

Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



p35

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for the April issue
by **noon** on 11th April
for the May issue

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Editorial



This issue is unusual in that it contains no obituaries. It rather bears out the old adage that a green (or soft) winter makes for a full churchyard. However, the significant factor in most of the lives that we have commemorated is the high degree of service and compassion which they record. A place that contains people with these qualities is one to be valued. It has some relation to size but also the period that residents remain in Stansted has a bearing simply because time enables relationships to grow. The anonymity that characterises larger and highly mobile communities has so far not become apparent here, which must say something for us.

The approaches to any town or village create a lasting impression on both visitors and residents. Stansted is fortunate in that its four main access roads are rural and devoid of unsightly buildings. The southern route on the B1383 is particularly attractive with bordering trees and parkland culminating in weather boarded houses and the windmill. We note that Brooklands is now likely to change hands and express the hope and concern that its pleasing threshold to the village will remain.

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DISCLAIMER

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

WOULD HE PASS THE TEST?

'Passing the Test' is the title of the forthcoming Lent reflections organised for Churches Together by St John's Curate, Giles Tulk. Based on the book by a former Holy Island warden, David Adam, these meditations explore the significance of the testing Jesus faced immediately after his baptism. How often, in crisis, we say: "These things are sent to try us"? A young Muslim firmly told me, "God put us here to test us"!

Our elder daughter, Elaine, aged 32, recently shocked us by saying she has breast cancer. This is the second time she has had cancer. A friend asked me whether this did not severely test my faith in God. I put this to our daughter, who texted back: "There are no answers. All I know is that God is with me, whatever happens". Rabbi Harold Kushner, in 'Why Bad Things Happen to Good People' wrote that asking "Why?" leads nowhere. Instead, from his personal experience of family tragedy, the more positive step is to decide: "Now that this has happened, what do I do?"

According to Old Deuteronomy – not T S Eliot's poetical cat – his Hebrew ancestors endured the 40-year trek through the wilderness as God wanted to see how far their obedience would go. Defending the ways of God often proves unsatisfactory. In 'Letters and Papers from Prison', Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrestled the question of God's omnipotence coming hard up against Hitler's destruction of Germany. Bonhoeffer concluded that, though in his distress Man looks to an all-powerful God to put things right, "only a suffering God will do". Instead of asking humanity, perhaps ask God, "Will *he* pass the test of life?" Faith is less about getting answers than learning to live with the questions.



Allen R Morton
Stansted Free Church



ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

Lent Groups

A reminder that the remaining Lent Groups will be held on the following Tuesdays at 8.00pm in St John's Church:

2nd March (led by The Friends)
9th March (led by The Free Church)
16th March (led by The Catholics)

On 23rd March there will be a bring and share Agape at 8.00pm in the Free Church Hall. All are welcome – you do not have to attend all the sessions – just come when you can.

Songs of Praise

Do you have a favourite hymn? Would you like to hear this sung at a Songs of Praise on 20th June in the Memorial Gardens in Stansted? If so, then please let me know. We hope to have requests from all the community, not just from church goers. Please put the date of this village event in your diary now!

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Masses Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am
Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm
Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am



At 8.00pm on Monday 8th March, we will be sharing readings, songs, music and other items on the theme of Lent. This meeting will be at 7 Blythwood Gardens. On 22nd March at 8.00pm, our 'At home' will be at Catherine Dean's house, 49 Recreation Ground. All are welcome.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC

Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



Ministers Rev'd Allen Morton
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7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG
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Preachers for March

7th 10.30 am The Worship Team – New Directions
14th 10.30 am Rev'd David Mullins – Communion
21st 10.30 am Rev'd Allen Morton
28th 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - MAF

Fairtrade Fortnight 22nd February-7th March

We are holding a 'Big Brew' Coffee Morning in the foyer of the church from 10.30 am – noon on Wednesday 3rd March. A wide range of Fairtrade goods will also be on sale. Please join us!

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

At 6.00pm on Monday 22nd March, Stansted Free Church Pilots are holding an evening with Mission Aviation Fellowship. Our morning service on 28th March will also include a presentation on MAF. All are welcome to both events. Please telephone 813433 for details.

Organ Recital

At 7.30pm on Saturday 10th April, Brian Heald (son-in-law of Phyllis Harrison) will be giving an organ recital in the Church. Brian is a very accomplished organist and plays in Chester Cathedral and churches in the Chester Methodist Circuit. His programme includes a wide variety of music including Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D minor and Widor's Toccata (5th Symphony) as well as transcriptions of popular melodies. This is an event not to be missed. All proceeds to Methodist Homes. Entry is by ticket only from 814059 or 813597.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's Women's World Day of Prayer service is on Friday 5th March at 2.00pm in St Theresa's Catholic church. Written by the Women of Cameroon, the service is entitled 'Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God'. The speaker will be Isobel Bradshaw. All are welcome, including men.

Catherine Dean

All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
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St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday

8.30am Morning Prayer
Tuesday
9.00am St John's Tots
Wednesday
9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

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.

Saturday

9.00am Morning Prayer

Monday-Friday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

From the Registers

December

Funeral

17th Brenda Entract, age 81 - at St Mary's

January

Funerals

13th Irene Edith Clements, age 89 - at Parndon Wood
21st Margaret Gibbs, age 80 - at Parndon Wood
28th Joan Pearson, age 86 - at Parndon Wood

GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT 2010

Plans are well under way for the 2010 Good Friday Children's Workshop which will be taking place from 9.30am-4.00pm



on 2nd April. The springboard meeting on 21st February went very well; we have formed the committee who will begin the task of pulling it all together. If you would still like to volunteer,

please contact Janet Wilkin by phone 812203 or by email via the Church Office st.johns.church@btinternet.com. There are always more jobs to do!

Applications forms for children wishing to attend should be arriving in both St Mary's and Bentfield schools very shortly. The charge per child is £3 (helpers' children are free!) If you do not have a form, please use contact details above. Completed forms should be handed in by Saturday 27th March.

Janet Wilkin

St John's 300 Club

Further to the article in last month's issue about the formation of St John's 300 Club, many thanks to all those who have responded to apply for membership. As the maximum number of entries to the Club is limited to 300, please contact us as soon as possible if you are interested in joining the scheme, which will commence on 1st May.

Details as follows:

1. We aim to sell between 250 and 300 numbers
2. Each number would cost £2 per month (£24 per year)
3. Maximum of five numbers per household
4. There will be a draw once a month for one prize of £100, one prize of £50 and one prize of £25
5. In addition, there will be two Super Draws held in July and December (ideal to help with holidays and Christmas!) of £200 each.

Application forms and a copy of the rules have been, or will shortly be, distributed to all those who have expressed an interest. The subscriptions and completed application forms will need to be received by 1 April 2010 to enable a start date of 1 May 2010. To join the scheme, or for further information, please contact Francine Cope on 814562 or Rosemary Thomson on 815551.

Jazz at St John's

Peter Baker and his Crusty Jazzers will again be performing in St John's Church, Stansted on Friday 9th April at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12.50 and include an eclectic programme of Jazz, Wine and Cheese, a cash bar and dancing. All proceeds to the maintenance and improvement of St John's Church Hall. It is a splendid evening not to be missed. Early booking advisable. Tickets from 814865.

Alastair Richardson

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

We would like to thank all those volunteers who worked so hard last year, clearing areas of the churchyard overgrown with brambles and generally tidying up. A number of people have commented on how nice it is to see a churchyard looking so well cared for. We would like to carry this forward and will be meeting on Sunday 21st March at 3.00pm in the churchyard. In the event of inclement weather we will meet in the church. There are certain legal procedures which have to be followed and this will be explained to you. We look forward to meeting you.

Churchwardens

Ancient and Modern Aspects

Visitors to St Mary's will have noticed that Stansted Hall Estate has recently removed trees and undergrowth from the eastern and much of the northern lengths of their boundary with the churchyard. This has restored the outlook from the church land to the open view which was shown in Humphry Repton's Red Book of 1790. In those days Stansted Hall was situated only a hundred yards to the north-east of the church and was a very different building with corner turrets. The then Mrs Fuller Maitland disliked it and went to live in Stansted House on the other side of the valley, so it was no surprise that the old house was demolished and replaced in 1871 by the present Hall. The footprint of the former Hall is still discernable on the ground. Sir Thomas Middleton's funeral in 1631, which featured in Audrey Rodgers' descriptive talk to the Local History Society in February, is likely to have taken place in these surroundings (but with wooden crosses instead of stone memorials and absence of the 1692 church tower).

Editor



The Haiti earthquake is one of several recent natural disasters to which people have responded generously. A large part of the donated money has been channelled through the Disasters Emergency Committee, of which Christian Aid is a member. That money will be used for the immediate needs of Haitians. When the terrible images have faded from our television screens, aid agencies will still be working in Haiti as they are in other countries. But then they can work on teaching people to fish rather than doling out fish. "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime" (Chinese proverb). Christian Aid provides the means for its partners on the ground to give people the skills, tools, education to look after themselves.

That is why in May (9th -15th) people in Stansted will be knocking on doors collecting the distinctive red envelopes with contributions to this vital work. Unfortunately at the moment there are not enough collectors to cover all the roads in Stansted, particularly as new roads are added each year as the village grows. So, this is an appeal, not for money, but for man (and woman) power. Please let me know if you can deliver and collect envelopes in your street, or elsewhere in Stansted. It takes a short time, but can make a huge difference to the lives of people like those affected so devastatingly by the Haitian earthquake.

Thank you

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

22nd Feb - 7th Mar

BIG BREW

& SALE OF FAIRTRADE GOODS

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Wed 3rd Mar

Free Church Foyer



Stansted & District Liberal Democrats

SUPPER CLUB

Baroness Shirley Williams

7.30 for 8 pm Day Centre

Friday 5th March

Tickets £12 (incl 2 course meal)

Tel 813579



LENT GROUPS

Tuesdays 8 pm St John's Church:

2nd Mar led by The Friends

9th Mar led by The Free Church

16th Mar led by The Catholics

23rd Mar bring and share Agape

at 8 pm in the Free Church Hall

Come when you can!

VILLAGE EVENTS

March

2 / 9 / 16 Tue Lent Group

3 Wed Fairtrade Big Brew

Mountfitchet Club

Mountfitchet Garden Club

4 Thu Local History Society

5 Fri Women's World Day of Prayer

Lib Dem Supper Club

6 Sat Skips

Rainbow Nearly New Sale

Entertainment Quiz

Music@stansted

8 Mon Shalom Group

9 Tue Windmill AGM

11 Thu WI

12 Fri Conservatives' AGM

17 Wed Police Surgery

18 Thu U3A AGM & Open Meeting

20 Sat Skips

Saffron Walden Choral Concert

22 Mon Pilots MAF Evening

Shalom At Home

23 Tue Lent Group Agape

24 Wed Windmill Coffee Morning

Annual Parish Meeting

27 Sat Chinese Auction

27 Sat / 28 Sun Cancer Research Art Exhib

St John's Church 8 pm

Free Church Foyer 10.30 am

Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm

Day Centre 8 pm

St Teresa's Church 2 pm

Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

St John's Hall 11 am - 1 pm

Bentfield School 7.30 for 8 pm

St John's Church 7.30 pm

7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

Day Centre 7.45 pm

St John's Hall 7.45 pm

Day Centre 8 pm

Library 3 - 5 pm

St John's Hall 2 pm

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

St Mary's, S Walden 7.30 pm

Free Church Hall 6 - 8 pm

49 Recreation Ground 8 pm

Free Church Hall 8 pm

Day Centre 10 am

Free Church 8 pm

St Mary's School 7.30 for 8 pm

Western House 10 am - 4 pm

April

2 Fri Good Friday project

3 Sat / 4 Sun Skips

St John's Church 9.30 am

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm



Nearly New Sale

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St John's Church Hall

Tel 07966 506997 for details

music@stansted

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7.30 pm Sat 6th March

St John's Church

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Stansted Carpets; Sonia Levy 815282,
or at the door



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8 - 11 pm Fri 9th April

St John's Church

£12.50 (incl Cheese & Wine)

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Bar ~ Raffle

In aid of Church Hall Fund



ORGAN RECITAL

by Brian Heald

Programme includes Vidor's Toccata

7.30 pm Sat 10th April

Stansted Free Church

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814059 or 813579

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Bentfield School PTA

Entertainment Quiz

Sat 6th Mar 7.30 for 8 pm

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Bring your own drinks & nibbles

Please tel 815765



ART EXHIBITION

Sat 27th & Sun 28th March

10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Western House, Chapel Hill

Please come along and view the
work (some will be for sale) and
support a worthwhile charity



Monteverdi Vespers 1610

7.30 pm Saturday 20th March
St Mary's Church Saffron Walden

Tickets from:

Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre

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Adults £15 Concessions £12



Stansted Evening WI GRAND JUMBLE SALE

2 pm Sat 13th March

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ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

The Rotary Club of Stansted Stort Valley has been considering the deserving causes which should benefit from our Christmas Sleigh collections. In spite of the poor weather, which meant we had to cancel two evening collections, an amazing £5,200 was given by the generous people of Stansted, Thorley and Bishop's Stortford. The beneficiaries include a number of local youth oriented organisations. As you probably know, Rotary is an international community of local clubs that aim to help people who find themselves in less fortunate circumstances. Recently Rotary has supported the international relief effort following the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti - by supplying 'Shelter' and 'Aqua' boxes



which provide emergency shelter, cooking essentials and clean water. BBC 'Look East' featured these boxes which provide basic life support in the immediate aftermath of disasters. Stansted Stort Valley Rotary has provided six boxes at a cost of nearly £2,000.



Our next fundraising event takes place on Tuesday 2nd March with our annual Business Dinner at the Weston Business Centre in Takeley. The speaker will be Duncan McKenzie, the former professional footballer. The proceeds from this event will go to Grove Cottage (Bishop's Stortford Mencap), which does fantastic work providing facilities and support to local individuals with learning difficulty and their families.

Members of the Club, both men and women (and their partners!) also enjoy regular social events. As an example, in the next two months we will enjoy a couple of theatre trips, a Sunday lunch outing and will celebrate the Chinese New Year at Crimson 8 in Stansted. We meet on Tuesday evenings in Bishop's Stortford and would welcome new members – people who want to 'give something back' to their local community, whilst enjoying good fellowship, and having fun. If you want to find out more contact me or for more general information please visit www.ribi.org.

Malcolm Lloyd
Tel: 812235

Email: malcolmjudy_lloyd@btinternet.com

THE NOSTALGIA COLUMN

FROM THE MILL ARCHIVES

From Mrs A E Nicholls, Bristol.
To Mr Ladbroke, Stansted.
Dated 8th September 1969.

"A line to thank you very much for your kindness in sending me the book of the dear old Mill at Stansted that I remembered so many years ago and watching the sails go round. What a giant he seemed to me. I played on one of the sails in 1881 blown down by a gale - that was a year for gales and storms, also a Comet. I shall treasure the book and read it at leisure - plenty of time at the age of 93.

I was only seven when we left Stansted to live at Bishop's Stortford and the chief reason was that we had to go to the pump near the Mill for water. You see my parents lived at the *Rose and Crown when they first married and two of us were born there but when the third was coming along we moved to a cottage at the back of the Crown garden. I do not know if they still stand - there were two villas as you turned right at the top of Mill Hill - two villas and a row of cottages at the back of the Crown gardens. My grandfather, Sam Snow, was the licensee (a shoemaker by trade) and my mother, Susan Snow, met my father, a young man, with a gang sent down from London to repair Maitlands mansion. They used to get down to the Crown in the evenings. They married and had ten children of which I am the eldest and there is only myself and brother left and he is now 90 and still lives at Bishop's Stortford. I don't think many people took the Crown after Grandfather who went back to Elsenham and his old trade shoemaking. I used to go in the carrier's cart to stay with them and loved it.

I have had a letter, answering my letter, from Miss L Gold who lived opposite the Crown, related to the Blyths and Gilbeys. I remember Sir Walter (Gilbey) passing with his beautiful horses, no coachman riding postillion, and Sir Walter sitting back in his carriage very proudly. By the way, Gilbey's pint bottles of whisky and brandy were 3/6d in those far off days.

I hope I don't bore you with my memories of Stansted which are still very vivid. When my Grandfather died my Grandmother went to live in the Maitland Almshouses (in Church Road) facing the Park. Stansted was only a small village in those days. Thank you for telling me about the old school; we had our treats in the Castle hills."

Another piece of paper attached to the copy of the letter above is unsigned but was probably from Mrs. Nicholls' brother as it reads "I was born in 1876 in a P.H. called the Rose and Crown at the bottom of Pines Hill. It was later turned into cottages and stables for the gentry who lived opposite. I can still remember the shops I had to visit: Maskells the butchers for steak that was 10d per pound and Green & Marsh the grocers. Our school was in Chapel Street (Hill) opposite Woodfields. I know the old windmill still stands. I wonder if the sails are still there. I was very happy at the idea that the third London airport should be at Stansted was dropped."

Note - *The Rose and Crown Public House was then at what is now known as Crown House, Silver Street.

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This month the children at Rainbow pre-school have been looking at building and construction. Using the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' as a guide, the children have been making collage pictures of straw, stick and brick houses. This has led to further discussions of where the building materials come from and what the wolf from the story likes to eat, where he lives and who he is related to. Children from the older group have paid a visit to the new housing development in the village to look at how real-life houses are built. Consequently, the Pre-school now has its own building site in the outside area, which includes a cement mixer, tools and real house-size bricks.

As part of the Every Child a Talker (ECAT) strategy, of which Rainbow has recently become a part; two new recruits have joined Rainbow in January in the form of Jack and Jill dolls. They are treated as real pupils and are used to discuss feelings and other issues with the children as well as encouraging and developing speech skills. The dolls are proving a valuable resource as it has been observed that the children's speech skills improve when the dolls are talking and everyone is transfixed on their faces. The children have also enjoyed playing greengrocer and grocer shops, which initiated taking turns and role-play. Just a reminder that school photographs of the Rainbow children will be taken at the Quaker Hall on Wednesday 3rd March. If anyone outside of Rainbow would like a professional photograph of their child(ren), the photographer will be available from 12.00-1.00pm.

The Rainbow Nearly New Sale will be held on Saturday 6th March 11.00am to 1.00pm in St John's Church Hall. If you have items to sell or would like to help out on the day please contact Angela on 816425.

If you are interested in a place for your child at Rainbow Tots (age 18 months to 2½ years) please contact Tina South on 814371. If you are interested in a place at the Pre-school please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for further information.

Liz Stanley
Rainbow Committee

STANSTED WINDMILL COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 24th March

10.00am-12 noon



at the Crafton Room, Stansted Day Centre

Admission £1.50

(includes coffee/tea and hot cross bun/biscuits)

Raffle, Mill goods, cakes

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A reminder that the fourth and final concert of our 2009/10 season features the Coull String Quartet and takes place on Saturday 6th March at 7.30pm in St John's Church. The quartet, who have been Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Warwick since 1977, will be making a very welcome return visit to Stansted, their having already played here in 2006. They have performed and broadcast extensively throughout this country, the USA and Western Europe. They have toured India, the Middle and Far East, South America and Australia. The programme will be:

Haydn Quartet in Eb Op 33 No 2 'The Joke'

Shostakovich Quartet in D Op 83 No 4;

Mendelssohn Quartet in E minor Op 44 No 2.

All the ingredients are in place for what should be a very enjoyable evening's music.

Tickets - adults £12, children £1 from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy 815282 or at the door. If you would like to become a member, join our mailing list, or to see more information and dates of future events, please visit our website

www.musicatstansted.com.

Alan Corbishley

REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY – HAVE YOUR SAY

A complete overhaul of Council house waiting lists is in the pipeline, and people are being asked for their comments. The public are being asked for their opinions on Uttlesford District Council's plans to shake up the way council houses are allocated across the district. The Government recently published new statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities that aims to address the lack of awareness and understanding about allocations, and to tackle misconceptions.

For years, social housing in the District has been allocated on a points system, with each prospective tenant assigned points depending on their circumstances. According to the Council, many prospective tenants are unhappy with the 'difficult and complex' points system. The Council is keen to use a housing allocations policy that works for everyone and best meets local needs and circumstances, which is why they are asking for your views. By taking part in the consultation you can help choose a fair system that will prioritise housing for those that need it most and strip away the confusion surrounding social housing allocation. The discussions will last until the end of April, with a new policy in place by May. Visit www.uttlesford.gov.uk/allocations to take part in the consultation and in due course view/comment on the draft policy. You can also contact Nicole Shephard-Lewis on 01799 510571 if you would like more information.

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No 7 National Childbirth Trust (NCT)



For 50 years the NCT has been campaigning for better services for parents to be. The NCT has shaped many of the services we have today. For example, did you know that less than 50 years ago men were not allowed at the birth and women were not given the choice of where to have their babies like we do today? In fact, women back then were given very little information about childbirth. The NCT has over 100,000 members belonging to a network of branches. Within the NCT branches they offer information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood. They campaign to improve maternity care and ensure better services and facilities for new parents. They also provide access to services and activities.

The Stansted NCT Branch has a dedicated Committee who continue to provide services for the local community. They hold Bumps & Babes groups for parents expecting or have babies also Toddler and Pre-school groups. They run twice yearly nearly new sales and numerous numbers of outings for children and adults! For more about the NCT in general see <http://www.nctpregnancyandbabycare.com/home>.

Future events

This month we have been planning the forthcoming year's activities. We have many exciting events planned (some listed below). Currently we are running a Tea and Toys get together alternating Fridays in St John's Hall, Stansted and Henham Church Hall. We would like to encourage more parents to join us (non-NCT members are welcome). It's a great chance to meet other parents and for the children to play. Please look out for posters going up around the village or contact us for more information.

Important Information: The Stansted Nearly New Sale has outgrown its premises at St John's Hall and will be moving to the Hilton Airport Hotel.

Forthcoming Events:

Tea and Toys – Henham Church Hall, 12th March
10.00am-11.30am. Cost: £2

Cinema Trip – 13th March, 10.00am (meet in foyer)

Easter Messy Play - St John's Hall, 9th April
10.00am-12 noon

Playground Fun - Bentfield Green, 10th April 10.00am

Easter Egg Hunt - Hatfield Forest, 14th April 10.00am

Bumps and Babes - Yeomans Coffee Shop, 23rd April
10.00am-11.30am

NCT Nearly New Sale - Sunday 25th April
2.30pm-4.00pm (2.15pm for NCT members with valid card)
Venue: Hilton Airport Hotel, Round Coppice Road, Stansted.

If you would like to come to any of these events or for more information about the NCT please contact us.

Kim Taylor
Publicity Officer
Stansted National Childbirth Trust
Tel: 0844 2436 281

<http://www.nctpregnancyandbabycare.com/in-your-area/stansted>



'Make your mind up on second runway', Government tells BAA

The Government minister responsible for dealing with BAA's plans for a second Stansted runway has asked the airport operator to state whether it still wants to continue with its current planning application. John Denham, Secretary of State for Communities, has also told BAA that if it does still want its second runway application to be considered, then the information provided when it submitted the application almost two years ago will need to be updated. The planning application documents stand more than ten feet high, which gives an indication of the amount of work that would be involved in bringing the information up to date. The 'make your mind up' message is contained in an open letter sent on 10th February by the Secretary of State to BAA, Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) and other interested parties. The letter also states that if BAA does still want its second runway application to be considered, the Public Inquiry cannot start until after the next General Election which must be held no later than 3rd June. Significantly, both the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats are pledged to ditch any plans for a second Stansted runway.

SSE has been pressing the Secretary of State over the last year to bring an end to the present blight and uncertainty by having the second runway planning application withdrawn, although recognising that this is something only BAA itself can do. We strongly welcome this intervention by the Secretary of State. We are very pleased that the Secretary of State has now put the ball firmly in BAA's court by asking it to state its future intentions regarding its second runway application. BAA has spectacularly failed in its original intention to secure planning approval for a second runway before the next General Election, despite having had the present Government's blessing for the development since 2003. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then, and if BAA does decide to go ahead it must make a start on updating that ten foot pile of planning documents. The blight and uncertainty has gone on for far too long.

Carol Barbone
Campaign Director
Tel: 07775 523091
Email: cbarbone@mxco.co.uk

SNOWDROPS AT THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Opening is on Sunday March 7th and 14th 12.00 noon to 4.00pm (last entry 3.00pm). Admission £2.50, children free. Refreshments will be available for purchase at the Gardens for those in need of sustenance if the weather remains cold (soups, hearty cakes, steaming mugs of chocolate, coffee and tea). More information on 01371 876979, or by emailing enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk or from the website www.eastonlodge.co.uk. The gardens are located just outside Great Dunmow in Little Easton, off the B184 (Great Dunmow to Saffron Walden road). Follow the brown heritage signs.

Carol Barbone
Volunteer at the Gardens of Easton Lodge

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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

We had no entry in last month's 'Link' so our news goes back to the end of last year. (I was away enjoying the Australian sunshine for six weeks and trying very hard not to envy you all the wonders of a white Xmas!) At our November AGM a new Committee was formed and Brenda Ryan remains as our President and Jenny Wraith became our new Secretary. This coming year is our 50th Anniversary. We were formed in October 1960, and look forward to celebrations and special events in the coming months.

The speaker for December, Maureen Poole, proved to be very entertaining with her talk about her job as a Tudor cook in the kitchens of Kentwell Manor in Suffolk. She also dressed for the part and described much of the food that would have been served in Tudor times, which included roast peacock! January's New Year Party was able to go ahead despite the awful weather. Ray Spiller, complete with Tina Turner wig, made a welcome return with his '60s and '70s records, providing music for dancing and singing to as well as lots of jokes. The food was a bring and share supper, which we have found to be a popular and easier way of doing food for a party and the evening went with a swing.

The first jumble sale to be held for many years in the village will take place on Saturday 13th March at 2.00pm in St John's Hall. It promises to have good as new clothing, quality jumble, toys and bric à brac and there will also be a raffle, cake stall and refreshments. We suggest you have a spring clean, turn out your unwanted items and we will recycle them for you! We will collect any items if you ring 813614 or 815007 for collection. We hope to see lots of customers on the day to buy it all back again! We also look forward to our County AGM in March when the main speaker will be Ann Widdecombe; she has a reputation as a very entertaining and witty speaker. A theatre trip to see 'Billy Elliot' is planned for April. Our speaker for Thursday 11th March is Caroline Bore, who will be telling us of the work of St Clare Hospice. We are always pleased to have visitors at any of our meetings and of course new members are welcome any time. Meetings are held in St John's Hall at 7.45pm.



Judy Colliver

Brenda Ryan
Tel: 812725

THEY ALSO SERVE

Two of the low-profile but necessary tasks involved with the 'Link' are those of sending reminders and putting the copy into 9 cm columns, known to us as 'formatting'. For many years these have been quietly but efficiently undertaken by Tony Butcher. At the end of 2009 he felt that he should just as quietly retire and hand these roles on to Yvonne Ayres. We wish to record our (and your) gratitude to Tony for the several hundred dedicated hours that he put in, and to welcome Yvonne. Another thank you goes to our proof-reader, Daphne Lunn, who ensures that good English and punctuation are upheld. Without these conscientious people and the production team it just wouldn't happen.

Editor



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our February meeting took the form of a Members' Evening, when the speakers are drawn from within the Society. Barry Francis started off with a guessing game - a friend had bought an item in Norfolk, kept it in his garage for about 20 years, then sent it to him, saying as a historical item, it was about time it returned home to Stansted. Barry gave us several clues and eventually we discovered that it was a brass plaque donated to St Mary's School in 1911 to celebrate the coronation of King George V.

Audrey Rodgers followed with an account of one of Stansted's most famous residents, whose memorial is in St Mary's Church. This was Sir Thomas Middleton, and his funeral took place on 8th September 1631. Born in 1550, he went to London, where he became involved in the spirit of discovery of that time - he was a founder member of the East India Company and the Grocers' Livery Company, and held high office in the Court of Elizabeth. He also became Lord of the Manor of Stansted Mountfitchet. As you might expect, his funeral was an auspicious occasion, celebrated with great pomp and included three days of feasting, all of which Audrey described in detail.

Roger Barrett then spoke about Captain Alan Coulston Gardner, who married into the Blyth family in 1885. While in the Army, he was attached to the staff of Lord Chelmsford, who led the campaign during the Zulu Wars. The force having been divided, Captain Gardner was sent with orders for them to rejoin, arriving just as the detachment was annihilated at the battle of Isandlwana. He himself behaved bravely and was one of the survivors. Roger described the battle and Gardner's part in it, as a result of which he was appointed ADC to Major Buller, who later was involved in the Boer War. Although 25 years difference in age, both the Captain and his wife were very fond of big game hunting. He and his youngest daughter are buried in St Mary's Churchyard.

Derek Francis also had a quiz for us. In a town 164 miles away, the roads are named Stansted, Elsenham, Bishop's Stortford and other names familiar to us and we had to guess where they were. Derek himself had done a great deal of research to find the reason why the names had been chosen and it seems that in 1904, a paper mill had been built in Grimsby. In the vicinity, houses for the workers had been erected. The principal owner of the mill was Sir Walter Gilbey and all was clear!

Finally, Paul Embleton showed us photographs of seven of his most recent postcards of local views, which we were very interested to see. As usual, we were most impressed by the expertise which our members showed and were grateful to them for putting together such an interesting programme. At our next meeting on 4th March, Brian Williams will be asking the question 'Oswald Moseley: Brilliant Insider or Evil Outsider?' - do come and find out. See you then.



Ian Seavers

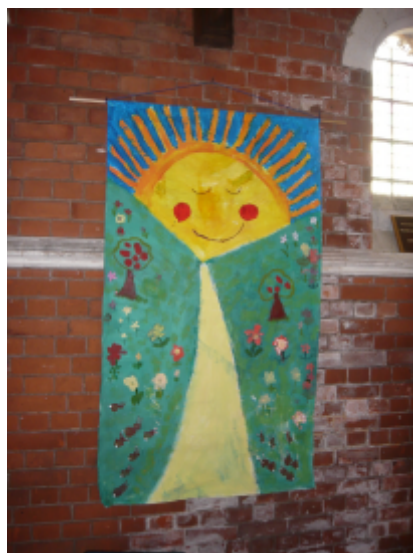
“I AM”



Back in November 2009 Rev'd Giles Tulk, the Assistant Curate at St John's Church, discussed with Mrs Tonkins, the Head of St Mary's School, the idea of the pupils at the school making banners based on the seven "I am" statements of Jesus for display in St John's Church. The fruition of this idea was seen at the St John's Worship 4 All service on 7th February, when Year 3 pupils from St Mary's School presented the Church with seven wonderful banners.

Each year group in the school had made a banner, with the Art Group producing an additional banner. I would encourage all in the village to go in to St John's Church to view the banners; they are truly beautiful and inspiring in their interpretation of the "I am" statements of Jesus. Reverends Paul and Giles and the entire congregation at St John's Church would like to thank Mrs Tonkins, the staff and all the pupils at the school for presenting the Church with such wonderful artwork.

Giles Tulk



St Mary's C E Foundation Primary School



Learning together we care, share and prepare

During the first half of the spring term a tradition of St Mary's is to take part in the Education Sunday service at St John's Church. Our Year 3 pupils help to present the service and they receive their personal copies of the Bible. This year the theme was the "I am ..." sayings of Jesus. Each of the six classes in the school, and the Art Club, made a large and very beautiful banner to represent one of the sayings. Although it is Year 3 who are the main stars of Education Sunday, it was made more special this year because all the school were involved through their RE and Art curriculum. The banners were presented to St John's on 7th February and are now hung proudly around the church. The picture below shows the banners representing "I am the bread of life"; "I am the light of the world" and "I am the true vine".



To cheer up a cold and grey month the PTFA held a very successful music quiz on 30th January. They raised £800 for the school and the raffle raised £250, which was donated to the Haiti Appeal. The next PTFA event is a Chinese Auction on Saturday 27th March. Thanks to all of the PTFA for their hard work on behalf of the school.

Documentation on the public consultation about the proposed new school building has now been sent out to the community. The public meeting was held on 23rd February, but the consultation period lasts until 12th March. If any member of the community has any comment or queries they can be addressed to Essex County Council (contact Julie Aiken, Project Manager on 01245 437366) or to myself or our Chair of Governors, Ms Tracey Harrison, here at school. We can then pass them on to Essex.

If you are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school, please give us a ring on 812212 to arrange a visit.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher

STANSTED WINDMILL LATEST



Defying the weather, the contractors have almost kept to schedule and hope to complete the refurbishment early in April. If you wish to see the excellent photographic diary prepared by Tudor Owen, come to the Windmill AGM on 9th March at 7.45pm at the Day Centre.

Derek Honour



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Even with the awful weather we have been experiencing, our thoughts are turning to spring and the new bowling season. During the winter months many members of the club have been keeping their bowling arm in practice by using the excellent facilities at Turpins Indoor Bowling Centre in Saffron Walden. Both individual members and club teams have been represented there in various competitions. Due to the snowy conditions, the club's annual dinner and prize giving had to be cancelled at the last minute as the caterers could not guarantee that they could attend. A special prize giving evening for last season's winners was therefore held at the club on Friday 26th February.

If you have never bowled before and would like to 'give it a go' we will be holding special evenings for new members and will announce these dates in the next edition of the 'Link'. As someone who had never even held a bowl before last year, I strongly recommend that you come along and have a go; the invitation is open of course to both ladies and gentlemen. Bowling is great fun whatever your ability or age and you will find that members of the club are only too willing to give help and advice to get you both started and then to improve your skill. I am confident that if you try it you will thoroughly enjoy this fascinating, and at times frustrating game. All you will need to start is a flat soled pair of shoes and a sense of humour! We also have a warm and welcoming clubhouse which is open every Friday evening and, in the bowling season, on most evenings. We also welcome new social members as well as new bowlers, so come on, what are you waiting for? For more information please telephone me, or our club Men's Captain. We look forward to hearing from you.

Edward Taub, Hon Secretary
Tel: 816932

Email: ebtaub@googlemail.com

Del Sharp, Men's Captain
Tel: 816144



Stansted Cricket Club

The club is running winter nets at 9.00am on Saturday mornings at The Boys' High School, Bishop's Stortford. For more details please contact Keith Ayres on 814471. On Sunday 28th March the club will be holding another NatWest Cricket Force Day at Hargrave Park from 10.00am. Light refreshments will be available as players and volunteers get the pavilion and ground ready for the start of the season. The AGM will be held at 7.30pm for 8.00pm on Tuesday 30th March at 49 St John's Road, Stansted. All current and prospective players are welcome. The new season opens on Saturday 1st May.

The club urgently requires volunteers to be trained as Level 1 coaches to help manage the junior sides and run coaching sessions. Funds are available to train coaches and the training takes a total of 18 hours spread over six separate days. More information from Head Coach, Keith Ayres, on 814471.

David Hedge

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

24th MARCH 2010 - 8 pm.

Please join us for your forum at the Free Church, Chapel Hill.

Along with The Link you should have received the papers for use at the Annual Parish Meeting which describe the work of the Council, a financial Review and future objectives.

In addition there will be a presentation relating to the Parish Plan and the recent questionnaire as well as an exhibition in the lobby on re-equipping and developing the play areas following discussions with manufacturers and after site visits.

PARKING RIGHTS AND WRONGS

The clarification and enforcement of parking regulations concern many people, with parking on pavements causing much irritation. The Parish Council is convening a meeting with the Police and Uttlesford District Council (responsible for parking attendants). Following this meeting it is hoped to publish details of what regulations will be enforced and where.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Following the resignation of Gaye Ellington after her marriage, there is a vacancy to be filled on the Parish Council. The vacancy will be advertised on the noticeboards. If more than one candidate, then Uttlesford District Council will call an election. If there are no candidates then the Parish Council will use its power of co-option. May we take this opportunity to thank Gaye Ellington for her contribution over the past three years and to wish her the very best in her new home.

COPING WITH THE COLD WEATHER

For many weeks the weather has been very wintry with plenty of snow, frost, mist and rain. For most of us this is little more than inconvenient. However, we would like to thank Gerard Frogley

for his continuing efforts to keep the parish tidy and always with a smile.

Although criticising the efforts of councils is common and can be justified, it is only right to thank the work-force of Essex County Council who gritted the main roads and footpaths in the parish. Compared with the position in Bishop's Stortford we were well served. A Snow Summit has been convened by ECC during March to consider the out-turn and look to learn lessons for next winter, if necessary.

BRINGING THE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU TO STANSTED

This is a well-used service and, in these difficult economic conditions, is receiving ever more clients. It is planned to have a fortnightly morning session on a Thursday with clients being seen by appointment. The sessions will be held at the Children's Centre in Lower Street - many thanks for their kind offer. The Parish Council will help by funding the purchase of a laptop to be dedicated to meeting the needs of the Citizen Advice Bureau here.

LITTER

Our thanks go to Gerard, our litter collector, for his hard work over the winter period. Picking up litter at any time is a thankless task but the elements conspired to make his job that much harder.

On the subject of rubbish, **a warning from Uttlesford District Council regarding our brown bins.** Whilst Tesco carrier bags are marked as biodegradable, they are actually not fully compostable and cannot be used in the brown bins. Please use newspaper or cardboard to wrap your food waste, or the bags available from Uttlesford, the Parish Council Offices, the Co-Op and other outlets at £4.99 for a roll of 50 bags.

And finally dog mess. The two beautiful nature reserves are walked by many people, with or without dogs – please be responsible and clean up after your pets.

TREES

Whilst most people realise that consent is required to undertake work to trees bearing Tree Preservation Orders, we would like to remind readers that consent is also required if you live in a Conservation Area. If you live in such an area and are planning to undertake any work to trees, please contact the planning department at Uttlesford District Council (planning@uttlesford.gov.uk) BEFORE you start work.

STANSTED YOUTH CENTRE

The centre is now back into full swing after the Christmas break and the dreaded snow!!! The numbers are good and the young people are excited at the projects that they have got planned for this year.

Just before Christmas 6 young females took part in a 6 week Emotional Wellbeing Course, they enjoyed drama, dance, art and discussion all based around different feelings and how we cope with them. For their participation they will receive an Essex Youth Certificate.

The young people have began work on the Mosaic and Mural project that is going to brighten up the outside of the centre and our storage unit. These murals will depict well known landmarks around Stansted and from Northern Ireland where the young people visited last year. The mosaics will be of the young people themselves and the hobbies and activities they enjoy taking part in, like BMXing and fishing. The young people are also learning about Gaudi and his famous mosaic's and how mosaics first started with the Romans. It is then hoped if funding can be sourced to take some of the young people to Barcelona in June to see Gaudis work for themselves.

With Spring hopefully nearly here the garden project will again be bursting into activity again with the initial clearing and cleaning and then planting and caring. Plans for the garden this year is construction of a giant chess board made with paving slabs for outdoor chess games and a barbeque area. Our garden crew led by Tom Williams have been eager to get started and the fact that the trees surrounding the garden have been drastically cut back during the winter means less leaves to clear prior to planting and more light for the plants to enjoy.

Spring also sees our Belfast friends first visit to Stansted. 30 young people from 2 youth centres

are coming to spend a week with us to see how our youth centres operate and what life is like in Essex. The young people come from the two areas of Belfast that have seen lots of sectarian unrest and are part of the reconciliation process so we hope to make their stay with us as enjoyable as possible.

If anyone would like more details about the youth centre please contact Linda Barnes on 07920466923

FLOODSAX® THE MODERN SANDBAG

Yes, you read it correctly as sandbags and sand are becoming no longer available. Uttlesford District Council is looking into purchasing a product from FloodSax® to protect your property.

FloodSax®) are about the size of a small pillow but can hold up to 22 litres of water. Unlike sandbags, which can be heavy and difficult to move, they are ideal for the elderly or frail who can use them in an emergency. They can also be used for up to five years, which is considerably longer than sandbags, which start to break down and become useless after just a few months. By having them stored in the house they can be deployed at very short notice to block the water coming through the front and back doors or to prevent the unpleasantness of lavatories overflowing. They effectively act like a giant sized nappy.

One kit called DoorPac includes size 4 FloodSax® (38cm x 38cm) + 1 FloodSax® (100 x 20cm)

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Each pack comes vacuum-packed and contains 5 FloodSax® and will protect a single door against water up to a height of 6 inches.

Hopefully each pack will cost less than £30. Larger kits are available for garage doors and commercial premises. More information is available at the Council Office or District Councillor John Salmon, Chairman of Stansted Emergency committee.

So why not find out more information and if your house is liable to flooding buy one and keep it on a shelf handy for when you need it.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

On Wednesday 27 January 2010, we had a successful NhW Public Meeting. We now have 90 co-ordinators covering the village and this reflects

the hard work of the Steering Committee during the last twelve months.

Later this year you will see six large reflective NhW Signs in place at the entrance roads to the village, some old signs replaced and new ones purchased.

The 'Observer' magazine continues to be distributed throughout the village by the street co-ordinators, who are also available to pass on any problems that occur in your area.

To find out more about the running and work of Stansted NhW you are very welcome to attend the next Public Meeting, which will take place in Stansted Free Church Lecture Hall, Chapel Hill on Wednesday 26 May at 7.30 pm.

Contacts: Cllr Valerie Trundle - 01279 813433
Mrs Diane Roberts - 01279 813089

STANSTED IN BLOOM

Just a reminder that 'Stansted in Bloom' is once again on the agenda and will take place during the months of June and July this year - so it is now time to start thinking about and planning your summer gardens!

If you have any new ideas on how we can carry this event forward in the future, please feel free to contact Cllr Valerie Trundle - 01279 813433.

POLICE UPDATE

We hope that the beginning of the year has been a good one so far. Crime wise we have been lucky and the village remains a low crime area.

Although before Christmas we did suffer with a couple of burglaries, we have not had any since but we do remind people to keep their properties and cars secure. We also ask for you to be vigilant and please report any suspicious activities to us. We are still suffering with thefts from outbuildings in the surrounding rural villages, so please keep your sheds etc locked and any high value items out of sight for the opportunist.

The Stansted Neighbourhood Watch have been doing a great job in recruiting members over the last year and practically have the whole village covered. In the near future a web page will be launched for NhW so that members of the public can sign up for updates and view what is happening locally. We would like to remind you that we have regular meetings for the public to attend and discuss any issues that you may have.

We have the Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP) meetings which are held every six weeks where we decide what the Neighbourhood Policing Team priorities will be for the next six weeks.

Our Beat Surgeries are now being held at the Library once a month from 3-5 pm on the following dates: 17 March, 14 April, 12 May and 9 June. All details of our meetings, the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and their priorities can be found on our website at www.essex.police.uk by looking under 'Your Neighbourhood' or please do not hesitate to call us on the Community Mobile: 07801 461 666. Stansted Neighbourhood Policing Team.

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

10 March	Full Council
17 March	Finance & General Purposes
24 March	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Catherine Dean	813579
Jo Freeman	812524
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489
Peter Jones	813252
Janice Loughlin	812346
Tudor Owen	812825
Ruth Rawlinson - V/Chairman	814222
Jonathan Rich	813112
John Salmon	814789
Dan Scott	815098
Geoffrey Sell - Chairman	815925
Bill Stiles	813172
Valerie Trundle	813433

CONTACT US!

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

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

I have had good news from Essex Police about parking on pavements. They are to run a campaign with leaflets to persuade people to be more considerate about where they park their cars, whether that is on yellow lines or across pavements and grass verges. Please look out for publicity on the campaign as your help may be needed. I have had complaints about inconsiderate parking in Lower Street which I have passed on to the police.

The intended developer of the old school house next to the Free Church in Chapel Hill is based in Epping. He told me in early February that he aims to start work in February. Fingers crossed!

I know that some people feel aggrieved that the 510 bus from the airport to Stortford and Harlow does not come through the centre of Stansted. I have used the 510 and walked from Pesterford Bridge, but that would not suit many people. A review of the 7/7A bus is currently underway so I have asked whether this bus could be extended up Church Road to Walson Way when that road opens. This would then provide an interchange with the 510. I have complained about the poor timekeeping of the 301 bus. There seems to be a defect in the timetable that needs sorting out.

Uttlesford has been trying to save costs by running some service in a partnership arrangement with other councils. This means that costs such as management and computers can be shared and so duplication can be cut out. Car parks are already managed this way under an agreement with Braintree and Colchester councils. Since last summer discussions have been underway with South Cambridgeshire to join together the two councils' teams that collect taxes and pay out benefits. At the end of January the deal seemed to fall apart when South Cambs asked for what appeared to be terms that suited them but would be unreasonable to Uttlesford. As I write at the start of February the deal seems to be in the balance, but I am keeping my fingers crossed that common sense will prevail on both sides. After all, if upwards of £500,000 of taxpayers' money can be saved each year for as good or better service, then the two councils should do all they can to bring off the deal.
(Cllr Alan Dean)

Temporary Accommodation-Manor Road

At the last meeting of the Community and Housing Committee members considered a report which advised councillors to reevaluate the use of land in Manor Road. Instead of providing short stay emergency accommodation it was resolved that the garage site would be used to provide two permanent two bedroom social housing units. Two units of council accommodation at Molehill Green, Takeley have been identified as an alternative use of emergency accommodation. Officers have had discussions with Chelmer Housing who have confirmed that the garage site, Manor Road can provide two permanent two bedroom houses. This is the type of accommodation in most demand by those registered on the Housing Register.

Citizens' Panel

It is vital that Councils engage with their residents. One of the ways this can be done is to set up a Citizens's Panel. I have always been a keen advocate of this and am glad it is finally seeing the light of day. The Citizens Panel a consultative body made up of residents in the district, which is representative of the district as a whole in terms of age, ethnicity, gender etc. Officers have been working to establish a Citizens Panel for Uttlesford. It is likely the panel will contain 500 people. About 200 people have already expressed an interest. The panel would work by sending out four questionnaires a year, initially by post but then asking if members wish to be consulted on-line instead. It is intended that the panel commences its work during the financial year 2010/11. If you think you might be interested in serving on the panel please contact Richard Auty, Head of Community Engagement on 07199 510500. Alternatively, you can email him at RAuty@uttlesford.gov.uk;
(Cllr Geoffrey Sell)

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members

<i>Alan Dean</i>	Tel: 01279 813579
Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>John Hudson</i>	Tel: 01279 814489
Email: cllrhudson@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>John Salmon</i>	Tel: 01279 814789
Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>Geoffrey Sell</i>	Tel: 01279 815925
Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk	

Essex County Council Member

<i>Ray Gooding</i>	Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk	

Member of Parliament

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

Police

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

Sir Alan Haselhurst Visits MMCC

Sir Alan Haselhurst was a welcome visitor to MMCC recently as the College looks forward to celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2010. During the visit Sir Alan met senior students of the College and discussed the importance of taking an active part in the community. Sir Alan was pleased to hear that students from MMCC readily take the initiative in this area, whether through raising funds for charity, singing carols for senior citizens, sports coaching for primary school children, or litter picking in the local community. He also visited classrooms and enjoyed a rousing performance of 'Oom-Pah-Pah' from the cast of 'Oliver' as they rehearsed for the College's production of the musical.

Students Visit Cambridge University

Cambridge University recently invited 300 high-achieving students from all over the East of England and London to take part in an event offering advice about post-GCSE subject choices. Called 'The Subject Matters', the free event was organised by Excellence East and aimed at gifted and talented students in Year 11. Sessions led by Cambridge admissions tutors looked at two closely related issues: university subject choice, and its relationship to career progression; and A-level subject choice – which can sometimes prevent highly able students from being strong candidates for their preferred courses at university if they have chosen inappropriate combinations. MMCC Year 11 students Eleanor Griffiths and Alex Goodwin braved the snow travelling to Cambridge, and found the talks to be informative, helpful and delivered in a friendly manner. The advice they would give is to consider which degree you would like to take at university before finalising A level choices, as by the time you apply to university it is too late to change. They found the event very worthwhile and would encourage other students to take the opportunity to attend in the future.

Mr P Smith
Deputy Headteacher

Students enjoy ICT Enrichment Day at MMCC

At the beginning of February, 12 Year 7 students had the opportunity to take part in an ICT Enrichment Day where they learned how to use iStopMotion software on our Apple MacBooks to create their own 'stop frame animation' movies. This is one student's report on the day:

At first we were given an Apple Mac, tripod and video camera for each group. Then, after finding out how to use the software and equipment correctly and safely, we set off to work, filming the small movable toys and figures we had brought in to use. By using the movable figures, we captured every millimetre of movement, to create a rolling movie. Then once we had filmed our stories and edited and deleted any unwanted footage, we added sounds. The sounds were our voices recorded. We placed our sounds on the clip required and we were finished! I thought the day was a fantastic way to get to know the other Year 7 students better. It was a brilliant team-building day!

Georgia King 7AD

The three films were:

'The Killer Cat' by Georgia Coachman, Christina Radukic and Jessica Hardy

'Dancing on Ice' by Jamie Venables, Georgia King, Lauren Mitchell and Jennifer Hunt

'Snow Patrol' by Bertie Alabaster, Harry Reynolds, Jader Gneiting, Alexander Lloyd and Joseph Grimes

'Oliver'

Look out in the next issue for a full report on our recent College production.

PTA Forthcoming Events

Sunday 28th March Car Boot Sale. 11.00am–2.00pm (setting up from 10.00am). Pitches £7.00 for cars, £12 for vans and lorries on the day. Hot snacks available in College Canteen. For enquiries please phone Tina on 814371 or Yvonne on 813071. Future dates: 9th May, 4th July and 26th September.

www.mmccpta.org.uk



Sir Alan Haselhurst's visit - Back row, from left to right: Joshua Mutonga - Head Boy, Jessica Duke - Head Girl, Toby Dale-Cooke - Deputy Head Boy, Sophie Stacey - Deputy Head Girl, Michael Jarvis - Deputy Head Boy. Front row: Jo Mullis, Headteacher, Sir Alan Haselhurst.



ICT Enrichment Day – Jader Gneiting Year 7

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STANSTED FUN RUN

www.stansted10k.org.uk
info@stansted10k.org.uk

11.00am Sunday 27th June

Planning is now well under way and this year we shall be supporting five charities:

Uttlesford Community Travel (new computer software)
Stansted Day Centre (new p a system)
St Clare Hospice
Assin Endwa (school in Ghana)
Samaritan's Purse (shoeboxes)

We are keen to have new people involved, particularly to help marshalling the route. Also, if any local businesses would be interested in sponsoring us, even if only a small amount, we would be very pleased to hear from you. All our sponsors are publicised on our entry forms, posters and website, and on Bentfield Green on the day of the run.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

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Sally Thorp
Member of the Association of Reflexologists

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Sally Thorp 07740 948910 (Stansted)
sally@sole-reflexions.com

ANIMAL WEIGHT AWARENESS MONTH

Animals are brought into the surgery in the strangest of containers. I've seen cats in laundry baskets, hamsters in shoeboxes and even dogs in picnic baskets. The variety of boxes used can be quite interesting. I quite often start morning surgery wondering how many toasters, kettles or computer printers I'll be treating that day. However last week I saw the strangest container ever. I walked into the waiting room to call the next client through and was confronted by a rather small lady with a rather large black dustbin which seemed to be making sloshing noises. When I looked inside it contained a huge Koi carp! I wondered how on earth she had managed to get it into the waiting room in the first place, as there didn't seem to be anyone else around. With the help of Jo the nurse we managed to get it into the consulting room, by which time the water was swirling round in circles and the Koi was looking decidedly disorientated! Anyway we treated it and it seems to be making a good recovery but as I always say life as a vet is never dull and you can never tell what's going to come through the door next!

Unfortunately what I can guarantee I will see several of every day is overweight animals. March is weight awareness month at Mercer and Hughes and we will be making a special effort to talk to clients about weight issues in animals and will be offering free weight checks and dietary advice. The latest figures show that 40% of the UK dog population is overweight. That equates to over three million dogs. Cats don't fare much better with estimates of between 25-40% of cats in the UK being overweight. Personally, I find those figures shocking and rather sad. I'm sure people don't realise fully that all the health risks associated with obesity in humans are just the same in animals: heart disease, diabetes, arthritis and so on. I always say to people that there is really no excuse for our pets to be overweight as it is the owner that controls the food not the pet. Have you ever seen your dog in the kitchen opening a tin of dog food as a midnight snack? So, give us a ring or pop into the surgery and get your pet weighed and we can give you lots of advice about healthy eating and then you'll have a happier and healthier pet!

Ilse Pedlar
Partner
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons

DAY CENTRE

The Stansted Day Centre in Crafton Green is a facility available to those over the age of 55. Currently the Centre is open on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday serving home cooked lunches. If you would like to join us, please telephone 815901 for further details. The Centre relies on its wonderful team of volunteers who help with transporting folks to and from the Centre, make the best scones around for miles and make the tea for the more senior members of Stansted. I have recently joined the team as Manager. I have lived in Stansted for nine years and formally managed the Hailey Day Centre in Sawbridgeworth. The Centre is looking to expand its services and increase the opening hours, holding afternoon events such as quizzes, live entertainment, art classes and musical bingo. If anyone out there could help host these extra events, please get in touch.



Liz Ironside

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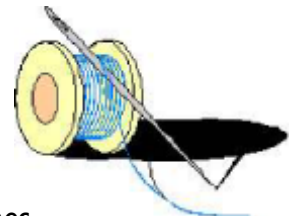
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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

The first Annual General meeting of the Stansted U3A will be held at our next monthly meeting at 2.00pm on Thursday 18th March at St John's Church Hall, with free tea and biscuits available for all. As this is our first AGM, the formalities should not last too long. It will be followed by an open meeting where individual group leaders or a representative will be there to answer any questions you may have about specific activities. Our Membership Secretary will be taking renewal/new membership subscriptions which have to be paid prior to 1st April. The cost for this remains at £12 (by cheque if possible please) for the year.

Our current activities include Art, Book Club, Bridge, Computer skills, French, Gardening, Genealogy, Italian, Spanish, French, Knitting/Crochet, Photography, Pilates, Scrabble, Singing, Tai Chi, a monthly Lunch Club and the ever popular walking group. If you wish to know more please give me a ring and I will put you in touch with the relevant leaders. New activities are currently being reviewed prior to being set up by Eileen (Activities Co-ordinator) so if you have an interest in something that we currently are not showing then please discuss it with her as she will be happy to help. Our forthcoming programme includes the following outings:

1st April - Civic Theatre, Chelmsford - play adaptation of the BBC hit series 'Porridge'.

7th May - Day out at Hatfield House Craft Fair

14th-16th May - Coach tour holiday to France.

19th June - Champagne Picnic Concert at Little Easton

16th July - 'Newmarket Nights'. Evening Race meeting and concert with 'Simply Red'

There are still tickets available for some of the above with the exception of the Champagne Picnic, which is fully booked, but if more people wish to come then a larger coach can be booked, but we will need to know numbers as soon as possible. You will need to be a member to attend any activities or trips, so come along and meet us at the March meeting and have a chat. It does not matter if you do not live in Stansted; you can belong to more than one U3A and all we ask is that you pay our membership fee and in return you will be made most welcome. If you wish to ask any questions before then please give me a ring. Please note all of above can now be viewed on our website. www.stanstedu3a.org.

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St Clare Hospice provides care to local people across the border of East Herts; including Bishop's Stortford, and throughout West Essex, and is geared up for its 20th birthday celebrations this year. Staff, nurses and volunteers stood in the pouring rain at locations across the area giving out highly decorated cup cakes to celebrate. The Hospice would very much like the local community to get involved even more in this particular year. The challenge can be great or small, every little helps. It is known that 31% of the population knows someone who has been cared for by a hospice and 90% of British adults believe that everyone with a life limiting illness should have the right to hospice care. Whilst the patients and their families receive its services free, St Clare has running costs of £2.5 million this year which, in real terms, means fundraising over £4,000 each day to run its services. Yeoman's Café in Lower Street is the first to sign up to the Hospice's 200 Club, so many thanks for their continuing support.

Why not sell our sunflower badges to friends and family? Sports teams could organise a charity match. Live a dream, trek China's Wall, bungee jump for the Hospice. Ask your company or business to support us with a dress up day, a raffle. Eat and raise funds with friends with a 'Come Dine' event. Bike an event for the Hospice. In memory; hold an event in memory of a loved one – a family reunion or an afternoon of tea and cakes. Hold a breakfast cook-up one Sunday morning. Donate your unwanted furniture and clothing to sell in one of our shops. Hold an activity to encourage team spirit amongst your work colleagues. Challenge your exercise class to hold a 24-hour exercise-a-thon to raise funds for St Clare Hospice. The fundraising department would be very pleased to support you with your ideas. Please go to our website www.stclarehospice.org.uk for further news and details of some of our forthcoming events. If you would like to arrange to visit the Hospice please call 773700. I look forward to meeting and supporting you in your support of St Clare.



Caroline Bore
Community Fundraiser East Herts and Uttlesford



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Hello to everyone from Stansted FC. Well we are half way through the season and the first team are pushing for the title, being currently in 2nd spot with the majority of the remaining games to be played being home matches, so we will be going all out to try and win the league. This would be some achievement as only four years ago we finished bottom as we did the year before. Special praise must go to Terry Spillane and Dave Bricknell our 1st team manager and coach. What they have done in the three years that they have been here is amazing, so well done to both of you and keep up the good work. All the teams at the club are doing really well, our reserves, under 18's and under 16's as well as our two Sunday sides, Queens Park Stansted 1st and 2nd teams. So come on all you local football fans why not join us and cheer us on?

Larry Woods
Vice Chairman

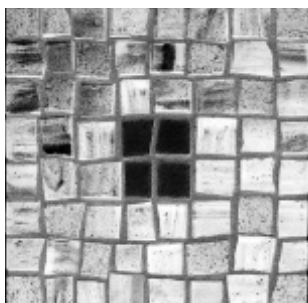
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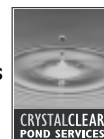
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Stansted Tennis Club



Date for your diary

The Annual General Meeting will take place at 8.00pm on Monday 8th March at 105 Cambridge Road. All members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

Membership

New membership rates will hopefully be adopted at the AGM. This year, if you pay by 31st March, there will be a 20% discount on all categories of membership. If you are a current Club member, you will automatically receive your 2010 membership form. If you wish to become a Club member, please phone Daphne Lunnon (membership secretary) to get the new membership form.

Coaching

The lunch-time adult coaching session will now run for 60 minutes, starting at 1.45pm and finishing at 2.45pm. If you would like to come along and join in, please call Chris Hollis on 319155 (please do not just turn up). You don't have to be a member of the Club to join in. Chris' new junior sessions will start up again at the end of February/beginning of March. There are current vacancies for the following classes: Mondays 4.30pm-5.45pm - Years 7 & 8 girls' match practice. Mondays 5.45pm-6.15pm - Years 4 & 5 mixed coaching group. Thursdays 4.15pm-4.45pm - Years 3 & 4 mixed coaching group. Saturdays 9.00am-10.15am - Years 11 & 12 girls' match practice. Chris is currently collecting names of Year 2 children who are interested in starting tennis lessons. If there is enough interest, hopefully a new group will be established in the near future. Martyn Taplin 816386 continues to coach adults on Saturday afternoons at the Club. There is now just one class, which runs from 2.30pm-4.00pm. Please contact Martyn if you are interested in joining.

A new trial will be starting on 12th April. This will be a Ladies' Evening, starting at 6.30pm on the second Monday of every month. All lady members are welcome to come and join in. This is not a coaching session, but a chance for ladies who currently attend coaching at the Club to come and join in with established team players.

Contacts

For further information, please contact Richard Mott (Secretary) on 466348, Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 812073 or Daphne Lunnon (Membership Secretary) on 817574.

Chris Hollis

ART EXHIBITION IN AID OF CANCER RESEARCH UK

We are holding an art exhibition to raise funds for this charity, which helps to examine the causes of and cures for breast cancer. Please come along and view the work (some will be for sale) and support a worthwhile charity. Saturday 27th March and Sunday 28th March, 10.00am-4.00pm at Western House, Chapel Hill.

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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

February Meeting

A full house welcomed Barry Kaufmann-Wright, our first speaker of the New Year, when he talked about 'British Coastal Wildlife and Landscapes'. This is the fourth time Barry has visited the Club and once again we were treated to a marvellous talk, full of facts and information, and illustrated throughout by his superb photographs. As well as learning about the birds, animals and flora that frequent our coasts, members were also treated to the story behind each photograph. The antics of the birds and animals (as well as some of his travelling companions) along with the trials and tribulations of the photographer in the attempt to get 'the perfect shot' had everyone laughing throughout the evening. Barry is also a warden at two reserves close to his home in Thaxted and an escorted trip around these reserves has been booked - see below for details.

March Meeting

Our speaker on 3rd March will be Mr Richard Gant, Head Gardener at Madingley Hall. His subject will be 'The History and Development of Madingley Hall Gardens, in Cambridgeshire'. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start, at the Day Centre. Members Competition: a planted bowl of spring bulbs (max size of bowl 8 inches).

April Meeting

7th April - Mini-Spring Show and AGM. Show schedules and full details available from me at the March meeting.

Future Events – Please diary these dates

Saturday 12th June (all day): Escorted walk with Barry and Pat Kaufmann-Wright around Thaxted reserves.

Saturday 23rd October: trip to RHS Wisley to see the garden in Autumn.

Please remember everyone is welcome to our monthly meetings which are held at the Day Centre. Membership is available or come as a visitor. Next year's programme is being finalised and will be published on our website shortly. Photographs of past events and meetings can also be seen on the website.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman

Tel: 07919 478144

CLAVERING RUNNING CLUB announce THE 1st CLAVERING FUN RUN SUNDAY 21st MARCH

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Proceeds to Clavering Church

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Entry and optional sponsor forms available from Elaine Tomlinson (01799 550944), www.claveringonline.org.uk or www.runnersworld.co.uk (additional admin fee payable)

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Julie Moore
Secretary

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SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect
of the Night Sky



The winter months, especially mid December to mid March, are the best for casual sky watching at sensible, early evening times. All stars, all countless billions of them, belong to one or other collections of stars called Galaxies. Our star, the Sun, belongs to a galaxy called the Milky Way. The name comes from a stretch of milky white that crosses the sky from horizon to horizon, though not many of us have seen it (including me) because of light pollution, though, if you know where to look, any binoculars will highlight the Milky Way. There you will see thousand of tiny spots, all of them individual stars. If you move the binoculars (or telescope, of course) around you will discover a split in the Milky Way. This is not actually a split but a vast cloud of inter-stellar dust that, itself, has to be measured in light years.

But what is the Milky Way? Most galaxies, and the Milky Way is one of them, are of a spiral shape with a central core and curved 'arms' of stars whirling round it. It's rather like

an octopus being spun by its head, although the galaxy actually spins once every 225 million years or so. When you are looking at the Milky Way, you are looking towards the centre of the galaxy where, demonstrably, most of the galaxy's stars are located. From Earth, we can only see three galaxies with the naked eye, and only one of them in the Northern Hemisphere which is called the Andromeda Nebula. 'Nebula' because it appears as a nebulous smear of light against the pin point stars. We didn't know it was a galaxy until the 1920s when the first seriously large telescopes revealed its spiral structure. The significance of this revelation was immense because we suddenly realised how huge the Universe was. The other two galaxies we see with the naked eye are in the Southern Hemisphere and are called the Large and Small Magellanic clouds. Each of them are irregular galaxies, a fairly rare type. We now know that the Universe is awash with galaxies; billions of them. All of them have gravity which influences others, and would all be in one lump if they did not spin. Centrifugal forces help keep everything balanced. Yet there appears to be a structure in the way galaxies are distributed. More next month, where we will consider odd things.

Martin West
Mooncraft Productions



Nature Notes

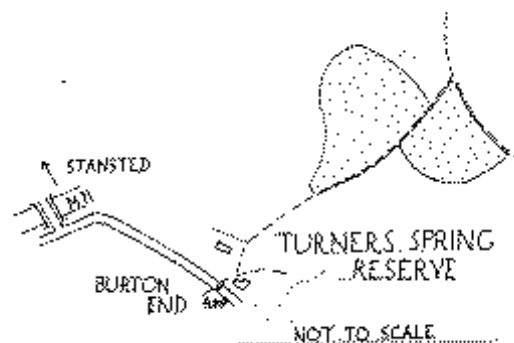
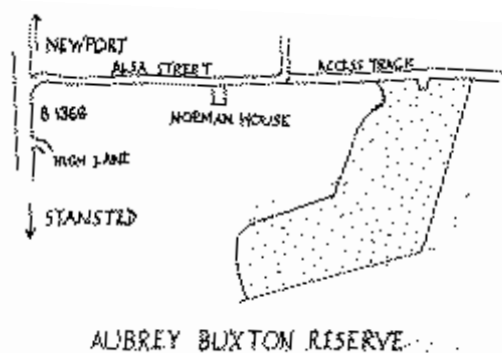
The cold days of January and February were grievous for small birds but good for the raptors which benefited from the gatherings around garden bird feeders. In our garden alone two blackbirds and another innocent flyer fell victim to a sparrowhawk (see photograph). A reader has told me that buzzards have been active in his garden and that red kites, which mainly live by scavenging, have been seen on the Cambridgeshire border. Foxes have also been more in evidence. A further sign of hard conditions was the sound of scrabbling mice in the loft. How they get there has yet to be discovered! We are exhorted to continue bird feeding when better weather returns as producing eggs and caring for fledglings makes great demands on the parents.

plans which we are pleased to reproduce below. Do enjoy these sanctuaries and remember, particularly in the case of Aubrey Buxton, that it is no longer a well-maintained zoo park but a natural habitat and that we are just visitors. If you take a dog please remove any evidence deposited on the paths and avoid disturbance to the residents.

Derek Honour



Forensic evidence: wing and claw imprints in snow at the murder scene.



Another reader has expressed appreciation of Mike Rowley's accounts of our two Nature Reserves and asked for location

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CONSULTATION BY UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL ON HOUSING AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT

All households should now have received a questionnaire from Uttlesford District Council about its 'Local Development Framework'. From 15th February until 9th April the Council is asking, among other things, for opinions on the location of 4,000 new houses in the district over the next decade and beyond. Some readers will remember that two years ago four options were put forward for consideration, with the District Council stating its preferred option to be Option 4, a new 3,000-home new town between Elsenham and Henham. This new consultation is seeking views on where the balance of 1,000 houses should go to complete Option 4. But more importantly, in the last two years various technical studies have been carried out and each option for housing growth has been examined and compared. So the consultation also asks a question about whether Option 4 is the best one, or whether residents would prefer another option. Elsenham and Henham villages are of course still implacably opposed to Option 4. In response to the last consultation Stansted Parish Council also opposed Option 4 because of its detrimental effect on Stansted, particularly in respect of extra traffic through the village. Other questions in the consultation are about airport growth, business growth and local jobs and traveller and gypsy sites.

There is also the opportunity to respond on-line at: <http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/main.cfm?Type=CSCON&MenuId=987>. All the technical studies are also available at links from the same webpage and in paper copy at Stansted Library. Your attention is drawn to the Comparative Transport Analysis and the Comparative Sustainability Assessment. Do you agree with the scoring system in the latter analysis that narrowly rates Elsenham as the best location for most new housing? Do you agree with the assumptions used in this assessment? Tell the Council what you think.

Two Special Area Forum meetings are being held to discuss the consultation. The first is on Tuesday 2nd March at Helena Romanes School, Dunmow, and the second on Thursday 4th March at the Council Offices, Saffron Walden. Both meetings start at 7.30pm. Don't forget to respond to Uttlesford District Council by 9th April!

District Councillors Alan Dean and Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

BUFFY BUS

From 24th February Buffy Playbus, supported by Spangles Children's Centre, will be coming to Foresthall Park each Wednesday during term time and at half-term breaks, from 1.30pm until 3.00pm. Buffy Playbus offers a mobile baby and toddler session for all pre-school children and their parents and carers. The cost of each session is £2.50 per family, concessions available. Please come and join us. **Bring your copy of the 'Link' for a free session.**



Rosie Juhl
Website: www.buffybus.co.uk

STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

January Lunch

January saw us generously sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Bishop's Stortford and Stansted Stort Valley. Malcolm Lloyd, speaking on behalf of both Clubs, told us much about their activities and in particular their charitable work, which ranges from the local to the international. We were left with a vivid picture of an active and lively group of business people who recognise the benefits and importance of generously supporting their local community whilst enjoying the congenial company of fellow members at regular lunches and dinners. It is a privilege, open to us all, to be part of such a movement with its strong and ethical basic beliefs. Once again Danny and his Doyle team pushed out the gastronomic boat for us with an excellent meal served with their customary good humour and efficiency.

Sponsorship

There are five more lunches in 2010, of which three are being sponsored. As I shall be abroad a lot this year, I should like to tie up quickly sponsorship for September so that we continue to enjoy the benefit of subsidised lunches. For the sponsor, sponsorship raises the local profile of its business at relatively small cost. There is a modest contribution to administrative costs which earns the privileges of being warmly thanked; of generally being treated with respect; of having electronic literature distributed with invitations; of speaking lightly and humorously on some topic associated with the sponsor's business (no overt sales pitches are allowed). Secondly, there is an optional contribution towards the cost of lunch which is a direct subsidy of the cost of each member's lunch; for this the sponsor earns even warmer thanks and respect, the temperature of the thanks being directly proportionate to the amount of subsidy (usually between £5 and £10 per member attending a lunch). I should be most grateful if prospective sponsors would contact me as a matter of urgency.

Future Lunches

May 2010 – Savvy Business Community (sponsors)
July 2010 – Weston (Business Centres) and another
September 2010 – Sponsor needed
17 November 2010 – Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers



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HATFIELD FOREST HIGHLIGHTS

Hello everyone. We have been very busy over the winter in the Forest, with lots of exciting projects on the go including the massive changes to our marsh. Our marsh restoration project will make a big difference to our reed and sedge beds in this area. In recent years, willow and hawthorn scrub have intruded on to the marsh, shading out some of the smaller plants and reducing the amount of reed habitat for nesting birds such as the water rail. This project has employed a specialised team to cut, remove and dispose of the willow and hawthorn to allow the reed to re-establish. Once they have been removed, we will be able to look after the marsh and remove any future re-growth. We have also been hard at work on our veteran trees. In 2002 we carried out a detailed veteran tree survey of 800 trees. As each one is so important and unique, an individual management plan for each tree was drawn up. We are now using pioneering tree surgery called 'environmental arboriculture', mimicking the trees' natural process, balancing out the canopy, trunk and branches using specialised cuts. Without this work the veteran trees are at great risk of collapsing under the weight of the branches and their valuable habitat will be lost.



Another important annual project that many of you may have noticed by London Bridge is our wood pasture restoration. Wood pasture is an important habitat that is becoming scarce throughout Europe. During this project we are clearing one hectare of hawthorn scrub growth that has encroached onto what used to be pristine wood pasture, full of wild flowers. Forty potential pollard trees will be selected and kept. The majority of trees that are felled will be cut for firewood and left to season for two years before being sold off as logs. To protect the ground from damage, anything that needs to be burnt we will carry out on a burning platform. Following this work we will fence the area using dog-proof chestnut paling and then our sheep will graze this area for around five years to allow a greater variety of grasses and wild plants to grow. As always I hope you will come and find me if you have any questions and I look forward to seeing you on the forest soon.

Laura Slater
Community Warden
Tel: 870678

Email: laura.slater@nationaltrust.org.uk



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our 2010 programme 'kicked off' to a flying start. We were fortunate to have with us Sue Mott, an award winning sports columnist, feature writer and chief interviewer at the Daily Telegraph for 14 years. She has covered all the major sporting events including world cups, Olympics, Wimbledon, Commonwealth Games and FA cup finals. Sue spoke most entertainingly and engagingly about her career; how she broke into the male dominated world of sports journalism, and about the interesting personalities she had interviewed: the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace, Elton John with his surprising addiction to porcelain collecting, Serena Williams, Tim Henman, Brian Clough, Andy Murray and Sir Steven Redgrave. She actually co-wrote Sir Steven's autobiography, and when he won his 5th gold medal in Sydney she was there reporting the event!

Other interesting talks on the horizon include: 'A coach holiday with the RAF' in March, 'Bee-keeping in Essex' in April, 'Docklands past and present' in June, a talk on antiques in September and the 'History of Finger-printing' in October. So we've a lot to look forward to in the year.

Andrea Fitt



There are estimated to be 700,000 people in the UK with a form of dementia and it is anticipated that this figure could reach more than a million within 20 years. The Uttlesford Branch of Alzheimer's Society is based in Great Dunmow and offers information and support to those with dementia and their carers. Following the success of the information stall at Saffron Walden Library during Alzheimer's Awareness Week in July last year, it has been decided to extend this to a regular event. Hopefully this will make it easier for those affected by dementia in the North Uttlesford area to access information and support. The service will be provided on the following Tuesdays, 10.30am until 3.00pm:

23rd March, 27th April, 25th May, 22nd June.

A staff member from the Society will be available there to help. People are welcome to just drop in, but where a more in-depth discussion is required arrangements can be made for a home visit at a later stage.

Kathy Cohen
Uttlesford Branch Administrator
Tel: 01371 872519
Email: kathy.cohen@alzheimers.org.uk

THERE'S A MILK THIEF ABOUT

Recently at around 3.00pm my wife spotted a man stealing our milk and supplies from our house in Woodfields. Unfortunately we leave the house to go to work usually before the milkman arrives. The man was also carrying a rucksack. I just wanted to make people aware that there may be someone around stealing milk etc ...

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- Paediatric First Aid starts 22nd April (2 days)
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- First Aid at Work 13th May (1 day)
09:30 – 16:30. Fee £54 or £11 benefit.

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Planning Application UTT/1441/09/FUL, the Total Garage

Not all villagers are aware that the Total garage at the corner of Cambridge Road and Bentfield Road was subject to a planning application to demolish it and for 13, two-bedroom flats and 21 car parking spaces to replace it.

At least 327 villagers believe it would be wrong to impose more flats on our village and have signed a petition to help support objections to this plan. I'm sorry that other villagers, who might have wanted to sign my petition, did not have the opportunity. I simply ran out of time to knock on all doors. The following statement was included with the petition to the UDC Development Control Committee on 10th February:

There is a 'creeping' increase of multi-storey flats being built in our village which is changing and degrading the character of Stansted Mountfitchet. I fear we will follow Bishop's Stortford in their downward spiral as a consequence of the many flats recently built there and much disliked by that community. In Stansted Mountfitchet, between Windmill Close and Bentfield Road, there are already well over 120 flats/small properties about 50% of which have been built in the past 10 years. This planning application is now extending the possibility of even more high density multi-story urban flats being built to the north of Chapel Hill along Cambridge Road.

UDC Development Control Committee decided to reject this planning application. This was much supported by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Councillors who are members of that Committee. What are the next steps? We have to wait for the applicant to respond. They might appeal, they might revise their planning application, and they might even withdraw it. We need to watch carefully what will happen. To all who signed my petition and encouraged me to take the action I have very many thanks.

Ray Woodcock



Baroness Shirley Williams will be the guest speaker at our Supper Club on Friday 5th March, 7.30pm for 8.00pm in the Crafton Room, Stansted Day Centre. Tickets, which include a two course meal, cost £12.00. You can reserve yours by contacting Alan Dean on 813579 or email alandean@btinternet.com.

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

(every 3rd Saturday of the month)

Saturday 20th March

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RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

What does it mean?

There are many things to consider as a dog owner; you have the responsibility to your dog and to the community around you, and it is important that we all should live in harmony and peace.

Identification

Make sure your dog always wears a collar and tag when out in a public place. The Control of Dogs Order 1992 makes the tag a legal requirement, a microchip is just an extra precaution, but very useful. The animal warden can chip, so please ask for prices and arrange an appointment. Don't allow your dog to stray; it could be seized or, worse still, it could cause an accident.



Falling Foul

ALWAYS clear up after your dog should it foul any foot-path, park or public place; if children walk the dog make sure they are prepared to 'pick up'. Poop scoop bags are available FREE from the animal warden. Bags can (preferably) be taken back home and disposed of in your black-lidded bin. Also available to you are the RED dog bins or litterbins for waste tied in SMALL bags.

Training

Ensure that your dog is trained, and can be controlled when you are out. This is very important as not everyone is a dog lover, and an uncontrolled dog could be a danger. Always keep your dog on a lead when near livestock, and respect the Country Code. If children are allowed to walk the dog make sure that they are able to control it.

Noise

Don't allow your dog to be a nuisance to people living around you by making unnecessary noise; all dogs will bark but constant noise from them should be avoided. Anyone enduring a noise problem can contact the animal warden.

Control Orders

Dog Control Orders will be enforced over the whole of the Uttlesford District to ensure that the possible risks of toxocar are kept to a minimum. Regular worming of your dog should also be carried out.

Please remember that all the above points are within your control, and a well-trained and socialised dog is a credit to its owner, not a worry.

Sue Knight
Uttlesford Animal Warden
Tel: 01799 510594

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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 form below to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG. Details must be submitted by the 11th of the month for publication the following month.

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