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

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

The Link is an independent publication supported by local churches, businesses and the Parish Council. Each edition is also available on line at www.stanstedlink.org.uk

EDITORIAL



The more observant will have noticed the new logo in the 'Link' this month, provided by the Cambridge Building Society at the Community Magazine Awards 2010 (see page 4). Featured in this month's 'Link' are other local organisations and individuals who are to be congratulated for their various special achievements. Receiving recognition is always nice, especially for an unpaid volunteer, be it through an award or just a line or two in the local magazine! As a thank you, a delicious cornucopia of excellent food and wine is very much appreciated, and the recent annual Parish Reception was as convivial as ever. It was encouraging to see some new faces there, especially the younger ones. The voluntary sector may be relatively healthy at the moment, but that's not necessarily the case for local businesses. They need our support too. Instead of 'Buy British' how about 'Purchase in Stansted'? And if, after all that shopping, eating and drinking you have some time to spare, join Stansted's happy band of volunteers by contacting any one of the local organisations/clubs. You can be assured of a very warm welcome. See you at next year's Parish Reception maybe?!!

CONTENTS

Thought for the Month	2	National Childbirth Trust	15
Church News	2-3	News Item	15
Community Magazine Awards 2010	4	Stansted network	17-20
Announcement	4	Directory of Local Clubs and Organisations	21
Travelling Cats & Dogs!	4	music@stansted Summer Soiree	23
Christmas Shopping	4	Stansted Cricket Club	23
Village Events	5	Stansted Bowling Club	23
1st Stansted Cubs	7	A Right Royal Party	23
Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society	7	494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron	
Stansted Lunch Club	9	Air Training Corps	25
Stansted Mountfitchet Windmill	9	Bentfield Primary School	25
Ugley Women's Institute	9	Stansted U3A	27
Mountfitchet Garden Club	11	Murder in Stansted	27
Cyril's Gardening Tips	11	Stansted Football Club	27
Linden House	11	St Clare Hospice Update	29
Huw Johnson Club	11	Saffron Walden Open Studios	29
Stansted Tennis Club	13	Rotary Club of Stansted Stort Valley	31
Congratulations	13	Skywatch	31
Children's Recipe of the Month	13	Stansted Evening Women's Institute	33
Do You Ever?	13	Birchanger Buddies	33
Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College	14	Stansted Liberal Democrats	33
Daffodils!	14	Burton End	35
Nature Notes	15	Stop Stansted Expansion	35
Hargrave House	15	Elsenham Fete	35
		Index to Advertisers	36

Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The formal name of the Quakers is the Religious Society of Friends. This came very much to the forefront of my mind at the end of April on the Royal Wedding Day. A few weeks before, one of my neighbours suggested we should have a street party, not particularly to celebrate the wedding, but because it would be a good opportunity to get to know each other. After no initial response from the residents of the rest of the road, he gradually heard that groups of people were quite excited by the idea. Thus the planning started. It is a residential street of about 40 houses, and it turned out groups of people knew each other, but there were many neighbours who had never spoken to each other, while there were others one would smile at and say hello to, but no more. I suspect this is a fairly typical situation in the 21st century. The wedding day changed all that. The weather was good enough for everyone to come out, and almost everyone did, bearing huge platters of food. There was bunting and balloons, a barbecue, a drinks fridge, music, a quiz, table football and someone even put their television on the outside window ledge. But most of all, everyone spoke to each other, and we all got to know each other and had a great time. Children played all day in the road. That day has changed things. One neighbour has taken the photos everyone took that day and is putting them on a CD for everyone. The following morning, I went out, only for one of my neighbours to wind down the window of the car he was sitting in for a chat. Several of us have agreed to meet for a cup of tea. This is part of what I think is the spirit behind the Religious Society of Friends – get to know and love thy neighbour, be she or he a resident of the same street, town, church or planet.

Jane Mitchell
Stansted Quaker Meeting



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

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

Preachers for June

5th 10.30am Mike Dyer and The Worship Team
New Directions in Worship
12th 10.30 am Jerry Heyhoe
22nd 10.30am Rev'd Janet Tollington

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

Lenten Cross



We had a large cross displayed in the church throughout Lent. Each Sunday we added symbols to the Lenten cross, such as a bowl, towel, crown of thorns, hammer and nails to remind us of the suffering that Jesus went through. Then on Easter Day the symbols were removed and the cross was adorned with flowers symbolising the glory of the risen Christ. This is the first time that Stansted Free Church has adopted this tradition.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



Shalom

Our next meeting will be at 8.00pm on 13th June at 7 Blythwood Gardens, when we will be having a tape and discussion on 'The Moral Maze'. Our 'At home' for this month is at 8.00pm on Monday 27th June at 13 Blackbushe, Bishop's Stortford. All are welcome to any of our meetings.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



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

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

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

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

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer 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

From the Registers

April

Baptisms

24th Thomas James West,
Louise Elizabeth Gilson,
Sonia Marie Wylde,
Jack Christopher Sebastian Saunders,
Stacey Margaret Park

Wedding

30th Angela Dardis to
Michael Joseph Madigan

Funerals

18th Rosemary Helen Felstead, age 86 -
in St Mary's Churchyard
19th Mary Joyce Rozze, age 87 - at
Parndon Wood

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the final winners of the 2010-11 draws:

£100 No 80 Matt Hollis
£50 No 181 Paul Salmon
£25 No 201 Olly Pocknell

The June draws will be held in St John's Church following the 9.30am service on Sunday 26th June. There are still numbers available, so if anyone would like to join the scheme with an opportunity to win a share of the £2,500 prize money, at a cost of £2 per number per month, please call Francine on 814562 or Rosemary on 815551.

ST JOHN'S OUTINGS GROUP

I am planning a first in that I have booked a day trip to Bicester Shopping Village (don't think Braintree Freeport - it is much better!) on Tuesday 23rd August, leaving around 8.30am and returning about 6.00pm, cost approximately £20, depending on numbers. I have also booked a trip to The Arts Theatre, Cambridge on 27th September to see 'End of the Rainbow' telling the story of Judy Garland's endeavours to reclaim her career, cost around £30-£35. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested in either event.

Rosemary Thomson
Tel: 815551
Email: r.thomson321@btinternet.com



ST MARY'S CHURCH

Help Us To Raise The Roof!

From 2.00pm to 5.00pm on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June, St Mary's will be holding the Annual Churches Conservation Trust Tea Party. The party is a national event and most of the 340 churches held in the Trust will be participating. It will be advertised in the local press and radio stations and hopefully on TV. Last year Stansted raised over £1,000 for the fund. A huge sum will have to be spent on St Mary's to replace the stolen lead. We cannot hope to raise enough to cover all the cost of repair, but I hope we can show the Trust that we are doing our best towards maintaining our ancient and loved church. The programme is:

Saturday 18th at 6.30pm our U3A Choir will be singing, following the great success of their concert last year (see page 27).

Sunday 19th at 4.00pm we look forward to 'More of These You Have Loved', with Keith Turner at the organ. Last year's concert of sacred and secular music was memorable, and I am sure this year's programme of well loved hymns and patriotic choruses will be sung with huge enthusiasm.

Now an appeal for photographic material of weddings for our exhibition 'Married in Stansted'. Were you or your family married in the village? So far we know of several families who can produce photographs of three generations. If you have photographs please call Stella Rodgers 814814, Audrey Rodgers 812162 or Ros Francis 817327.





COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AWARDS 2010

The 'Link' has been entering the annual Community Magazine Awards in Cambridge for about the last 10 years without success, so we weren't expecting too much! The presentation evening was held at Cambridge Airport, and along with numerous other editors and colleagues, we were treated to a fantastic buffet courtesy of the sponsors, Cambridge Building Society. The awards are split into eight categories, and the 'Link' was one of 14 entries for the best publication published on a high frequency basis ie 10-12 issues a year. The judges noted that the 'Link' has extensive community content, is well presented, has a large amount of local information and we received a Silver Award much to our delight. Production of the 'Link' is very much a team effort, so it's congratulations to the production team and everyone involved with the magazine. My predecessor deserves a special mention; having been the editor in 2010, your persistence eventually paid off – well done Derek!



Dick Pollard and Yvonne Ayres with two of the judges.

Asked for advice on what makes a good magazine Chris Elliott, chief reporter of the Cambridge News and one of the judges said at the presentation evening, "the most important word in the world of journalism, at any level, is 'people'". Community magazines in particular only succeed with the support and involvement of local people. So a huge thank you to all our contributors, without whom there would be no 'Link'. Keep up the good work, and who knows, this year it might be a Gold!

Editor

ANNOUNCEMENT

Daniel and Bethany Harris are pleased to announce the arrival of Finlay Stuart on Sunday 8th May; a brother for Amy Elizabeth.



Maralyn Harris

TRAVELLING CATS & DOGS!

I went on Eurostar for the first time a few weeks ago and a smooth and trouble-free experience it was, and a lot less scary than flying! I'm generally a logical and calm person but I can't help a vague feeling of unease when I'm thousands of miles up in the air in a large metal tube. I even did A level physics and know all about air pressures and uplift etc, but it still doesn't help. Anyway, I was standing in the Eurostar queue to have my passport checked, and my eyes were drawn to the lady's shoulder bag in front of me. It seemed to be pulsating in a rather alarming fashion. I did wonder if I had accidentally got caught up in filming for the new series of Dr Who, but then a small brown furry head popped out of the bag; unfortunately it didn't belong to David Tennant but a miniature Yorkshire Terrier. I got talking to the owner and it turned out that the dog was a regular traveller and sat quite happily in the lady's shoulder bag for the whole journey. She proudly showed me the dog's pet passport and all the stamps in the back to show it had been treated correctly for ticks and tapeworms before it came back into the UK. It got me thinking about my dog Broccoli who is terrified of anything out of his normal routine and spends all long car journeys in the passenger foot well of our car panting heavily and trying to squeeze up my husband's trouser leg! I would never consider taking him abroad but I know many people who do travel successfully with their cats and dogs.

To travel to Europe you need to get a pet passport. First of all your cat or dog needs to be micro-chipped and then given a rabies vaccination. Approximately one month after the vaccination a blood sample has to be taken to check that the rabies antibodies are at the correct level and if all is well, your vet can then issue you with the pet passport. However, the most important thing to know is that the passport is not valid for re-entry to the UK until six months from the date of the successful blood test, so you do need to plan well in advance if you want to go on holiday with your pet. There are a few other minor points to be aware of, so if you are interested in travelling abroad with your pet, give us a ring to discuss it in more detail. Micro-chipping your pet is a great idea whether you want to travel abroad or not, and for the whole of June we are offering a 25% discount to encourage owners to get their pets chipped. Micro-chipping is a procedure that can be done by Emma the nurse, as well as us vets, which gives greater flexibility with appointment times, so really there's no excuse not to get it done. Even Broccoli the Brave has his own chip although it's extremely unlikely he'll ever have a passport!

Ilse Pedler

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

I know that it is early, but this is just prior notice that we have booked a coach to go to Norwich on Saturday 19th November leaving Stansted at 8.00am and departing Norwich at 4.30pm. Cost is in the region of £13-£14 and as usual is not confined to WI members. Anyone is welcome to come along – males included. Watch this space – more information nearer the time and the booking list is open.

Pearl Wellings
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VILLAGE EVENTS

June

1 Wed	Shine Coffee Morning Mountfitchet Club Mountfitchet Garden Club	Birchanger Hall 10 am Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm 1.30 - 5.30 pm 2 - 5 pm
3 Fri	St Clare's Flog It	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
5 Sun	Windmill Open St Mary's Church Open	31 Chapel Hill 7 - 10 pm
9 Thu	WI	before 12 noon
10 Fri	Hill Chilli	Playing Fields 1 - 4 pm
11 Sat	Link copy due in today Elsenham Fête	Chantry Hall, Henham 12.30 pm St Mary's School 1 - 4 pm
12 Sun	Lib Dem Garden Party Family Fun Day	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm 49 St John's Road 10 am - noon St John's Hall 1.30 pm St Mary's Church 2 pm onwards
11 Sat/12 Sun	Skips	Day Centre 10 am - noon St John's Church 6 pm Manuden Village Hall 2 - 6 pm Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm 13 Blackbushe, B Stortford 8 pm
13 Mon	Shalom	
14 Tue	Cricket Club Coffee Morning	
16 Thu	U3A	
18 Sat / 19 Sun	Tea Party & Concerts	
22 Wed	Huw Johnson Coffee Morning	
25 Sat	Summer Soirée	
26 Sun	Gardens Open	
25 Sat/26 Sun	Skips	
27 Mon	Shalom At Home	

July

2 Sun	Music In The Park	Bentfield School 2 - 8 pm
8 Fri	W I Quiz	St John's Hall 7.30 pm

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St Mary's School PTFA

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1 - 4 pm Sun 12th June

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Bentfield School PTA



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St Mary's Church



Sat 18th - Sun 19th June

Church Open 2 - 5 pm

6.30 pm Sat 18th June

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4pm Sun 19th June

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On the evening of 17th March the cubs took on their biggest challenge yet - a night of silence to raise money for Comic Relief. As many of you can imagine this was quite a challenge for the cubs. No-one guessed that the secret to keeping young boys quiet was asking Akela to wear a ridiculous hat! To keep them entertained we spent the evening playing several silent games, some of which were cleverly linked in to the theme of poverty and finding out about countries and children who need our help. All the cubs were fantastic on the evening; and as parents, family and friends knew this would be so hard, they sponsored generously. All the leaders at the 1st Stansted Cub group would like to thank the cubs and those who sponsored for their generosity and effort. We have sent £350 to Comic Relief. Congratulations to everyone.

At the start of our 100th year the cubs recreate the march from old home to new

In 1963 the cubs left their then dilapidated home in the old windmill which they had occupied since before the war and marched with the St George's flag in front to their new home in Water Lane. Forty years later the flag has been eaten by moths, the hall roof had so many holes it leaked like a sieve and that's not to mention the horrible kitchen and the toilets, so nasty that only the enormous spiders would go in there. The groups that use the hall have spent years fund raising, and now in their 100th year they finally have a new hut. The cubs were very kindly allowed back to the windmill for one more evening meeting and when we had seen around the very top we came down to where the scouts met in the lower rooms. We heard stories of the things they would do and the tricks they would play on visiting scout groups. We played old fashioned games in and around the windmill, then re-formed for our march back to the hut with our new flag.



It is fantastic that in our centenary year of scouting in Stansted not only do we have a new hut, a new flag and more cubs and scouts than in the last 20 years, but we also have our first girls as well. What we really need is another four leaders as good as the ones we have now, then we could open another pack, clear the enormous waiting list and bring more girls and boys into the fun of scouting. To know more about scouting or to be a volunteer leader in the village in our centenary year, please contact me.

Roger Musgrove
Tel: 816172

Email: addicted_to_cubs99@hotmail.com

As is our usual arrangement, we started our May gathering with the Annual General Meeting. Once again, the Chairman, Peter Brown, carried out the business in his usual efficient way, although three members of the Committee were standing down - Ralph Phillips (Treasurer), and Pam and Ian Seavers. Ralph has been replaced by Ray Rogers who was duly appointed. Following the business, Peter Sanders, our Vice-Chairman, gave one of his fascinating presentations, this time on 'World War II: The Home Front'. He was able to make a departure on this occasion as many of the speaking parts were given by those who actually spoke them rather than members of the Committee who usually perform.

Peter had previously given a similar talk on World War I, and started by explaining the differences between the two conflicts. For one thing, there was no false belief that 'it would be over by Christmas' and in 1939 there was conscription from the start and preparations had been made, such as the issue of gas masks and schemes for the evacuation of children from cities. In Stansted, there was another difference - in WWI billets were for soldiers; in WWII they were for children. They were in three waves: at the outbreak of war, at the time of the Blitz and with the V1s and V2s. People recalled many memories from this time. The army was in camp, mostly at Hargrave House, off Church Road and in Pump Field. The US Army Air Force appeared in due course at what is now Stansted Airport and generally they were welcomed. However, there were fights occasionally among the personnel - black versus white, Americans versus locals or white versus white - and these were treated very violently by the US Army police. On the whole though, the Americans appeared to be welcomed and to reciprocate, and there was even some inter-marrying. For a 'safe' area, it did see quite a bit of action, although this was mainly directed towards London. The Home Guard and Air Raid Precautions were kept active, together with the Fire Service and even an aircraft crashed near the village, although regrettably, it was one of our own. Although there were 900 air raid warnings in Bishop's Stortford over the time of the war, there were few local attacks and few shelters for the residents. There was one casualty among those living in Stansted but not in the village - by a V2 rocket in Chelmsford where she was working.

Peter's research and presentation was deeply appreciated and made for a very interesting evening, particularly the contributions made by some of those with first-hand memories to contribute. This meeting was the last one of the season and our next will be at 8.00pm on Thursday 1st September in the Day Centre, when George Culling will be speaking on 'Ninety wasted years: the struggle for Literacy in the 19th century'. See you then and have a good summer break!

Ian Seavers

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STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

The Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club's season began on a high note with an excellent lunch at The Great Hadham Golf & Country Club sponsored by its supporters David Brown, Nigel Holland and Bill Woodward; sadly Bill was otherwise engaged and could not be present. With 50+ Lunch Club members present, it was an early success for the Cricket Club and may lead to a new fixture with the Stansted Lunch Club Wanderers (a state of mind not activity!). If any Lunch Club member wishes to participate please contact Fintan Lambe (he is the one with the impressive striped blazer) on 812229. Consistent with the simplicity of the Lunch Club Rules (three at the last count), the only abilities required are the wit to hold a bat at the right end; the strength to hurl a ball for one chain (22 yards) in the general direction of three of six sticks (or at the batsman if he hides the sticks); and the stamina to remain standing, and alert if possible, for the length of an over, and to do so repeatedly for half the match. David Brown, Cricket Club Chairman, gave a brief and interesting account of the Club's history and activities. Personally, I was greatly impressed by the Club's outreach to its local communities, encouraging local schools to play and watch cricket and arranging social functions targeted at the fun, interest and excitement of being involved in sport. In our fractured society such initiatives are very important to the return of social cohesion and mutual respect. It was very gratifying to receive appreciative emails from members from which the following are extracted: "I very much enjoyed the event. I like the way that you allocate table places so you never know who you will be sitting with; makes for a much more interesting event." "I enjoyed the lunch, talk, and general conversation very much." Altogether a great lunch! The next lunch is on 13th July.



Alastair Richardson
Tel: 07850 295109
Email: amg.richardson@gmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Everyone loves a Windmill

I am sure our windmill is loved by us all; certainly it is admired by all who see it, many of whom are not local. I am appealing to anyone who can find two hours to spare between April and October. Whilst we still have willing Stewards we now need more. Please contact me if you would like to sell souvenirs, take admission money, or show interested visitors around our Ancient Monument. I look forward to hearing from you. Windmill openings are: 1.30pm to 5.30pm on Sundays 5th June, 3rd July and 7th August.

Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our recent meeting saw the welcome return of Barbara Haslam, her subject this year being charities, large and small, distant and closer to homeland – and a very good spokesperson for them she was too, particularly the smaller ones. She began by reminding us of the old and very true saying 'charity begins at home' and this led her to talk about the charities established to help the homeless such as the well-known Centre Point, where the homeless are fed and given a place to sleep. From Centre Point we moved onto the Whitechapel Mission - a place where the homeless can have a good breakfast and be checked over by the local doctors. She also pointed out that men's clothing is always in short supply and donations are very much welcomed by the charity, and there is a local collection point for this very worthy cause in St John's Church. From the streets of London we came a little closer to home - Waterbeach and the Headquarters of Emmaus, a charity for the homeless which originated in France, established by the Abbe Pierre, a gentleman who had helped thousands of unemployed and homeless people experience something of a near normal life. This charity proved so effective that its methods were adopted in other countries including ours. The gentle giant Terry Waite is its President. From the homeless our speaker turned her focus onto the sick and disabled and amongst others spoke about St Elizabeth's School and Home and its complex of eight bungalows built by the Leather Sellers Company. Her final topic was young people and children, and she mentioned amongst others the Cambridge University Mission which was set up with the aim of keeping young children off the streets in the poorer areas of London. Childline she described as being a superb national charity which, with its very dedicated volunteers was fantastically organised; finally a charity very close to her heart - the Rainbow Trust. Founded 27 years ago, it is a charity whose aim is to be of great practical help to parents of sick children. Careworkers go into the family home to do whatever the family needs so that they can spend as much time as possible with the sick child; a very worthy cause. So ended another interesting and certainly thought-provoking afternoon for our members, making us all very thankful that we had homes to go to.

Other highlights on the horizon include a visit from the Canine Partners charity in July, a tour of Grandad's garden in September and a visit from the Nazeing hand bell ringers in December. So why not come and join us one afternoon? You would be most welcome. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Andrea Fitt



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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

May Meeting

'Clematis throughout the year' was the subject of our first meeting of the new season. Mr Roy Nunn of Cambridge grows and breeds clematis and has several hundred plants growing in his garden and over 300 plants at various stages of growth in his greenhouse! Clematis can be found in every continent of the world with the exception of Antarctica. China alone has over 200 species whereas Europe has only six species. By using a series of slides, members were shown some examples of the different varieties available to grow, how and when to prune the various classes of clematis and how to take cuttings. An information sheet and a selection of plants were available to purchase. A lively question and answer session followed the talk, with advice on planting depths, clematis wilt, and the best type of soil being some of the topics covered.

June Meeting

On Wednesday 1st June the Club will be welcoming Mrs Margaret Waddy to talk about 'Fragrance In The Garden'. The members' competition will be 'An arrangement of garden herbs and flowers in a small jug'.

Outing to RHS Wisley – Saturday 26th June

The first outing of this year will be to the RHS gardens at Wisley in Surrey. Our trip will coincide with the 'Taste of Summer Festival'. We still have some places left on the coach so if you are interested in coming along, please phone 07919 478144 or leave a message via the website contact tab to reserve a place. Cost is £12.50 including coach, tip and entry. There are several pick-up points around the village.

Website

The 2011-12 programme is now listed on the website.

Membership/visitors

Our membership fees are £12.00 single and £20.00 double (two members at the same address). Visitors are always welcome to our meetings when there is a nominal charge of £2.50. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month (with the exception of January) at the Day Centre. In July there is an evening visit to a local garden instead of meeting at the Day Centre. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start - refreshments are available prior to the meeting. We look forward to welcoming you to our meetings.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
07919 478144

CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS

This month I am writing about the importance of keeping dead flowers cut off your plants. This will keep them blooming much longer. Plants like delphiniums, foxgloves, lupins etc will all grow secondary blooms and keep their colour longer, but all plants will gain by it, especially roses and dahlias. It is an every day job with hanging baskets. While on the subject of baskets, I water mine every day and feed with tomato feed once a week.



Cyril Stoneham

LINDEN HOUSE

The overwhelming interest from the residents of Stansted and the surrounding areas in the restoration of Linden House and its neighbour, St Stephens, verifies the significance of these buildings in our village. Sadly, as with a number of period properties in the village, these two houses were in a state of complete disrepair and would undoubtedly have perished if left unoccupied for any length of time. Steeped in history, whilst St Stephens remained a residence most recently owned by Miss Ecclestone whom many still remember (the lady who always wore a hat!), Linden House was known as Paringa Nursing Home around 1926 and became the Sargeant's family home and antique shop from 1961 until work began in January 2010. A challenging prospect with many obstacles to overcome in both planning and construction, it is gratifying to receive so many positive remarks about the renaissance of these grand buildings, particularly St Stephens, that many drove past every day and never noticed. We have strived to retain as many of the original features of the properties as possible, including the magnificent oak panelling and cornicing originally from Stansted Hall that adorns the entrance hall and restaurant. Although we have much still to do, the July opening will see the two properties become Linden House, an upmarket restaurant and informal bar, with nine guest rooms. We look forward to welcoming you in July.



An artist's impression featuring the rear of the completed buildings.

Karl and Sarah Foster
www.lindenhousestansted.co.uk



Huw Johnson Club

We hope you will support our coffee morning at 10.00am on Wednesday 22nd June in the Day Centre. It is a while since we had a coffee morning so we are hoping to see you all again. There will be the usual raffle and stalls, and we shall be very pleased to receive gifts to sell (not clothes). We are looking forward to a visit to the Jubilee Gardens in Saffron Walden, and we may even be able to lose a couple of members in the 'Maze'!! During the summer we are hoping to take members on a day trip to Dunwich, as well as visiting the Bowling Alley and Chinese restaurant in Braintree. Don't forget 22nd June – see you there!

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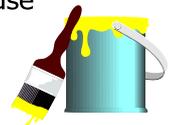
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Stansted Tennis Club



Dates for your diary:

Ladies' Night

Monday 13th June 7.00pm-10.00pm. All are welcome!

Clower Boys' Singles tournament. Sunday 12th June 12.45pm

Clower Boys' Doubles tournament Sunday 26th June 12.45pm

Club Tournament

The draws for this year's competition will be posted on the Club notice-board in early June. All those who have entered are reminded to look at the draw and arrange matches as quickly as possible to avoid a backlog.

Coaching

For more information, please contact Chris Hollis on 319155 or Martyn Taplin (Monday night adult coaching session) on 816386. Chris is currently trying to organise an extra group for younger children (Reception / Year 1) on a Tuesday at 4.00pm. There are still vacancies for the following groups:

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

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

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

Please give Chris a call if you are interested in any of these groups.

Used tennis balls

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

Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions:

Wednesday from 9.00am and 6.00pm

Friday from 9.30am. Sunday from 10.00am

Contacts

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

Chris Hollis

CONGRATULATIONS



Mark Chopping, formerly of High Lane, was married to Catherine Fitzgerald in Miami, where they now live. Congratulations and love to you both from Mum, Darran, Helen and Harry.

CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Minted Pea & Feta Cakes

Get your children 'podding' some fresh peas for this month's seasonal recipe.

Ingredients:

500g cooked potatoes

200g feta cheese

140g peas (if fresh, cover in boiling water for a couple of minutes)

handful of mint leaves, roughly chopped

1tbsp tartare sauce

season to taste

flour for coating

Method:

Mash the cooked potatoes until they are smooth.

Crumble the feta cheese into a bowl then add the peas, mint leaves, tartare sauce and mashed potato. Season to taste.

Mix well, then, using floured hands shape into eight flat patties. Dust with flour.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat.

Fry the cakes in two batches for 3-4 minutes each side, turning carefully with a spatula, until golden and crisp.

Serve with a squeeze of lemon and a green salad. Serves 4.

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



Do You Ever?

Do you ever find yourself somewhere

And wonder how you got there?

Get to the top of the stairs and stare

Pondering on why you were there?

Do you ever lose the new loaf of bread?

Search the house, the car, even the shed

Shout and curse, scratch your head

Only to find you'd bought cake instead.

Do you ever forget names of people you meet?

Even friends who stop for a chat in the street

You know them so well but their name's got you beat

So you smile and you nod, try to be discreet.

Do you ever find yourself thinking

Into senility I must be sinking.

It's certainly not down to heavy drinking

Am I going mad like George the old King?

Do you ever experience any of the above?

Please say yes – don't huff and puff

Admit it, though it may be tough

To know I'm not alone will be reward enough.

Loki



MOUNTFITCHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



Mission X Celebration Evening

This event was held at MMCC in April. The project started back in January with a Launch Day which involved all the Year 5 students from the following primary schools: Birchanger, Elsenham, St Mary's Stansted, Bentfield and Grove Primary from London, as well MMCC Year 7 students. The Celebration Evening gave all the students the opportunity to show parents and carers the great work young learners have been doing during the 'Train like an Astronaut' project in conjunction with NASA, ESA and UKSpace. There were opening presentations by special guests, Jeremy Curtis, Head of Education at UKSpace and Dr Glenys Jones, a nutritionist from the Medical Research Council. This was followed by the chance to tour our College and see demonstrations of the activities carried out during the Launch Day visit to MMCC. Parents and carers were encouraged to take part in a few activities too. Each school had displays of their work around the College. The Sports Centre had been working alongside MMCC with parts of this project and was also open for visits, giving parents and carers the chance to pick up free day passes. Visits to the library allowed parents and carers to chat to the rocket scientist John London and to quiz Dr Glenys Jones in more depth about healthy eating. A live video link with Houston, USA was operating in the library where visitors could chat to Major Tim Peake, a British born training astronaut. A rendition of 'Happy Birthday' was heard coming from the library to celebrate his birthday as he was speaking. The canteen hosted a very large inflatable planetarium into which students and visitors could step inside and see the wonders of the universe. Each young trainee astronaut was presented with their certificate for the successful completion of the mission along with a bag of space goodies including a limited edition NASA lapel pin of a moon footprint to remind them of their training. The whole mission was very successful as it raised the students' understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, and the knowledge required to achieve this. Hopefully the project will continue to be an annual event and encourage more cross curricular links within College and forge links with other schools, perhaps even internationally!

Mrs C Dunham
Head of Science

Year 10 Stepping Stones to Excellence Course

Following the success of the Year 11 Gifted and Talented Course at Villiers Park, Foxton earlier this year, seven Year 10 students were invited to attend a similar event on 3rd and 4th May. The students involved were Lydia Treend, Tom Spurden, Chloe Moulds, Chris Turner, Alex Cole, Safwan Chowdhury and Oliver James. The theme for the event was 'Mission to Mars'. Along with 16 others from a range of schools, our students were given the task of planning and budgeting for a manned mission to the Red Planet! They had to decide on the optimum number of rockets, astronauts, and the weight of everything on board including food, fuel and machinery for experiments on Mars. They had to calculate the skills each astronaut would require, the length of time the return trip would take and many other details of the voyage. The two days involved research and collaborative work in groups with students from other schools, and final group

presentations. On the second day, they visited Trinity College Cambridge, were shown round the college by students who also gave a talk on university life. On returning to Villiers Park, every student played an active role during the group presentations. During a ten minute slot, students in each group had to present their findings and answer some difficult and often unpredictable questions from tutors, teachers and fellow students. All the MMCC students are to be commended on the standard of their presentations. The winning group of six students included three from MMCC, Tom Spurden, Lydia Treend and Chris Turner. They received a prize of some sweets and a Villiers Park mug. The MMCC students who attended showed great maturity throughout the two days. Their work was of a high standard and their behaviour and attitude impeccable. It was a pleasure to accompany them to such a challenging event.

Mrs T Huckerby
Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator

House System

At the start of the Spring term MMCC moved to a House system, four houses named Eagle (green), Falcon (blue), Harrier (red) and Merlin (yellow). Points are awarded to each House for gaining merits, attendance and extra-curricular activities. Points are also awarded for participation and success in house competitions, which will occur half-termly. We shall also be moving to a Vertical Tutoring System at the end of June once GCSE examinations have ended.

Mr S Balaam
Assistant Headteacher

Forthcoming Events

Creative Arts evening Thursday 30th June, showcasing the work of our students in Art, Music and Drama. 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', a lower College production will take place outside (weather permitting) on the College field on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th July.

Miss C Beard
Head of Creative Arts

Lunchtime Music Recital

Following the success of last year's lunchtime recitals, we will be holding another lunchtime recital on Friday 15th July at 1.30pm in St Mary's Church. The recital will last approximately 45 minutes with a retiring collection at the end. The music department really enjoy performing in the church and I do hope you will be able to join us.

Mr M Rowlands
Head of Music

For further information on any of these events, please contact the College on 813384

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DAFFODILS!



I thought the daffodils in April this year on the roadside coming out of Stansted towards Ugley looked absolutely amazing; I was in absolute awe of them - they were lovely. Thank you to whoever was responsible!!

Caroline Bore



Nature Notes

*When the ash is before the oak
We are sure to have a soak.
When the oak's before the ash
We shall only have a splash*

The message in this old rhyme is certainly true this year. The oaks have been in full leaf for a while but some of the ash trees are barely showing any green at all, presumably because we have had no real rain for weeks. The ground is parched, and unless there is substantial rainfall soon it will be a poor year for crops and plant life and hardship for all those creatures that depend for survival on the bounty of nature.

The vagaries of the weather during the seasons produce winners and losers in nature and some are quite apparent this year. Roadside flowers generally described as weeds have bloomed in huge numbers this spring creating large patches of purple, blue, yellow and white flowers which many of you will have noticed when driving about. One wonders if this might be taking advantage of a perfect year for plants, or maybe a desperate race to produce enough seeds to ensure their survival through tough times ahead. In a normal year a vast number of very small caterpillars hatch out on the opening buds on the oak trees to feed on the young leaves. Bluetits time their nesting so that their young hatch at the same time as these caterpillars are available as their main diet. This year, possibly due to sunny days combined with cold north winds, our local oak tree has produced leaves but hardly any little caterpillars and the bluetits have been searching through the leaves in vain.

Today, however, while walking along Lime Kiln Lane I paused to inspect the lower leaves of an old oak growing in the hedge and on one small sprig I found at least eight different bugs, aphids, flies and galls caused by parasites. Not far away in two places the spindle bushes have become infested with the caterpillars of the Small Ermine Moth, who weave a cover of silk web beneath which they devour all the foliage. While looking at these there was a mewling overhead and I looked up to see one of the local buzzards circling about 50 feet above, perhaps expecting a handout. If so, he was one of the losers.

Felix

HARGRAVE HOUSE

Hargrave House is holding their Summer Fête on Saturday 23rd July at 2.00pm. This will be our third fete and we are hoping it will be a roaring success once again. We had a lovely hot day last year and hope the weather is kind to us again. Every year we will be adding something new; this year we will have a Bouncy Castle. Everyone is welcome, more the merrier. If you have any unwanted gifts or bric-à-brac for our tombola stall or raffle, we would love to take them off your hands! For more information please call me.

Stella Papworth
Activities Co-ordinator
Tel: 817272



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you want to be

What a success!! Over 25 children attended our traditional Easter Egg Hunt held in Linnets Wood, Ugley, and as you can see from the photo a great time was had by all. Children of all ages thoroughly enjoyed hunting for the eggs the Easter Bunny had left and due to the good weather, they stayed and played in the wood afterwards.



As well as activities for your toddlers, the NCT has a great local support system that mums with babes in arms can access. This includes electric breast pump hire – the service is available whether you are an NCT member or not and they can be hired for as little or long as required. We also have a breast-feeding support helpline open seven days a week that can offer support and information on breast-feeding concerns and queries, as well as a network of local mums who have all been in the position you are in and can help with a cup of tea and a chat. Fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates? Why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings, which are informal gatherings held in members' homes. Each age group is individually tailored for, Bumps and Babes, Toddlers and Pre-school. We would love to meet you and it is a great way of making new friends. If you have any questions or queries please contact me on the number below.

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

For all Pre-preschoolers and Pregnant Mums – Friday 3rd June at 10.00am Tea and Toys in St John's Church Hall.

For all ages – Saturday 18th June at 11.00am Elsenham Playground for Playground Fun!

For all ages – Tuesday 28th June at 11.00am Hatfield Forest Walk - meet at the first car park.

Anna Sedgbeer
Tel: 812257



NEWS ITEM

The Kings Arms has achieved the 'Cask Marque', after being personally checked by the independent organisation. The 'Marque' guarantees quality cask ales and first class service.

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

CONGRATULATIONS TO DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ON WINNING FOUR YEARS HARD LABOUR

Following the elections on 5 May for Uttlesford District Council, the following candidates were elected:

Stansted South - Alan Dean & Iris Evans
Stansted North & Ugley - Joe Rich & John Salmon

Congratulations are in order along with the hope that their efforts will show benefits for all our parishioners and for the District.

JUST BRIEFLY FROM GEOFFREY SELL

I should like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity of representing Stansted on the District Council for the last 13 years. I greatly enjoyed the experience but also welcome the opportunity now of recharging my batteries

CHANGE FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On 11 May the annual elections of the Parish Council were held and the following were elected for what will be the final year of this Council.

Chairman	Geoffrey Sell
Vice Chairman	Catherine Dean
Chair - Open Spaces	Jo Freeman
Chair - Finance & General Purposes	Peter Jones

Do not hesitate to contact these or any other members of the Council. For contact details see page 20.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - MAY 2012

Looking ahead probably to 3 May 2012, there will be elections for the Parish Council based on the new boundary which incorporates the whole of Foresthall Park. There will be nine councillors elected in Stansted South, one more than now and six councillors in Stansted North, one less in number. If you may be interested in standing for the Parish Council and want to know more, please talk to any councillor, the Clerk (Ruth Clifford) or come and listen at some of the meetings.

AN ENJOYABLE PARISH RECEPTION

The annual Parish Reception was held at the Day Centre and was attended by about 80 parishioners and other guests. This is an occasion to thank so many people who contribute their time and talents to enrich the life of this community. As is now customary, guests were welcomed to the Reception by a Guard of Honour from the ATC.



We were delighted once again that the WI ladies were willing to undertake the catering and they laid on a delicious finger buffet - many thanks to you all.

RECYCLING - NEWSPAPERS/MAGAZINES

Please be aware that following arson attacks on the newspaper recycling container in the Lower Street car park, this has now been removed and WILL NOT be replaced.

Uttlesford District Council has asked that everyone uses their green-lidded wheelie bin, or newspaper box if you are unable to have a wheelie bin. If you have more dry recycling than will fit into the bin, then papers and magazines etc may be left next to the bin in carrier bags and they will be collected.

Please DO NOT leave any newspapers or magazines down at the Lower Street car park - these only blow around and cause much more mess to be picked up.

PATIENCE REQUESTED ON GRASS CUTTING

Where daffodils have been planted the advice given is not to cut the grass until 6-8 weeks after flowering, otherwise we risk the daffodils not blooming next year. So please be patient if the grass looks untidy - it has not been forgotten and next year another great display of daffodils will again herald the spring.

BENTFIELD POND - LOOKING EVEN BETTER

Following recent work much of the growth has been cut back and cleared which has greatly improved the appearance of the pond. The warm weather has brought out many new shoots, but by the time you read this, hopefully those will also have been cut back. A low-growing limb is due to be removed from one tree, but when the contractor arrived in April, he noticed that a bird was nesting there. This will hopefully be removed next time.

Maintenance work will be undertaken approximately every three months to sustain this improved appearance.

ANOTHER TRIAL WITH NEW WHITE LIGHTS

The trial of white lights in Sunnyside was regarded as successful. Before considering whether to extend this type of lighting throughout the village in a phased programme, it is proposed to undertake another trial in another part of the village, so keep your eyes peeled.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FLORIST

We are very lucky with the quality of the retailers in the village and the service which they give so we are pleased to welcome Emily - Flowers. Good luck to them and all traders in these difficult times.

A USEFUL UPDATE ON STANSTED AIRPORT

The Managing Director of Stansted Airport - Nick Barton - attended a recent meeting of the Parish Council and, by common consent, made a good impression in terms of a willingness to be open and to build a relationship with this and other local communities following the tensions of recent years over the proposal to construct a second runway. Some of the points covered included:

- The airport will be sold and the second runway is off the agenda possibly for many years.

- Passenger numbers have fallen from 23.9m to 18m so there is substantial scope to grow before reaching the 35m approved in the recent planning consent.
- BAA owns about 300 houses and most of these will be sold off over time but every effort will be made not to saturate the property market.
- The new generation of larger airplanes is noisier than the Ryanair/Easy Jet fleets but quieter than the equivalent planes which they replace.
- The major challenge is the efficient handling of the influx of visitors for the Olympics in 2012. Stansted will be the major hub.
- Stansted Airport has no responsibility for the railway (it does not even own the station) or for the timetables but BAA contributed money to lengthen the platforms.
- Passengers arriving by public transport account for about 47% of the total, the highest percentage for any airport.
- The airport employs 11,300 which represents about about 10% of the employment in Uttlesford District. BAA employs 1,300 within this number.
- Little action likely on airspace planning for some period ahead and as a result there should be little variation in flight paths.

It is now likely that regular contact will be maintained so, if you have any issues or questions relating to Stansted Airport, please inform the Parish office (813214 or email parishcouncil@stansted.net)

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED ON FORMER SWORDER'S SITE ON CAMBRIDGE ROAD

Bellway Homes are intending to submit a planning application for fourteen houses and retaining a retail unit with offices above. The houses will be a mix of three, four and five bedrooms with reasonable gardens.

The Parish Council has emphasised the need for a footpath from Cambridge Road (by Tesco) to the Crafton Green Car Park and remains hopeful that this will be agreed.

There is a consultation programme planned which includes one-to-one meetings with adjacent residents and businesses followed by a wider consultation including an exhibition in the Day Centre.

The timing of this exhibition will be widely advertised.

HOW DOES THE PARISH COUNCIL SPEND YOUR MONEY?

Over the next few months the major areas of spending will be discussed so that parishioners can see where money is being spent and the expected changes in the budget for 2011/12.

This month spending by the Open Spaces committee, which is responsible for the appearance of the village and its recreational facilities, will be considered.

The main areas of spending are shown below:

	2010/11 (£,000)	2011/12 Budget (£,000)
Keep Stansted Tidy Gardening/Hanging Baskets	30.9	33.7
Gardening one-off Projects	12.0	15.0
Grasscutting/Hedges	-	2.0
Cemetery/Churchyard	9.0	9.2
“ Memorial testing	0.2	1.3
Play equip maintenance	-	1.0
Looking after the Environment	4.3	2.9
Other expenditure/Income ()	2.7	2.3
	<u>0.4</u>	<u>(0.3)</u>
	<u>59.5</u>	<u>67.1</u>

The following comments should put some flesh, and hopefully understanding, on these bare figures.

- **Keep Stansted Tidy** - the salaries for Gerard Frogley (litter collection) and Steve Sutton (maintains and repairs most of the assets) make up almost the whole figure. Through their efforts the village is generally kept in a good state. The increase in costs in 2011/12 represents provision for holiday cover for Gerard and full years cover for maintaining play equipment.
- **Gardening costs** include the cost of plants, the weeding and care of beds and shrubberies, the provision of hanging baskets plus the necessary regular watering. The decision has been taken to purchase more and better quality plants. Parishioners are appreciative of good displays and the improvement to date has been welcomed but only achieved at a cost.

- **Grasscutting and maintenance of hedges** contributes to keeping the village attractive and tidy. Costs depend upon the number of cuts which in turn depends upon weather conditions.
- **Play equipment maintenance** is essential to ensure the safety of our young people and to comply with legal and insurance requirements. The play areas and the skatepark are inspected and repaired as needed. A stock of specialist material for the skatepark was purchased at a good price in 2010/11.
- **The cemetery** is a parish responsibility while the costs of cutting the **churchyard** are borne as to 60% by the Parish Council. The churchyard is a difficult area to maintain and thus is expensive. The number of burials and thus the level of burial fees is difficult to predict. The Council is cautious in its forward projections. For 2011/12 fees are assumed to be £1,000 lower.
- **The testing of memorials** is a legal requirement which needs to be undertaken every five years. This regular test takes place this year.
- **Looking after the environment** covers care of trees and the pond at Bentfield.
- **There are a number of one-off gardening projects** which it is budgeted to undertake this year. These include 35 new hanging baskets more suited to our needs, additional planting of shrubs and trees in the Memorial Gardens and the planting of lavateras on the corner of Crafton Green.

Next month other areas of expenditure and income will be analysed and at the end of the process, the issues going forward will be highlighted.

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

June	1	Full Council
June	8	free
June	15	Full Council
June	22	Open Spaces
June	29	free

CONTACT DETAILS

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Catherine Dean - V/Chairman 813579
catherinemarydean@btinternet.com
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prtvrt@btinternet.com

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Email: *iris.evans9@googlemail.com*
Joe Rich Tel: 01279 813112
Email: *cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk*
John Salmon Tel: 01279 814789
Email: *cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk*

Essex County Council Member

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

Member of Parliament

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

Police

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PCSO's (Stuart/Kelly) Tel: 07801 461 666

STANSTED YOUTH CENTRE

SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOL YEAR 8+ (unless otherwise stated)

**TUES – DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD- OPEN CENTRE GROUP
6.30 - 8.30pm (AGE 14+)**

WED – BELFAST EXCHANGE PROJECT & STREET DANCE 7 - 9.30pm

**THURS – MAKATON SIGN LANGUAGE & HEALTH & FITNESS PROJECT
7 - 9.30pm**

FRI – MEDIA MADNESS (SEE SEPARATE PROGRAMME) 7.30 - 10pm

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DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Website: www.musicatstansted.com
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org		
Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 08442 436281
Bowls Club	Edward Taub Hon Secretary Tel: 816932 Email: ebtaub@googlemail.com	Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Pilots Age 5-18	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Cricket Club (adults)	David Hedge Tel: 812509	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk
(juniors)	Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cubs Scouts Age 8-10.5	Roger Musgrove Tel: 816172	Scouts Age 10.5-14	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk Website: www.skr.org.uk
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937		
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144 Website: www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk	Spangles Childrens Centre	Tel: 812348
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085 Website: www.mencapgrovecottage.org	Tennis Club	Janet Hollis Tel: 812073
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	U3A	Cherry Chair Tel: 817140
Huw Johnson Club	Marion & Tom Johnson Tel: 812284	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Lunch Club	Alastair Richardson Tel: 07850 295109 Email: amg.richardson@gmail.com	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 01371 873156/ 07920 466923
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755	Little Scrummers Rugby (new to Stansted)	Andy Poyser Tel: 07543 330713

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

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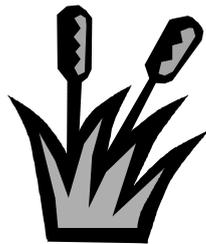
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SUMMER SOIREE

Saturday 25th June at St John's Church is the date and place set for our popular, biennial **Summer Soiree** featuring many outstandingly talented local young musicians. Our young soloists this year, performing music for a wide range of popular instruments, will include Harriet Walker ('cello), Richard Burrell (classical and jazz guitar), Josephine Wilkin (flute) with Robert Brown (piano), Toby Bruce-Jones (trumpet) and Alex Jones (piano solo). The first half of the concert will begin in the Church at 6.00pm. During the extended interval there will be supper, licensed bar in the marquee, and jazz in the church gardens. A great summer evening of entertainment and relaxation for the whole family! Tickets, which we ask you to purchase in advance please for catering purposes, remain at last year's prices: Adults £12, accompanied children £5, including food, and are available from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds, Bishops Stortford; and Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill tel 815282.

Meanwhile our regular concert series begins again at 7.30pm on Saturday 15th October, with the world-famous English Chamber Orchestra performing Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons' among other popular favourites. If you would like to be added to our mailing list and/or receive details of our subscription discount scheme, please send your details to info@musicatstansted.com or to The Membership Secretary, 25 Chantry Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2SD. For more information about **music@stansted** and details of the forthcoming season of concerts, please visit our website at www.musicatstansted.com

Richard Allaway



Stansted Cricket Club

We had a successful opening to the league season on 30th April with both XIs winning their matches by large margins. This was followed by another double success on 7th May, albeit in much closer matches. Both XIs are now equal top of their respective divisions. The Open Day for Juniors on 2nd May was a success; our junior training is now running on Friday evenings, and we have three Level 2 ECB qualified coaches running the sessions. Contact Keith Ayres on 814471 for further details. Home Fixtures for June are:

Sat 4th Jun	1330	2nd XI v Nazeing Common II
Sun 5th Jun	1430	Sun XI v Felsted
Sat 11th Jun	1330	1st XI v Takeley I
Sun 12th Jun	1430	Sun XI v Great Chesterford
Sat 18th Jun	1330	2nd XI v Takeley II
Sun 19th Jun	1430	Sun XI v Chrishall
Sat 25th Jun	1330	1st XI v Matching Green I
Sun 26th Jun	1430	Sun XI v Little Hallingbury

If anyone is interested in scoring on a regular basis, please contact me. Adults wishing to join the club should also contact me.

David Hedge
Tel: 812509



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Well, it is here at last. Our new bowling season has finally started; the weather (so far) has been very good to us, and we started the season with the opening of our green on 23rd April. Our first inter-club competition (The Perrin Rose Bowl) was well supported and the winner was our President, John Hollis, with an impressive score of 31 shots! The Wednesday night North West Essex League has started, with our A Team (who gained promotion last season) being narrowly defeated by our close rivals Elsenham in their first game of this season; and our B Team having an impressive win over Thaxted. The Ladies had their first friendly match on Thursday 5th May at home to Much Hadham where they enjoyed a very good win.

Bowling for Beginners brought along some potential new members, and we look forward to seeing them all again. If you were unable to make it to those sessions, you will be more than welcome to pop along any Friday evening and have a go. Unfortunately Edward, our Secretary, who usually writes this column, and his wife have the misfortune of being in hospital. We would therefore like to wish them both all the best for a speedy recovery.

Doreen Scraggs

A RIGHT ROYAL PARTY 29th APRIL 2011

A Royal Engagement; a Royal Wedding in the spring; the seedbed is prepared and ready for 'A Right Royal Party'. The noses of the socially sensitive in Park Road begin to twitch, their antennae to resonate excitedly and the seeds of the Party are sown. Germination sets in, a committee grows, organisation (and some disorganisation) ensue; a porker is slaughtered before the Party breaks into full flower; bunting unfurls; Union Jacks, maybe a little ragged and moth-eaten, stand erect, majestic and proud in front of numbers 19 and 21; St John's Hall tables, fresh from service with the WI, rise on their legs bearing nectar, fodder and luscious fruit; the pig turns in dignity upon its spit, filling the air with scents most appealing.



The Harvest is ready; some 80 guests assemble; the Party begins. Park Road rejoices!! Long live the Queen and Her Heirs.

Alastair Richardson

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494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

It has been another busy month for the Squadron with a number of cadets travelling with others from Essex Wing to Edale in the Peak District to successfully complete their Duke of Edinburgh Award Assessed Expeditions at Silver and Gold levels. The weather was unseasonably warm for Easter (no snow this year) and all had a great time. The Gold Award expedition takes four days and three nights and involves eight hours of planned activity per day of which at least four hours are spent journeying, so completion is no mean feat. The fact that each successful Gold participant is presented with their award at Buckingham Palace gives an indication of the esteem in which the award is held.



The annual Inter-Squadron Falklands Competition took place at Carver Barracks with 32 teams from all over the county taking part. Cadets were tested on a wide range of activities including first aid, target shooting, archery and map reading. There was an obstacle course and missile race to contend with and teams were also judged on their camp craft and initiative skills. 1312 (Southend) Squadron took the overall honours with our A and B teams turning in some very creditable performances for such relatively young teams achieving 7th and 14th places respectively.



There was great news for 18 year old Cadet Warrant Officer Alice Brooks who has made it through an arduous selection process to reach the final of the Duke of Westminster Award. She is now booked on a fantastic three week trip to South Africa including a safari and visits to Swaziland and Natal. There is now the chance for her to progress on to reach the last three where a visit to 10 Downing Street beckons. We are all incredibly proud of Alice for making it through tough competition to become one of the nine finalists in this prestigious national competition, and for securing a place on a once in a lifetime venture to South Africa. This is well deserved recognition for her achievements in the Air Cadets and her extensive contribution to the community. We all wish Alice the very best of luck in the finals.

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

Simon Stacey
Civilian Instructor
494 Squadron ATC

Bentfield Primary School

Inspire, Discover, Encourage one another

During the last week of the half term the school held its Science and Art Week. Each class chose a famous picture and used it to stimulate some science investigations and some creative artwork. The general theme was 'Water'. The week culminated in a Science Convention, which was held in the new hall where children shared science related experiments with the rest of the school. One of our members of staff, Becky Verallo, sought the agreement of the school council to support her in her own personal charity to raise £800 to provide 'Kate's water tank'. Kate and her two children live in a village called Kigazi in Uganda and Kate walks 4 km a day to replenish her water supply. Becky is going out to see Kate in the summer with the intention to build and fill a water tank for Kate. The charity organisation called J1010 is based in Lindsell but operates in Uganda. Becky is keen that all the school get involved and through 'Skype' and Internet links will keep the school fully involved with the project.

Our choir are practising for their two musical concerts this term. They will be taking part in the Newport Music Festival in June and will also be entertaining our parents at a musical concert in school. Staff are busy preparing end of year reports and they will be taking part in some in-service training on 'Oracy in Drama' on 20th June when the school will be closed for children. The first Bentfield 'Gala Ball' is to be held on 4th June at Bury Lodge. The Ball Committee hope to raise enough money to start the work on our Sensory Garden Project. I would personally like to thank the following contributors: the organising committee; Bury Lodge for providing the venue free of charge; the band 'All of a Sudden' (of Music in the Park fame) and all those local businesses who donated raffle and auction prizes, not to mention all those who attended and supported the occasion.

Cathie Bonich
Head teacher

PTA News

Advance notice that this year's Music in the Park is our 10th anniversary, and will be on Saturday 2nd July. See the 'Village Events' page for more details.

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STANSTED U3A

Good news – following our recent Committee meeting we have agreed that we can open up our membership again for residents of Stansted and surrounding locality, so if you are interested in joining us please contact Vicky, our Membership Secretary on 810985. This is mainly due to a number of members not renewing for a variety of reasons, such as moving out of area or joining another U3A.

Our next meeting will be at 1.30pm on Thursday 16th June in St John’s Hall, when our speaker will be Simon Gilbert, who will speak about his life and experiences as an opera star. In his career he has sung opposite Joan Sutherland and Luciano Pavarotti at the Edinburgh Festival and he was leading man with Ginger Rogers in the musical ‘Mame’ at Drury Lane. He also recreated the singing voice of Peter O’Toole in the film ‘Man of La Mancha’. Since 1987 Simon has run his own musical touring company putting on successful shows to the country’s most prestigious theatres – so this should prove to be a very entertaining afternoon, especially as he will also be singing some of the songs from the musicals – and as a special treat, for part of his performance, he will be accompanied by our own singers – a treat not to be missed!

On 18th June at 6.30pm, St Mary’s Church is holding an evening of entertainment, which is part of a programme of events for the National Tea Party in aid of the Churches Conservation Trust. This will be another busy time for our Singers, who will be performing as part of the entertainment; their repertoire will include a variety of songs, including easy listening, classical, folk and songs from musicals. So why not come along and listen, as I am sure you will enjoy it?

Some of the trips and outings currently available are:
Tuesday 7th June - Walking Tour in Hampstead
Friday 8th July - Riverboat Cruise and Constable Country
Further trips are currently being negotiated for the rest of the year and details should be available next month. Our website www.stanstedu3a.org is regularly updated with news and details of spaces available on trips – so definitely one to watch. Please contact me for more details of U3A.

Cherry
Chair
Tel: 817140

MURDER IN STANSTED

If you had blinked you would have missed it.

A flash of feathers, so fast, and a playful sparrow was now in the unforgiving talons of a killing machine. The hawk had materialised from out of nowhere, created instant chaos and snatched its victim as surely and as deadly as a professional assassin. It left the scene as quickly as it had appeared, a blur of movement. Our only comment to each other – "Did you see that?" This was to be our first encounter with the female sparrowhawk in our new Stansted garden, but not our last.

She found it far easier to de-feather and dismember her prize on the ground in our garden ignoring nearby large trees.

After every feather was piously yanked out, or every mouthful taken, she would look intently all round with those piercing eyes until she was content that another step was possible. A regal foot kept her prey pinned to the earth during the whole gripping session.

On another occasion, she was obviously disturbed by something unnoticed by us mortals, and in a flash, she took off with her quarry and was immediately lost to our eyes. Her speed of reaction was almost impossible to believe. Once we



were sorry to see that she had taken a collared dove, one of a pair serenely occupying the garden. After calmly but cautiously removing the feathers from the breast area, she then commenced to eat the succulent meat. Once again, she was troubled and a powerful launch sent her roaring into space and out of sight without the remains of her meal. After a while we buried what was left, but later that day the sparrow hawk returned and was obviously disappointed to find that her dessert had been taken!

That was the last time we saw her. Perhaps she met with her nemesis and was mortal after all. However the memory of her speeding, blurring pace and that defiant stare as she bestrode her prey will stay in our minds forever.

Piet de Haan



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

The football season has ended and we finished as runners up in the League, robbed of winning by a clerical error that saw us have three points deducted. However, we won the League Cup, which I am sure you will all agree was a brilliant result. Unfortunately success also means change, and the Manager of the 1st Team, Terry Spillane, is moving on to pastures new and will be managing Rymans League Division One team Redbridge next season. Some of the players will be going with him, and I believe that at least one player will be moving up to even loftier heights. Whilst disappointing for us, we understand the reason for this, as, whilst we had a team capable of playing in the Rymans League, we do not have the money to get the ground to the standard required to play in this League. Our home games also have poor attendance, despite the team’s winning ways.

At the moment we are talking to three different people who wish to bring a team to Hargrave Park and hopefully next month I will be able to tell you who will be the manager next season. Stansted has had a football team at Hargrave Park since the 1930s and it would be a shame if we had to lose the club. We desperately need your help to ensure that football is kept here at Stansted and we are looking to recruit new members onto the Committee. If you feel that you would like to be involved, in whatever capacity, then please contact me.

Lynne Furber
Treasurer
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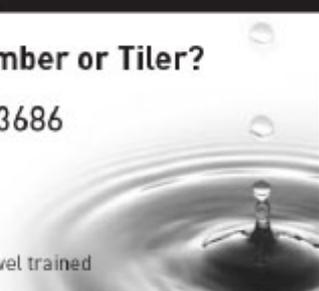
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ST CLARE HOSPICE UPDATE

Well it seems that the Hospice is thriving without me but I knew it would! Helen Greenaway, newly appointed Bereavement Counsellor and Service Co-ordinator, is building on the firm foundations already in place and ensuring that the service has easy accessibility, is effective and takes account of each person's individual needs. When someone has been very ill and dies, family and friends can be affected in different ways. The service cannot take someone's pain and sadness away but it can be there for them, to listen and support. After months or even years following a loss it is quite likely that someone can experience bewildering thoughts and feelings; please do not hesitate to contact Bereavement Support on 773767 if you feel that you are in this place. St Clare is your local hospice and our services are at no cost to its patients and their families.

May I remind you that the Stansted Friends of St Clare Hospice, with the very adept and enthusiastic wooden spoon waver Sue Hitchmough, will be holding their fun Flog It! Evening on Friday 3rd June in St John's Hall at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, entry £1. Everyone is very welcome, bring something along and Sue will ensure its sale on the night. All funds will go to the Hospice to help ensure its services for the local community.

Also in June, the Hospice is holding its 4th Midnight Walk; where do the years go? The 10km walk around Harlow on Saturday 18th June starts at 10.30pm. The staff at Redlands, the Stansted surgery, are big supporters of the event and Sandra Petchey (pictured middle front row) has done the Midnight Walk since it began and thinks it is always a fun night out; the atmosphere is amazing and everyone really gets into it. She especially loves walking through the dark tunnels and seeing hundreds of flashing bunny ears; there is something magical about it. She also likes the firemen, who definitely give you a lift when you are halfway through the walk!. Call 773750 for a registration form - remember real men wear pink!



Finally, on a personal note, can I thank those in the village who sponsored Alan and I in the London Marathon. You managed to raise over £1,000 for St Clare which made the training, the aching muscles, the negative head and heat on

the day worth it. However, never again, not even for the Hospice!



Caroline Bore
Secretary of the Friends of St Clare Hospice

Fund Raising for St Clare

Monica Pennino, owner of M&P Le Mie Perle in Florence Walk, Bishop's Stortford, has made it her mission to support St Clare Hospice for a whole year. She left the city where she worked as an investment banker to follow her jewellery design dream. Beautiful jewels and particularly pearls have always been a passion of hers and after training as a gemmologist she took the plunge and finally opened her shop in Florence Walk four years ago. She aims to sell beautiful things for everyone, so has a range of products at different prices. Charity work has always been very important to M&P Le Mie Perle and they launched the business via a charity event. For 2011 they decided to concentrate their efforts on a selected local charity and chose St Clare Hospice. The care St Clare provides is incredible but the funds required are astronomical. It's nice to do one-off things but it is even better to give a whole year's focused support. During the year M&P will have various themed collections on sale with 10% of the sales going directly to St Clare Hospice. I just loved the phrase Monica told me about wanting to sell 'beautiful things to everyone' and it reminded me a lot of what hospice care should be about; care which is amazing and available to everyone. St Clare are very excited about this partnership as it's something new for them as a charity. They are going to launch the venture with their first collection going on sale during May and June, called 'All Shades of Pink' to match the Hospice's pink-themed Midnight Walk which takes place on 18th June. Visit 6 Florence Walk, North Street or telephone Monica on 655451.

Sarah Calder



SAFFRON WALDEN – OPEN STUDIOS

18th-19th & 25th-26th June 2011

www.saffronwaldenartstrust.co.uk/openstudio2011

Saffron Walden will be hosting its second Open Studios event this summer, organised by the Saffron Walden Arts Trust. Visitors may enjoy a wide variety of art, from pottery to painting, wood turning to textile work. Combine this opportunity with a drive along picturesque Essex country lanes to travel from one studio to the next and you have the perfect combination for two weekends of stimulating diversion. Twenty-three artists from Saffron Walden and surrounding villages will be taking part. The artists will open their studios so that visitors may have an opportunity to talk to the artists in their own private creative spaces. Come along and find out what inspires them, their techniques, and their approach to creating a piece of art. You may also find just the perfect item for your house or garden, as most of the artist will have works of art available to buy. Many of the artists are available to work to commission and could advise on where to go for further tuition if you are looking to develop your own artistic interests. A full colour brochure with details is available from the Tourist Information Centre (tel 01799 524002), art galleries and other outlets and venues in and around Saffron Walden.

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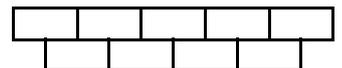


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ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

Our Club had a busy April. We were on hand in Bishop's Stortford with the Rotary Club of Bishop's Stortford helping Stroke Association Professionals offering a free blood pressure reading and advice service. Over 100 patients were seen, of whom 24 were advised to see their GP for further investigation and one was sent to his GP as a matter of urgency. Delegates and partners attended the Rotary in Britain & Ireland Conference in the lively city of Dublin and were treated to a wide-ranging and moving speech by Terry Waite, who made a case for the civilised world to strive more for peace, although conceding that military force had to be kept as a regrettable ultimate option. We also listened to a number of engaging people making impressive presentations which brought home the scale, variety and impact of the good work done by Rotary at home and overseas including the worldwide elimination of polio, now tantalisingly near completion. Our visit also included a generous smattering of enjoyable social events.

We had three impressive speakers at our meetings. Cllr Tony Jackson gave us an informative insight into the changing world of the local politics in the 21st century. Cllr Norma Symonds collected a £500 donation and spoke with passion about the transformation she has seen in so many of the local young since the Havers Action Team opened its Youth Club. She is proud that some of the older members are becoming role models, themselves helping with younger members. We were also joined by Brian Moore, a trustee of St Clare Hospice. He told us how the St Clare Hospice Trust was formed in 1989 to offer specialist care for those with terminal illness in our local community and has now developed into a specialist support and care organisation with a beautiful and well equipped hospice centre at Hastingwood. The hospice has a highly trained medical support staff, a small team of efficient administrators and an army of volunteers. Brian said that the challenge the Trust is now working on is to take caring, of the quality established at the Hospice Centre in Hastingwood, into patients' own homes. It is often stated that, despite the amazing advances made through science and more stable and enlightened government institutions improving the lives of humankind, we have not yet found ways to die with dignity and without suffering; the St Clare Hospice Trust is striving hard to rectify this.



The photo shows Vice President David Scott presenting the cheque for £1,000 to Brian.

We meet on Tuesday evenings at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford. Please contact me for more information about Rotary.

Peter Latham
Tel: 507294

Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net

SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



Something of a 'two-parter' this month. *Part the First*, is the fact that among the myriad types of rocks that the Earth comprises, geologists sometimes find a hand-sized piece that does not match anything around it. Some of those pieces turn out to be from Mars. How do we know that and how did they get here? We have yet to go to Mars in person and bring back some Martian soil but, from Earth, we have been able to study the nature and chemical makeup of Mars with the several unmanned missions to different areas of the planet. The results lead us to be confident that these odd bits of rock are truly of Martian origin. They arrived here as a result of a collision between Mars and a wandering asteroid some millions or billions of years ago, which sent out a lot of Mars around the Solar System. That some pieces came our way is down to our old friend gravity, though these bits of Mars may well have been floating in the Solar System for millions of years until the Earth and rocks were in the right place.

Part the Second. You may remember that in the late '90s one of the Martian rocks became famous for appearing to have a fossil of something akin to a small worm: indeed the 'fossil' was very small and needed an electron microscope to see but it certainly stood out and had clear features against the general roughness of any lump of rock. It made world headlines and even President Clinton was impressed. The interest of the media soon wandered off to other stories and it became just one of those things. But now a few other similar 'fossils' have been discovered in other samples and once again are attracting the interest of the scientific world especially those who look for the origins of the life that became you and I. The planet Saturn and some of its moons have been continually monitored for three or four years, and still are, and the elements required for life as we know it are suggesting that life, in whatever form, might be a bit closer to us than we realised. Earth itself still amazes us. New bacterial life is found in the most wretched (to us) of environments in the coldest and the hottest places. There has recently been discovered some type of bug that secretes ... arsenic.

Martin West

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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Barbara Haslam was a welcome speaker at our April meeting, the advertised one being unable to come at the last minute; she spoke about her chance to design and then make a Moorcroft vase. Barbara has a background in science, and on retirement took up her real love which is art. She has written and illustrated a book for children, has had an exhibition of her watercolours at a gallery in Stevenage and also designs greetings cards for the Rainbow Trust. She bought the opportunity to design the truly beautiful vase at an auction and this took her three months. She based it on some illustrations from her book. When she went to the factory she had to trace it and transfer the design on to an unfired vase, which was not easy. It was then passed to colourists and had several firings. The result is a unique piece of pottery worth several thousands of pounds and made members extremely nervous when she handled it rather casually at the meeting!

Our Group Meeting at the end of April, when five Institutes in the area came together for one big meeting, also took place in St John's Hall but was hosted by Ugley Institute. The thing every President dreads seemed as if it was going to happen - the non-arrival of the booked speaker! At 7.45pm we heard that Maggie Stredder was somewhere on the A120 having driven from Surbiton in Surrey. The meeting began with 'Jerusalem' (of course), the minutes of the last meeting were read, we had news of events happening in the county, we did the quiz intended for the other end of the evening, we drank some rather good fruit punch and sent a member off to collect notes of a talk she could give instead! Maggie Stredder was found to be in Elsenham; somehow she had bypassed Stansted. Help was dispatched to steer her the right way and an hour late she arrived to great relief all round and the refreshments were served to calm everyone down, not the least her! She turned out to be a real trouper and wearing white trousers, a fuchsia top and a very large diamond ring launched into her life story with gusto. She had been one of the 'Vernon Girls' who were formed at Vernon's football pools company in the 1950s in Liverpool. They recorded several albums and then appeared on the ITV show 'Oh Boy'. Maggie was asked to wear her glasses and this made her a celebrity over night. She formed the 'Two Tones' and the 'Ladybirds' and appeared on the Benny Hill Show, Top of the Pops and many Royal Variety Shows. She also sang the backing songs for many advertising jingles, which she belted out with great gusto as the evening finally drew to a close, rather later than usual!

In June we are having a look back at Butlins Holiday Camp, Clacton when Norman Jacobs comes to speak. Why not come and join us at 7.45pm on Thursday 9th June in St John's Hall. Look out also for our Quiz Evening on 8th July open to all, tickets £8 includes a ploughman's supper.



Judy Colliver



BIRCHANGER BUDDIES

Birchanger Buddies is a baby and toddler group for 0-5 year olds and is held in the Birchanger Village Hall every Friday 1.30pm-3.00pm. We opened on 28th January and have had a successful, fun-filled couple of months, with children of all ages and their parents, grandparents and carers coming to enjoy themselves. We offer a wide range of activities, including a baby area, arts and crafts and playdoh, imaginative play in the toy kitchen, physical play within the ride-on area, as well as puzzles, building, books and a tray for messy play. At every session there is tea and coffee for the grown-ups in the kitchen and a healthy snack and drink for the children. All followed by singing and story time to end a fun-packed session. On 18th March we had a red day to have fun and raise money for Comic Relief's Red Nose Day. Almost everyone came wearing something red and we made some glittery red nose monsters and Gruffalos. Along with donations and a small raffle we raised a modest £23 for the cause. So well done and thank you to everyone who came. Birchanger Buddies is a non-profit group run by a committee of mums all with children under 5, supported by Spangles Children's Centre and sponsored by local businesses. We charge only £2 per family to cover costs. We are very much a community led group and if you would like to help on our committee please let us know; all help, big or small, is very much appreciated. If you'd like to know more about coming to the group or becoming a committee member, please contact us at birchangerbuddies@gmail.com, or call Gemma on 07582 683140. We look forward to seeing you.



STANSTED & DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Our first summer event will be a garden party with a Texan theme at Chantry Hall, Henham, on Sunday 12th June, from 12.30pm to 4.00pm. The admission price of £8 will include a buffet lunch, and entertainment with line-dancing. There will also be a bar and raffle. For further information please ring 814222 or 813579.

Ruth Rawlinson

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BURTON END

The picture on the cover of this month's 'Link' is the old village pump outside 'Four Winds' at Burton End, where in bygone days the villagers would congregate and spread the gossip. It was adjacent to the village shop, ie the cottage just off to the left of the picture, and served as the main meeting place. Burton End was part of the Stansted Hall Estate. The people either worked at the Hall or on one of the farms which formed part of the Estate. The larger houses, such as Burton Bower and Burton Bury, were occupied by the Estate Managers and the house now called 'Moorlands' was the Stansted Hall Laundry. Every Sunday there was St Mary's Church. Although made redundant in 1990, it is still used for funerals and other occasional events. Social life centred on The Ash beer house which until the 1960s had the characteristics of a country parlour where Mrs Stanfield presided from a 5 ft long bar. Until recent days Burton End was the home of Kenny Ball, the celebrated jazz trumpeter.

Everything changed in the first two decades of the 20th century. William Maitland, the eldest son, had been killed in World War 1 and another son, Richard, was trampled by an elephant whilst hunting in Africa. In 1923 the Fuller Maitlands sold Stansted Hall to Arthur Findlay and the Estate was broken up, some of the cottages going for as little as £50. Now, of course, it is the headquarters and conference centre for the National Spiritualists Union.

In 1933 Burton Bower was sold to Edmund Cawkell who owned Rochfords Nurseries. Paul Hendry, who had handled the sale of the Estate, retained a couple of acres and built 'Turners Spring' and 'Scorbins' for his family. Mr Cawkell donated Turners Spring Woodland to what has become the Essex Wildlife Trust. After the break up, work in agriculture declined and many of the workers went to work at Rochfords Nursery.

During 1942 the American 9th Airforce built Stansted 'Air Base' as a home for Marauder Bombers which played an important role in the Normandy Landings. It was later handed over to the RAF with George Belcher as the Commanding Officer and was eventually selected as the third London Airport. The Belcher family settled in Burton End after the War and is still there today.

Another significant development was the extension of the M11 motorway, which cut Burton End off from Stansted Hall, St Mary's Church and the field formerly used by Stansted Hall Cricket Club. It seemed for a time as though Burton End was cursed; however, since those dark times fortune has smiled upon us.

Firstly the M11 has been resurfaced in a super quiet finish which is very effective. The Noisy Compass Testing Facility has been taken away and the noise of 'ground running jets' has been eliminated by installing electrical plug points at aircraft parking areas. Furthermore, modern aircraft are much quieter. Finally, with the scrapping of the planned second runway and the, albeit temporary, reduction of air traffic, Burton End has once again become a delightful part of Stansted in which to live. We would, however, like to have our seat back!

David Harrison and A N Other



Noisy planes – and now helicopters ...

Noise from overflying aircraft remains a problem for many in the community, particularly freight planes and the troublesome Air Asia X service. Increasingly, however, helicopters are also causing noise nuisance too. There are currently around 10 flights a day by helicopters using the airport and they are meant to fly along the A120 axis, turning at Bishop's Stortford, but many apparently cut the corner. While the helicopters cannot be fined for their deviation from agreed routes, it is worth using the airport's noise complaints system to register your annoyance so that the disturbance begins to appear in noise and track keeping reports and calls for action made by SSE and others can be backed by evidence. To report noisy or off-track helicopters or other aircraft, see the 'complain about noise' page at SSE's website at www.stopstanstedexpansion.com and give as much information as you can in response to the questions listed. There is a guidance form on what you can expect (linked from the online form) which also spells out the helicopter procedures and other aircraft flights' policy in more detail for those who are interested. Your reports will be sent straight to the airport with a copy to SSE's noise team who will be able to draw on your experiences to press for a UK-wide approach to helicopter overflying and other more general noise issues with its colleagues across other community campaigns. Further information is available from SSE on 870558.

Carole Barbone
Campaign Director
Mobile: 07775 523091
Email: cbarbone@mxc.co.uk

ELSENHAM FETE

You are invited to join us on Saturday 11th June from 1.00pm until 4.00pm on the Elsenham Playing Fields for our Village Fete. There will be lots of entertainment for the children, including the ever popular Punch & Judy Show. One new and interesting find is the Saffron Walden Metal Detecting Group which will be holding a treasure hunt and putting on a display. The Herts Hogline will be showing off their lovely prickly hedgehogs and then of course there will be the pony rides, bouncy castles and lots of other fun stalls and games. We provide plenty of opportunity to eat and drink during the course of the afternoon: The Football Club will be hosting its tasty barbecue. There will be a licensed bar in the Memorial Hall, together with a cake stall and refreshments (including not-to-be-missed bread pudding and cream teas). Outside on the field, there will be ice cream, slush puppies, popcorn and candyfloss. Arena entertainment will be provided by the Footlights Dance Studio from 2.00pm and there will also be a display of line dancing and a chance for you to have a go! Entrance is only 50p (accompanied children free) and you will be given a lucky programme; so make a note in your diary now to join us!

Sue Johnson & Jennifer Jarvis
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Index to Advertisers

		Page			Page
Animal Care	Mercer & Hughes	BC	Household Furnishings	Fabrications	24
	Stansted Dogs Pet Services	22		Kate Harrison	24
Art and Craft Ballet	Millway Stationery	10		Ken Carpet Fitter	24
	Graham School of Dance	16		Stansted Carpets	24
Car Services	Mitchell School of Dance	16		Stort Blinds	FC
	D Bonney & Sons	22	Household Services	Amanda Wells	16
	David Nunn's Garage	30		A Better Aerial	28
Stortford Audio	10	Bin Done		BC	
Community & Care	Carers UK	8		Chelmer Chimneys	24
	Hearing Help	30		A&M Collins Roofing	BC
	Helpline	8		Do-It-4U	22
	Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club	26		D T Bedroom Design	FC
Computing	Uttlesford Carers	32		Fairweather Windows	FC
	Ugley Village Hall (for hire)	32		Finch and Son	BC
	Alan Horsley (Computer Repairs)	8		Gillson Carpentry & Joinery	28
	Lan One (Accessories & Repairs)	26	Gill Owen	24	
Dressmaking Education	TCS (Set Up & Repairs)	26	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	12	
	Alterations by Manuela	BC	Herts & Essex Window Doctor	24	
Electrical	Adult Community Learning	26	Intense Cleaning	12	
	Kiddy Cook	26	JP Tiling	28	
	High House Montessori Nursery	30	Luxury Toilet Hire	32	
	Rainbow Pre-School	30	Newman's Home Services	28	
	Spanish Lessons	10	Nouvelle Carpentry & Building	30	
	St Nicholas School	26	Oven Bright	8	
	Stansted Childminders	26	Pest Control	22	
	Albury Electrical Services	28	Ada Decorating	FC	
	A&I Electrical	16	Lesley Anne	12	
	Ethical Electrical	28	MWR Interiors	12	
Financial & Legal	Stansted Electric	28	Perfect Plastering	12	
	Greenways Financial Planning	34	Ray Morton (Decorating)	8	
	Mansell & Co	BC	Shutes Painting & Decorating	16	
Food & Lodging	Pothecary Witham Weld	34	T F Plastering	12	
	Tee Financial	34	Personal Services	Bonne Santé (Beauty)	BC
	Chocolates for Chocoholics	32		Fancy Fingers (Beauty)	32
	Eddie Ho Fish & Chips	8		Glynis Cheers (Hypnotherapy)	30
	Itsamaison (Holiday Cottage)	32		R Handford (Chiropody)	10
	Pocknell Food Co	32		Julie Golden (Chiropody)	8
	The Cock (Stansted)	BC		Lino Thomas (Hairdressing)	10
	The Dog & Duck	BC		Lower Street Clinic	6
The King's Arms	BC	Jan Rickwood (Baby Massage)		32	
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	34	Stansted Chiropractic	6	
	J Day & Son	8	Sole Reflexions (Reflexology)	32	
	D C Poulton & Sons	34	Stansted Psychotherapy	30	
Garden Supplies, Services & Floral	N W Brown (Landscapes)	8	Ursula Capell (Hypnotherapy)	24	
	Crystal Clear Ponds	30	Williams (Osteopath)	6	
	Anthea Harrison Garden Design	22	What's a name's (Hairdressing)	BC	
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	BC	Pilates	Back to Basics (Pilates)	6
	H ₂ O Plants	22		Tone Pilates	6
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	Mayfair Ponds	FC	Chris Osborn (Brickwork)	30	
	The Secret Gardener	8	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	12	
	Violets & Velvet	8	Jason Bagge Architecture	12	
Heating & Plumbing	Harpers Plumbing & Heating	BC	David Fortune (Builder)	BC	
	JDW Gas Heating Specialist	16	Persimmon Homes	34	
	Jones & Co (Plumbing)	28	Westwood Building & Construction	16	
	Orion Heating	24	A C Wright Building Contractors	12	
	Ray the Plumber	28	Retailers	Family News	32
Stansted Gas Services	28	John Wilson Jeweller		10	

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