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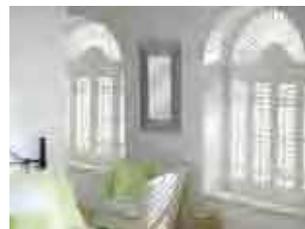
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Cover photo:

Village sign at junction of Blythwood Gardens and Silver Street

Editor:

Yvonne Ayres
01279 814706
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

Advertising:

Mike and Marion Dyer
01279 814059
adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk
Or check on website for prices

Distribution Queries:

David Horton
01279 813680
distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk

Treasurer:

Alan Wheeler
01279 813745
accounts@stanstedlink.org.uk

Directors:

Malcolm Lloyd (Chairman)
Susan Bone
Catherine Dean
Sarah Ludlow-Elston
Dick Pollard

Printers:

CZ Design and Print
01279 657769

CIRCULATION:

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CONTRIBUTIONS:

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

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EDITORIAL



The Link recently received an invitation from the PR person of a large organisation to attend a special event 'along with your photographer'. That's the trouble with producing a professional-looking magazine – people assume professionals do it! The Link is put together by a very small, hard working team of unpaid volunteers that doesn't include a photographer (any offers of help in that department very welcome) and we rely on organisers/attendees of local events to provide us with reports and photos. So, please bear that in mind next time you go to a local function; we're happy to consider articles and/or photos submitted from anyone in the community, as well as new ideas for future features. The annual reception for volunteers hosted by the Parish Council is always enjoyable and this year's held in May, was no exception. It was good to meet the new parish councillors (see page 19) and the food, prepared as usual by the WI, was delicious. Thank you to all involved for a lovely social evening. Remember that parish councillors are also volunteers who work tirelessly for the good of Stansted so please help and support them whenever you can.

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Stansted Network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Who are you following?

Whereas in the past people followed football teams or bands, in our technological age this phrase has taken on a whole new meaning. Millions follow the fads, opinions and daily banalities of famous people, or even the latest 'trending' topic, on Twitter. All kinds of people and things can be 'followed', including - on the eve of the recent election - #Paddy Ashdown's Hat (which as we know, was soon to become breakfast). This whole following scenario bears a curious resemblance to the practice of following Rabbis (Jewish teachers) in New Testament times. A rabbi's followers or disciples would literally follow him around day after day, listen to his teaching, do what he did, learn what about what he valued and practised, and grow more and more like him over a period of months or years. Jesus' disciples did the same and it dramatically transformed both their individual lives, and the course of history. The most important words and actions of Jesus and his disciples were recorded for us, not just by his followers, but by Roman and Jewish historians of the day.

It is a sobering question – are we being subtly transformed by the values, opinions and lifestyle habits of others as we 'follow' them in our everyday lives? (Not just on Twitter – maybe influenced by the opinions of people we read about in magazines/newspapers, our favourite authors, TV presenters, people we vote for and even members of our family.) Sadly some of those we follow, in time fall from grace through scandal, character flaws, or just waning popularity as the world moves on. As Alec Guinness once famously said, "Who is more foolish, the fool or the fool who follows him?" Who are you following? Let's choose our 'rabbis' carefully.

Followers at June 2015: @justinbieber, 63 million+ @BarackObama, 58 million+ Jesus Christ, 2 Billion+



Ros and Howard Page
Family Church



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

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

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

Preachers for June

7th 10.30am Nicola Grieves – New Directions
14th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler
21st 10.30am Rev'd Jenny Martin
28th 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins - Communion

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

Our free Wednesday and Friday drop-in, with Art for All on the first Friday, and storytime on the third Friday of each month. Free refreshments and internet, good company, space for the children to run around, plus a quiet area with comfy seating. Come and join us – all ages are welcome. For more information telephone Marion and Mike on 814059.

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Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AE

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am



At 8.00pm on Monday 8th June, we are having a 'Memories of Chevetogne' evening at 7 Blythwood Gardens. The venue for our 'At Home' at 8.00pm on Monday 22nd June is 13 Blackbushe, Bishop's Stortford. All are welcome to both meetings.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



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

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

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

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

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

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

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

From the Registers

April

Baptisms

5th Nina Rose Williams
Tillie Mia Felstead

26th Max George Gruffydd Pritchard

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

The winners of the last draws for 2014/15 in April were:

£100 No 82 - Stephen Higley
£ 50 No 85 - Paul Embleton
£ 25 No 177 - Paul Salmon

Congratulations to 38 winners over the last 12 months, who won a share of the £2,500 prize monies. Many thanks to all those who have renewed their membership; to those who have just joined - welcome to the Club and good luck! If you would also like to be in with a chance to win, there are still numbers available, £2 per number per month up to a maximum of five per household. Please contact me for an application form or further details. The first draws for the new year are on Sunday 31st May and Sunday 28th June in St John's Church following the 9.30am service.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562

ST JOHN'S MAGNA CARTA SERVICE

On Sunday 14th June, there will be a special service to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta. The service will begin at 10.30am (note **no** 9.30am service that day) and will be followed by a picnic lunch and/or barbecue in the Memorial Gardens with some fun activities included. Please see posters around the village for more details. Everyone is warmly invited.

Francine Cope
Tel: 81456



www.stanstedfamilychurch.com

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

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

Our @27 meeting this month will be on Wednesday 17th June, 7.30 (coffee) for 7.45pm with contemporary worship and a talk on a Bible-related topic. For details of topic, venue etc please contact us. We are currently getting ready for our Summer events including the Family Café day out at Frinton in July, the Bouncy Picnic on the Rec (date in August to be confirmed), and looking forward to the many community events in Stansted over the next couple of months, including those relating to the Magna Carta. We are particularly looking forward to the celebration of 25 years work of the Stort Valley Schools Trust (see next page). Thanks are due to those from Churches Together in Stansted who organised an excellent open meeting (see below) before the recent election. It was well worth attending, with a variety of great questions from the audience and gave everyone an opportunity to hear from all the candidates who were present.



Ros Page



In preparation for the May General Election, Stansted Churches Together held an open meeting on 14th April in St John's Church, to which all the local candidates were invited. Rev'd Paul Wilkin hosted and I chaired, assisted by Sue Moloney. The meeting was well attended by about 80 people and all but one of the candidates. Everyone concerned were polite and respectful of each other, and a wide range of topics were raised and discussed including the NHS, education, electoral reform and our aging population. After having overrun our projected time of one and a half hours, the proceedings were brought to a close with the feeling that it had been a very successful evening. Everyone was very grateful to the candidates for taking the time to answer questions and it was clear that both questions and answers were both thoughtful and thought provoking. We were pleased that such a successful event was covered by the local press; it even made the lead story of the Stansted Observer that week.

Jane Mitchell
Clerk of Stansted Local Quaker Meeting



FRIENDS ST MARY'S CHURCH

A number of our ancient churches are noted for their 'brasses'. For those of us lucky enough to be in St Mary's church on 9th May another type of 'brass' was in evidence. A visit from Bishop's Stortford Band was enjoyed by a large audience. Under their conductor, Iain McDonald, they played a varied programme of popular brass band favourites including Herb Alpert, 'Hymn to the Fallen' and Irving Berlin. The wonderful acoustics at St Mary's enabled the band to present a big sound in a magical location. There was still room for more in the church so I suggest you watch The Link for future events, and a visit to the church in its own right you will find rewarding ... and they make a mean cup of tea! The church is open daily 11.00am-3.00pm and teas are served on the first Sunday of each month 2.00pm-5.00pm

Derek Francis
Tel: 812520

Church Bells

We spent a delightful hour listening to the Quarter Peal, rung by the Bell Ringers at St Mary's at 11.00am on Saturday 9th May to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE day. It was a wonderful tribute, particularly as we knew that cathedral and parish church bells were ringing right across the country at the same time. It was a very uplifting experience and we would like to thank the Bell Ringers for their skill and contribution to a wonderful national event.

John and Janet Hollis



25th Anniversary Tea

We are holding an Afternoon Tea on Sunday 28th June 2.30pm-4.30pm in the Day Centre to celebrate 25 years of our work in local schools. The trust employs schools workers to help students consider and explore the Christian faith. It is an opportunity to meet with schools workers and supporters past and present, and to find out a little bit more about the Trust's current work. If you have been connected to the Trust in any way over the last 25 years, or you are interested in finding out more about the work of the Trust or even thinking about becoming one of our many local supporters, please join us. We look forward to seeing you there! For more details about the event or the work of Stort Valley Schools Trust (SVST) please contact me.

Vicki Sweeney
Tel: 07971 227240
Email: vicki@sweeney.org.uk

HILL CHILLI

Friday 10th July 7.00pm-10.00pm 'Sonia's Place',
31 Chapel Hill

Tickets £10 including food and complimentary glass of wine. Vegetarian option on request from 815282 or 816407. Lovely food and good company. All proceeds to St John's Church Hall Funds.

St Mary's C E Foundation Primary School



Learning together we care, share and prepare
www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

The classes have now completed the block of work on the Magna Carta and we have found our winners for the Art and Writing prizes in the Stansted Business Forum competition.



The project was efficiently run here in school by Mrs Greenway, our Year 1 teacher and subject leader for Humanities. St. Mary's theme was 'King John and the Plantagenets'; each class has considered different aspects of the theme, in particular the character of King John. To find the winners the classes selected their best pieces which were displayed anonymously and then all the staff in the school took part in a final vote. Congratulations to our winners:

Art

1st: Matilda Bryan 2nd: Oliver Reeves 3rd: Joseph Mitshabu

Writing

1st: Ray Tyler 2nd: Tegan Griffiths

Ofsted Report

On the subject of congratulations, St Mary's has been celebrating the outcome of our Ofsted inspection at the end of April. The report is now official and is available to view on the Ofsted website and on the school website. It is a positive and very enjoyable read! The school has been judged Grade 2 (Good) in all aspects, and there are elements of our practice that the report indicates are particularly strong. In summary, the children make good progress and achieve well. Attendance is above average, pupils behave well, they are polite, courteous and enjoy learning. The teaching is good, TAs are effective and governance is capable. We are very proud of St Mary's and its performance and have been waiting for this report to make public what we in school all know – that we are a 'Good' school, strong in many aspects of our practice, aware of what we still could improve and ambitious to maintain and continue to develop our good provision. While we are happy the long-awaited inspection is now over (until the next one!), our drive to improve is as strong as ever! If you are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school, please call us to arrange a visit. Meanwhile, you may learn about the school from our website.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher
Tel: 812212

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

Furneux Pelham School SG9 0LH



12 Noon Sun 7th Jun
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WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

3	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
7 & 21	Sun	Skips	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
7	Sun	Family Café	Lower Street Car Park 9 am - 1 pm
		St Mary's Church Teas	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
		Happy's Circus	2 - 5 pm
		Windmill Open	Furneux Pelham School noon
8	Mon	Shalom	1.30 - 5.30 pm
9	Tue	Dementia Café	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
11	Thu	Link copy in due today	Quaker Meeting Hse 10 am - noon
		WI	before 12 noon
13	Sat	Ugley Fête	Day Centre 7.45 pm
14	Sun	Magna Carta Service	Cottage, Snakes Lane 2 - 4.30 pm
		Open Day	St John's Church 10.30 am
17	Wed	Neighbourhood Watch AGM	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 4 pm
18	Thu	Stansted U3A	Day Centre 3 pm
20	Sat	Open Day	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
		Village Fête & Craft Fair	Mountfitchet Hse 11 am - 3.30 pm
21	Sun	Charity Dog Walk	Elsenham 1 - 5 pm
22	Mon	Cyclist with copy of Magna Carta	Mercer & Hughes, S Walden 11 am
		Shalom At Home	St Mary's Church 10.30 am
23	Tue	Magna Carta Embroidery	13 Blackbushe B Stortford 8 pm
27	Sat	Magna Carta Medieval Fayre	Forest Hall School 6 - 8 pm
28	Sun	Family Café	Stansted Hall noon - 5.30 pm
		Stort Valley School Trust Tea	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
			Day Centre 2.30 - 4.30 pm



Holy Trinity Church Littlebury

SUMMER FETE

2 - 4.30 pm Sun 14th Jun

Admission Free

Midsummer concert

4 pm Sun 21st Jun

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For more information call

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Magna Carta 800 Medieval Fayre

Noon - 5.30 pm Sat 27th Jun
Stansted Hall

Falconry ~ Longbow Demonstrations

Morris Dancers ~ Maypole Dancing

Jousting on Horseback

Hog Roast ~ Real Ales ~ Refreshments

Tickets Adults £8 children £5 Family
(2 adults & 2 children) £20 tel 813636



STANSTED NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Annual General Meeting

3 pm Wed 17th Jun Day Centre

Speaker Alan Johnson

Chairman Uttlesford Neighbourhood Watch

All Welcome



Magna Carta 800

10.30 am Mon 22nd Jun
St Mary's Church

Cyclist arrives with copy of Magna Carta

6 - 8 pm Tue 23rd Jun

Forest Hall School

Display of Magna Carta Embroidery

All Welcome tel Liz 812509

Elsenham Village Fête and Craft Fair

Playing Field, Leigh Drive

1 - 5 pm Sat 20th Jun

Pony Rides ~ Bouncy Castle

Punch & Judy ~ Bar ~ Raffle

B Stortford Ukulele Band

Entry Adults £1 Children Free

All Welcome ~ Tel: 814434



OPEN DAY

MOUNTFITCHET HOUSE

11 am - 3.30 pm Sat 20th Jun

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Email: sharon.butler@careuk.com

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STORT VALLEY ROTARY

www.stortvalleyrotary.com

Stansted Tennis Club



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Our Club has been very much involved in promoting and delivering Coram's Life Education Project to local primary schools and we now have ten participating annually. Coram is the UK's oldest children's charity and the project, through its amazing and attractive mobile classroom - the 'Life Bus' - and its dedicated professional educator, takes children through age-related programmes that build understanding and confidence to handle problems that threaten their 'wonderful bodies and minds'. The response to this project from staff and children has been truly heart-warming and we'd dearly love all primary children in this area to benefit from the experience. Following a recent talk at our Club on sustainable buildings, members were invited to visit a lovely and fascinating eco-house in Felsted. This is one of a small minority of houses in this area built to meet the high standards developed in Germany to minimise heat and carbon use. Outer walls, roof and floor are highly insulated and doors and windows triple glazed. Hot water and heating come from integrated solar thermal panels on the roof. Incoming fresh air is heated using a heat exchanger attached to the hot water tank and, after circulating the house, this air is then exhausted back into the atmosphere, having exchanged its heat with more incoming air in a continuous cycle. In addition, the owners receive about £800 annually for excess energy sold to the grid. We always welcome new members so please visit our website where you can read our newsletter and get further information on the above and our other activities. We meet on Tuesdays, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at The Lemon Tree, Bishop's Stortford.

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

IN MEMORIAM Philip Martin Sandom 26.6.1959-12.4.2015

Although his later years were spent in Thaxted, Philip lived in Stansted from the age of eight and only moved to Elsenham when he married. He attended St Mary's School and went on to Bishop's Stortford High School. His working life began in the city, then he moved to Elliotts, a thriving local building company in those days; but latterly he went into his father-in-law's laboratory equipment supplies business. Philip was perhaps best known locally for his contribution to Scouting. Starting as a Scout and Venture Scout during the '70s, then an assistant Scout Leader with George Russell, he progressed to Group Scout Leader before becoming Commissioner to Hatfield Forest District where he is well remembered. Following his home move to Thaxted and for some time earlier, he was an active member of his local church. Christianity meant a lot to him and his faith was apparent in his life. Philip Sandom was invariably cheerful and a good companion to all whom he met. He was an outstanding example of his generation and one who is greatly missed. Our sympathy goes to his mother Meta who still lives in Stansted, Debbie and the family.

Derek Honour and Andrew Arnold

We would like to start this month's Link report by quoting a lovely testimonial which we recently received from two of our more recent members. "We joined Stansted Tennis Club three years ago but would only play early Friday mornings then scuttle off before the regular players arrived for the morning Club session. One day we plucked up the courage to stay and join in. We were so glad we did as people couldn't have been friendlier or more welcoming. In fact we never looked back and now play regularly and even enter competitions. So if you are already a member or thinking of joining, come and give it a go. It's a great way to meet people, have fun and get fit". Jon and Ashley

STC Wimbledon ballot

We ran our own ballot for Wimbledon tickets and were extremely lucky to be allocated 19 pairs of tickets by the LTA. Congratulations to all the winners and hope you have a fabulous day of tennis.

Ladies' Night

Monday 8th June from 7.00pm. All lady members (especially new ones) are welcome to come and play.

Club Tournament

The tournament draws will be up on the Clubhouse noticeboard at the beginning of June. If you are taking part, please ensure that you arrange and play all First Round matches as soon as possible.

Club sessions

Adults: Sunday mornings, Wednesday mornings and evenings and Friday mornings. All adult members welcome. Members are encouraged to use the page on the website to indicate sessions they will be attending.

Cardio Tennis lessons

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

Bristow Junior Doubles Tournament

Sunday 14th June 1.30pm. If you are aged 15 or under, are a Club member and would like to take part, please contact me or sign up on the Clubhouse noticeboard.

Adult/child Tournament

Sunday 28th June 1.30pm. Please contact me or sign up on the Clubhouse noticeboard.

VE Day celebrations

We hope that passers-by have noticed the home-made red, white and blue bunting, created by Sarah Hollis, which has been adorning our Clubhouse. This was put up initially to commemorate VE Day.

Tennis balls

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

Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574.



Chris Hollis
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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.stanstedu3a.org

Trips and Outings

A coach of happy travellers left for Fishguard and boarded the ferry to Rosslare under blue skies and bright sunshine to our base at Treacy's Hotel in Enniscorthy. On the Monday another clear, bright and sunny day awaited us and we were off to visit the Dunbrody Famine Ship. Here we were treated like steerage passengers who took sail to a new life



in Canada. Films, photos and a replication of conditions showed us first-hand how people had to live for over two months. Thankful for being born in the 20th century we travelled onward to Kilkenny to explore the imposing Butler Castle, St Canice's Cathedral and fascinating shops and alleyways known as 'slips'. Tuesday dawned and to Waterford where we toured the city entertained with tales of

folklore and its history. Later, we had a tour of the Waterford Glass factory. Sadly, no 'seconds' as any imperfect glass is melted back down.

On Wednesday we drove to the Wicklow Mountains and spent time strolling the winding paths and admiring the views. Some explored the ruins of St Kevin's monastic settlement and graveyard before visiting Avoca where Ballykissangel was filmed.



Thursday and back for the return ferry home, another smooth crossing for the very weary travellers - another enjoyable, happy and informative holiday over. Thank you very much to Maggie and Jan as ever. (Report by Gillian Micallef)

The trip to 'Gypsy' was a great success with Imelda Staunton stealing the show. Fancy a show? There is nothing to stop you organising an outing with other members.

The next meeting is on Thursday 18th June in St John's hall. The doors open at 1.30pm and the speaker is John Neal talking about Wellington's London. By the time you read this you will all be aware of the new U3A Committee. We thank them in advance for their time and commitment and send the outgoing Committee an appreciation of their great work and dedication. Thank you to Jan for stepping in to oversee the raffles each month. Visit our website for full details and watch out for new activities at the meetings or contact Helen (Chair) 812945 or Liz (Secretary) 813270.



Caroline Bore



BEEKEEPING

Since my piece last month on how Stansted would be run as a bee colony, I have had quite a few nominations for who might be 'Queen Bee'. Whilst I cannot possibly comment on the contenders, it does bring me on to the subject of the Asian Hornet - a native of China, where it is the most dangerous of all the hornets as it is the most aggressive and survives well in urban environments. Fifty people died last year as a result of this aggression. It has gradually spread from China, mostly through the import of Chinese ornamental pots, and is now into France. It is expected to arrive here by the autumn. The Government has reacted by planning a programme of eradication in the first instance, and encouraging members of the public to report all sightings of their nests. You can do this by taking a photograph and emailing it to Non Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) at www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/index.cfm giving the location of the nest and waiting for the eradication team to arrive. The nests are pear drop shaped and about a metre long. Please do not get near the nest even with protective clothing as these hornets can spray their venom causing momentary blindness. The Asian Hornet is especially of interest to beekeepers as bees form the hornet's diet. They hover in front of hives to capture returning foraging bees laden with nectar and pollen (so-called 'hawking'). In China, the bees have evolved a defence mechanism which involves a sort of 'Mexican wave' in returning foraging bees which warns others not to return to the hive until the threat has passed. They will also 'smother' invading hornets using hundreds of bees to generate enough heat to 'roast' the hornet alive. These techniques are not learnt yet in our native bees so they are especially vulnerable. So, as bees are the natural food of the Asian Hornet, beekeepers are being asked to be the 'early warning' system for the expected invasion, but, please, if you see a nest report it early so eradication can be given a chance. If eradication fails, and in the long term it probably will, other solutions are being considered. Hornet traps are one answer, but in France they found that other more useful insects were also trapped. I think the honest answer is that nobody knows how it will pan out in the longer term - but let's try eradication first. Be vigilant!!!



John Dockerill
Chairman

Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association
Email: training@stortfordbees.org.uk

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MAGNA CARTA 800

www.stanstedmagnacartaevents.co.uk

The Stansted Medieval Fayre is on Saturday 27th June 12.00pm-5.30pm at the Arthur Findlay College (Stansted Hall). The event promises action from entertainers and skilled performers, giving a chance for the local community to step back in time, watch exciting tournaments and acts, and sample medieval pastimes - falconry, longbow demonstrations, Morris dancers, maypole dancing and more. The event starts at noon at St Mary's Church with a walk through the Stansted Hall Meadows led by a pageant of horses in medieval costume. St Mary's Church bells will ring and lead the people onto the lawns of Stansted Hall. The highlight of the day will feature extraordinary performances of jousting on horseback. As well as the entertainment, there will be a hog roast, real ales and other refreshments to feast upon as you enjoy the festivities here on your doorstep. The event has been organised by the Stansted Mountfitchet Baron's Association who are also responsible for the other local events commemorating the 800th Anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta. The College is honoured to host this memorable and exciting event for the village which we hope will be attended by thousands of people. The full schedule of events is on the website. Tickets priced adults £8.00, children £5.00 and a limited availability Family ticket (two adults and two children) £20.00 are available from me. Tickets are limited and sold on a first come, first served basis and so book early. Volunteers are still needed for the day; please contact Liz Hedge (details at the end of the next article).

Tanya Smith
General Manager, Arthur Findlay College
Tel: 813636

Embroidery Project

Our Heritage Embroidery is complete. As a community project it has involved over thirty stitchers and children from all the local schools. The parts which have been shown in the Link are from the central panel which shows scenes involving the Montfichets centuries ago. This embroidery is of the death of William Rufus, and our man William de Montfichet draping the bier with his cloak. The outside panels depict ninety one buildings and figures of the town.



There is lots of greenery to give a pleasing appearance to the whole thing. Tussocks of grass were stitched by children from Bentfield and St Mary's Schools, and the Forest Hall School students worked the letters of the Magna Carta for

the centre. It took nine months to complete, and will be unveiled on 23rd June by the Duchess of Gloucester. It will be on show at Forest Hall School on 23rd June 6.00pm-8.00pm and thereafter daily 11.00am-4.00pm during July in St Mary's Church together with a Photographic Exhibition and the artwork for the embroidery.

Magna Carta Events (in St Mary's Church unless stated)

- 19th Jun 11.00am-4.00pm Facsimile exhibition
- 22nd Jun 10.30am Arrival of cyclist Lance Allen bearing a copy of the Magna Carta. Please come and cheer!
- 23rd Jun Unveiling of the embroidery and Pictorial and Card Exhibition (invitation only)
- 23rd Jun 6.00pm-8.00pm Embroidery, Pictorial and Card Exhibition at Forest Hall School
- 27th Jun Noon-5.30pm Medieval Fayre and Pageant at Stansted Hall
- 11th Sep 8.00pm Music and Drama by Trouvère Medieval Minstrels (see www.medievalminstrels.com)
- 16th Sep 8.00pm Talk by Peter Sanders on 'The Early Montfichets'
- 25th Sep 7.30pm Celebration of Liberty, an evening of our local talent, singers and actors

Liz Hedge
Tel: 812509
Email: echedge52@gmail.com

Nature Notes



So far we have been spared an invasion of ring-necked parakeets which seem to have added south and west London to their habitat. A 'natural' advent of uncommon species is often met with approval and is part of evolution, but I do wonder if this species should be welcomed. In the past, severe winters have constrained exotic wildlife but we now seem to be in a period of warmer winters. While we may welcome the occasional appearance of unusual species there is more than a touch of the unnatural about hordes of these noisy but colourful invaders. In the natural world an intruder is often not sustained into the future so there may yet be a change on the way. Locally the changes seem to be diminution rather than increase. Largely due to road deaths hedgehogs are an obvious example. I have the impression that bats are also becoming scarce so it would be cheering if this summer could see a revival. As insects are the foundation on which the higher orders depend we should temper our dislike of creepy-crawlies. An excess of tidiness can be injurious to health! There has been much press coverage concerning growing numbers of the Spanish bluebell to the likely detriment of our native bluebell. Fortunately the one-sided flower of the latter as contrasted with the 'all-round' flower of the alien is a reliable indicator. The reason why the Spanish form should be culled is principally that hybridisation could prejudice the purity of 'our' bluebell. In conclusion please give a thought to joining the British Trust for Ornithology. They produce an informative magazine which keeps one abreast of developments in bird matters plus a free book for an annual subscription of £17; details on www.bto.org/gbw.



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STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

The season got off to a good start with the opening of the Green on 18th April and our usual Captain v President game. The weather was very kind, with a good turnout of players, and the President won the day. Thanks to Ann and Suzanne for preparing the meal which was enjoyed by us all. On 25th April we had a Club competition, Perrin Rose Bowl, which resulted in a very close competition - well done to James Rodgers our winner. Another fine spread, thanks this time to Peter, Lynda, Ruth and Dave.

Bowling for Beginners started on 26th April. It was very pleasing to welcome potential new members; do not forget you can always contact me if you wish to arrange a more convenient time to come and have a go at bowling.

Daniel Robinson Cup The first leg took place on 3rd May - a very close game and we look forward to the second leg at Elsenham on Sunday 12th July. A big thank you to Caroline, Sandra and Carol for the delicious meal enjoyed by us all.

During June we have 11 home games:

3 rd	6.15pm	North West Essex league
5 th	6.00pm	Cawkell Cup (Club competition)
9 th	2.30pm	Herts & Essex Seniors league
10 th	6.15pm	North West Essex league
17 th	6.15pm	North West Essex league
19 th	6.00pm	Bert Grubb (Club competition)
23 rd	2.30pm	Herts & Essex Seniors league
24 th	6.15pm	North West Essex league
27 th	2.30pm	Emerson Cup (Club competition)
28 th	2.30pm	Havers Park (Kent Cup)
30 th	2.30 pm	Herts & Essex Seniors

If you would like to come and watch you will be made more than welcome. For more information please contact me.

Doreen Scraggs
Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178
Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net



www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk

Volunteer Chaperones Needed. Uttlesford CAB urgently needs volunteer 'chaperones' to support their advice service in Stansted. A trained adviser, based at Spangles in Lower Street, operates an appointment-only CAB service on Mondays and Thursdays 9.30am-12.30pm. This is specially valued in an area where many find travelling to the main Uttlesford CAB offices at Saffron Walden and Gt Dunmow difficult. Advisers are required to work in pairs so the presence of a chaperone is vital. The chaperone welcomes and settles each client while the adviser works through the morning's appointments. This would be the perfect opportunity to read a book and be useful all at the same time! This is an important but stress-free role for kind and discreet individuals – confidentiality is paramount to our service. The CAB welcomes all applications. If you are interested in joining our rota of chaperones please call Kate Robson on 01799 526557 to arrange an interview. No training required, but a DBS check would be necessary.

Jo Hancock
Tel: 01799 618846
Email: bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk

STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Dudley Chignall said to me after his talk in April, "I saw you writing notes but it is very hard to describe a visual talk like mine!" and indeed it is. How do you bring to life, as he does, the beautiful slides depicting Anglia in the four seasons? He showed us his home village of Witham in the snow and his walks around the area with his daughter's dog, featuring close-ups of kingfishers, squirrels, robins, hares and the occasional fox. There were scenes from many towns and villages; Braxted has an Art Gallery in a phone-box – presumably miniatures! Other phone-boxes are used as a library and Neighbourhood Watch Headquarters. He took us to Lavenham where 361 properties have preservation orders on them. Essex is often used for filming purposes as we all know, and 'The Witch Finder General' was filmed there. Essex marshes yielded wonderful pictures of marsh marigolds, wood anemone, cowslips, bee orchids as well as butterflies; watching his slides you can fall in love with our county all over again and at this time of year enjoy it to the full. Some of our members have been very busy helping with the embroidery which is being made by a village group to celebrate the Magna Carta. For WI members, this year is also important as it commemorates the 100th year since it was established in Britain. The National AGM is in the Albert Hall on 4th June when the Queen and Princess Royal will be in attendance. Sadly none of us got a ticket in the ballot, but some of us are going to Braintree to see a live filming of the meeting - quite an innovation. Pat Somerfield is attending the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 4th June to which every Institute is sending a representative; it is being held especially to celebrate the WI Centenary and the Duchess of Cambridge will be attending. We are planning a day out to Ickworth House for members, partners or friends in July and a charity cream tea at the end of September. Our next meeting is on 11th June 7.45pm at the Day Centre, when Brian Carline is coming with some 'amusing advice for reluctant gardeners'; visitors are always welcome.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

MOUNTFITCHET HOUSE

www.careuk.com

Open Day

We are pleased to welcome the local community to an Open Day on Saturday 20th June 11.00am-3.30pm. There will be complimentary refreshments, the opportunity to take a tour of the home, as well as a number of stalls from the local community that you may wish to support. Please contact me for further information.



Sharon Butler
Tel: 818230
Email: sharon.butler@careuk.com



www.facebook.com/grovecottagevintageparty

Grove Cottage Nursery (Bishop's Stortford Mencap) invite you to a fundraising **Vintage Tea Party** on **Saturday 11th July** 2.00pm-5.00pm. Enjoy afternoon tea, sandwiches and cakes along with vintage stalls, live entertainment, and a Lindy Hop demonstration, in the glorious grounds of Bury Lodge. Tickets £15 from Claire Cook on 07947 319471 email: clarecook68@gmail.com.

FOR 'CRAFTY' CHILDREN

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Materials needed

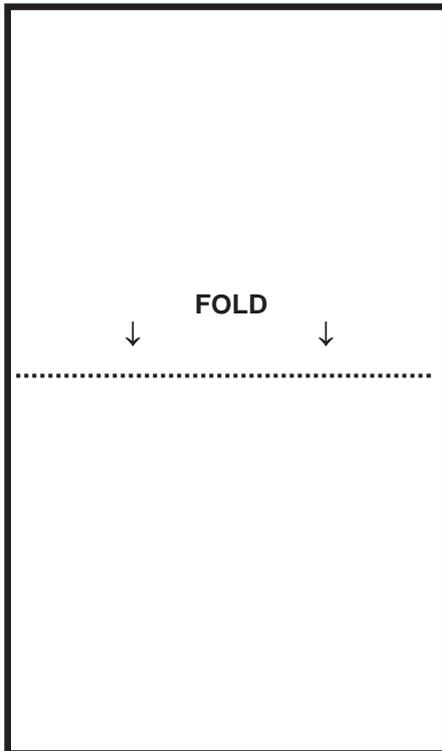
Piece of white thin card approx 24cm x 12cm

Pair of scissors

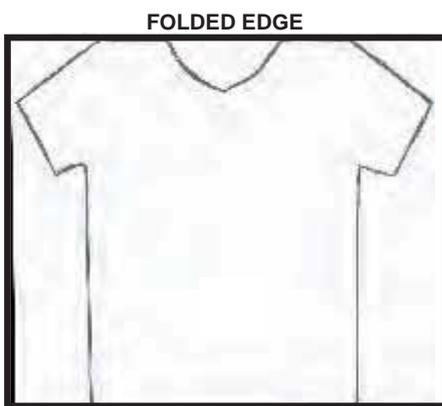
Pencil and felt tip pens or crayons

Note: diagrams below are drawn to scale but are approximately half the actual size

1 Bringing short edges together fold card/paper in half



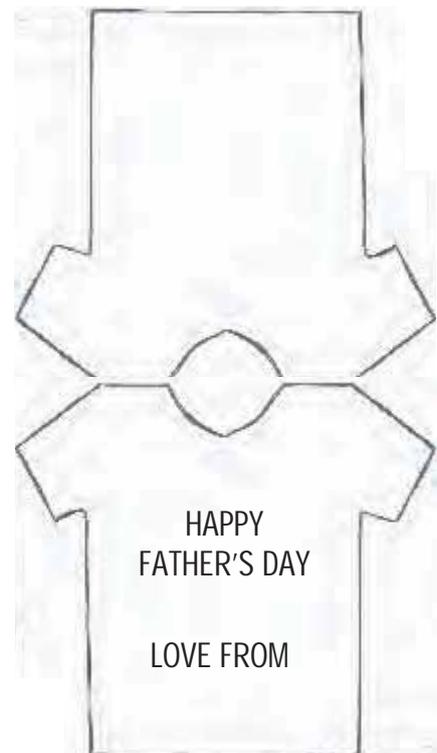
2 With folded edge at the top, using pencil draw a short-sleeved t-shirt shape. Make sure the fold forms the shoulders, and that the sides reach the bottom edges of the card so that the completed card will stand up



3a Through both thicknesses of card carefully cut along pencilled lines of neck (optional), sleeves and sides leaving the shoulders as folded edges

3b Use felt tips/crayons to decorate the shirt - in favourite team colours for example

4 Open up card and write suitable message inside





Stansted Cricket Club

Work on refurbishing the bar has largely been completed, except for new tiling to be fitted around and above the sink. The Club has been fortunate to receive a grant of £1,000 towards new dressing room windows from the England and Wales Cricket Trust. Members held a successful curry night in the pavilion on 18th April and plans are being made for a BBQ after the home match on Sunday 24th May and for a quiz in St John's Hall on Saturday 5th September. Junior training has started for U12s and U15s on Mondays 6.30pm-8.00pm and for 8-10s on Fridays 4.00pm-5.15pm. The Club is arranging another senior tour to Dorset for 22nd-26th June. Any former or retired players, interested in joining the tour as player, umpire or scorer, would be most welcome. The opening weekend on 2nd May saw a heavy home defeat for the 1st XI and a big away win for the 2nd XI. In week two both Saturday XIs won. Outstanding batting performances have come from C Kirby (168), M Johnson (77), P Armitage (76 no) and M Burgoine (74). Best bowling to date has been from P Armitage with 5-30. Senior home fixtures for June:

Sat 6 th	1330	2 nd XI v Thaxted
Sat 13 th	1330	1 st XI v Ilford Catholics I
Sun 14 th	1400	Sun XI v North Weald
Sat 20 th	1330	2 nd XI v Rickling Ramblers
Sat 27 th	1330	1 st XI v Molehill Green
Sun 28 th	1400	Sun XI v Little Hallingbury

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



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



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Good news - early May openings were well supported and a good number of souvenirs were sold. National Mills Day was fairly well supported and as on the previous weekend we had some lovely plants for sale. Our thanks go to John Salmon who very generously donated the plants, and all the proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Mill. Plans have been made for various maintenance projects to be carried out by the Millers, weather permitting. On Saturday 27th June you will see our stall at the Medieval Fayre and again the following Saturday 4th July at the Summer Fayre. We hope you will be able to come along. Next month I will give you details of our July Afternoon Tea at the Windmill - something we all look forward to. Time seems to be flying by in 2015 and before we know it Monday 31st August, the date for the annual Windmill Fete, will be upon us. To avoid disappointment anyone interested in booking a stall should contact me sooner rather than later! The windmill is open on Sunday 7th June 1.30pm-5.30pm.



Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768



RHODES CENTRE
www.rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk

June Events

Thursday 4th 7.30pm Traffic of The Stage perform John Copper's play **The Education of a Lapdancer**, which examines the growing ethnic diversity of contemporary London and looks at values and morals in a rapidly changing urban culture. Suitable for ages 15+. Tickets: adults £14, concessions £12, students £9.

Friday 5th 8.00pm **The Blues Brothers Experience** is Europe's No 1 tribute to the legendary Jake & Elwood Blues. Tickets: adults £17 concessions £16.

Saturday 6th 7.00pm **Rhodes Talent Search 2015** Following three days of auditions, the Grand Final takes place with dancers and singers; groups and individuals; boys and girls; men and women. Tickets £14.

Friday 26th 7.30pm **The Story of Fred and Ginger** Award winning singer Robert Habermann sings the songs and tells the story of the great dancing team of the '30s. Tickets: adults £16 concessions £14. For tickets call the Box Office on 710200 or visit our website.

Jennifer Austin



Stortford 10 and Charity Fun Run Sunday 5th July

The Stortford 10 has been a premier event in the UK road running calendar since the early 1980s and is widely acknowledged as one of the biggest ten mile races in South East England at this time of year. This undulating race is run around the Bishop's Stortford countryside. The Fun Run races are well-established and raise money for local charities. This year the nominated charity is the Life Education Bus - a mobile classroom, with a highly trained Educator that already visits ten of our local primary schools annually. The age-related programme supports the school's own work in developing children's positive attitudes and healthy lifestyle choices, including drugs, alcohol and relationships. Promoted by The Rotary Club of Stort Valley, the Life Bus has received very positive feedback from staff and children. The Life Bus will be present on the day of the event, so parents will be able to have a look around. The one mile race is for children up to year 6 and the two mile race is for children in years 7 to 11.

Entry

You can enter the Stortford 10 mile race via Entry Central at www.entrycentral.com/event/101817. A postal entry form and more information on the race can be found on the Club's website www.bsbc.org.uk/events/stortford10. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to email: roadrace@bsbc.org.uk. To enter for the Fun Run races please contact me, preferably by email, for entry and sponsorship forms - or download and print from www.bsbc.org.uk/events/fun-run.

Viv Law
Fun Run Chair
Tel: 814627
Email: kevandviv@yahoo.co.uk

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www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk



Catching up - well we had a very dry April and every walk was an absolute gem - lovely weather, fantastic views of the countryside, great glimpses of fallow deer (including two white stags), super views of buzzards, red kites, kestrels, and, on two separate occasions a little field mouse ran across the track under the grass immediately in front of me - something that I have never ever seen before, and we had wonderfully dry footpaths, bridle paths, and bi-ways. At our feet were snowdrops, cowslips, oxslips, wood anemones, and latterly, various bluebells.

Walk dates for June

Sunday 14th June Stanstead Abbots SG12 8AG car park 10.00am Grid Ref: TL 384 119 : Tel: 835036 **Sunday 28th June** Prince of Wales, Brick End, Broxted CM6 2BJ car park 10.00am Grid Ref: TL 572 258 Tel: 812574

For information; our voluntary leader or leaders walk routes before taking participants out on the programmed walk; however, despite this care, the unexpected sometimes happens and a walk surface can change overnight as heavy rain transforms a lovely dry track into heavy muddy clay, or perversely, a farmer may decide to plough up what was a perfect cross-field path, on the day before the walk! Such are the variances and fun of life - T-shirt, gloves and an anorak! Come and join us £4 for a year for a family - brilliant value for money!



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis

ELSENHAM VILLAGE FETE & CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 20th June 1.00pm-5.00pm

We are days away from this year's fete which we hope will be a huge success, and would like to thank you for supporting our village event. Let's hope the weather is good to us on the day! This year we see the return of Bishop's Stortford's Ukulele Band so come and hear them play and have a sing-song!!! Or maybe you fancy hearing a one man band play? We will have some award winning Gloucestershire Old Spot Pigs and their piglets from Alsa Farm, along with some exotic animals for you to hold; or maybe you could meet a 12ft TREX and have your photo taken with it and see and touch an extinct dinosaur egg? There will be the usual pony rides, bouncy castle, Punch & Judy, teas, raffle, bar and BBQ run by the Football Club, along with over 40 various other stalls run by local people and organisations. We will have a small selection of crafters from the Essex Guild of Craftsmen who will set up in the marquee, so bring your family and friends and take a look at what's on offer. We cannot guarantee the weather but good company and lots of people make the day worthwhile.



Jennifer Jarvis
Tel: 814434



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At our AGM on 7th May we had our own election night, with all Officers and Committee members being re-elected, due to all agreeing that all those elected do a great job, and to be honest the manacles did not fit anyone else! Then we had a very interesting talk by Peter which I have summarised below.

Radical Stansted

Victorian and Edwardian periods were when the village was known as radical, thriving, flourishing, lively and go-ahead. There was progress on every side, both economic and political, very different from the rest of Essex. The railways brought great wealth. The Gilbeys, Blyths and the Golds, together with the Maitlands, Greens, Pulteneys, Jacksons, Chesters, Goslings and the Gardners formed a very good economic and political base due to the strong Liberal presence of our Gentry, and we became the powerhouse of the Liberal party in this part of the world instead of Saffron Walden.

Not so Radical Stansted

After the war Stansted had little political power. Saffron Walden had reclaimed the main seat under the Conservatives, and most of the Gentry had passed away or moved away. At a parish meeting in 1913, Miss Ralphs asked if she could address the meeting on the cause of women's suffrage, which women could do (vote and stand as candidates, as long as they had sufficient property). This was denied by Fuller-Maitland, supported by applause from all at the meeting. It was a symptom of the general attitude to the women's suffragists in Stansted that Miss Ralphs' attempts to address crowds gave rise to 'a good deal of amusement' and she had to abandon her attempts to get a hearing. During this period locally we had suffragists (law abiding) but we were always under threat of suffragettes (not law abiding) who smashed windows and demonstrated. At a celebration football match in 1913, Stansted Rovers v Funnyolders, a suffragette demonstrated on the pitch armed with a hammer and parasol, and in the same year it was reported that we had a supposed visit of suffragettes to the church of St Mary's. Soon after dark on a Monday evening Mr Jolly, the Sexton, saw a motorcycle and lady's cycle standing in the road against the church fence and heard a rustling noise amongst the shrubs near the Church. Suspecting suffragettes were about he sent his son down to get the police, who turned up to find the motorcycle and cycle gone; no suffragettes were found!! I would like to thank the editors of The Link for all of their support throughout the year. There is no June meeting, but the programme for 2015-2016 will be in next month's Link. For those that have thought about trying us, please try us next year - you will be pleasantly surprised; until September!



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET



Saturday 20th June

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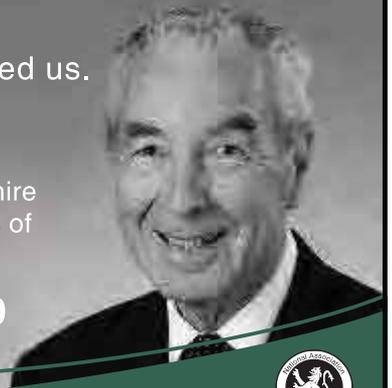
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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

PARISH COUNCIL 'ELECTION'

As there were only 15 nominations for the 15 places on the Parish Council all the nominees were 'elected' unopposed and took up their positions as Parish Councillors from 11 May. That there was no election saved us some money but the fact that it proved so hard to persuade people to put their names forward to become Parish Councillors is a cause for concern. We take some consolation that we didn't have to resort to advertising in the local paper to get our 15 councillors which is what many councils around the country have ended up doing. A full list of your councillors along with their contact details can be found on page 22.

We like to think that the new council has a good mix of experience and 'youthful' energy and certainly the average age of our members is significantly lower than previously. There are ten Liberal Democrat members and five Conservatives which more or less represents the voting pattern the last time there was a Parish Council election.

The new councillors were given a briefing on the full range of the Parish Council's responsibilities and the chairman outlined the aims and ambitions of the council and the full extent of the work load was made evident. This might explain the expressions on their faces in the photograph below!



Our six new councillors are from left to right on the back row: Matthew Jessup, Mark Capell-Helm and Daphne Wallace-Jarvis. Front row: Juliet Richards, Rachel Rands and Jo Kavanagh.

They have provided the following brief profiles to give you an idea of their background and areas of interest.

Jo Kavanagh was born and raised in east London and moved to Stansted in 1997. For the past eight years she has worked for a local property developer. She is a golf widow but has plenty of her own hobbies including reading and genealogy. Two of the areas she wants to focus on as a new councillor are parking and light pollution which she feels are viewed as significant problems by residents.

Rachel Rands is married with two children and now lives in Forest Hall Park although she has lived in and around the village all her life. She agreed to become a councillor because she wants to ensure Stansted maintains its village qualities and remains an attractive environment for the next generations.

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis has been a Stansted resident for over 40 years. Prior to retirement she worked as a Financial Consultant in the public sector. She is Secretary of the Birchanger Wood trust and is passionate about maintaining public access to the countryside which she believes makes a valuable contribution to a healthy life style.

Juliet Richards lives on Forest Hall Park with her daughter so has a vested interest in the local play areas and schools. She grew up in the village and has recently become a member of the Social Club.

Mark Capell-Helm was born in London and settled in Stansted in 2008 to raise a family. He is married with one son who currently goes to Bentfield School where Mark works as a Learning Support Assistant. Mark cares deeply that Stansted maintains its village qualities and would like to focus on pushing for much improved parking facilities to combat the growing problems experienced throughout the village.

Matthew Jessup has lived in Stansted for eighteen years and is married with two children. He has run his own IT consulting business for the last sixteen years. He is a governor at St Mary's Primary School, a member of the Parochial Church Council at St John's and a First Responder. He believes that Stansted has an extremely strong community spirit and is keen to ensure that this is not only maintained but nurtured and built upon.

MAGNA CARTA PRESENTATIONS

All the schools in the village have now been presented with their Magna Carta facsimilies. The photograph below shows Parish Council Chairman Maureen Caton with Lewis Ward and Madi Haselton from St Mary's school. Cllr Caton has been really impressed with the work schools have been doing on Magna Carta and the Parish Council is keen to support schools in making our youngsters more aware of the heritage of the village.



NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

A steering group has now been established which will begin the process of producing our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). We are very grateful to Simon Thompson (Chairman) and David South (Vice Chairman) who agreed to lead the steering group's work.

The following areas are being researched and if you are interested in contributing views and ideas please contact the people listed below who are taking responsibility for that topic.

- Highways and Parking - Peter Jones and John O'Brien
- Business and Retail - Alan Dean and Geoffrey Sell
- Landscape Character - Liz Lake
- Education and Health - Simon Thompson and Maureen Caton
- Leisure and Young People - David South, Maureen Caton and Sam Dunn

We want to give every resident and group the opportunity to participate and voice their views. This is crucial not only to help our understanding of how you want the village to develop but also to convince the planning inspector that the plan we produce genuinely reflects the views of those living and working here. We expect the plan will take two years to produce and then for it to be adopted it must be approved by the majority of residents in a parish referendum.

VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Despite a downpour of rain at the time volunteers were asked to report, over twenty people supported the litter pick on Saturday 11 April and an impressive mountain of red litter bags was collected on Monday morning by the Uttlesford recycling team. We would like to thank the volunteers for their support and express our appreciation to Churchill's for their continued sponsorship.

We have a small number of residents who do regular litter picks in areas which Gerard, the village litter picker, isn't able to cover. We are happy to supply litter bags and lend out 'grip and grab' pickers to anyone who has identified an area that they would like to clear up.

POND MANAGEMENT GROUP

There was a very disappointing turn out for the Pond Clearing Working Party on Sunday 26 April. We will



have another go in the Autumn so please mark Sunday 27 September on your calendars. The picture below shows the entire working group in action (minus one camera shy member).

There seems to be more wildlife in and around the pond which is encouraging but we will need more manpower to make sure we get the most environmental benefit from the pond.

Please email trevor.lloyd@stansted.net if you would like to get involved.

ESSEX COMMUNITY MESSAGING

Essex Police offer a free service that enables you to receive accurate and up-to-date community safety information and crime prevention advice, from the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner and Neighbourhood Watch. You can choose to receive the information via email, text or voice message.

Full details can be found on the Essex Police Website at www.essex.police.uk/ecm where you can sign up to receive messages.

VILLAGE FIRE PUMP



We are looking at ways we can display our historic Shand Mason Fire pump, which we believe is nearly two hundred years old, more often. It is currently housed in a barn on the edge of the village so we are looking for a trailer on which we can transport it so that we can get it to more parish events. The pump is 2.9m x 1.5m. If anybody has a suitable trailer they are looking to sell please contact the Parish Office.

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL ON LINE

The news you get from us in The Link tends to be a bit dated as our copy deadline is about three weeks prior to when the magazine drops through your door. If you want to get the news as it happens you can log on to our website at www.stansted.net. We also have a social media presence on Street Life which is worth exploring.



PLAN FOR A SHOP ON FORESTHALL PARK REFUSED

At a meeting of the Uttlesford Planning Committee on 29 April an application to build a convenience store at Clarke Close on Foresthall Park was refused. The Parish Council had opposed the development because of concerns about the narrow access roads where on street parking would make access for delivery vehicles

very hazardous. Parking for the shop and flats was also considered inadequate. The Parish Council would like to see a convenience store open on the estate but a more appropriate location needs to be found.

CHRISTMAS MARKET 4 and 5 DECEMBER

Event Planning

We are looking for someone in the community who might be interested in getting involved with the organisation of our annual Christmas Market. Do you have some time on your hands and event planning / management experience? Is this you? Don't delay, please contact the office and have a chat with Ruth (813214) or call Maureen (813914) to find out more.

Stalls

Put the date in your diary now! Craft and trade stalls will be in the Crafton Green car park on Saturday 5 December 10am – 4pm. Details for Friday evening will be released in the next Link magazine. Enquiries for stalls please to the Council Offices (phone or e-mail).

Santa's Grotto

Are you creative, a whiz with sticky-backed plastic and scissors? We would be pleased to hear from any individual/s or groups who may wish to take on the very important challenge of turning a room in the Council Offices into Santa's Grotto for the Christmas Market. Again, please contact Ruth or Maureen (numbers as above).

VOLUNTEER CHAPERONES NEEDED BY CAB

Uttlesford CAB urgently need volunteer 'chaperones' to support their advice service in Stansted. Advisors are required to work in pairs so the presence of a chaperone is vital. The CAB describe it as 'an important but stress-free role for kind and discreet individuals'. More details are on page 13.

NEWS FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The annual NhW AGM will take place on Wednesday 17th June 3pm in the Day Centre. We have decided to change the time of our meeting to the afternoon, as recently our evening meetings have not always been well attended. We hope that having our meeting during the afternoon might encourage more sections of our community to attend and therefore be more able to help themselves to keep safe in and out of their homes. Alan Johnson, the chairman of Uttlesford NhW will be our guest speaker, and after listening to him you will be able to ask him questions about the many current changes that are coming about at the present time. We hope to invite others who would also have advice on how we can keep safe, and possibly make

our homes more secure. I would like to thank all those people who have recently come forward to help us in the distribution of the NhW Observer leaflet, for without their help we would find it very difficult to maintain coverage of the village with this very informative leaflet. Please come along and join us on Wednesday June 17th 3pm in the Day Centre. We hope to see you there! Valerie Trundle 813433.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Congratulations to Alan Dean and Geoffrey Sell (both Liberal Democrat) who were elected to serve Stansted North and Terry Farthing and Thom Goddard (both Conservative) elected to Stansted South.

SIR ALAN HASELHURST MP SURGERY DATES

Sir Alan's agent didn't want to be too presumptuous and give us surgery dates before the election so these dates are not available to us as we go to press. If you want to take up any issues with him his contact details can be found opposite.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

June

3rd Full Council
24th Full Council

July

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Maureen Caton (Chairman)	813914 m.caton@hotmail.co.uk
Mark Capell-Helm	815157 mawihtec@live.co.uk
Catherine Dean	813579 catherinemarydean@btinternet.com
Samantha Dunn	810859 cllrsamanthadunn@stansted.net
John Hudson	814489 john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk
Matthew Jessup	816591 Matthew@in2it.biz
Peter Jones	813252 peter@lowerstreet.com

Jo Kavanagh	815157 jo.kavanagh1@virgin.net
John O'Brien	816772 Johnedobrien@gmail.com
Rachel Rands	817413 Rachelrands@btinternet.com
Frances Richards	812748 frannie.richards@gmail.com
Juliet Richards	496531 Julz_dot_com@yahoo.co.uk
John Salmon	814789 Dandjsalmon@gmail.com
Geoffrey Sell (Vice Chairman)	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
Dahne Wallace-Jarvis	812259 Dwjwj_44@yahoo.co.uk

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alan Dean	813579 cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
Terry Farthing	661555 tfarthing@airportlettings.co.uk
Thom Goddard	01371 879122 thomgoddard@hotmail.com
Geoffrey Sell	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Ray Gooding	813103 cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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PARISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Valerie Trundle - 813433
Joy Thomas - 813871

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Alheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Vivian Falk, Chairman Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs, Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Tots (age 1½-rising 3)	Tina South Tel: 814371
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	U3A	Christine, Chair Tel: 817587
Inner Wheel Club	Brenda Cox, President Tel: 812191 Email: brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver, President Tel: 812470
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Magna Carta 800th Celebrations	Nigel Collingwood Tel: 813428	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213		
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@music@stansted.co.uk		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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The newly opened home offers residential, dementia, nursing, permanent and respite care for your loved one with care teams dedicated to supporting you, your family and your loved one every step of the way, from your first visit to the care home to the day your loved one moves in and throughout their time at Mountfitchet House.

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





This year's Fun Day will have taken place by the time this article is published. We would like to thank the many local businesses and groups that supported us this year, with a special thank you to The Arthur Findlay College who supported our day with a

fantastic donation of £500. As we mentioned last month, the older children will be looking at people who help us. We have visits booked for a paramedic and hopefully a policeman, and we are hoping to visit the Fire Station. The older children are preparing for their transition to school; they have started weekly PE lessons and a lunch club to assist with the preparation for school.

We created an area in the garden for tadpoles which are growing quickly! The children are enjoying seeing them grow and I am sure it won't be long before we have little frogs everywhere! Someone is building a bug hotel for the garden. We mentioned last month the very kind donation of £500 by former councillor Joe Rich which we set aside for refurbishing our book corner. This is now coming together and is looking great; the children are enjoying and making good use of the new area.



Thank you to those who came to our April open day and we hope you enjoyed looking around the Pre-school and speaking with the staff. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young to ensure a place. Contact Gill Pursglove the Pre-School Administrator for further information via email, admin@rainbowpreschool.net or by phone on 814242. Places for September 2015 are filling up fast!

Clair Rava
Parent/Committee Member

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH LITTLEBURY

Sunday 14th June 2.00pm- 4.30pm Summer Fete and Teddy Zipwire. Free admission. Teas, stalls and fun for all the family. Don't forget your teddy!



Sunday 21st June at 4.00pm Midsummer Concert University of London Chamber Choir. Tickets £12 (students free) from Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre on 01799 524002 or www.saffrontickets.com.

Janice Rust
Tel: 01799 521312

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

If your son/daughter needs somewhere to do the required number of hours of community service for a **Duke of Edinburgh Award**, or for the **International Baccalaureate**, we may have an opportunity which they would enjoy. Activities at Stansted Family Café are varied – from working on a team helping younger children with craft activities, to barista work (learning to use a professional coffee-making machine to make cappuccinos etc), setting up and clearing down the cafe, and basic hospitality/kitchen experience. Volunteers usually prefer to work mostly in the kitchen/coffee area, or with the children, but it is perfectly possible to do a mixture of both or to try out both and then decide later. No experience is required as any necessary training will be given. We are fully insured and after an informal interview and trial session, if everyone wants to go ahead, we can arrange DBS checks, safeguarding training etc where required. We are a local community project, and young volunteers will find themselves working on a team with older volunteers at all times, so no-one needs to work alone, and there is always someone to ask if you are unsure about something. Unlike most commercial organisations we are able to accommodate one or two volunteers per year under the age of 16, as well as 6th formers and students. Some of our previous young volunteers have found the experience helpful for getting a part-time job while studying later on, or as something useful to add to their CV or UCAS Personal Statement. We are always happy to provide references for anyone who has worked with us for a few months or more. Some of our volunteers have enjoyed the experience so much, they continued long after their required community service hours had been completed!



Ros Page
Stansted Family Café
Tel: 810813
Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com



THE J's HOSPICE RECOGNISED NATIONALLY

The care and support of young people, aged 16-40, with life limiting conditions across Essex provided by The J's Hospice has been recognised nationally as a model of good practice in a new publication, 'Stepping Up', from Together for Short Lives. The guide aims to ensure that all young people and their families have a positive experience of growing up and making a good transition from children to adult services. 'Stepping Up' will be followed in the summer by an accompanying resource guide to improve commissioning resources for transition for these young people. The Chief Executive of The J's said that by using both these guides in tandem he hoped to be able to ensure that appropriate funding is provided by all local commissioners ensuring that the Hospice's services are available to every young adult in Essex who needs care and support now and in the future.

Nikki Perry
Communications Manager
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GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY

Weeds can grow fast in June, as they have an optimum combination of heat and moisture. With annual weeds, use a dutch hoe in a gentle back and forth motion in the top inch of soil to break them and leave to wither in the sun. Perennial weeds (such as dandelions) should be dug out entirely. Keep mulches topped up to conserve moisture in your soil where it is most useful. If you need to water plants, water the soil at the base of the plant, with a bare ended hose rather than watering the leaves with a fine spray - it ensures plenty of water gets to where it is needed, deep into the soil root zone. Frequent light watering is actually bad for most plants as it encourages their roots to grow up near the surface where they can quickly desiccate. Lilacs can be renovated if they have become overgrown and all the flowers were out of sight this season. They can be sawn down to about 50cm from the ground at this time of year, which gives them enough time to put on fresh growth for next year; however, you will probably have to wait an extra year for it to resume flowering, but it will be a much neater bush in the meantime. Your hellebores will benefit from their old leaves and flower stalks being removed so that just the new young fresh leaves are present; it reduces the risk of black spot. Finish them off with a liquid feed if you have any. It may sound odd thinking of winter already, but now is the time to sow seeds for winter pansies and polyanthus if you like to grow your own from seed. Polyanthus seeds need light to germinate, so don't bury them.



Paul the Gardener



Our open day in June is on **Sunday 14th** and we will be welcoming Saffron Walden Town Band back to the gardens for the third time. They will perform from 2.15pm-3.00pm and then 3.30pm-4.00pm. This talented group of musicians always put on a great show so come along, grab a space on the lawn with a cup of tea and a cake and enjoy. 'Daisy's' will be open and selling bacon baps and cheese rolls until 2.15pm with hot and cold drinks, crisps and homemade cakes available all day. There will be children's craft and nature activities on offer in our new children's area and **guided tours at 12.30pm and 3.15pm**; and as always dogs are welcome on leads. There will also be a selection of craft stalls for you to browse and our archive building will be open offering a glimpse into the fascinating history of the gardens. The Italian Garden will be open to adult visitors over 16 (subject to certain conditions). Entry is just **£3.50 for adults with children FREE**. We also offer annual season tickets at £10 for 12 months entry to the gardens on open days, and Tea for Two vouchers that make wonderful gifts; details are on the website or you can buy them on the day. Gates are open 11.30am-5.00pm (last entry 4.00pm). For more information about open days and volunteer opportunities see our website, call 01371 876979 (recorded information but you can leave a message) or email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk.

Helen Carter
Trust Administrator
Tel: 07899 9074107
Email: helen@the-old-barn.net



Our guest speaker for May was Geoff Hodge, who is a freelance writer, author and presenter, and also tests various tools and equipment for manufacturers. He is often heard on the Saturday morning Radio Essex Gardening Programme alongside Ken Crowther - so members were able to put a face to a voice! As well as regularly writing articles and columns for gardening magazines he has also published several books, some on behalf of the RHS. Having lived near Brighton and now residing in Peterborough, he has experienced the challenges of gardening on both chalky/flinty soil and heavy clay. Raised beds and pots have overcome many problems and seed companies are now introducing vegetables and fruits that are especially suited for growing in pots on a patio. Members were shown methods of sowing, given advice on the use of propagators and potting on, feeding/watering, insect and disease control as well as advice on the various tools available. An important tip: if you are kneeling for any length of time do not wear Wellington boots as they can cause cramp and can lead to other problems in the lower leg - change into clogs or shoes. One problem most gardeners have to overcome is to be less heavy-handed, ie sowing too many seeds and all at the same time! Fewer seeds sown at regular intervals = less time thinning out/less root disturbance for the seedlings /less waste - as, for example, 50 lettuces ready for harvesting at the same time is daunting even to Peter Rabbit!! A lively question and answer session followed and copies of his books were available for purchase.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 3rd June at the Day Centre 7.30pm for 8.00pm. 'The History and Development of The National Garden Scheme and Gardens Open in Essex' by Linda and Neil Holdaway who are part of the County Organising Team.

Summer Outing

A coach has been booked for an outing to Coton Manor Gardens in Northants and a private garden en route in Buckden near St Neots on Saturday 25th July. The cost is £23.50 which includes coach and entry to both gardens. The pick-up is 8.30am at the Day Centre. Everyone is welcome so please contact me if you would like to join us.

Maralyn Harris – Chairman
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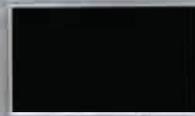
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THE BIRCHANGER WOOD TRUST

The wood anemones came out in magnificent flower and the beautiful deep blue English bluebells were still blooming in May, with particularly large areas of them at the Cranwell



Gardens entrance, the Wickes entrance and across the A120 on the Birchanger side. The two hedgehogs who overwintered in the compound sanctuary, and which were fed twice daily by our Warden, have done really well so they have been released back into the wild and we will receive another shortly for rest and recuperation. The ponds along the spur path are filled with water and hopefully tadpoles should be able to survive to grow into frogs if we do not have a long period of drought. Some of our fallen trees are being left to rot down as they provide a great habitat for insects, small mammals, and toadstools (fungi). Other fallen trees - which include hornbeam, birch, oak and ash are being sawn up, chopped, and stacked up in the compound. This wood needs to 'mature' and will be fine for next year's winter's fires. When cutting up trees and trimming at this time of year, like everyone else we must carefully avoid all those areas where birds are nesting or building their nests. The brook which runs diagonally across Birchanger Wood originates in Birchanger and is called the Birchanger Brook. It collects rainfall from the fields in Birchanger, flows through Birchanger Wood, is culverted under the A120, runs again through the Wood then alongside Wickes and into another culvert under the Stansted Road (the B1383), and then flows through the small industrial area opposite Wickes down to join the River Stort. The Trust is currently looking for hands-on volunteers to saw, chop and stack wood on Saturdays 9.00-10.00am and 2.00-3.00pm at the Compound off Heath Row. Wood and chippings can be purchased at the same times from the compound: £10 per wheelbarrow, £3 per bag for wood chippings (£5 for two bags).



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Secretary

Email: secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org

VILLAGE GLYNDEBOURNE

The 15th traditional Village Glyndebourne concert is on Sunday 19th July in the gardens of Wilford House, 70 The Street, Manuden (in the Church if wet); gates open at 6.00pm, programme begins at 6.30pm. Bring your picnics. The programme includes music commemorating Magna Carta Anniversary. Tickets £10 (£5 children) from 812157 or at the gate. Proceeds will go to the Manuden Park Group to support the development of the children's play area.

Ian Priest
Tel: 647050

TO RESCUE OR NOT TO RESCUE?

It was a busy day; Mr Jones had brought in 'Killer' his rather overweight moggie for its annual check-up and whilst we were happy to attempt the vaccination, we felt that examining 'Killer's' teeth might be a step too far, especially as we were busy trying to persuade him to remove his claws from our consult helper's hand! We had already rescued a tortoise from nylon twine, dealt with a dog with chronic diarrhoea that left us a fresh sample on the floor, admitted two dogs to stitch up after their argument over a ball turned nasty, and then Mrs Smith's pride and joy, Rex the retriever, decided to pee up the side of our food stand! In the midst of this a lady came in with a shoebox. Vets have a close relationship with shoeboxes and it isn't always a positive one. This one was emitting a quiet cheeping and I recognised a baby bird that had fallen out of its nest. It is wonderful of people to be concerned, but fledglings fall out all the time (bit of a challenge this flying business) and the parents will continue feeding until it gets its strength back and manages to fly or get into a hedge or bush - it can't do this if it's in a shoe box! The RSPCA have some good guidelines on whether to move baby birds. Unfortunately if baby birds are brought in to us they often die of shock, so it really is better to move them to a place of safety and let the parents carry on feeding them, unless it is injured.

Our annual charity dog walk is from our Saffron Walden surgery on Sunday 21st June at 11.00am. It is great fun and we walk for approximately two hours. There are biscuits for dogs and owners half way round and refreshments and a raffle at the surgery afterwards. Money raised goes to an animal charity and it is a great opportunity to join us vets and nurses and our dogs in a more informal and relaxed way. Booking is essential, so please ring the Saffron Walden surgery on 01799 522082.



Ilse Pedler
Mercer & Hughes



INNER WHEEL

St George's Day, 24th April, was celebrated in style, with a dinner for members and their guests. A traditional English dinner was superbly cooked by Day Centre cooks Julie and Jo, and desserts were made by Inner Wheel members. The in-house after-dinner fun entertainment was a selection of songs, poems and sketches reflecting the activities and hobbies of the current President - and was well received with much hilarity, and culminated with community singing, flag-waving and of course, 'Land of Hope and Glory', led by Inner Wheel member and talented soprano, Margaret Webb. The speaker at our April Club meeting was from Contact the Elderly - a charity which arranges regular tea parties for small groups of elderly people who live alone and need a hand getting out and about. The Club has supported this charity for many years by hosting an annual tea party for several Contact groups from the East London area. Inner Wheel meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Day Centre. New members warmly welcome - for further details please contact me.



Brenda Cox
President
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DID YOU KNOW?

Linden House was originally two separate buildings, one of which was once an almshouse. In Edward Hubbard's will dated 15th March 1601, he bequeathed a building he had just purchased to the poor of the village. His deceased bailiff and tenant Thomas Chapman rented Gage Wood for 26 shillings and 8 pence plus an additional payment of £5; Hubbard bought the house and grounds on Silver Street, (now Linden House) where Ficcas, 'he was a poor man' lived. Hubbard paid Ficcas £10 and twenty shillings per year during his life plus his dwelling in part of the house. 'From the time that I bought it I freely suffered ten poor people to dwell there rent-free, I appoint Old Father Elliott and his son who are now in possession of part of the house and the son's wife, shall have the use and possession during their lives, and Old Mother Bennett to have part of that house and backside (gardens) that she now enjoyeth, during her natural life, without paying any rent to any person. For the ease of the parishioners of Stansted, after my decease, I give the house as an almshouse rent free forever, and two of the poorest shall have ten shillings apiece out of the twenty six shillings and eight pence with an allowance of ten shillings to a poor body from Stansted and two other poor folks to be appointed by the vicar and subsidy men of the parish to be chosen out of the poor of Stansted and Bentfield'. (National Archives Prob 11/99. ff 264 – 7.)



Linden House today

A covenant to Levy a Fine, (that is legal terminology to collect monies believed to be due) dated 1779, describes the two properties as 'Chapel House, and a shop formerly called the Workhouse and now a blacksmith's shop near the Chapel House, the ground of Thomas Parker called Conygree Wood on east and south, all in Stansted Chapel Street'. In 1699 one Stephen Perry became a beneficiary of Parker's will. So how did the name of the house change from Chapel House to St Stephen's? The Society of Friends tell me that six by four poles of Conningree Wood were leased on the 20th August 1703 to build the earliest part of their Quaker Meeting House immediately behind St Stephen's (see far left of next photograph). The lease was for 1,500 years and signed by Stephen Perry, the Elder of London who two years later, on 24th December 1705, assigned all his estates to his son, Stephen Perry the Younger. It could be that if Stephen actually lived there it would be known as 'Stephen Perry,

Chapel House, in Stansted', then someone, inadvertently beatified him by shortening it to St Stephen's.



The Friends Meeting House, St Stephen's and Linden House

In the more recent past Linden Villa was purchased by Joshua Green. He was 71 years of age, widower and local historian with two sons to carry on the drapers and grocery business for him. In 1884 he largely rebuilt and refronted the villa, his initials and date stand proud under the eaves. Joshua died in February 1894 and lies next to his first wife Elizabeth in the Quaker Burial Ground. The building later became the Paringa Nursing Home, then Sergeants antique shop before being transformed (along with St Stephens) into the luxury Linden House Hotel.

Ralph Phillips



It has been a busy few weeks with the fiercely-fought bowling competition with two teams battling it out to win the title, a quiz night and a bingo evening. We also had our first ever film night, where we spent the evening watching a film version of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' (the members' choice!) whilst munching on popcorn and chocolates. We would like to say a huge thanks to everyone at the U3A in Stansted for generously loaning us their projector and screen for the evening, and in particular to Vic, who gave up his evening to help set up the equipment and then stayed all evening to be our technical advisor and troubleshoot when needed - we are very grateful. The members had a great evening and it was the quietest they have ever been! We had our AGM on 21st April where our Committee were all sworn in for another year and our annual accounts were signed off. Thanks to both Bill, our Treasurer, for preparing them, and to Nigel Holland for independently auditing them once again this year. Over the next few weeks, we are off to the Chequers Pub in Ugley for sausage and mash, and have a disco, sports night and games evening coming up. Finally, many congratulations to Stephen, one of our long-term volunteers, who got married to his fiancée Zoe at the beginning of May. As always, we are looking for more drivers, minibus escorts or helpers. Please contact either Sandra Embleton on 812627 or myself for more information.



Katharine Collis

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FOOTPATH CLEARANCE

A working party from Uttlesford Ramblers met in Stansted during April to clear Footpath no 23. This is the second time the group have met here and the path is now clear all the



way from the bridge near the station, along by the railway line to the underpass. Trees and bushes had been cut down by Network Rail and the branches left across the path, forcing people to walk very near the river and making it impassable during very wet weather. This has now been cleared and enables the path to be walked on the original route. Seven bags of litter were also collected, mainly plastic drinks bottles and food wrappings. Thank you to all who gave up their morning to do this work and also to the builder who allowed us to put the litter in his skip!

Sylvia Hayes
Publicity Co-ordinator
Uttlesford Ramblers
Tel: 812574



www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery

Our special visitors have arrived! We have an incubator filled with eggs and the children have been watching with fascination, looking for signs the chicks are hatching. This has led nicely into our current topic of 'change' where they have seen eggs changing into chicks and seeds sprouting from the earth. We have also been mixing primary colours, watching them change into orange, purple and green and have transformed 'junk' into jellyfish which was brilliant. We are holding an exhibition of the children's artwork where our little ones will be able to take pride in seeing their own drawings, paintings or collages framed and on display - see our Facebook page for more information. We recently held a fundraising race night which was a great success and raised some much needed funds for the nursery. Thank you to everyone who organised and attended. It is almost time to say goodbye to our older butterflies who will be flying off to big school. We have lots of activities planned in preparing them for the transition. We introduced a school uniform to the dressing up area which has proved popular and we are looking forward to the Teddy Bears' Picnic and outing to Audley End Miniature Railway. To arrange a visit to the nursery contact Jen Munton on 810800, email: admin@birchangernursery.org or see our Facebook page.

Kirsty Moore
Birchanger Nursery Committee



Spangles is bursting at the seams with good things for families with young children and our partnership with the health visiting team and midwives is going from strength to strength. Services include antenatal appointments, baby clinic, Bosom Buddies (breastfeeding mums group), and Bumps and Babes for pregnant women, parents and their under ones. New parents have the benefit of a three week baby 'induction' that looks at sleep and routines, play and childhood illnesses, run by the health visiting team. They also carry out the one and two year development checks. Baby massage is on Tuesday afternoons with Jan Rickwood, a local and experienced practitioner. Stay and play is very successful on Thursday mornings with plenty to do for all under-fives. Do you think you may qualify for a free nursery place for your two year old? Contact us to find out how to apply. We have Bookstart where you can share stories and songs with your children and receive a book bag with wonderful free books and other resources. If you have an energetic boy then Monday afternoons is your slot (girls welcome too!!). This group is tailored to meet the needs of growing children, helping to raise their attainment at school without making them sit still, with lots of ideas for you to try at home. We were fortunate to have been awarded £1,250 by former councillor Joe Rich which will be used to provide three basic first aid courses with Daisy First Aid for our parents and carers, and purchase resources for a new sensory group. Find us on Facebook for a full timetable.



Lesley Murdoch
Community engagement and
volunteer coordinator
Tel: 07964 106378

STANSTED FAMILY CAFÉ

Day Out At Frinton

Any families who have attended the Café, and invited friends, are welcome to join us for our get-together at Frinton Beach on **Sunday 12th July**. Generally families start to arrive from 10.00am onwards, but there is no formal programme so people are free to come and go and 'do their own thing' as they wish, throughout the day. Last year there was plenty of swimming in the sea as it was hot and sunny, and there are always some impressive sand constructions of various kinds which many of the children continue developing over most of the day. There are toilets/changing facilities nearby, and shops a short walk away - although most people bring their own picnics. Details of meeting point etc will be available from the Café in June, or by contacting me using the info below. Make sure we have your email address or mobile number if you are planning to come, so we can update you with any last minute changes because of weather conditions etc - and don't forget the sun-cream!



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New Book Club

Forest Hall School is on a mission to push students to achieve their full potential, with reading being one of the keys to achieving it. A new book club that meets once a week has been launched to encourage students to read for pleasure. The club members meet during their lunch break to take part in themed activities geared towards sparking discussion as well as planning school-wide events to raise the profile of reading. The idea for the book club came from students who were part of a previous reading group at school, and the club has grown from the original four members to 15, with new members joining each week.

After reading the shortlisted titles in the Essex Book Awards, some members went along to the awards ceremony in Chelmsford where their favourite book - *She Is Not Invisible* by Marcus Sedgwick - won. The students got to meet authors Martyn Bedford and Geraldine McCaughrean, bought their books and had them signed for the school library. Head of school, Stephen Hehir, said that reading is important in developing vocabulary, imagination and creativity, and he aspires to get all students at Forest Hall School reading a minimum of 30 minutes each day.



The photo shows, L to R, Ali Butt (Year 8), Alice Rogers (Year 7), Erin Langer (Year 8) and Hannah Parsons (Year 9).

Magna Carta

A copy of the Magna Carta has taken pride of place in Forest Hall School. Stephen Hehir expressed the school's pride in being part of such a momentous and historic event, thanking Maureen Caton, Chair of the Stansted Parish Council, for such a wonderful gift that would be displayed in the school for many years to come.



Polling Day

Although their vote didn't count, students went through the motions of taking part in the General Election. In the days leading up to 7th May they were challenged to research the main political parties and get to know and understand their policies and priorities. On the day, each class took their turn to go to the mock polling station set up in the school library to put the all-important tick in their chosen box. The school already teaches democracy through its election of student captains, head boy and head girl, but this year the General Election also empowered students to realise they are part of the wider British community and that their voice is important and needs to be heard.



SSAT Award

Now part of the Burnt Mill Co-operative Academy Trust, Foresthall School has qualified for a SSAT (Schools, Students and Teachers Network) Educational Outcomes Award by being in the top 10% of schools nationally for progress made by pupils between their Key Stage 2 results at primary school and their GCSE results at age 16. The school was invited to receive the award at a regional celebration ceremony at Parkside Community College in Cambridge.

Kelly Clark
Copywriter, Editor and PR Manager
Tel: 01245 237751



TIME TO PARTY IN THE PARK!

www.mitp-bentfield.co.uk

The line-up has now been announced for the 14th year of the annual family-friendly music festival, 'Music in the Park' on Saturday 4th July. The exciting, toe tapping, band list is kicking off with newcomers 'Hit Parade' followed by 'The only Braves' and 'Goat Patrol', and a return of the amazing 'Sax on Fire'. Headlining the event are the fabulous guys from 'The Replik8ers' and making a popular comeback on the day is local favourite 'The Jjars'. There is lots to keep the whole family entertained from 2.00-8.00pm (gates open at 1.30pm) with bouncy castles, Hog roast, ice cream and of course the bar. Tickets from Intercounty and Bentfield Primary School, price adults £12 in advance or £15 on the day (if available). For more information please go to our website or the Facebook page Music in the Park-Stansted.

Sam Scott-Smith

Apologies that last month's Link article stated this event was on a Sunday.
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MEMORY TEASER



Here's something to test the memory of the older (and maybe not so old) Stansted folk! Are you, a friend, or a member of your family on this photograph found in The Link archives? We know that it was taken in St John's Hall but nothing more. An explanation as to what the occasion was and which year it was taken would be of great interest to us all. If you know anything about it please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you. Contact details on page 1.

Editor



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Whilst our lovely, historic area is a joy to explore at any time, the summer months offer extra opportunities to enjoy our heritage and culture. Our website What's On page gives dates when you could, for example, enjoy a guided tour of 16th-century Spains Hall in Finchingfield or 14th-century Old Sun Inn in Saffron Walden; visiting is by appointment. These buildings are listed as Grade I for their special architectural or historic importance. There are less than a hundred Grade I listings in the whole of the Hundred Parishes and the majority are churches. What's On also gives details of open gardens. June sees many events celebrating the sealing of the Magna Carta in 1215. Several churches will participate in the national peal of bells on 14th June. In Thaxted Morris dancers will be performing during the last weekend of May and the Thaxted Music Festival is mid-June to mid-July. Our website lists other music events. Before you set off to one of these special events, please review our short introduction for that parish as it will give some historic context and we hope will increase your knowledge and enjoyment.

Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

Our April meeting was special for two reasons: the 90th birthday of our member, Edna Wright, presenting her with a basket of flowers and a birthday cake, and the talk by Rex Freeman and his talented accompanist. He entertained us with songs and readings from his 'Seven Ages of Man' programme, ranging from *Mighty like a Rose* made famous by Paul Robeson and *If ever I should leave you* from 'Camelot' to the *Judge's song* from Gilbert and Sullivan and *Take it on the chin* from 'Me and My Girl'. We joined in with popular songs from WWI including *It's a long way to Tipperary*, *Pack up your troubles* and *Keep the home fires burning*. His readings included *Cider with Rosie* by Laurie Lee, the *Diary of Adrian Mole* and a very moving war poem by G A Studdert Kennedy about the padre known as *Woodbine Willie* as he gave out the famous Woodbine cigarettes to the troops in the trenches: "For the men to whom I owed God's peace I put off with a cigarette ...". Our afternoon ended with a cup of tea and piece of Edna's delicious birthday cake! Next month's talk is 'From Russia with love' on 17th June at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Andrea Fitt
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FILM REVIEW



Suite Française, based on the novel of the same name by Irène Némirovsky, was written as fiction but inspired by the events she was living through - the defeat of France by the Nazis in 1940, and the subsequent German occupation - and then it was lost, packed away unread, discovered in the 1990s, and finally published in 2004. She died in Auschwitz,



never knowing the impact of her book. Co-writer-director Saul Dibb captures the intimacy of the tale and carries it off with poignancy. The film centres on a small French village (Bussy) and the impact the occupation has on the villagers:

questioned allegiances, acts of depravity and inhumanity, incidences of misaligned loyalty and trust. It is a tale of forbidden love between a married French-Jewish woman, Lucille (Michelle Williams) (whose husband is now a German prisoner-of-war) and a (handsome) German officer (Matthias Schoenarts) who has occupied a room in the house she shares with her mother-in-law, Madame Angellier (the superb Kristin Scott Thomas). But the tale feels real, probably because it lacks cliché. It is not a happy-ever-after tale; instead heart-breaking in its protagonists unfulfilled desires. Kristin Scott Thomas is brusque and resentful as Mme Angellier, giving strict instruction to pay no regard or courtesy to the German officer billeted to their house. He, however, is polite, sensitive and apologetic for his intrusion and spends his spare time composing a haunting musical piece on the Angellier piano; it is not long for Lucille's heart to be won over. It is the story not only of the star-crossed lovers, but of how war unravels a community and the drama of the human strength and frailties revealed when people are pushed to extremes. As Madame Angellier astutely observes, "If you want to see what people are truly made of, start a war." The war's presence in Bussy brings recognisable danger and horrors, injustice and suspicion, faithfully captured by Saul Dibb's masterful direction.

Anna Nolan



www.farnham-school.org

With the 800 year celebration soon, Farnham children have been finding out many fascinating facts about Magna Carta and its influence on British and world politics. In art lessons Horse Chestnut Class have been looking at the history of illuminations and creating beautiful art work on illuminated letters. All this work on the Magna Carta will go towards a competition being held between five local schools. In music the children are beginning to practise songs for our summer production, which is guaranteed to be as big a hit as last year's Romeo and Juliet! Willow Class has been finding out about the different styles of classical and popular music and learning how to work together to create a performance. Horse Chestnut Class have combined music with their science topic and have been investigating how sound is produced, making their own musical instruments and learning how to control pitch by varying the strength of the vibrations. Recognising the importance of technology in everyday life, the children, including reception, have been learning about coding. This includes understanding what algorithms are, how they are implemented as programs on digital devices and how programs are executed by following a sequence of instructions. They will write and test simple programs and use their logical reasoning to predict the behaviour of those programs.

Our summer fete is on Saturday 20th June with stalls, raffles, barbecue, Pimms, a teddy tumble from the church tower and much more. If anyone is interested in having a stall please get in touch! Farnham is a small school achieving excellent results which is open to children resident in Essex and Hertfordshire. Several families in Stansted send their children to school at Farnham and are available to discuss the advantages with anyone who is interested. Call the school on 771339 for more information or see our website.

Katherine Aiken
Friends of Farnham



EVENTS AT ST ELIZABETH'S

You are warmly invited to our two June fundraising events:

Much Hadham Open Gardens The Forge Museum SG10 6BS
Sunday 14th June 12.00-5.00pm. Opened by celebrity gardener Christine Walkden. Entry £5.00 payable at The Forge Museum on the day. No dogs allowed. Tea and cakes provided by the WI and light lunches from Redstocks.

St Elizabeth's Summer Fayre Perry Green SG10 6EW
Saturday 27th June 12.00-4.00pm. A great family day out with free entry. BBQ, strawberries and cream, teas with homemade cakes, fun stalls run by residents, staff and volunteers plus live music and entertainment.

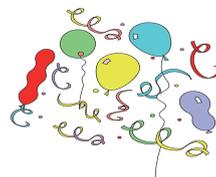
Wendy Smith
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Tel: 843451 Ext 202

FURNEUX PELHAM C of E SCHOOL

www.facebook.com/furneuxpelhamshappycircus

Happy's Circus

This fun-packed comedy show, starring PIP and Mr Happy and supported by amazing international circus artists, is for all the family. There will be a BBQ, Pimms Tent, Face Painting, Games, Lucky Dip, Tombolas and delicious homemade cakes. Come along on **Sunday 7th June** at 12 noon to Furneux Pelham School SG9 0LH. Tickets £8 single, £25 for a family of four, available from Jo 07900 241488, Michelle 07811 862336 or Suzy on 07970 124070 or email: FPSA.events@hotmail.com.



Suzy Roberts

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