hall looking like Legoland!

At the end of the spring term Years 3 and 4 treated us to their annual musical – this year we enjoyed 'Pirates and Mermaids'. The singing was great, the costumes colourful and the characters and the acting provided plenty of laughs.

Thank you to all staff and children who produced this super performance!



After half term, our Year 6 pupils went away for a residential visit to a field study centre in Norfolk. This was a highly successful week for the pupils as they undertook fieldwork in coastal and woodland environments, adventurous activities and personal challenge. It certainly helped to have decent weather and fine evenings, but the group themselves have to be commended for their sense of adventure and the manner in which they made the most of every opportunity offered.

Key Stage 1 pupils have been making a study of China. They enjoyed a day of workshops including tai chi, music, calligraphy, and also learned numbers and familiar vocabulary in Chinese and sampled Chinese cooking. Outside on the pitch other KS2 children practised cricket, coached by an Australian cricketer currently on an exchange visit with Essex Cricket Club. If you are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school, please contact us to arrange a visit.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher
Tel: 812212

Email: admin@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I am absolutely appalled at the amount of dog's muck in the area. The problem has increased dramatically and it's not fair for mums with prams and young children to be expected to have to manoeuvre their way through the alleyway and pavements in Stansted. I am constantly amazed at the total disrespect that people convey in not clearing up after their dogs and I have to say that the amount of 'big' dog's muck is becoming more apparent; not only in the alleyway from Bentfield Road but on Bentfield Green and the green near the pond. One of my neighbours who has two young children said there was a big pile IN the actual playground area. I fear that these lazy disrespectful people walk their dogs at night so nobody can see what they are leaving behind. Other dog owners I talk to are of the same opinion as myself; something has to be done to tackle this problem. More bins and/or CCTV maybe?

Michelle Barley

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FILM REVIEW - FORCE MAJEURE



Ruben Östlund has brought us a cleverly put-together story, providing thrills and spills on multiple levels. It's ski porn – with the writer-director capturing the minutiae of skiing ... the swish of skis cutting a swathe through pristine virgin snow, the eerie quiet and solitude on a drag lift, the clinkety-clank of the chair lift as it travels over a pylon ... However, don't be deceived; while panoramic mountain shots, trips up chair lifts and Go Pro footage abound, this film isn't about skiing. It's about what happens to people in the face of catastrophe, family dynamics, soul searching and a marriage in crisis. Controlled avalanches – usually throughout the night – are a normal part of damage control in Alpine ski resorts.



A perfect family holidaying in the French Alps sit lunching on the deck of a restaurant after a bracing morning of skiing. As their food is served, an explosion high up on the mountain close by sets off another controlled avalanche – except is it? While patrons are thrilled, taking pictures with their phones, surprise turns to horror when the wall of snow approaches fast, threatening to engulf the restaurant. In that split second, the father grabs his phone, turning from his wife and two children, and flees from danger.

That pivotal moment is the premise for what unravels thereafter. As the dust settles, it's quickly apparent that what appeared to be a snow wall was merely a cloud, leaving a light dusting on the restaurant tables and as Dad returns, embarrassed, so begin the cracks which grow into deep family rifts. Östlund examines the flaws of human nature – how we react to danger, how we cope with guilt and how we process concepts that are way beyond our deeply held perceptions and beliefs about the world. If you get the chance to see it – do!

Anna Nolan





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July is the month for new members to join and existing members to re-join music@stansted for the new season beginning in October. All our concerts are at St John's, and the season gets under way on **Saturday 17th October** at 7.30pm with **Trio Isimsiz**. On **Sunday 22nd November** at 3.00pm **Sean Shibe** will be giving a guitar recital. We enter 2016 on **Sunday 24th January** at 3.00pm with a recital by the viola player **Ugne Tiskute** and pianist **Alexandra Vaduva**. Our final concert of the season is on **Saturday 5th March** at **6.00pm** which will coincide with the Club's 20th birthday and we shall be hosting the **Wells Virtuosi**, outstanding players from Wells Cathedral School – an evening not to be missed! We always welcome new members and now, before the start of a new season and with a joining discount, is the ideal time to join. Tickets for each concert will be £15 (£60 for the four concerts). Season ticket prices are Individual £45, Concessions £40 but **if paid before July 31st**, prices are Individual £40 (£10 per concert) and Concessions £35 (£8.75 per concert). We shall be continuing our policy of encouraging a younger audience by offering free entry to under 18s. To join or renew, please send a cheque payable to Music at Stansted, together with a note of your name(s), address, telephone number, and email address (this really helps us to keep you informed throughout the season) to: The Membership Secretary, c/o 25 Chantry Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2SD. Check out our website for general information - or if you have a specific enquiry please email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk.

Alan Corbishley

Stansted Tennis Club



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

President's Cup

Eight ladies and eight men competed for the President's Cup trophy on 16th May. There were many hard fought matches, but the eventual winners were Rick Lim and Daphne Lunnon, who beat Jon Budd and Fiona Pye 6-1 in the final. The trophy was presented by Jan Hollis, the current Club President. After the tournament, the players enjoyed a delicious fish and chip supper from Churchill's.

Ladies' Night

Monday 13th July from 7.00pm. All lady members (especially new ones) are welcome to come along and play.

Adult Club Sessions

Sunday mornings, Wednesday mornings and evenings and Friday mornings. All adult members are welcome; please use the page on the website to indicate which sessions.

Cardio Tennis Lessons

There are currently sessions on Monday and Thursday. If any adult Club members would like to be added to the waiting list, please contact me.

Tennis Balls

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

Contacts

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



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As the weather gets warmer the children have been spending time in our beautiful garden. We have been growing carrots, onions, parsnips, green beans and many other vegetables in our veggie garden and are expecting another bumper crop of strawberries and raspberries from our fruit plants. This year we have grown tomatoes, chillies and cucumbers in a miniature greenhouse built by some of our Year 6 children. The children have been learning about the life cycles of plants in science lessons and have enjoyed putting their knowledge into action in the garden. The healthy vegetables we have been growing have been an excellent introduction to National Healthy Eating Week. Farnham has already achieved the Government's Healthy Schools status and we are working towards getting the more difficult Enhanced Healthy Schools status. The children have been investigating the importance of eating healthily and staying hydrated to maintain concentration, something that is particularly important during the stressful summer SATs week. We ran a healthy snacks challenge to see which children could bring in the healthiest snacks for a week, with the winners given the chance to have a go at making bread. We were immensely proud of our Year 6 children who worked so hard for their SATs and faced them with equanimity. We are sure their hard work will pay off and stand them in good stead as they move on to their 'big' schools. This term we have the play - a musical version of the Wind in the Willows. Farnham is a small school achieving excellent results which is open to Essex and Hertfordshire children. Several families in Stansted send their children here and are available to discuss the advantages. Call school reception on 771339 for more information or see our website.

Katherine Aiken
Friends of Farnham School

VILLAGE GLYNDEBOURNE

The fifteenth traditional Village Glyndebourne concert is on Sunday 19th July in the gardens of Wilford House, 70 The Street, Manuden (in the Church if wet); gates open at 6.00pm, programme begins at 6.30pm. Bring your picnics. The programme includes music commemorating the Magna Carta Anniversary. In 1940 the German composer Kurt Weill (*The Threepenny Opera*, *Mack the Knife*) wrote a 'Ballad of Magna Carta', a more or less humorous take on this historic event, perhaps in response to the persecution of Jews in his native Germany. The piece features narrators, barons and a somewhat 'pantomime villain' characterisation of King John, all set to some appealing and tuneful music for soloists and chorus. Taking the theme of rights and freedom further, the Manuden Singers will also perform Sir Michael Tippett's Five Spirituals – moving settings of well-known numbers; a medley of songs from the classic modern West End show on the subject, *Les Miserables*; and some lighter items from the repertoire of romantic choral songs. Tickets £10 (£5 children) from 812157 or at the gate. Proceeds will go to the Manuden Park Group to support the development of the children's play area.

Ian Priest
Tel: 647050

MOUNTFITCHET HOUSE

Falconry Event A Flyaway Success



Many residents have an active interest in wildlife and nature and, following the success of our involvement in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, we decided to invite Owls R Us to bring some of their magnificent birds along to see us. The event proved to be a real success. You can see from the residents' reactions just how engaged and fascinated they were by the chance to get so close to the impressive owl and it was fantastic to see the smiles on everyone's faces.



The session also fitted well with the activity-based care approach at Mountfitchet House, which is all about ensuring residents can continue enjoying the hobbies they have always loved, as well as giving them the opportunity to discover new talents and interests. We provide a range of care services for older people, including residential, nursing and specialist dementia care, as well as short-term respite, palliative, and sensitive end of life care. For more information please contact me.



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A DAY OUT IN LONDON

School holidays are almost here. Why not take the family for a day out in London? Rail companies often offer cheaper fares (abelliogreateranglia.co.uk) especially if you book in advance, and there's lots to do in London that's free, so it needn't be an expensive outing. There are three museums in South Kensington alone - each with free entry:

The Science Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7 2DD Tel: 0870 8704 868, website: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk is packed with interactive fun exhibits and families can watch a film about space exploration together.



Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 5BD Tel: 020 7942 5000, website: www.nhm.ac.uk has all sorts of dinosaurs, creepy crawlies and a huge blue whale amongst its exhibits. What's not to like? Free explorer backpacks are also available for under 7's filled with activities to help them get the most out of the museum.



Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 2RL Tel: 020 7942 2000, website: www.vam.ac.uk is London's leading museum of art and design and every weekend the museum hosts free events for families, including Drop-in-Design where children can create their own crazy designs inspired by the collections.

How To Get There: South Kensington is the nearest tube station to all of the above with a pedestrian tunnel to the museums.

London is also famous for its parks and gardens. The two mentioned below are close enough to be able to combine a visit to either with one of the above museums in a day:

Kensington Gardens, W2 2UH Tel: 0300 0612 000, website: www.royalpark.org.uk/parks/kensington-gardens is home to the Peter Pan statue and also the Elfin Oak, a gnarled partially hollow tree stump carved with figures of fairies, elves and woodland animals. There are also two playgrounds

including the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground near Black Lion Gate.

How To Get There: Lancaster Gate, Queensway or High Street Kensington tube stations.



Princess Diana Memorial Fountain, Hyde Park, W8 4PX Tel: 0300 0612 000 was opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 2004 and is made from 545 pieces of Cornish granite. Hyde Park also has many other attractions and amenities including a spectacular children's playground, the Serpentine Bridge, a large lake and Joy of Life Fountain.

How To Get There: Hyde Park Corner or Marble Arch tube stations.

GARDENING TIPS

Prune whippy summer growth of wisteria to within 5-7 buds of the main stem to constrain it to the locations you wish it to be in, and for the first stage of encouraging flowers for next year. Greenfly and blackfly will be breeding jolly fast, so help the ladybirds, lacewings and other predators by scraping them off with your fingers if you are able, or there are biological controls available by mail order. Regularly dead



head sweet peas, roses and bedding plants, amongst others, to encourage a succession of flowering. Water in the form of rain is often less frequent during July, so conservation of moisture in the soil is essential. Mulch borders with any organic matter you have available - farm-yard manure works well, as does home-made compost, and even old newspapers and grass clippings if you do not mind the appearance. You should only need to water recently planted or moved shrubs and perennials; the ideal water efficient system for watering plants in a border is to use a leaky pipe or seep hose, as all the water goes straight where it is required around the base of the plants. Look out for suckers (an offshoot from the original plant) growing at or near ground level, or below the graft point on many trees and shrubs, as these will form a slightly different plant to the original, and will frequently compete with the parent for nutrients and water. If you have a conifer hedge, now is the time to give it its summer trim, it is important for species like Leyland cypress (*X Cupressocyparis leylandii*) to only be trimmed back staying within the existing green growth, as going back into brown old wood for these will look unsightly. Others such as yew, and thuja, that shoot from old wood can be cut back further.

Paul the Gardener



STORT VALLEY ROTARY

www.stortvalleyrotary.com

Sponsored Stort Walk

On Sunday 19th July 10.00am-4.00pm the local Rotary Clubs are organising a five mile, family friendly walk along the River Stort in aid of St Clare Hospice - see Bishop's Stortford and District Footpath Association article for details.

This month Gordon Morrison, a Club member, talked about World Child Cancer, a charity with which he has been involved since its foundation in 2009. A child in the developing world has only a 10% chance of surviving a cancer diagnosis, compared with survival rates of over 80% in the developed world. Even worse, for those children whose cancers cannot be successfully treated there is almost no effective palliative care. World Child Cancer sets up partnerships between hospitals in the developed and developing world so that the expertise of a specialist oncology department is made available to a hospital in the developing country. Medical staff also donate their time, often giving up their annual leave to spend time in the partner hospital, treating patients directly or training medical staff in the most effective ways of treating childhood cancers. Since its foundation in 2009 the charity has treated over 8,500 children who otherwise would have had no effective treatment for their cancer. We always welcome new members so please visit our website where you can read our newsletter and get further information on the above and our other activities. We meet on Tuesdays 7.00pm for 7.30pm at The Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2JZ.

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

STANSTED DEMENTIA CAFÉ

The Café is held at The Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month 10.00am- noon. Come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee. Each month we have a speaker and here are the speakers for the next two months:

Tuesday 14th July

Lilypins will be giving a short talk on their hair and beauty services for people with dementia and their carers.

Tuesday 11th August

Sandra from Age UK will talk about the services Age UK provides in our area for elderly people and those with dementia. She will bring leaflets with contact details.

The Dementia Café is a free service run by the Alzheimer's Society, and is open to anyone worried about their memory, or worried about someone else's memory, people diagnosed with dementia and their carers. The café provides an informal opportunity to ask questions, meet with one another, listen to other people's experiences and receive practical information and support.



Debbie Baker
Tel: 418331
Email: debbie.baker@alzheimers.org.uk



They've hatched at last! The children were eagerly awaiting signs of the shells cracking inside the incubator and were thrilled to have the chance to watch the chicks emerge. The children have been able to care for and hold the chicks and it has been a great experience for all of them. Here is one of our butterflies, Joseph, proudly holding one of our newborn chicks.

This month has seen us hold our big art show and parents came to see framed artwork the children have been working on. It was a lovely opportunity for families to chat to staff and the children enjoyed showing off a colourful array of paintings, collages, hand prints and more. Last week we tried something new; we asked the children to bring in a special toy or object and then we split them into small groups for a 'show and tell' session. It was a great success with all the children, including the youngest at two years old, speaking up beautifully, and they all listened so well to their peers. It was lovely to see new friendships emerge as a result of sitting together and to watch even the most shy gain confidence. Some of our parents recently ran in the Birchanger 10K raising some vital funds for the nursery. It was a hot day so well done to all involved; we were especially proud of the nursery children that took part in the one mile children's race. Birchanger Nursery is a highly respected local pre-school facility in the grounds of, but separate from, Birchanger Primary School. In our beautiful rural setting and well-equipped building we provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2½ to 5. To arrange a visit see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery or telephone our administrator Jen Munton on 810800 or email: admin@birchangernursery.org.

Kirsty Moore
Birchanger Nursery Committee



TIME TO PARTY IN THE PARK!

www.mitp-bentfield.co.uk

Saturday 4th July 2.00-8.00pm (gates open at 1.30pm)

See last month's Link for a list of the line-up, plus bouncy castles, Hog roast, ice cream and bar. Tickets from Intercounty and Bentfield School, adults £12 advance, £15 on the day (if available), accompanied under 16s free. For more information see our website or the Facebook page Music in the Park-Stansted.



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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Our Annual Meeting in May was well attended and we have three new members on our Committee. I am pleased to remain for one more year as President during our Centenary. This has been a special time for our Movement and especially good to hear that new WIs are opening, full of young enthusiastic women, whom we hope will keep the WI going for another hundred years!

Our County Chairman, Pat Pratley from Manuden, was there to guide us through the Resolution to be discussed at the AGM in the Albert Hall. The Resolution was asking the Government 'to remove the distinction between nursing care and personal care in its assessment of needs of individuals, in order to enhance health and wellbeing' - the point being that social care and medical care are funded by different departments and social care is means-tested. Some people may need both, and the line between the two can easily become blurred. We had a long and helpful discussion on it, but some felt that the wording of the Resolution was not specific enough so that in the end we voted as an Institute against it.



I went with three others to the cinema in Brentwood to watch the screening of this very special Centenary AGM attended by the Queen, Princess Anne, and the Countess of Wessex. It was as good as actually being there, or probably better in some respects - everything so close up and you could make rude remarks about some of the outfits knowing no-one would hear you! We stood up when those attending stood up and clapped the speakers and sang 'Jerusalem' with great enthusiasm. Unexpectedly the Resolution was voted out and not discussed, as many members agreed with us as to the wording and felt that more work should be done on it to make it viable. The Queen looked lovely and seemed to enjoy her time with us all, despite having trouble cutting her cake. I am assured it was the fault of the knife not the cake!

The excellent speakers included Lucy Worsley - historian and TV presenter who has compiled a history of the WI, and the inspiring Tanni Grey-Thompson, Olympic gold-medallist, and now parliamentarian and TV presenter. We are holding a special centenary tea on Wednesday 30th September in the Day Centre at 2.30pm in aid of their refurbishment fund; please come if you can.

Next Meeting Thursday July 9th 7.45pm at the Day Centre - a demonstration of flower arranging by Paris Legore.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

Linda and Neil Holdaway, the Assistant County Organisers for the Essex Branch of the NGS, spoke about '**The History & Development of the National Gardens Scheme**'. Although the concept of raising funds to assist training nurses started in 1859 it was not until 1927 that individuals were asked to open their gardens and charge 'A shilling-a-head' (5p). In the first year 609 gardens raised over £8,000 which was donated to the Queen's Nursing Institute. By 1931 a network of volunteer County Organisers had been set up and over 1000 private gardens were open. Country Life Magazine produced a handbook detailing all the gardens and because of its bright cover was known (and still is) as The Yellow Book. Following WWII, the NGS donated funds to the National Trust (NT) to restore and preserve important gardens that had been converted to food growing. The NT reciprocated by opening gardens for the NGS - and the British love of gardens and visiting houses large and small boomed. The shilling entrance fee was not increased until the 1970s despite inflation. By becoming a Charitable Trust in 1980, the NGS increased its list of beneficiaries - Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices and Crossroads (now known as The Carers' Trust) and since 2010 a different annual guest charity has been chosen from recommendations from NGS volunteers. Since its foundation the NGS has donated over £45 million to its beneficiary charities, of which nearly £23 million has been donated in the past ten years. Members were then given an A-Z tour of the NGS gardens in Essex, with special emphasis on those within a half-hour's drive of the village.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 1st July 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre

Our speaker will be Mr Chris Chadwell who will be talking about 'Paradise on Earth - the Beautiful Flowers of Kashmir'.

Members' Competition - The first rose of summer

Congratulations to Linda Gurr on winning the Rose Bowl.

Coach Outing - Saturday 25th July

We have a few places available on the coach so please call my mobile number before 5th July if you would like to go. Cost is £23.50 which covers the coach, entry fees to both gardens and tip for the driver. The first stop is an NGS garden near St Neots. It is approximately an acre in size; the owner describes it as quirky as there are lots of different areas of interest. The second garden at Coton Manor in Northamptonshire also opens for the NGS and is a 10 acre garden with extensive herbaceous borders and 'rooms'.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman

Tel: 07919 478144



NATURE NOTES

Calling all enthusiastic or budding botanists, entomologists, gardeners, ornithologists, zoologists etc! The Link is still looking for volunteers to join the *Nature Noters*. An 'ology' isn't necessary - just an interest in the natural world and a willingness to write up to 300 words about three times a year. Please contact the Editor for more information. Details on page 1 of The Link.

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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

NEW PARISH COUNCIL GET DOWN TO WORK



The Parish Council, made up of new and established members, is in a strong position to continue many of the projects begun in the previous term, but with the support of new members' fresh eyes reviewing and promoting those schemes and objectives.

The main area of focus will be the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This must be a community initiative but will require councillors to ensure the community is involved and their views are heard and acted upon across the variety of areas that affect us, living in this beautiful part of Essex. The research and data required to support the progress of the Plan will also require time and commitment. We will have to bite the bullet and look at where development could take place to the benefit of the community, ensuring local housing needs are met, eg social and affordable housing, as well as retirement properties for those who want to downsize.

The Plan will also support the work of the Flood Working Group and the protection of our countryside, with its research into environmental impact assessments.

Work on the new building to house the council offices and library should commence this year and will allow the community better physical access to services from the office, as well as additional services such as longer library opening hours, Uttlesford District Council services and a new home for the CAB to hold its appointments.

Highways issues, including parking, will be high on the agenda, with the Car Parking Working Group providing us with strategies to alleviate issues on Cambridge Rd, Lower Street and the Mountfitchet Estate. We aim to maximise the use of our car parks to the benefit of resi-

dents, local employees and businesses. A walkway from Cambridge Rd to Crafton Green Car Park is a scheme we have already raised with Uttlesford District Council.

A street lighting review, work on the feasibility of a regular market, research into the possibility of a village hall will all be worked on alongside ensuring the play areas and skatepark are safe. Grass cutting, litter collection, planting and care of the cemetery etc already happen and we expect to be taking over public open spaces at Foresthall Park, Elms Farm and Walpole Farm as they come forward.

A busy term ahead but one we are looking on positively to achieve good outcomes for Stansted.

WORK STARTS ON NEW SKATEPARK

There were a few tears shed on the weekend of 23-24 May as skaters bid farewell to our old skatepark. The skatepark is over ten years old and a number of our current skaters have been using the park since it opened back in 2004, and it has been a big part of their lives. The park owes its existence to a committed group of activists who campaigned for the park and put a lot of time and energy into raising funds for the park. Jo Freeman and Ray Ball who played key roles in successfully establishing the original park have also been active in the Action Group working on the new park and we would like to pay tribute to their support. A number of younger members of our community have also attended a lot of meetings and made important contributions and in particular the contributions of Sean Tomson, Tim Hopkins and Will Sanders have been invaluable.

The full cost of the project including the flood lights is £170,000, virtually all of which has been funded externally rather than from your community taxes.

Construction work on our new skatepark started in the last week of May and if everything goes to plan we will be holding an opening ceremony on Sunday 9 August.

TRIBUTES TO LONG SERVING POLICE OFFICER

PC Neil "Jack" Russell has retired after 30 years service with Essex Police. For a good number of those years, Jack, who lives in Stansted with his family, was our Neighbourhood Police Officer - he involved himself above and beyond the call of duty by

playing sport with local youngsters, helping out at the summer playscheme which we used to run during the holidays, and also at the youth centre. On behalf of our parishioners we wish Jack a very long and happy retirement and thank him sincerely for his service.

NEW PARKING REGULATIONS IN LOWER STREET AREA

Following many approaches from residents and businesses in the Lower Street area and a period of consultation with interested parties, new parking regulations were introduced on 7 June. The scheme allows for public parking from Monday to Friday with a one-hour stay between 10am and 4pm. Outside those times, parking is only permissible for residents who have the necessary permit.

Hopefully this will allow for a much more efficient use of limited parking capacity which will benefit the local business community without causing any significant problems to residents, many of whom will have taken their cars to work during the public access time slot.

LOWER STREET PHONE BOX

The Parish Council have now taken over ownership of the traditional red kiosk in Lower Street. BT decommissioned the phone at the end of May but thought it was important to retain the kiosk because we consider it to be a significant part of our national heritage and we wanted to ensure it can be enjoyed by generations to come. We paid the princely sum of £1.00 to BT for the kiosk but this means we are responsible for its upkeep and maintenance, so in the event of a problem please contact the Parish Office. The final use of the kiosk has yet to be determined but one possibility is that we will follow the example of other authorities and use it to house a defibrillator.

CAB SERVICES

If you find it difficult to access CAB services in Saffron Walden or Great Dunmow, don't forget that face-to-face appointments are available at outreach services operating in the Youth Centre in Stansted. Free advice sessions are also available via video link from the old Station House on Sycamore Close, Takeley, where you have access to a private room to speak confidentially to a trained adviser - no computer skills are necessary! Call 01799 618840 to arrange an appointment.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

The new council met for the first time at the end of May following the local elections. There are now five fewer members in total making up a re-balanced council of 23 Conservatives, nine Residents4Uttlesford

councillors, six Liberal Democrats and one Independent member.

Stansted voters once again returned two Conservative district councillors and two Liberal Democrat district councillors. I would like to welcome Councillors Terry Farthing and Thom Goddard, elected for the first time for the Stansted South and Birchanger Ward. I would also like to welcome back after a break of four years Councillor Geoffrey Sell as the other half of the Stansted North team with me.

The downside of any election is that if someone wins, someone else loses. This time John Salmon, who represented Stansted North for the past eight years, was not re-elected. This was particularly sad for John and his wife, Dot, because they would have become council chairman and consort for the next 12 months had John retained his seat. I want to thank John for the work he has done for Stansted whilst on Uttlesford; work that will continue through his retained membership of the parish council. Thanks also are due to Iris Evans, who did not stand for re-election, for her work on behalf of the village since 2011.

I have been chosen by fellow members to chair the council's scrutiny committee. Scrutiny should be an important function of any council to investigate new ideas, to encourage improvement and to hold the majority political administration's cabinet members and council officers to account. I am hoping that the new committee will focus its attention more on how Uttlesford DC works and less on external bodies over which it has no control; a criticism of the old scrutiny committee.

The new council has got off to an encouraging start with commitments to greater transparency of decision making and messages from all political groups of a willingness to work together for the good of the district. It will be for readers of The Link to scrutinise us all and decide whether we do what we say we will do!

Cllr Alan Dean

DATES OF POLICE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Tuesday 21 July - A senior police officer will be available in the Day Centre between 4.00 and 5.00 pm if you have any issues you want to raise.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

July

1st Open Spaces
15th Full Council
22nd Highways 7.00 pm
Finance & General Purposes 8.15 pm

August

No meetings

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford. Admin Assist - Anne Court
Assistant to the Parish Clerk-Trevor Lloyd
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10.00am - 1.00pm
www.stansted.net

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Maureen Caton (Chairman)	813914 m.caton@hotmail.co.uk
Mark Capell-Helm	815157 mawihtec@live.co.uk
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John Salmon	814789 dandjsalmon@gmail.com
Geoffrey Sell	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
Daphne Wallace-Jarvis	812259 dwjjwj_44@yahoo.co.uk

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Terry Farthing	661555 cllrfarthing@uttlesford.gov.uk
Thom Goddard	01371 879122 cllrgoddard@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell	815925 cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Ray Gooding	813103 cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk
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STANSTED IN BLOOM

Walking around the village there are lots of gardens that look really good, so we hope you will want to show them off by entering Stansted In Bloom this year.

Who can enter:

Local Residents
Businesses
Organisations/Charities

N.B. This year we are also enabling individuals or groups of residents to enter communal areas they are responsible for.

We will judge as separate categories:

- Full/specified residential/business garden areas
- Hanging baskets/tubs
- Communal areas

Judges will view your entry on August 8th and will consider:

- Use of space and design
- Colour and layering
- Variety of planting
- Visual and sensory impact

Plaques will be awarded for the 1st/2nd/3rd winners in each category on 5th September at the Day Centre .
See page 22 for entry form.

STANSTED IN BLOOM 2015 COMPETITION

Entry Form

To be completed and returned to:

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council
Council Offices, Crafton Green House,
72 Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex CM24 8AQ
01279 813214 - email: parishcouncil@stansted.net

by Friday July 31st

Name of resident/business/organisation

Address

Tel.No.

Email

Location to be viewed (please be specific re location, e.g. front garden, tubs at side of house, etc)

- garden area
- tubs
- hanging baskets
- communal area

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

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Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs, Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Tots (age 1½-rising 3)	Tina South Tel: 814371
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Oilly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	U3A	Christine, Chair Tel: 817587
Inner Wheel Club	Brenda Cox, President Tel: 812191 Email: brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver, President Tel: 812470
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Magna Carta 800th Celebrations	Nigel Collingwood Tel: 813428	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213		
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@music@stansted.co.uk		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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MANUDEN BROWNIES, GUIDES AND RANGERS MAKE SCARECROWS!

When we heard about the Scarecrow Trail in Manuden, we thought it would be fun to make some scarecrows. We already had a busy programme planned so could only spend one meeting making them. The theme was characters from



TV or film. The Brownies quickly decided to make Olaf from Frozen, but the Guides and Rangers took longer before they chose Alice, the White Rabbit and a Playing Card from Alice in Wonderland. Materials were gathered: the rules said straw had to be included, but we used newspapers and old clothes too. It was much harder than we thought it would



be, but we were quite pleased with the results, especially when it had only taken just over an hour. They were displayed in the gardens along Butt Lane, looked at by hundreds of visitors over the weekend, and weathered some heavy rain. Unfortunately we didn't win; there were some amazing entries, but we enjoyed making them and taking part. We meet on Tuesdays at Manuden Community Centre, and have spaces if anyone would like to join us. Brownies: 6.00pm-7.15pm, Guides and Rangers: 7.30pm-9.30pm



Glynis Prothero
District Administrator
Tel: 814145

FROM SMALL ACORNS ...

As some of you may know, an essential part of training to be a vet is 'seeing practice'. This is an important part of a vet student's professional development. It allows them to gain experience in the practical aspects of the job, such as the clinical examination of animals, client communication and so on. We are a practice that has always enjoyed having vet students see practice with us and over the years we have had some wonderful students. I love their energy and enthusiasm and their motivation to learn and improve. It is our job as general practice vets to guide the students in what to expect on a day to day basis, as often the cases they see at the vet schools are the rare and complicated ones. I sometimes ask students in the consulting room what their list of differential diagnoses would be for the animal in front of them. One particular client I remember had brought in her prize Spaniel that had been off-colour, not eating and dribbling for 24 hours. After completing her clinical examination, the vet student started her list of possible conditions with "rabies, tetanus ..." A look of complete horror came over the owner's face until I pointed out the stick that was stuck in the dog's mouth and was the cause of all the symptoms. The vet student never forgot one of our favourite phrases, "common things occur commonly!".

As we are a practice that enjoys helping future generations of vets, we thought we would start even earlier and this summer we are trying a couple of children's sessions at our Saffron Walden surgery. The first is on Sunday 26th July 11.00am-1.00pm (free of charge but advance booking required) and is an art and craft session for younger children aged 4-9 years. We will have some live 'models' and the aim is for children to have fun drawing, sticking and generally making animals from craft materials. The second session is on Sunday 23rd August and is for children aged 8-14 years and is a junior animal handling day. We will have a variety of friendly animals and the aim is that the children will be able to learn more about how to handle and care for a variety of pets. If you are interested in either of these sessions, please ring the Saffron Walden surgery on 01799 522082 and speak to either me or Jackie Morgans, our deputy head nurse. There will be more details coming shortly on our website and Facebook page. Who knows, perhaps we'll even find a future vet!



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes
Veterinary Surgeons

DID I READ THAT SIGN CORRECTLY?

Seen during a conference:

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT,
THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR

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FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.



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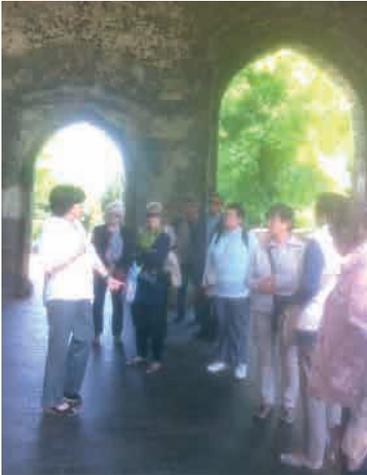


STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.stanstedu3a.org

Trips and Outings

Several members of the **Walking Group** ventured over to St Albans for a three mile guided City Trail. The weather was bright and sunny, enhancing the medieval clock tower and the ancient market place and its hidden alleyways. For over 1,000 years St Albans has been a town of inns, taverns and alehouses all steeped in history. The Cathedral is the oldest site of continuous Christian worship and home to the shrine of Britain's first saint, Alban. There were plenty of places for lunch and the market spending lightened the purses of many, particularly later when five bunches of flowers were going for £5! A great day thanks to Christine and Richard.



The **Natural History Group** discovered several of the bluebell woods around the locality recently. Talk to Tony at the next meeting to discover their next walk to find nature's current delights.

The **Marlow Outing** ended on a sunny boat trip from Cookham to Marlow via three locks. Prior to the boat we enjoyed a tasty lunch at the Cross Keys pub and a walk to the river to look at the infamous 'Compleat Angler' - where Rod Stewart renewed his vows to second wife Rachel Hunter and who later divorced her for another love! The Marlow Bridge, a chain bridge, designed by William Tierney Clark, is one similarly designed in Budapest and similar to Hammersmith Bridge. Thanks Jan, another great day.



The **Saturday Seminar** on 11th July 9.30am-12.30pm in the Free Church Hall looks at the subject of self-determination in care relationships. Does the person always have the right

to make their own decisions or can it ever be right to override their wishes? Dr Wayne Martin, Professor of Philosophy at Essex University, will lead the group. Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members. Contact Alan on 07790 213510 or email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com.

The next meeting is on Thursday 16th July at St John's Hall. Doors open at 1.30pm and the speaker is Dawn McDonald talking about 'Nursing with the RAF in Afghanistan'. Visit our website and watch out for new activities at the meetings. Helen (Chair) 812945 or Liz (Secretary) 813270.



Caroline Bore

CAB - TRAVEL TIPS

www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk

Driving – before you travel

The paper part of the driving licence has been computerised, so go to www.gov.uk or call the DVLA on 0300 790 6801 for advice on car hire when abroad. Check the photo card part of your driving licence is still valid as it expires after 10 years. Car hire companies often offer **excess waiver insurance**; however, this insurance can be £25 per day. Instead you may be able to arrange an excess policy from a standalone provider for as little as £2 per day. If travelling with children, check on the rules and regulations regarding car seats for the countries you are visiting on the AA website, www.theaa.com, who also give details of compulsory equipment you must have if using your own car – for example, a breathalyser in France.

Insurance and medical care:

A European Health Insurance Card valid for five years, is completely free and entitles you to state-funded medical care in all 28 EU countries. One is needed for each member of your group, including babies; apply online at www.ehic.org.uk. It is **not** an alternative to travel insurance. You may be covered under your household policy or as an extra benefit of a bank account/credit card, so check before taking out a standalone travel insurance policy. Shop around using comparison websites to make sure you get a good deal.

Flights

If you booked flights for a child aged under 12 before 1st May you may be entitled to a refund of the air passenger duty. Go to www.moneysavingexpert.com for information on how to get your money back. If you are travelling in the EU and your flight has been cancelled or delayed for more than two hours, your airline must look after you, see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/travel-leisure-and-food/holidays/problems-with-flights.

What to do if things go wrong

For comprehensive information on what you can do if your holiday plans are disrupted or there is an accident or emergency while you are away go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/travel-leisure-and-food/holidays. The CAB offers appointments in Stansted 9.30am-12.30pm on Thursdays.

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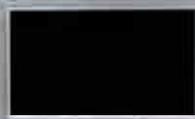
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This month our spotlight is on Steve French from Box Bear Ltd who has been an active member of the Business Forum since its inception. Box Bear is a visual communication and interactive media consultancy and production company specialising in developing exciting, creative media to support businesses. They produce corporate video, films, documentaries and music videos, as well as high end 3D and 2D animation for a large variety of industries and brands. They also manage and supply support for live broadcast webinars and provide web solutions using the captured footage from these events, working closely with clients providing support through every phase of the project, being in a unique position to produce original, creative and dramatic pieces of work to suit customers' needs.



We have had a very busy time organising our Summer Fayre, which is on Saturday 4th July noon-5.00pm in Station Road. It will be a fun family day with lots of activities to keep everyone entertained, so do not miss this very special event. The Business Forum and Millways have sponsored a competition with local schools to celebrate the Magna Carta. Bentfield, Birchanger, Farnham, Rickling and St Mary's primaries and Forest Hall School have produced magnificent art work and creative writing. We will be giving out the prizes at 2.00pm during the Summer Fayre, so come along and cheer on the prize-winners. At our next business breakfast on 3rd July 7.00 am at Linden House, our local MP, Sir Alan Haselhurst, is our guest speaker and we are looking forward to this exclusive occasion.



Iris Evans
Treasurer



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

By the time this article appears in parish magazines, we will have finished updating all the parish introductions that appear on our website. Each introduction now has a short description of key elements of the parish's history and heritage, as well as photos and links to further information, either online or in print. We have also updated population figures for each parish to show numbers derived from the 2011 Census. The overall population of the Hundred Parishes grew by 10% in ten years to 139,000. Half of that

growth may be regarded as exceptional, arising from construction of four airport-related residential developments in the vicinity of Stansted Airport. Our website's July What's On page shows opportunities to visit some of our treasured private houses and gardens, as well as churches and windmills that open to the public only occasionally. From 4th July to 12th September, Braintree District Museum in Braintree will be staging 'World War II - The People's Story', an exhibition of the impact on Braintree District of WWII. Although the town of Braintree itself is outside the Hundred Parishes, eight of our parishes are within Braintree district, including Wethersfield and Great Saling that each had wartime airfields. The exhibition includes photos, objects and memories from the rural areas. Braintree District Museum is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00am-4.00pm.

Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226



BEEKEEPING

... which the local area has been affected by what I would call a national phenomenon. The early bean crop is suffering from a lack of moisture and is weakened to attack by the blossom midge. In the 'olden days' everyone would have known the local farmer and would have been told of the possible crop failure. In the best case, they may have substituted another vegetable, in the worst prepared for famine, as in Ireland when potatoes got blight and millions starved. These days, consumers rule the roost and have to have a full choice of vegetables to feed little Johnny or Victoria. So the supermarkets demand that the bean crop is saved, and farmers need to resort to spraying the crop with pesticides to kill the blossom midge. Unfortunately, the spray also affects bees, and many of our members have reported bees being killed off where hives are kept near fields. To combat this, for many years now, local bee associations have had Spray Liaison Officers who should be informed by farmers when they intend to spray their fields, so beekeepers can block the entrance to their hives during spraying, thus keeping the bees safe inside for a few hours. As many farmers now subcontract this work, the lines of communication have been stretched and the information has not been getting through. Of course there are the normal outcries – "Farmers shouldn't be spraying at all" which for me is slightly hypocritical as they are the same consumers who also complain to the supermarkets when no beans are available. There are the more constructive outcriers who demand that better communications are set up.

This is where we come in. We, as beekeepers, must ensure that our Spray Liaison Officer is well-known to the local farmers and tells him when and where the spraying is to take place. We are endeavouring to do this, but in the meantime, if any of our readers are in the farming community please let us know and give us your ideas on how we can tackle this problem.



John Dockerill
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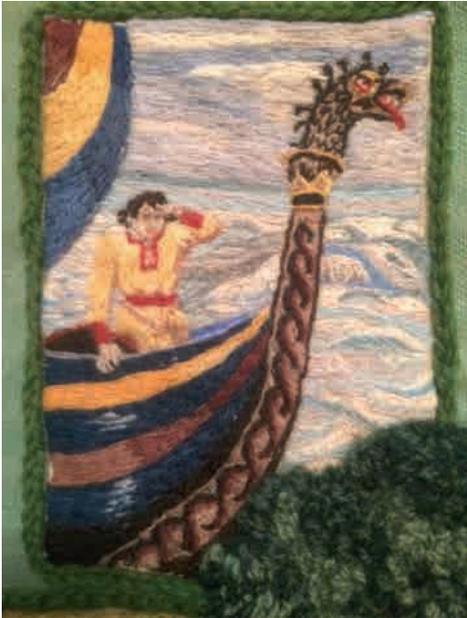
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MAGNA CARTA 800

The embroidered panels have had final adjustments made to them so that they lie neatly in their oak frame and by the time you read this will have been unveiled by the Duchess of Gloucester at Forest Hall School. This photograph from the embroidery is of Robert Gernon, the first Norman lord to be placed at Stansted. He is thought to have come from the Bayeux region and is



shown crossing the Channel. The embroidery will be on show in St Mary's Church each day in July 11.00am-4.00pm. In addition an exhibition of photographs of the village, the art work associated with the stitched panels and the Magna Carta facsimile will be on display. Guest organists will be playing at intervals and tea and biscuits will be available. Tickets for the Fayre on 27th June (if there are any left) are available from Stansted Hall on 813636 and from Goldings (fruit and vegetable shop) on Chapel Hill, priced £8 adults, £5 children, family £20. Further details on www.stanstedmagnacartaevents.co.uk.

Magna Carta Events:

- 27th June Medieval Fayre and Pageant
- 11th Sept Music and Drama by Trouvere
- 16th Sept Talk by Peter Sanders on The Early Montfichets
- 25th Sept Celebration of Liberty, an evening of our local talent, singers and actors.

Liz Hedge
Tel 812509
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www.facebook.com/grovecottagevintageteaparty

Vintage Tea Party Saturday 11th July 2.00pm-5.00pm

All the tickets for the tea party in the grounds of Bury Lodge are sold out. However, stallholders are still needed so if you have any vintage inspired goods to sell, please contact Claire Cook on 07947 319471 email: clairecook68@gmail.com.



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Ladies Monday night league: played 2 games so far, lost 1 and won 1, so keep up the good bowling.

North West Essex league: **A** have played 5 games and won 1; **B** have played 5 games and won 2.

Herts & Essex Seniors: played 6 games and won 1.

Ladies Friendlies: played 5 games and won 1.

Chris Bushnell Memorial Shield: Very well attended Club competition, great bowling and well done to James Rodgers, our winner this year.

Cawkell Cup - Club Competition: Very nice sunny evening for this competition, good mix of bowlers on the green, culminating in a very close finish. Congratulations to our winner, Ed Taub, who amassed an impressive score of 39 points.

Bishop's Stortford Cooper Cup: played the first leg at Bishop's Stortford and we now look forward to the return at Stansted in August.

During July: We have 17 home games:

- 1st 6.15pm North West Essex league
- 2nd 2.30pm Ladies Friendlies
- 3rd 2.00pm Barley
- 5th 2.30pm North Weald
- 6th 6.00pm Ladies Monday League
- 8th 6.00pm North West Essex league
- 9th 6.00pm Mayhew Cup
- 11th 2.30pm Stebbing
- 14th 2.30pm Herts & Essex Seniors
- 15th 6.15pm North West Essex League
- 17th 6.00pm Charles Wilson Club Comp
- 19th 2.00pm Inter village competition
- 22nd 6.15pm North West Essex league
- 23rd 2.30pm Ladies Friendlies
- 27th 6.00pm Ladies Monday league
- 28th 2.30pm Herts & Essex Seniors
- 29th 6.15pm North West Essex league

Please feel free to come and watch any of these games; you will be made more than welcome. For further information please contact me.

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

AIRPORT EXPRESS SET DOWN

On 1st June the express set down scheme changed. It is no longer available for commercial use, and all licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles are excluded. The new arrangements were agreed in partnership with the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee - an independent body comprising elected representatives from neighbouring local authorities, user groups, the local community and on-airport businesses. The new scheme is open to residents that live within a 10-mile radius of the airport, who can receive a discount of 50% - meaning registered discount scheme holders pay £1 for up to 10 minutes and £1 per minute after. To apply for a discount card for the new scheme contact Empark UK Ltd for an application form, email: customerservice@empark.es or by post: Express Set Down Applications, Empark UK Ltd, Mid Stay Car Park, Bassingbourn House, Stansted Airport CM24 1PZ.

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Email: lesleyprowse@aol.com

OUR SPECIAL DAY AT THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY

What a fabulous day we had at Buckingham Palace recently. I went along as Chairman of Support4Sight with our Director, Madeleine Cassidy. We are a charity for visually impaired people in Saffron Walden and received two beautiful invitations from the Lord Chamberlain (commanded by Her Majesty) to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 12th May. What excitement that caused with choosing outfits and hats. The timing was 4.00pm--6.00pm so we were allowed into Buckingham Palace via the front entrance from 3.00pm. The gardens are huge and immaculate as you can imagine, no weeds anywhere. Brass bands were playing as we arrived and the tea tent was open. There are two tents, one for the masses and the other for the VIPs and the Queen, which was decked out in gold – really special.



We managed to pile our plates up with beautifully delicate cakes and sandwiches (one chocolate cake had the royal crest on it!) to go with our tea. Then exactly at 3.40pm the Beefeaters arrived to make space for the royal family and the lines to meet specially nominated guests. At 4.00pm the royal family were there and we had the full house, the Queen, Duke of Edinburgh, Charles and Camilla – fantastic. Each had their own lines to meet guests and we managed to push our way to the front of all of them and got close to the Queen (looking lovely in bright yellow and quite short), the Duke of Edinburgh (very friendly and chatty) and lastly Prince Charles and Camilla. Charles spoke to someone right in front of me who was really very pleased and overwhelmed. He was really friendly. Finally Camilla, in bright blue, was looking very good. What a fabulous day it was and one to always remember



Iris Evans
Tel: 815848

HARGRAVE HOUSE

Hargrave House Care Hotel are having a fundraising fête and boot sale on 15th August at 2.00pm. If you are interested in either a boot sale pitch or a pitch to sell goods, please contact myself or Hayley for information. Boot sale pitches will be £7.00 per car.

Julie Cooke
Activities Co-ordinator
Tel: 817272



Stansted
Cricket
Club

The new home and away dressing room windows have been installed, part-funded by a grant from the England and Wales Cricket Trust. A successful BBQ was held after the home match on 24th May. The club is touring Weymouth and Lyme Regis from 22nd -26th June. On Sunday 19th July the annual match against the President's XI takes place, when we shall be raising money for Support4Sight, a charity based in Saffron Walden which has been of particular assistance to Bob Stoddart, one of our retired players. More details can be found at www.support4sight.org.uk. Anyone wishing to make a donation can contact Natalie on 01799 523700. After six rounds of matches the 1st XI are third in Division 1 with 5 wins. The 2nd XI are fifth in Division 4 with 4 wins. The Sunday XI has played 4 matches (winning two and drawing two). Outstanding batting performances have come from B Sammons (160), B Baker (115 and 85), C Kirby (104 no and 80 no), J Ayres (100), J Monk (97 no and 60), P Armitage (95), J Subramaniam (89), P Devoti (68 and 54 no), C Allen (67) and M Burgoine (56).

Senior home fixtures for July are:

Saturday 4 th	13.30	2 nd XI v Theydon Bois II
Sunday 5 th	14.00	Sun XI v Takeley
Saturday 11 th	13.30	1 st XI v Theydon Bois I
Sunday 12 th	14.00	Sun XI v Ashdon
Saturday 18 th	13.30	2 nd XI v Nazeing Common II
Sunday 19 th	11.30	Sun XI v President's XI
Saturday 25 th	13.30	1 st XI v Nazeing Common I

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



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



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Our June opening was fairly quiet, which I suspect was due to a lot of people being away but we sold a few more plants that were again kindly donated by John Salmon, which goes towards the upkeep of the Mill. Our souvenirs are always available even if the Mill is not open. Just give me a ring and I will be happy to show you our wares. Our customary annual Afternoon Tea at the Mill will be on the last Wednesday in July namely 29th from 2.00pm. There will be cakes, scones, jam and clotted cream, tea, coffee and squash. Do come along and sit at a table in the sun (hopefully the weather will be kind to us); what better way to spend an afternoon all for £2.50! Now for our **Fête on Bank Holiday Monday 31st August**. We need to be organised before the pre-fête meeting, which will be held in the Mill on Tuesday 21st July at 7.30pm. Please contact me if you would like a stall, charity or trade. We are still looking for a Secretary. Do give me a ring or come and see me if you can help. You would be most welcome to come along to one of our meetings to meet our committee and get a feel of how enjoyable it could be. **Windmill Open: Sunday 5th July 1.30pm-5.30pm.**



Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768

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HATFIELD FOREST HIGHLIGHTS

Summer has arrived and we have lots on at Hatfield Forest. Come and enjoy an evening by the lake watching outdoor theatre. On Thursday 23rd July the Lord Chamberlain's Men are performing *Twelfth Night*. It is a story of mistaken identity, love and lots of laughter; or why not come and see Illyria perform *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* (a story made famous by Disney's *Fantasia*) on 24th July? For both shows we recommend you book in advance, either by telephone 0844 249 1895 or www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfieldforest. July brings lots of sunshine (and always a few showers) which make it one of the best times of year for flowers. Did you know we have over 420 species of wildflower growing here? Under the trees in the coppice you will find carpets of dogs mercury, which has small white flowers and only grows in ancient woodland. The ditches along the rides which mark the coppice boundaries are excellent places to spot orchids, primroses and many other species. In these sunny but sheltered spots the flowers thrive and it is also a good place to spot butterflies and bumblebees.



We welcome lots of visitors to the Forest in the summer months and we are looking for new volunteers to help us. We are particularly looking for people to join our Visitor Welcome team. If you love talking to people and would enjoy helping others to make the most of their visit, this could be the role for you. You can volunteer any day of the week and we ideally need people to commit to at least one half day per fortnight. As a thank you for volunteering we organise social events and discounts on our retail, catering and National Trust membership.

Fiona Harrower
Visitor Experience Manager
Tel: 874043



STANSTED IS WELL READ

Our next meeting is at 8.00pm on Tuesday 14th July in The Dog & Duck, Lower Street, where we will be discussing *The Glass Room* by Simon Mawer. Do come and join us and don't worry if you haven't read the book as we find lots of other things to talk about!

Anne Watson
Tel: 07880 328746

THE BIRCHANGER WOOD TRUST

As I write this article, on 5th June, the sun is shining, but the wind is very strong and I am wondering when my body-warmer can be discarded and I can sit outside and fully enjoy the summer warmth. The birds, however, appear to be enjoying early plant shoots and are finding a good number of insects and caterpillars on which to feed their young. The buzzards have been heard and seen flying in and out of Birchanger Wood, and on 8th June our four baby swallows fledged. Whilst walking towards the Birchanger Wood Compound last Saturday, I experienced a wood-chopper being wielded and could see the resultant stacks of wood produced by Pat, Roger and all our hardworking woodland volunteers. The Wood looks good, brilliant and a big thank you to everybody. Volunteers to saw, chop and stack wood are imperative to keep Birchanger Wood in good order all the year round – please come to the Compound off Heath Row on a Saturday 9.00am-10.00am and 2.00pm-3.00pm. The bacon, tea, coffee, and camaraderie are also pretty good. Purchases of wood and chippings can also be obtained at the same time from the Compound: £10 per wheelbarrow load, £3 a bag for wood chippings (£5 for 2 bags)! As to the Compound itself and the mud issue we encounter when it rains, we have received a batch of treated wood to use as retainers to keep the stones in position and are awaiting some crushed stones which will form the new base for our Compound. The hard work of laying the underlying filament, the retaining wooden barriers and then rolling in the crushed stone is expected to be underway during the late Autumn, so as to have it all in place before winter comes upon us.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Secretary
Email: secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

The season is now well under way although a little more warmth would be beneficial! The Club were very sad to hear of the death of former member Nigel Holland. Nigel was Secretary and 2nd XI scorer for many years. He was also very eager for the Club to coach in local primary schools. The junior section remains strong at the Club with numbers in the lower age groups particularly good. Some individual performances have been outstanding including a stand of 175 between Oliver Patmore and Tom Snelling – and they still lost!!! Cricket was the winner. Andrew McKinlay has joined the coaching staff. 'Breeze' played many years for Saffron Walden and this season has skippered the MCC. Jason Brown and his son James put on 257 for the 1st XI on 6th June - a family affair and a Club record.

Cricket Camp

The Club will be running its annual Summer Cricket Camp on 17th and 18th August for ages 8 to 13 years - cost £30 (£35 for non-members). Contact me for more details.



David Brown
Tel: 831011
Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com

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MEMORY TEASER cont'd!



Thank you to everyone who responded to the photograph in last month's magazine. Lots of you recognised many of those pictured, but to date nobody has come up with why and when the photo was taken. Suggestions as to which club or organisation is portrayed have included Women's Own, WI and the Royal British Legion (women's section), and the year is thought to be in the 1970s. The occasion was obviously a celebration of some sort as there is a cake on the top table. If you know the answer to this teaser please contact the Editor – details on page 1.

Editor

BISHOP'S STORTFORD AND DISTRICT FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION (BSDFA)

www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk



The Association was founded in 1957 to preserve, protect and maintain the public Rights of Way network and rural verges in the Herts and Essex border area around Bishop's Stortford. We are a registered charity.

From 13th July - Big Pathwatch

Walkers will be able to:

1. Download the mobile app, or sign up online.
 2. Pick one or more 1km x 1km grid squares to survey (printable guidance, maps and survey questions available).
 3. Go out and walk every right of way in their square(s).
 4. Upload their responses using the app as they walk, or on the website when they get home.
 5. Upload pictures, and share on social media, as they wish.
- The survey will run until every path has been walked. Ramblers expect to publish in 2016. See www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/join-the-big-pathwatch.

Walks

Sunday 19th July - Special

Local Rotary clubs are organising a sponsored walk along the River Stort in Aid of St Clare Hospice 25th Anniversary. Walks start from Pig Lane, Bishop's Stortford, or from The Moorhen, Harlow. These walks are five miles ending with a picnic in Pishiobury Park, Sawbridgeworth where there will be a brass band, refreshments and beer tent, Kids' activities (bouncy castle/face painting), £10 adults, children free. To secure your place visit: www.stclarehospice.org.uk/events or contact Derek Crowther of Stort Valley Rotary tel 832580 email: john.crowther2@ntlworld.com.

There are no BSDFA scheduled walks for July and August

Next walks are 6th September, 20th September and 4th October.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Publicity Officer

Email: secretary@walksaroundstortford.org.uk



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The first in a series of articles featuring Stansted pubs



The King's Arms Hotel is a family run pub, with mine hosts Paul, Gary and Lorraine Moore.



Located in the centre of the village near the railway station, it is flanked by an ancient slate roofed barn with a frontage of blackened timber. The frontage of the King's Arms is of the Victorian era, but the steeply pitched roofs at the rear of the property belong to a much earlier period. Parts of the building are even believed to date back to the 16th century.

The exterior is notable for its single Gothic turret and its inn-sign, which bears a reproduction of the arms of the English monarchy. Etched on one of the windows is the Royal Standard of England.



Guests have seen Ghosts while staying at the pub. "NO" I hear you say, but yes it's true, the main areas are Room 5 and the cellar; there have been strange goings on in both these places so keep 'em peeled! The pub dog will not go into Room 5 at all! Also we have a problem with the glasses falling off the shelves in the lounge bar (by themselves) onto the floor and not breaking ... One guest was so scared they refused to spend the whole night here - SPOOKY!!!

Lorraine has actually done a full circle as her parents Danny and Jean Bailey also ran the pub from 1970-1976 and the famous jazz player George Webb and his wife Minha was landlord here from 1976 until 1987.

We have a plaque located on our front wall showing all names and dates of previous landlords from 1753 to date. We have tried to investigate further but are unable to find any more history on the pub – if anyone has any more information, we would love to hear from you! This November we actually celebrate 20 years in the Kings Arms.

Paul Moore



www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Our open day on Sunday 19th July is this year's date for our celebration of our links to WWII. Once again the talented duo *Perfect Vintage* (who went down a storm last year) will be providing musical entertainment throughout the afternoon and visitors can expect to hear all the classic songs from the wartime era. WWII vehicles and re-enactors will be on site, as well as special displays relating to our links with the RAF. If you have a vehicle or other memorabilia that you would like to bring along then do please get in touch as soon as possible. August's open day, on Sunday 16th will see Deb Hart returning to do special willow weaving crafts with our younger visitors. This is also the month when arguably the Italian Garden is at its best and well worth a visit, and we hope that the wild flowers in the walled garden will be making a show by then too. For both open days there are guided tours at 12.30pm and 2.30pm, which cover all aspects of the Gardens' history, and there will be a selection of craft stalls on site. For children there will be a range of craft and nature activities and there is plenty of space to run around - not to mention croquet on the lawn! Bacon rolls and cheese rolls will be on sale at Daisy's until 2.15pm with hot and cold drinks and delicious homemade cakes available until 4.30pm. Gates open at 11.30am and the Gardens close at 5.00pm with last entry at 4.00pm. Entrance is only £3.50 for adults, and children come in free of charge, making it a very affordable day out, especially for families. Dog lovers are reminded that their pets are more than welcome as long as they are kept on a lead. We are offering 2for1 on adult admission to readers of The Link – please bring the voucher below with you. For more information please call 01371 876979 (recorded information but you can leave a message), email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk or visit our website.

Helen Carter
Trust Administrator

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