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by noon on 11th March for the
 April issue.

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 also available online at www.stanstedlink.org.uk.

EDITORIAL



It seems that every month brings a new planning proposal for building more houses in Stansted. Irksome though it is to study the details of yet another scheme, it's essential for residents to make the effort and take part in the decision making process by making their views known to both developers and planners. See pages 17 and 19 for details on how to get involved and register your opinions. Any future development, whether large or small, will have an impact on the village community and we need to do our utmost to ensure that whatever is built, and wherever it's sited, is acceptable to the majority.

We're pleased to include regular reports of local volunteers being publicly recognised for their hard work and dedication in 'The Link', and this month is no exception. (See pages 7 and 20.) Congratulations to all involved. It's partly thanks to Stansted's volunteering ethic that it's such a vibrant community and 'desirable' place to live. Over the years we have stretched our boundaries welcoming more housing and residents but there has to be a limit. If we're to hang onto our village identity maybe it's time for us to declare 'there's no more room at the inn' – Stansted is full!

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Stansted network is compiled by
 Stansted Mountfitchet Parish
 Council.

DISCLAIMER Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of the editorial committee, nor is any culpability accepted for work undertaken by advertisers.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

When I was a teenager the film *Alfie* was released. There was a great song in it sung by Cher, but later released by Cilla Black. The opening lyrics asked, "What's it all about, Alfie? Is it just for the moment we live?" That question is very relevant for society today as many are asking the question, "Does God exist; is it just for the moment that we live?" As a Christian minister I very firmly believe that life is about far more than just living for today.

As we approach Easter people often ask, "So what's so special about Easter, what's it all about?" If you look in the supermarkets it is all about selling eggs and all the other seasonal paraphernalia that they offer at the earliest opportunity; Jesus rarely gets a look in. Yet in some ways Easter is simple; it is about the powerful narrative of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but alongside the simplicity there are complexities. If Jesus is indeed part of God why did he allow himself to be captured, tried and killed in such an awful way on what Christians call Good Friday; how can we call a day like that good? Therein lays the paradox. It is because Jesus gave of himself willingly, humbly and lovingly to enable our relationship with God to be full and complete. Jesus defeated death through his resurrection to eternal life, for humanity and it is indeed good that God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, loves us completely and unconditionally and wants only the best for us. We now have hope of a brilliant future because of what Jesus has done for you and me. The world can seem a dark place when you are struggling to feed your family, to pay the rent or mortgage or find a job, but Jesus shines a light into even the darkest of situations.

This Easter, why not come along to one of the church services listed below and celebrate the fact that there is hope because of Jesus? May you all know and experience the light and hope of Jesus shining into your lives this Easter. Every blessing.

Rev'd David Keeble
Stansted Free Church

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

Blessing and Distribution of Palms at all Weekend Masses

Monday 25th March

7.30pm Penitential Service

Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Mass of the Last Supper
Vigil until 10.00pm

Friday 29th March Good Friday

9.45am for 10.00am Children's Service
3.00pm Passion of Our Lord
4.15pm Walk of Witness

Saturday 30th March Holy Saturday

11.00am-12 noon Confessions
8.00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 31st March Easter Sunday

10.00am Mass of the Resurrection

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

31st March – Easter Day

10.30 am Meeting

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

24th March – Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Palm Sunday Procession and Sung Eucharist

27th March - Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion

28th March – Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist

29th March – Good Friday

9.00am Morning Prayer *at St Mary's Farnham*
2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy *at St Mary's Birchanger*
6.00pm 'The Cross of Christ' A devotion for congregation and choir. A Musical Reflection for Good Friday.

31st March – Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist

FREE CHURCH

29th March – Good Friday

10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch

31st March – Easter Day

10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Communion





STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

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

Preachers for March

3rd 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
10th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble - Communion
17th 10.30am Ruth Parker
24th 10.30am Maureen Kendall
29th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch – Good Friday
31st 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Communion

The Place on the Hill

Our new drop-in every Wednesday 9.30am-12.30pm is still proving very popular, with new visitors arriving every week. All are welcome.



Lent Groups

This year we shall be using 'Life Attitudes' which is a series on the Beatitudes written by Robert Warren and Sue Mayfield. We will meet at 8.00pm in St John's Church on Tuesdays:

26th February	Living openly	<i>Matthew 5.3-4</i>
5th March	Living purposefully	<i>Matthew 5.5-6</i>
12th March	Living lovingly	<i>Matthew 5.7-8</i>
19th March	Living differently	<i>Matthew 5.9-10</i>

Each week will be led by a different church. All are welcome.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'

Prepared by the women of France

WWDP creates a network of Christian women on a world-wide scale which also reaches into our local communities. France, like other European countries, receives many asylum requests. In 2011, 51,900 people applied for asylum in France. The presence of these people in the country both enriches the culture and can cause social difficulties. Behind each request, and each statistic, is the story of a life. Some of those stories will be shared in the service. We envisage a great annual wave of prayer, rising with the sun over the island of Samoa and then sweeping across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, until it comes to rest in American Samoa some 36 hours later. By then services will have taken place in over 170 countries. This year the service in Stansted will be at the **Quaker Meeting House** at 2.00pm on Friday 1st March. **All are welcome to attend, men and women and people of all ages.**

Brenda Veitch
Tel: 815819



Shalom

As the Churches Together in Stansted are holding Lent Groups on Tuesdays during March, we shall be holding just one Shalom meeting this month. This will be 'At home' 8.00pm on Monday 25th March at 49 Recreation Ground. All are welcome.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



ST JOHN'S NEWS

Quiz Night

St John's Church is holding its annual quiz night on Saturday 2nd March in the Church Hall. Our quizmaster, Andrew Arnold, always comes up with a selection of rounds providing a good variety of challenging questions to suit all and we provide a generous ploughman's supper which includes pork pie and pate, as well as a selection of cheeses.

This year the proceeds will be split between the Bishop's Lent Appeal, supporting links with a group of Christian churches in Kenya, and the Kenyan Orphan Project. This latter charity is particularly dear to us as we will be helping Caroline Crosby who was a regular at our church before going off to Nottingham University to study Medicine. Now in her second year, Caroline will be working at a Kenyan orphanage in the summer where she will be putting some of her newly acquired skills and knowledge to good use. Caroline is hoping to be at the quiz to tell us a little about what she will be doing. Tickets are £9, available from me. Please arrive at 7.00pm for a prompt 7.30pm start and bring your own drink and glasses.

Katy Dockerill
Tel: 812997

Email: viewpoints@btinternet.com

Jazz at St John's

As the Ides of March are almost with us, we look forward to the pleasure of your company at St John's Church with Pete Baker's Half Dozen on the 15th. If you would like to have a request played when you book, the band will do its best and go into a last minute rehearsal frenzy. Note: the band does not perform Lady Gaga or Justin Bieber covers! Tickets are £15 (to include a hot supper) and may be ordered from Peter or Helen on 814865, Ray or Liz on 813270 or Sally Chapman at the Church Office on 815243 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.00am and 12 noon). There will be a bar and raffle. Come and enjoy the music and dancing! Cheers.

Ray Smith

Summer Fete

Is any organisation interested in doing a village fete in the Memorial Gardens on Bank Holiday Monday 27th May? A Committee at St John's Church is willing to arrange this if we get support from the village. Please ring or text me by the end of March if you would like this to go ahead.

Flower Festival Cards

Beautiful cards of photographs of the Flower Festival are on sale in aid of the Church Roof repairs. These are available in St John's Church or from me.

Pauline Mantle
Tel: 07780 606278

St John's 300 Club

Many congratulations to the holders of the winning numbers in the January draws, who were:

£100 No 3 – Kathy West
£ 50 No 172 – Colin Joyce
£ 25 No 145 – Stuart Ayres

The draws for March will be held on Sunday 31st March in St John's Church following the 9.30am service.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562

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

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

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

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

St John's Diary

Sunday
8.00am Said Holy Communion
9.30am Worship4all (1st Sunday)
9.30am Choral Eucharist (2nd-5th Sundays)

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer
(9.00am on Saturday) There are services of Holy

Tuesday
9.15am-10.30am St John's Tots
Communion on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Wednesday
8.30am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion
Norman Court, Hargrave House

Monday-Thursday and Saturday
5.00pm Evening Prayer
and Broome End Nursing Homes.

From the Registers

January

Funerals

2nd Florence Rogers, age 81 at St Mary's
7th Raymond Chatto, age 53, at St John's and
Parndon Wood

No baptisms or marriages in January

Proposed Business Forum
Inaugural Breakfast
Friday 1st March from 7.45am
Linden House Hotel
£5 per person
to include a full English breakfast
Tel: 813003 to book
For more details of this new venture
please call
Sarah Calder 07528 520016

COMING SOON
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hairspray
The Broadway Musical
7.30 pm
Thu 28th Feb & Fri 1st Mar
Tickets from MMCC on 813384
Adults £7 Children / Conc £4.50

St John's, Stansted
QUIZ NIGHT
7 for 7.30 pm Sat 2nd Mar
Tickets £9 incl ploughman's with
cheeses, pork pie & paté
from Katy tel 812997
Bring your own drinks & glass
*In aid of the Bishop's Lent Appeal
& The Kenyan Orphan Project*

MARCH VILLAGE EVENTS			
1	Fri	Business Forum Breakfast NCT Baby Sensory Women's World Day of Prayer Hairspray	Linden House 7.45 am St John's Hall 10 am – 11.30 am Meeting House 2 pm MMCC
2	Sat	Open Day Quiz Night	Rainbow Pre-school 10 am – noon St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
5	Tue	Big Brew Coffee Morning Millers AGM	Free Church 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Day Centre 7.45 for 8 pm
5/12/19	Tue	Lent Group	St John's Church 8 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Club Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
7	Thu	Uttlesford Community Forum Ladies' Pamper Evening Local History Society	Helena Romanes Sch 6.30 pm MMCC 7.30 pm Day Centre 8 pm
9	Sat	St Mary's Friends AGM & Quiz	Day Centre 7 pm
10	Sun	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
11	Mon	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
12	Tue	Safer Living Event	Day Centre 10 am – 1.30 pm
14	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
15	Fri	Jazz & The Ides of March	St John's Church 7.30 for 8 pm
16	Sat	St Clare Quiz S Walden Choral Soc Concert	MMCC 7 for 7.30 pm St Mary's Ch, S W 7.30 pm
20	Wed	Millers Coffee Morning Parish AGM	Day Centre 10 am – noon Free Church 8 pm
21	Thu	U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
23	Sat	Liberal Democrats Quiz	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
23 & 30	Sat	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
23	Sat	music@stansted	St John's Church 7.30 pm
25	Mon	Shalom At Home	49 Recreation Ground 8 pm
30	Sat	Taste Easter (see village boards)	Day Centre 11 am – noon
31	Sun	Easter Egg Hunt	St Mary's Church 3.30 pm
31	Sun & 1 Mon	Windmill Open	1.30 – 5.30 pm

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Fortnight**
25th Feb - 10th Mar
BIG BREW
& Sale OF FAIRTRADE GOODS
10.30 - 12.30 Tue 5th Mar
Free Church Foyer
All are warmly invited

Stansted Millers
AGM & Wine & Nibbles
7.45 for 8 pm Tue 5th Mar

Coffee Morning
10 am Wed 20th Mar
Both events at the Day Centre

Windmill Open
Sun 31st Mar & Mon 1st Apr
1.30 - 5.30 pm

music@stansted
Kimon Parry - Clarinet
Tony Ingham - Piano
7.30 pm Sat 23rd March
St John's Church
*Tickets £12 adults, £1 under 18s
from Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;
Stansted Carpets; Sonia Levy 815282,
or at the door*

 **Pete Baker's
Half Dozen**
ST JOHN'S JAZZ (10th year)
7.30 for 8 pm Fri 15 Mar
St John's Church
£15 (incl hot supper)
Tel 814865, 07920 000940
or Church Office 815243
Bar ~ Raffle
In aid of Church Hall Fund

The Mountfitchet Maths
& Computing College
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 **QUIZ NIGHT**
7 for 7.30 pm Sat 16th Mar
Mountfitchet Maths &
Computing College
Tickets £10 incl Ploughman's
from Caroline on 813938
Tables 8 -10 or individuals
All Welcome ~ BYO Drinks

The Crafton Room (Day Centre)
Safer Living Event
for over 55s
10 am - 1.30 pm Tue 12th Mar
Short sketches covering a range
of topics including
Fire Safety, Bogus Callers and
Arm Chair Exercises
Entry free & includes roast lunch but
pre-booking essential tel 815091

 **Friends of
St Mary's Church**
AGM, Quiz Night & Supper
Sat 9th March 7 pm
Day Centre ~ BYO drinks
~~~~~  
**Easter Egg Hunt**  
Sun 31st Mar 3.30 pm  
St Mary's Church  
£1.50 per child ~ Refreshments

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## 'THE LINK' WINS ANOTHER AWARD

In January, three members of 'The Link' team attended the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) awards evening for the best community magazine in Essex. The competition sponsors are Essex Life Magazine, the Diocese of Chelmsford and Newport News. We had been told that we were shortlisted out of 40 entries from across the whole of Essex but did not know if we had won anything until that evening. We were delighted to find out that we had been awarded third prize, and we were congratulated on the high standard of 'The Link'.



I was very pleased to accept the award on behalf of 'The Link'.

Marion Dyer



**STANSTED  
BOWLING  
CLUB**

**Carpet Bowls** are proving to be very popular, so come along and have a look on a Friday evening from 8.00pm or telephone below for other more convenient times and dates; you will be made very welcome.

### Date For Your Diary

**Bowling For Beginners** starts on Sunday 28th April at 10.00am and each evening during that week at 6.30pm. All that you need is a flat pair of shoes, good sense of humour and we will supply the woods. If you wish to have a chat beforehand for more information please telephone John Scraggs on one of the numbers below.

**Del Sharp** - we have had to say a very sad farewell to Del who passed away on Tuesday 22nd January. Del was a much loved member of Stansted Bowling Club, a great ambassador of the Club; also coach, Club captain and not forgetting all the building works, carpentry and time he gave to the Club. Del was the life and soul of any event, always smiling and laughing and cheering people up; it was a testament to him that so many other fellow bowlers from across the county came to pay their respects. Rest in peace Del, you will never be forgotten.

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

## SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



We are talking, this month, about the four great planets that occupy the outer range of our solar system. The greatest, Jupiter, with a year of 12 Earth years, is our closest, and is still in our sky as soon as it is dark for a few more weeks, although it is a lot dimmer than a couple of months ago. For years, just using earthbound telescopes, the planet was known to have 12 moons, of which four were the giant moons which are easily captured by a small telescope or good binoculars. They can't be seen all the time because they are either behind Jupiter or in front when you can just perceive a black dot. Saturn is essentially yellow and, at first look, not much to talk about; but the planet is a boiling rage of waves and self-conflicts, though the turmoil does appear to have a slow cycle. The first time you see the rings you can only take your breath, although, at the moment (that is for a few more years) the rings are quite near to their edge from Earth's aspect. Saturn's orbit around the sun lasts about 30 years so it will take another few years before we get a good look. All this is because the rings are about 170,000 miles across but only four or five miles thick. Although all the great planets have moons, Saturn seems to have quite a harvest of mini moons which orbit in and around the rings. Uranus (I'll just pause a moment for the usual giggles) does not seem to do very much. It is very dark and not much seems to happen, except ... all planets have some tilt; we on Earth have the changes of day length because of it. But Uranus's tilt is 97 degrees which must give the feeling of rolling round the Sun. Our final and most distant giant is, most appropriately named, Neptune. A year or so ago we celebrated his first birthday, that is, it was the anniversary of Neptune's discovery 164 years ago. If anything lives there they will never say, as we do, 'the years just seem to fly away'. Finally, my thanks to readers who randomly bumped in to me after last month's piece on the death of Patrick Moore and thanks too, to our editorial team for finding a picture of him.

Martin West



Let me tell you about some people in Stansted. They have been taking part in the annual house-to-house envelope collection for Christian Aid for more than 30 years\*. They haven't had any reward other than knowing that their efforts can change the lives of the people helped by the agencies that Christian Aid supports. Thirty years ago there was a collector for most streets in Stansted. As the village has grown this has become more difficult. So I would love to recruit some more volunteers, not to clock up 30 years, but to give a few hours in Christian Aid week 12th to 18th May to knock on a few doors. Please let me know if you can help, particularly if you live in Foresthall Park. Thank you.

\*You know who you are, and can give yourselves a pat on the back, but don't think of retiring!

Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579

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## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Sponsored by Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers and The Countess of Munster Trust, our final concert of the 2012/13 season at 7.30pm on Saturday 23rd March in St John's Church, will be a recital by Kimon Parry (clarinet) and Tony Ingham (piano). Winner of the 2011 Clarinet and Saxophone Society Solo Competition, Kimon is now one of the most sought after clarinetists by music clubs throughout the country.



and the Ellipsis Wind Quintet.

Kimon's piano partner is Tony Ingham who, like Kimon, studied at The Royal Academy of Music and the RCM. As a post-graduate, he won the UCLA Piano Concerto Competition with the Arthur Bliss Concerto. He enjoys a varied musical career of accompanying and coaching strings, woodwind, and voice and works regularly as accompanist for the RCM. He has been official accompanist for the orchestra of St Martin-in-the-Fields, the RCM and the Purcell School.



The recital will feature a range of virtuoso showpieces for the clarinet, including variations on the famous 'Carnival of Venice' theme by Giampieri and, for opera lovers, a Fantasy on themes from Verdi's 'La Traviata' by Lovreglio. There will also be compositions showing off the romantic side of the instrument's repertoire, such as the 'Premiere Rhapsodie' by Debussy, and Rachmaninov's sensuous 'Vocalise'. The programme will also include music by Lutoslavski, York Bowen and Milhaud's lively 'Scaramouche'. An evening not to be missed! Tickets, Adults £12, Under 18s £1 from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy, tel 815282; or at the door on the day. For more information about us, please visit [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com).

Alan Corbishley  
Tel: 816318

The weather continues to cause havoc with our fixture schedule; after the snow we had the big thaw and despite the best efforts of our Groundsman, Brian Garrett, who worked tirelessly to prepare the pitch, the saturated ground proved too big a hurdle and we were forced to postpone a number of games for both the first and reserve teams. Of those games that were played, the first team suffered two heartbreaks when in both games leading by two goals to one going into stoppage time they allowed the opposition to equalise and take a share of the points. For the reserves the sweet taste of success came for our new management team of John Turner and Dave Murnan when they beat an experienced Great Waking side by four goals to one. However, in the return game two weeks later, they were to be undone by the same opposition who fielded a number of first team players (their own game being postponed), losing by three goals to nil. The task now of scheduling the fixtures before the end of April means that our games will be coming thick and fast so please keep an eye out for our fixture details on our website: [www.pitchero.com/clubs/stanstedfc2011](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/stanstedfc2011). Finally, please see below the upcoming fixtures at Hargrave Park. If you have a spare afternoon or evening and wish to support your local Club we would be more than happy to welcome you.

Wed 27th February Stansted v Eton Manor KO 7.45pm  
Sat 2nd March Stansted v Barkingside KO 3.00pm  
Tue 5th March Stansted v Takeley KO 7.45pm  
Tue 12th March Stansted v Clapton KO 7.45pm  
Sat 23rd March Stansted v Harringey & Waltham Development KO 3.00pm.

Tom Williams  
Secretary  
Tel: 07921 403842



## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held at 7.00pm on Saturday 9th March in the Crafton Room (Day Centre), Chapel Hill, and will be followed by a light-hearted quiz and a fish-and-chip supper. Please bring your own drinks. On Easter Sunday afternoon, 31st March, starting at 3.30pm promptly, we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt for the children - £1.50 per child, and light refreshments will be on sale. In the interests of health and safety, all eggs will be hidden in St Mary's Church, not in the churchyard. Prizes will be awarded for the highest number of eggs collected.

A date for your diary: Friday 12th April when the highly recommended Baroque Theatre Company will be performing John Chapman's comedy *Kindly Leave the Stage* in St Mary's Church at 7.30pm. Tickets £15 from Sally Argent on 812418 or myself. The Baroque Theatre are touring this play from early March until June. A review by R Deal in the Eastern Daily Press reads "... a comedy which produces the aches and tears that come with laughing too hard.. If it is anywhere near you, don't miss it."



Audrey Rodgers  
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Tel: 812162

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## 494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

Well, the weather at the start of 2013 has played havoc with not only the activities up at 494 but also with us being able to attend. However, that hasn't stopped cadets from this Squadron being able to take part in the wider events of the ACO. In January, Cadet James Yeadon hot-footed it over to Stubbers Adventure Centre, Upminster and represented Essex Wing in the Regional Cross County competition. Essex Wing is part of London and South East Region, which consists of six Wings - London, Sussex, Surrey, Middlesex, Kent and obviously Essex, which means there are a fair few cadets to be competing against! Cadet Yeadon performed very well on the cold, snowy day and has received yet another Essex Wing Sports 'Blue'. It's not just the cadets who get to represent the Squadron in the sporting world, we also have members of staff who give up their weekends to assist and this time it was one of our Civilian Instructors, Mr Mark Cook. He is a qualified referee and spends most of his Sunday mornings refereeing for West Ham under 14s, but this week he made his way over to Surrey Sports Park in Guildford to spend the day refereeing yet another Inter Wing football competition. I know that all involved in the day had a great time and to top it off, Essex Wing won Gold in the Junior Boys Football, as well as gold in the Junior Girls Hockey, excellent result!

With our feet slightly back down on the floor with all this representation that 494 are getting up to, three of our cadets went to 614 Volunteer Gliding Squadron which is based at MDPGA Wethersfield in the heart of Essex. Cadets Bloomfield, Connelly and Corporal Siederer spent the day on a very snowy airfield completing a number of glider launches and achieving their Gliding Induction Courses, Bloomfield achieving parts 1, 2 and 3 and Connelly and Siederer completing 1 and 2.



Let's hope the weather holds over the next couple of months so we can start our Falklands Competition training and get out of an evening. If you would like any information about joining the Air Training Corps, joining 494 as either a cadet, a member of staff or as a member of our Civilian Welfare Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the Squadron on 681559 and leave a message on the answer phone or email the CO on [oc.494@aircadets.org](mailto:oc.494@aircadets.org).



Flt Lt Gemma Martin RAFVR(T)  
Commanding Officer



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

At our January meeting we attempted to make the Hall warmer by lighting small candles for our tables, blowing up balloons and serving wine! There was a party-like atmosphere to welcome members for an evening of entertainment by Ron-Aldi the Magician. He had promised that we should be amazed, and we were; as was he when one particular trick failed to work after several attempts! However, several did and he managed to mystify us in the proper manner. Ron-Aldi's real name is Ron Burrows and he is a member of the Magic Circle, which he attends regularly in London. He started giving shows to WI members in 1995 and has visited most WIs in Essex since then. He also does shows for children and made some animals for us out of long balloons, which unfortunately I didn't find very easy to identify! He gave me a certificate as a member of the Society of Magicians' Assistants, so if you need one you know where to come.

Our New Year dinner at 'The Chequers' had to be cancelled because of the snow but is re-booked, and some of us are looking forward to the County Annual meeting in Colchester when the main speaker will be Adam Henson, presenter of BBC1's 'Countryfile'. We also look forward to hosting our Spring Group Meeting, which involves five WIs in the immediate area. Do come along and join us again this year or for the first time; I have recently been told what a friendly group we are! Our next meeting is at 7.45pm on Thursday 14th March in St John's Church Hall, when our Speaker will be Claire Mulley. She will be telling the story of Eglantine Jebb the founder of the Save the Children Organisation.



Judy Colliver  
President  
Tel: 812470



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Elizabeth Willetts of 'Style me Beautiful' was the speaker at our recent meeting. Her subject - advising us on what colours to wear and what to avoid! With the aid of a handful of specially selected 'models' plucked from the audience, she proceeded to show us why certain shades complemented our colouring more than others, and pointed out which colours would suit us better than others. She ended her presentation by showing to each of the models combinations of the colours that would suit them best to make the most of their wardrobe. So, after our usual refreshments, we all headed for our homes to refresh our wardrobes and try on the clothes that we never thought we'd be able to wear again! Other highlights on the horizon for our members include a talk about the Under-Sea world in March and the Crown Jewels and Royal Regalia in April, when a former curator of the Tower of London will be coming to talk to us. If this sounds like your cup of tea, why not come and join us - you would get a right royal welcome! We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Andrea Fitt  
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Our meeting on 7th February was well attended for a very cold evening, with Janet Dyson (Chair of Great Bardfield History Society) giving a presentation on Great Bardfield in two parts, firstly the history and then the artists. Great Bardfield is a Domesday village with a steady population of 1000. It was classed as a medieval town with a 16th century Norman church (St Mary's) and many fine houses in and around the village centre. It had a weekly fair through the medieval period being the largest in East Anglia in 1262. Just recently in 2004 the village received funding from the Heritage Lottery initiative to record the history of the village which helped to develop and restore the museum, catalogue the collection, and finance various projects detailing the village history. The second part of Janet's presentation was 'The Artists of Great Bardfield'. In 1958 the Sheffield Telegraph wrote "The village has a thriving artists' colony but the curious thing is that none of them has anything in common, they just like being there". Today the village is referred to as the artists' or Montmartre village. The most famous artists being Edward Bawden (see picture below), Eric Ravilious, Charlotte Epton, Tirzah Garwood, John Aldridge, Chloe Cheese, Walter Hoyle, Audrey Cruddas and David Low as well as many others.



From 1951 Great Bardfield held a 'Festival of Britain Village' annual event where local residents and artists opened their houses and work to the public. These events became very popular, sometimes lasting two weeks, and in 1958 it was recorded that 9,000 passed through Brick House in one day. Janet can be contacted through the museum for visiting parties and presentations, and Great Bardfield is always worth a visit if you have not been.

The next meeting is at 8.00pm on 7th March in the Day Centre when Malcolm Osborn will be talking to us on The 398 Bomber Group from Nuthampstead Air Base. All welcome.

Stephen Leaney  
Tel: 647177

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No such thing as a free lunch? Think again, on Tuesday 12th March we are hosting a Safer Living Event for the over 55s. A selection of drinks and homemade cakes will be available from 10.00am. The event starts at 10.30am with a range of short sketches covering a range of topics including Fire Safety, Bogus Callers and Arm Chair Exercises. Roast Dinner followed by Peach Melba will be served at 12.30pm and everyone attending will receive a goody bag; all of this is free of charge but pre-booking is essential and places are limited so don't delay, book today. Did you know that we are also open for morning coffee from 10.00am with lunch served at 12.30pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at a cost of £5.00 for a two course home cooked meal that you can see being prepared in our open kitchen? The only requirement is that you are over 55. Thursday 28th March is our Easter special, priced at £7.50 with a free raffle included in the price; and keep a look out in future editions of 'The Link' and on the Community Notice Boards for upcoming events, we have a lot of ideas in the pipeline.

Finally on a sad note Dee Harper, a wonderful volunteer at the Centre for over two years, passed away in January following a short illness. Dee will be missed by staff, volunteers and customers alike and our thoughts are with her family. A beautiful planter with a rose and seasonal flowers has been placed in our outside area in remembrance of our friend.

Julie Beck  
Centre Manager  
Tel: 815091



**STANSTED  
MOUNTFITCHET  
WINDMILL**

March is the month of activity for the windmill. We begin with our AGM on 5th March at 7.45pm for 8.00pm in the Day Centre. Do come along - meet the Committee; become a miller; hear about our plans for 2013; think about becoming a steward on open days; and enjoy the wine and nibbles with good company. Remember that the windmill belongs to all of us, having been given to the village in 1935 by the 2nd Lord Blyth. We should all take pride in being the custodians of such a magnificent ancient monument. This year we will be improving the ground floor with new information display boards, and outside will be a display board with a summary of the history of the windmill and the opening times.

Our coffee morning is on 20th March 10.00am to 12 noon in the Day Centre, which I hope you will all try to support. Coffee, tea, and hot cross buns are all included in the entry fee of £1, plus the usual cake stall and bric-a-brac stall. The first of our open days at the mill are Easter Sunday 31st March and Bank Holiday Monday 1st April when we are open between 1.30pm and 5.30pm. In addition we are able to show groups from schools, clubs, etc. around the mill by arrangement. We have a good selection of mill goods for sale, eg cards and souvenirs, including our new guide book which is a must-have item for the people of the village as well as visitors. Hope to see you all soon.



Molly Clark  
Co-Trustee  
Tel: 816768



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

'The Natural World in close-up' was the topic of Barry Kaufmann-Wright's very interesting slide show and talk at our February meeting. The fantastic close-up photographs of moths, butterflies, larvae, dragonflies, ladybirds, bees and beetles showed the intrinsic markings and beauty of these insects. The strangest insect shown was a Praying Mantis living wild in Epping! Flowers and plants had also been photographed showing their beauty and delicacy. Throughout the evening members were tested (in the nicest possible way!) on their knowledge of the plants and insects shown. A very lively question and answer session followed.

The Green Bowl Photographic Competition 2012 – subject 'Wildlife in the garden'

|     |   |              |
|-----|---|--------------|
| 1st | - | Helen Cowes  |
| 2nd | - | Jean Sendall |
| 3rd | - | Jon Sims     |

### Next Meeting

6th March 'Why do plants have such difficult names?' - speaker Mrs Hilary Thomas. Club meetings are held in the Day Centre adjacent to the library and car park at the top of Chapel Hill. Doors open at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Refreshments are served before the talk. Visitors are always welcome to our meeting.



Maralyn Harris  
Tel: 07919 478144



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

January is normally a quiet time for Stansted Mountfitchet U3A but that all changed at the end of the month when we had a very lively general meeting. Our speaker, Jackie Tevlin, who is an accomplished actor and singer, and with the aid of a few props, brought her subject, comedienne 'Joyce Grenfell', to life and we had a hilarious afternoon.

At our next meeting on 21st March 1.30pm for 2.00pm in St John's Church Hall, we enter the world of antiques and our speaker is David Fletcher; his talk is - 'The Valuer' – behind the scenes in the salesroom. We have approximately 30 activities that take place within the Stansted Mountfitchet U3A and at the end of January the group leaders and the Committee got together for a meeting. It was good to meet each other and to put faces to names and to exchange information. We have 30 successful and vibrant groups, some educational, others purely social, all their members seem to be having a good time and enjoying themselves and new members are welcome. It is that time of year again when we need to ask you to renew your membership. We will be renewing membership at the general meetings in March and April and we hope that you will want to stay a member and carry on enjoying the activities and events that we have planned for 2013. The fee remains the same at £13.50. If anyone would like to see what we are all about, please feel free to come to one of our general meetings held on the third Thursday of the month in St John's Church Hall, 2.00pm-4.00pm. We look forward to welcoming you.

Sandra Ruff  
Tel: 814304

## CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS

Hopefully, with the better weather to come, we can get going on our gardens again. Wait until the soil works easily, which could be a little while after all the wet weather we have had. You can help to warm up the soil by using cloches or even a plastic sheet laid over it. When you think it is ready you can prepare your seed beds. Sow shallots, parsnips and broad beans, then later in the month sow peas, carrots, onion sets and beetroot. At the end of the month it is worth planting some early potatoes. Another task to carry out this month is to break up large clumps of hostas and other herbaceous perennials. Do this by lifting the clumps and breaking off the younger growths from around the edge and then replant them.

Cyril Stoneham



### Nature Notes

Climate change has become a reality even in the relatively sheltered south-east, with 'globalisation' of the natural world in the guise of incoming organisms from the continent seen in many populations. Unwelcome pathogens like those affecting oak, larch and ash trees and the Schmallenberg Virus spread by tics to sheep, tend to take centre stage and we are warned of more to come. The recent return to more severe winters does however bring compensations. A reader from Mount Drive reports a flock of waxwings in his garden as well as numerous redwings on the nearby games field in January. Another source recorded siskins on the Town Meads in Bishop's Stortford. My only contribution is a return of tree creepers after an absence of several years. The tiny wren and goldcrest, ever vulnerable to sustained freeze-ups, have thankfully reappeared. Please let 'The Link' share your observations; what is commonplace to you may be news to others. Perhaps the warm vent pipes from domestic gas boilers help small birds through the cold spells. It would be a pity if all that warmth went to waste.

The upper Stort gets mixed reactions from the Environment Agency. In general the lengths used by powered craft receive poor marks but several of the gravelly backwaters - often the original courses - score quite well in biodiversity. It may not be common knowledge but almost all the Stort river water has passed through the several sewage pumping stations up and downstream from Stansted. The principal pollutants, phosphates and nitrates from agricultural run-off, seem to be slowly diminishing but there is still little or no evidence of an otter population. Emphasis has to be on wildlife corridors as unimpeded movement of seeds, insects and birds is essential to a viable ecosystem. For this reason streams and flower-rich verges like Pennington Lane and Snakes Lane should be at the forefront of the planner's agenda.

Derek Honour  
Tel: 647213

## ST JOHN'S YOUTH FELLOWSHIP DECEMBER 1947



### **Back Row**

Alan Porter, Susan Smith, Betty Waterman, Pat Welford, Janet Ramsey, Mary Murray, Rosemary Goodey, Jean Turner, Brenda Hudgell, John Pape

### **Second Row**

Ian Roberts, John Mumford, Ena Silvester, Tom Johnson, Nancy Gillam, Terence Harnetty, Audrey Warwick, Keith Turner, Patricia Bull

### **Seated**

Joyce Johnson, Margaret Silvester, Malcolm Treacher, Nesta Millwood, Douglas Rose, Joan Jordan, John Sewell, Anne Robinson, Angela Ripley

## MANUDEN SINGERS

On Saturday 6th April at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Manuden, The Manuden Singers, players and soloists will perform J S Bach's St John Passion, one of the two great oratorios Bach composed, telling the story of Christ's passion and crucifixion. The work vividly depicts the highly dramatic interplay between Christ, the Roman Governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate, and the crowd whipped up by their Chief Priests, jealous of Christ's power, to ensure His conviction and execution on the Cross. The crowd and courtroom scenes are interspersed with some of Bach's most moving and beautiful arias. The story is told by the Evangelist, sung by tenor Jeff Phillips. The part of Christ is sung by James Priest, who also sings the bass arias; and Pilate by Tim Atkinson, with Natalie Meyer-Hutchings and Katy Edgecombe singing the soprano and alto arias. The performance, supported by the locally prominent Manuden Players, leader Ysobel Latham, is directed by Ian Priest. Tickets £10 (£5 children) from Fiona Bengtsen 812157 or on the door. All proceeds to support the Manuden Church Organ Restoration Fund.

Ian Priest

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

### **Calling all 'Crafters'!**

If you enjoy sewing, knitting or crochet, the Gardens of Easton Lodge Preservation Trust could really do with your help. We are planning to start selling a range of home-made crafts from the gardens this season to help raise funds for our various projects. We have put together some simple kits that we would like people to sew, knit or crochet for us – we will provide all the materials we just need your expertise and energy. If your skills are a bit rusty or you're a beginner, don't worry – we'll also be having regular crafting get-togethers where there will be a chance to chat, share skills and do quality control on potential cakes for the gardens! If this sounds like the kind of thing you would like to get involved with then please contact me.

Helen Carter  
Trust Administrator  
Tel: 01371 871979

Email: [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk)

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## SPRINGING INTO LIFE

This month, there is an explosion of colour and activity in our gardens as plants respond to the lengthening and warming days – seeds germinate, and mature plants paint the land a welcome rainbow with a rush of bud break and leaf break. Many northern hemisphere plants have survived the winter in a dormant state brought on by chemical changes within plant cells. These chemical changes are triggered by the drop in



temperature and shorter day lengths of autumn and essentially plant growth is shut down. Antifreeze proteins in many plants inhibit the growth of ice crystals that would damage the plant tissue in the winter months (snowdrops are particularly rich in antifreeze!) and the miniature, tightly-packed leaves and flowers that formed at the end of last summer are encased in a great array of protective bud scales,

often additionally protected by sticky resin to deter grazers – think of horse chestnuts – or even thermal vests – think of the suede-textured wraps on the Magnolia buds. It is the combination of prolonged winter cold followed by subsequent spring warmth that triggers a physiological response in trees particularly, altering the chemical balance of hormones and enzymes in favour of resuming growth and promoting bud break.

This exposure to seasonal change is also essential for the germination from seed of many plants, which is why the Botanic Garden team could be seen sowing into the snow in January! We are delighted that James Hitchmough, Professor of Horticultural Ecology at the University of Sheffield and the plant architect co-responsible with Nigel Dunnett for the globally acclaimed wildflower meadows at the Olympic Park, has developed a new drought-tolerant perennial meadow planting for us at the Garden, with a long flowering season from April to October. He has selected a global mix with a strong emphasis on Mediterranean and steppe environments from the Colorado plateau through to central Europe and Asia, but with elements from the dryer parts of the North American prairies and the summer rainfall regions of South Africa – the great majority need a period of cold to promote growth, a process known as stratification. We first laid a 7.5cm layer of sand – that's 60 tonnes all shifted and spread by tractor and spade – to create a sterile barrier to prevent weeds coming through and act also as a perfectly free-draining seed bed. Professor Hitchmough then hand mixed the seed into nuanced combinations to suit the varying shaded and exposed conditions, mixed with sawdust to help achieve an even spread and scattered the mix into the very cold seed bed (we had scraped away the January snow). While we won't have the instant flowering gratification of an annual meadow to enjoy this summer, it will be very rewarding to see how this experiment in growing a global drought-tolerant perennial meadow from seed develops, both from the visual and horticultural point of view.

The Botanic Garden is open 10.00am-5.00pm in February and March and 10.00am-6.00pm April-September. Admis-

sion is £4.50, Giftaid admission £4.95 or join the Friends, get free admission and help the Garden grow! For news and events, detailed information about the Garden or to discover this week's Plant Picks from the Head of Horticulture, please visit the website at [www.botanic.cam.ac.uk](http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk).



Juliet Day  
Development Officer  
Cambridge University Botanic Garden

## SAVE STANSTED VILLAGE (SSV)

This new local action group opposes unsustainable housing developments in the village. Its formation comes in response to recently announced plans and a public exhibition for 170 homes and football fields at Bentfield Green but SSV also emphasises the threat to other areas of the village from potential future developments, such as land north of Rainsford Road, land behind Blythwood Gardens and many other sites on the horizon. We are a group of village residents, some recently arrived, others here for generations, united in a common view that we were attracted here by the village setting in open rural countryside and the strong sense of local community and identity. We value our proximity to good road, rail and air connections to London, Cambridge and further afield but we believe it is vital to fight to 'Save Stansted Village' before it becomes part of a large urban sprawl stretching right across Bishops Stortford and the M11 corridor. We know that others share our current concerns. Stansted Mountfitchet has absorbed over 700 new houses in recent years, predominantly at Forest Hall Park but including other smaller developments too. In that time we have seen little infrastructure investment. We still await a fit for purpose health centre, St Mary's School's new Forest Hall site is already too small to cope with expected new demand for places and Bentfield School is full. Traffic in the village is already close to gridlock. If you share our desire to 'Save Stansted Village' and would like to be actively involved or just voice your support, we would like to hear from you. Our village way of life is too important to be destroyed!

Email: [bentfieldgreen@hotmail.com](mailto:bentfieldgreen@hotmail.com)

Post: SSV Campaign,  
c/o Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council,  
Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted  
CM24 8AE

Telephone: 813214

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/savebentfieldgreen](http://www.facebook.com/savebentfieldgreen)

### Exhibition Postscript:

SSV would like to offer its thanks to the many people who visited the public exhibitions for the Bentfield Green proposals on 7th February and voiced their opposition to our representatives. Over 500 people signed the petition of objection we had organised for the day which demonstrates the strength of feeling there is for preserving our 'Stansted Mountfitchet way of life'. If anyone would still like to sign the petition, copies are being held at The Rose and Crown pub in Bentfield Green and Murdoch's Property Shop next to Stansted Railway Station. Please visit there to add your names. We will keep Stansted residents informed of the progress of the Taylor Wimpey proposals and the SSV campaign in the coming months.

Simon Thompson

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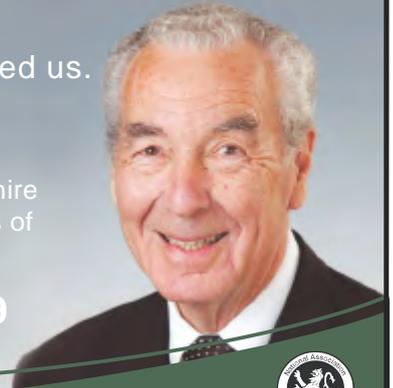
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# Stansted Network

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 20th MARCH AT 8PM**

**FREE CHURCH, CHAPEL HILL**

**We hope as many of you as possible will come  
and raise issues/problems (and solutions please!)**

**NO PARKING AT THE CHURCH  
PLEASE PARK IN LOWER STREET CAR PARK**

### **CRAFTON GREEN PROJECT - AFTER THE EXHIBITION**

Approximately 200 people visited the exhibition and about 70 written comments were received.

The broad thrust of the verbal and written comments may be summarised as follows:

- The principle of redeveloping the site to provide a number of services along with a larger library and Parish Council offices was over-whelmingly supported.
- The exterior design of the building was not liked and considered to be out of keeping with the surrounding area.
- Concerns were expressed over future maintenance issues as the design incorporates a flat roof and exterior wood cladding.

The Council is awaiting a report which will re-assess the options to deliver these services, to evaluate again the revenue and capital costs and to review the design including maintenance issues.

A summary of this report is expected to be distributed to parishioners by the end of February with the Parish Council reaching a decision on the way forward by early April.

### **PARISH COUNCIL TAX FOR 2013/14 IS UNCHANGED**

The budget for 2013/14 has been set at £198,000, 5.9% rise on the figure for the current year. Within the proposed budget is a sum of £25,000 which will be taken to reserves to help fund the redevelopment of the library site should this project proceed.

The Parish portion of the Council tax for Band D next year will be £64.69 (£64.83 in 2012/13), a level which is 54% below that levied in Saffron Walden and 44% below the figure for Great Dunmow. It is fair to say that Stansted Mountfitchet in 2013/14 will benefit from a faster rise in its revenue base reflecting the number of new houses. It is intended that council tax in 2014/15 will be unchanged subject to no unexpected surprises.

### **DEVELOPERS AT THE GATES OF BENTFIELD**

Taylor Wimpey is expected shortly to submit a planning application for about 170 houses on farmland behind Bentfield Green and along Pennington Lane. Parishioners will remember that a previous application for junior football pitches and clubhouse was rejected by Uttlesford District Council and on appeal. Parish Council policy is opposed to any development to the west or north of the village. Not only is the Taylor Wimpey proposal damaging to the community but, if approved, it would become much more difficult to mount a successful defence if development is proposed on land to the north along the B1383 to Pennington Lane. Everyone in the village is urged to join the community action group 'Save Stansted Village' (see article on page 17) which may be contacted at bentfieldgreen@hotmail.com The Parish Council would also welcome your views - contact any Councillor or the office ON 813214 or email parishcouncil@stansted.net.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

The Parish Council has recently established an economic development working group. Its membership consists of Parish, District councillors, Uttlesford's economic development officer and a local business man. Its terms of reference are:

1. Develop plans and actions for the centre of Stansted Mountfitchet to enhance its commercial and retail vitality.
2. Promote short-term support and encouragement to local businesses that will increase and improve trade in Stansted Mountfitchet.
3. Support the retention of employment land for that purpose and, where appropriate, its redevelopment to meet today's needs for employment and local services; for example, land behind Cambridge Road.

4. To work with and lobby other public authorities, such as the local planning authority, in support of the aims of the group.
5. Give support to the establishment of a formal voice of business in Stansted Mountfitchet.

The group is working closely with Uttlesford's economic development officer. To date a number of meetings have been held. We have met with several people with an economic interest in Stansted. We have sought their views as to the issues affecting running a business in the village.

We have been very conscious that for many years Stansted has lacked a formal business voice. Consequently, networking between local businesses seems limited. Newport has a very successful business association which meets on a monthly basis. We would like to emulate them. Our plan is to hold an inaugural business breakfast on 1st March in order to try to establish a business association. If you would like to attend, please call Carl at Linden House on 813003. Although the council is organising this, we believe that once established a business association should be run by representatives of local business.

#### **DOG MESS ..... CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

Further to the article in last month's Link, the campaign to clear up our streets and embarrass dog owners into clearing up after their dogs is getting underway. We have identified areas to target where the problem appears to be particularly bad and you may soon see circles of yellow paint appearing on our pavements. THESE ARE NOT GRAFITTI! We will be using the paint to highlight areas where owners have not cleaned up after their dogs and hopefully this will focus their minds. (The paint will disappear after some weeks - it is not permanent).

#### **UTTLESFORD HIGHWAY RANGERS**

A small team, funded by UDC and Essex County Council. Its role is to undertake minor maintenance works such as cleaning and minor repairs to street furniture and non-electrical road signs, reinstatement of posts and bollards, removal of illegal signs and fly posting, removal of litter and small fly-tips from highway land and trimming of vegetation.

To request the services of the Highway Rangers, please forward requests to the Parish Council who will then email Highways. All requests must be put through the Parish Council.

#### **CATCH 22 - WHEELS TO WORK**

This is a scheme open to young people aged 18-24 who are claimants of Job Seekers Allowance and who are seeking work but are rurally isolated. Mopeds are loaned

to qualifying young people to overcome lack of transport. Additional funding is needed and if you would like to make a donation please send cheques to: Jane Wilson, Learning and Employability Co-ordinator, Catch22, Shield House, Pinnacles, Essex CM19 5AR, made payable to Catch22.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO VALERIE TRUNDLE**

Cllr Valerie Trundle has won the Essex Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator of the Year Award for 2012 presented by the Police Commissioner, Nick Alston. Over the past four years Neighbourhood Watch in Stansted has been regenerated with co-ordinator coverage rising from 10% to 100%. In this size community this is a rare achievement. So many congratulations to Valerie and thanks for her and others efforts to make this a safer place to live.



#### **LITTER**

Gerard, our litter collector, has noticed an increase in the use of our public litter bins for household waste disposal - both general and pet waste (cat litter). This adds greatly to Gerard's workload as it means that those bins need to be emptied more often. Please dispose of all household waste using your wheelie bins or other system which you have arranged with Uttlesford.

#### **HEALTH CENTRE UPDATE**

Following granting of planning permission for the proposed development on the Lower Street site, the Primary Care Trust and GPs continue to work closely with the developers of the site in order to finalise details for internal layouts and finishes of the Health Centre and also to close negotiations around the lease agreement. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in the next few months, enabling construction to commence shortly thereafter.

**(Ann-Marie Grant, West Essex PCT)**

## NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

There are signs of improvement in the local economy and Uttlesford will be investing more from April in encouraging and supporting local business. The signs that business in Stansted is picking up are a surveyors' practice that has moved into the long-empty part of Weston House at the corner of Cambridge Road, several businesses now running out of the office block next to the station, a new solicitor and housing business in Station Road, shops on Chapel Hill and Lower Street that are due to reopen soon, a new sports injury therapist in Cooper's Alley, and several more.

There is still no firm news on whether the Lower Street car park can be adapted to accommodate the proposed health centre, etc building. I wrote last month about the fragility of the council's planning system to resist speculative planning applications. Stansted residents and councillors are now faced with such a proposal on our western boundary at Bentfield Green. I am not alone in thinking that this would be one of the worst locations for development in Stansted. There is a tough battle ahead if it is not to be approved over our heads by an appeal inspector.

**(Cllr Alan Dean)**

At a meeting on 5 February 2012, Uttlesford Chief Executive John Mitchell addressed members of our District Council on the subject of its past and our on-going position. In summary, in Uttlesford, we:

- continue to enjoy the lowest Council Tax in Essex
- recommend that our precept will be cut by 1% in 2013
- Introduced a new and improved waste collection service
- maintained or enhanced all services (save at Saffron Walden Museum)
- voted to cut the number of District Councillors from 44 to 39
- embraced a 'growth agenda'
- managed house-building at sustainable levels
- produced an LDF plan which currently allocates just 60 new homes in Stansted
- worked closely with Parish Councils and the voluntary sector
- funded community projects with over £1,000,000 since 2011
- worked closely under our Community Covenant with the Army
- funded, built and opened a huge new play area adjacent to Carver Barracks
- welcomed the Olympics with various events
- hosted both the Olympic Torch and Blue Peter
- continue to build council houses

At a time when one of our local newspapers recently printed an entirely false claim that UDC had voted to increase its precept, it is important that accurate information is available to all.

**(Cllr Joe Rich)**

## POPULAR GARDEN WASTE SCHEME RETURNS FOR 2013

Residents who subscribe to Uttlesford District Council's popular garden waste collection scheme are set to enjoy an extended service at no extra cost.

The fortnightly kerbside collections, which were run for the first time last year, will restart in April for new subscribers. This time though, anyone who subscribes will also get a month's worth of collections in March 2014 once the service restarts after the December to February winter break.

The subscription charge is being held at £40 for a full year, the same as in 2012, with a sliding scale of charges in place for anyone who subscribes mid-year. People on council-administered benefits receive a 25 per cent discount on the service charge. New subscribers must pay a one-off £20 for the bin.

Any new customers who want to sign-up can do so by calling 01799 510510. Any queries should be sent to [greenwaste@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:greenwaste@uttlesford.gov.uk)

## NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

The Internet and electronic communications are a significant issue for many people and for those people who live or run businesses in rural areas the speed, or lack thereof, at which these systems work is critically important. Indeed the general development of the economic environment has become closely linked with the availability of superfast broadband and if Essex is to remain competitive and attract the new businesses for the 21st century it is essential that this is provided throughout.

It is evident that Stansted Mountfitchet is fairly well served with superfast broadband but some of the surrounding areas are not and, for instance, Manuden, who are fed by BT from Stansted suffer from incredibly slow speeds and BT have no intention of providing them with fibre connections in the foreseeable future. I am sure that other remote parts of the village suffer from similar problems.

This is where Essex County Council are stepping in and although we are not getting into the provision of broadband we are setting up a process to expedite BT and other suppliers to do this in the more rural areas. Essex County Council are investing £7.7 million to back a government grant of £6.5 million that will bridge the economic gap that often means that providing fibre connections to rural areas is not viable for BT and other suppliers. So, if you live or run a business in a rural location and your internet service is not up to scratch, please let me know and I will ensure that you have the information to register your needs.

The more applications that are made in a particular location the more chance there is of the funding being granted - it is on a first come first served basis so get the registrations in as soon as possible.

On another matter entirely, I recently hosted a conference for the Essex Adoption Service which falls within my portfolio and one of the presenters was a Clinical Psychologist who specialises in the way that children's brains develop throughout their childhood and how the way they are treated affects their personality and actions throughout their life. Particularly relevant for looked after and adopted children who have often suffered very traumatic experiences. The surprising suggestion was that smacking children (not beating them) is considerably less detrimental to the development of children's brains than shouting at them and belittling them. I certainly would not suggest that it is acceptable either to smack children or shout at and belittle them - and nor did the presenter. My comments considerably simplify her lecture, which was extremely thought provoking, but isn't it interesting that long held beliefs are often overturned by scientific study?  
**(Cty.Cllr Ray Gooding)**

**DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

6 March Full Council  
 27 March Finance

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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 Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net  
 Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10am - 1pm  
 www.stansted.net

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**Member of Parliament**

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP  
 Tel: 0207 219 5214/Fax: 0207 219 5600  
 alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk

**Police** - PC Tom Bastendorff - Non-emergency 101  
 PCSO (Stuart Stranger) Tel: 07989 174801

**Neighbourhood Watch**

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

**Parish Public Transport Representatives**

Valerie Trundle - 813433  
 Joy Thomas - 813871

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## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

|                                    |                                                                                                                                  |                                            |                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alzheimers Society                 | Tel: 01371 872519                                                                                                                | Neighbourhood Watch                        | Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433                                                                                                              |
| Air Training Corps<br>494 Squadron | Tel: 681559/661929<br>Email: <a href="mailto:494@aircadets.org">494@aircadets.org</a>                                            | Parkinson's UK<br>Uttlesford Support Group | Contact: Kathy West Tel: 816293<br>Email: <a href="mailto:kewest@btinternet.com">kewest@btinternet.com</a>                               |
| Beavers<br>Age 6-8                 | David South<br>Tel: 814371                                                                                                       | Pilots (age 5-18)                          | Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433                                                                                                              |
| Bowls Club                         | Doreen Scraggs<br>Hon Secretary Tel: 815036<br>Email: <a href="mailto:doreenscraggs@talktalk.net">doreenscraggs@talktalk.net</a> | Rainbow Pre-School                         | Gill Pursglove (Administrator)<br>Tel: 07968 347176<br>Email: <a href="mailto:admin@rainbowpreschool.net">admin@rainbowpreschool.net</a> |
| Brownies/Guides                    | Glynis Prothero<br>District Administrator<br>Tel: 814145                                                                         | Rainbows                                   | Sue Pollard Tel: 813734                                                                                                                  |
| CAB                                | Tel: 08444 775986                                                                                                                | Rotary Club                                | Peter Latham Tel: 507294<br>Email: <a href="mailto:yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk">yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk</a>                                  |
| Cricket Club (adults)<br>(juniors) | David Hedge Tel: 812509<br>Keith Ayres Tel: 814471                                                                               | Royal British Legion                       | John Segar Tel: 813289                                                                                                                   |
| Cub Scouts<br>Age 8-10½            | Roger Musgrove<br>Tel: 816172                                                                                                    | Scouts<br>(age 10½ -14)                    | Mike Byrne<br>Tel: 812780                                                                                                                |
| Day Centre                         | Tel: 815091                                                                                                                      | Shotokan Karate Ryu                        | Donna Ring Tel: 731752<br>Email: <a href="mailto:skr@skr.org.uk">skr@skr.org.uk</a>                                                      |
| Explorer Scouts                    | Fintan Lambe<br>Tel: 817937                                                                                                      | Spangles<br>Children's Centre              | Tel: 812348                                                                                                                              |
| Friends of St Mary's<br>Church     | Audrey Rodgers<br>Tel: 812162                                                                                                    | Stansted Family Café                       | Ros Page Tel: 810813<br>Email: <a href="mailto:rospagemusic@yahoo.com">rospagemusic@yahoo.com</a>                                        |
| Garden Club                        | Maralyn Harris<br>Chairman Tel: 07919 478144                                                                                     | Stansted Football Club                     | Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842                                                                                                           |
| Grove Cottage                      | David Scott Tel: 656085                                                                                                          | Tennis Club                                | Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574<br>Email: <a href="mailto:drlunnon@gmail.com">drlunnon@gmail.com</a>                                           |
| Helpline                           | Tel: 07704 553727                                                                                                                | Thornbury<br>Badminton Club                | Marion or Shirley<br>Tel: 869896 or 815871                                                                                               |
| History Society                    | Peter Brown<br>Chairman Tel: 812816                                                                                              | U3A                                        | Christine<br>Chair Tel: 817587                                                                                                           |
| Huw Johnson Club                   | Marion and Tom Johnson<br>Tel: 812284                                                                                            | Women's Institute<br>(Stansted)            | Judy Colliver<br>President Tel: 812470                                                                                                   |
| Inner Wheel Club                   | Lynn Rutt, President Tel: 654537                                                                                                 | Women's Institute<br>(Ugley)               | Dorothy Wallace<br>President Tel: 850215                                                                                                 |
| Little Scrummers                   | Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232                                                                                                  | Whoosh Explore<br>Canoe Club               | Helen and Peter Nash<br>Tel: 817453                                                                                                      |
| Millers (Windmill)                 | Derek Honour Tel: 647213                                                                                                         | Youth Centre                               | Linda Barnes<br>Tel: 01371 873156/<br>07920 466 923                                                                                      |
| Mountfitchet Club                  | John Robinson Tel: 812755                                                                                                        |                                            |                                                                                                                                          |
| Music Club                         | Sonia Levy Tel: 815282<br>Email: <a href="mailto:info@musicatstansted.com">info@musicatstansted.com</a>                          |                                            |                                                                                                                                          |
| NCT                                | <a href="mailto:anna@nct.org.uk">anna@nct.org.uk</a> Tel: 812257                                                                 |                                            |                                                                                                                                          |

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

### BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: [announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto: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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## SUNNYSIDE PLAYGROUP

Sunnyside Playgroup celebrates its second anniversary this March. We wanted to make use of St John's Church Hall, knowing how the large open space lends itself to this type of activity, allowing the speedier toddlers to rush around, but allowing plenty of space for a no-trample zone for the babies. Two years later, we are still going strong, with plenty of mums, dads, grandparents and carers bringing their little ones along. We provide a fun and safe place to play, with a range of different activities each week (messy play, craft activities, and so on), a healthy snack, and a singing and signing session each week (using Makaton signs along with the singing). The children get to join in with as much or as little as they wish - we understand perfectly that all children are different, so need a different level of stimulus. The adults get a chance to have a coffee, swap notes, and have fun with their children. New starters are given a genuine welcome. Sessions cost just £2 with subsequent siblings only £1. For more information on this playgroup, please contact [rachel@sunnysidechildcare.org.uk](mailto:rachel@sunnysidechildcare.org.uk).

Rachel Pocknell

## MOTHER

In her 90s she's on her own  
Living on State Pension alone  
Seeking bargains is her quest  
At finding B.O.G.O.F.s Mother's the best!

In these times of global warming  
Climate change and dark clouds forming  
Re-cycling, 'Green' this that and t'other  
Here's some advice from me Mother.

Instead of running why not walk?  
Saves energy and breath to talk  
Make do and mend like in the war  
Read Woman's Weekly for ideas galore

Grow your own veg is one of her tips  
No chemicals need pass your lips  
And it's much 'greener' too  
Than buying in from far off Peru!

Mother has views on every topic  
From bio fuels to things robotic  
An hour with her's a revelation  
She knows how to fix the nation.

As for children she still has the knack  
They soon succumb to her flapjack  
She can teach youngsters a thing or three  
About love, respect, and dignity.

Mother's unique, one of a kind  
Never afraid to speak her mind  
I'm getting quite like her - so watch out  
When she's popped her clogs, I'll still be about!

Loki

## FOR THE LOVE OF PETS

I gave a talk to a local primary school last week; it was such fun, you forget how enthusiastic young children can be! I usually ask who has got a pet and what they do to help look after them. As usual most of the hands in the class shot up, with many children bubbling over with the excitement of wanting to share interesting bits of information about their pets. Most of the stories revolve around their pet's name and how they chose it, what their pets eat, but I have to say, there is usually quite a lot of information about their pet's toileting habits; where, when and how often they go. I suppose that's quite a priority for five and six year olds! There are usually a couple of stories about mishaps involving pets and this time we had a lovely story about a new puppy that had been fed too many treats and had unfortunately been sick on the parents' bedroom carpet. Apparently the father only discovered it when he swung his feet out of bed onto the floor first thing in the morning. The little girl said, "He wasn't very happy and said some words that I'm not allowed to say". Another little girl had her hand stretched up as far as she could and when I asked her what pet she had, she said "I haven't got one yet, but I am getting one, he's a dragon and I'm going to call him Henry!" It just goes to show how important pets can be for children and how much pleasure and experience can be gained from owning a pet. From encouraging a sense of responsibility and duty, to thinking about another being, to instilling confidence and having something special to love, animals bring so much to our lives.

Another question I am always asked is 'what is the most unusual pet you've ever treated?' Currently the answer is running at one tarantula, one crocodile, two zebras and a peregrine falcon! One of my favourite animals however is the tortoise. I think they're incredible creatures; they look unusual; almost a throwback to prehistoric times, they require careful looking after, they can live to be over 100 years old and they quite definitely have recognisable personalities. Some are grumpy, some are cheeky, some are protective and some are very fast! We hold two information evenings a year for tortoise owners; one in the Spring and one in the Autumn. Our Spring one is due in March. This time we have a specialist exotics' vet coming, Dr Iain Cope from Dick White Referrals, who is going to be speaking as well as answering general questions. This is a great opportunity for all you tortoise owners out there (and people who may be thinking of getting a tortoise) to 'ask the expert.' You don't have to be a registered client to come to the talk, just ring the surgery on 813780 to book a place.

Ilse Pedler  
Mercer & Hughes

## Antiques Fair

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The Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association has recently published 'Walks in Herts & Essex Volume 4', its eighth local walks booklet. The latest edition incorporates 21 circular walks that range in length from four to nine miles, all starting within ten miles of the centre of Bishop's Stortford. The walks make the most of the varied countryside around the town, from the rolling landscape of North-West Essex to the river valleys of the Stort and Ash in Hertfordshire. The booklet is now available from the Bishop's Stortford Tourist Information Centre at a cost of £6 or by postal application to the Association (plus £1.20 p&p). The Association is a local campaign group that has been closely involved in protecting and promoting the rights of way around Bishop's Stortford for over 50 years. When the Association was formed back in 1957 many of our local rights of way were illegally obstructed and some were threatened with closure. Matters have improved with better signposting, increased public awareness and most importantly legislation that makes it more difficult to close or divert a right of way. However, much still remains to be done as evidenced by the regular reports we receive from members of the public regarding broken footbridges, locked gates, ploughed and overgrown paths. With the help of our members we regularly liaise with local planning and highway authorities and monitor proposals that impact rights of way.



We have over 250 household members who for a £2 per annum subscription fee receive two newsletters per year and the opportunity to join our bi-monthly local walks programme. New members are most welcome as the more local people we represent the greater our influence.

For more information please go to our website [www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk](http://www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk) or email: [contact@walksaroundstortford.org.uk](mailto:contact@walksaroundstortford.org.uk) or post: Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association, 11 Bishops Avenue, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3EJ

David Webber  
Chairman  
Tel: 832632



## BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION - BBKA

Many of you have read in the papers that our bees, which are so important to the pollination of our food crops, are under threat. Annual losses of bee colonies in some areas are 30%. Although the cause of these losses is not fully understood, there are some obvious ones; like the loss of habitat, use of some pesticides and the importing of the varoa mite from abroad. The government has already increased funding for research, but there are more immediate practical ways of ensuring the continuance of our bee colonies. For instance the WI has introduced a policy that each branch should have a bee colony, with members trained to take care of them. Some of the local branches have already responded and have their own apiaries where we have helped by giving initial advice.

Other ways are to encourage home bee keeping, and in this respect we have been very successful, with the local branch of the British Beekeeping Association increasing its membership from about a dozen to over 60. We have done this by encouraging new beekeepers to come along to our 'Introduction to beekeeping' course, which this year is being held on three nights during April. After attending the course, people can then decide if this fascinating hobby is for them. I would encourage everyone to at least have a look to see what it is all about – you will have the real satisfaction of making a genuine contribution to the protection of our food production, and you will produce your own delicious natural honey! Details of the course can be sent to you by emailing me at [training@stortfordbees.org.uk](mailto:training@stortfordbees.org.uk).

John Dockerill  
Training Officer  
Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association



### 16th March St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, 7.30pm

Accompanied by the Chameleon Arts Orchestra, with soloists Jeni Bern, Cathy Bell, Julian Forbes and Rupert Reid, and conducted by Janet Wheeler, the Choral Society begins 2013 with Haydn's *St Cecilia Mass* and Vivaldi's *Magnificat in G minor*. Choral works by Haydn and Vivaldi are ever popular, yet the two works in this programme are rarely heard. In the face of this unjustified neglect, both of them are to be performed in the one concert. Vivaldi's *Magnificat* is noted for its conciseness. Intended for Vespers services, it encompasses within its short span a delightful series of varied movements. By contrast the *St Cecilia Mass* is one of Haydn's most expansive Mass settings. Both works are wonderfully tuneful and deserve much wider exposure. Tickets at £15 (£12 concessions, £1 accompanied under 18) available by post from our Ticket Secretary, Carol Hunt tel 813392; email: [tickets@swchoral.org.uk](mailto:tickets@swchoral.org.uk); over the counter from the Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre in the Market Square; from SWCS members; by debit/credit card purchase from [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com) or at the door.

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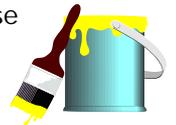
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Life has been very busy at Pre-school. We have welcomed several new children to the Younger Group sessions, and the Older Group have had their visit from Hazel and Yana, a guide dog puppy. Yana was very well behaved and sat beautifully (as did all the children!). It was very interesting to hear how Hazel trains the puppies, plus she brought in some glasses for the children to put on to find out what it is like to have poor sight. They also had a very exciting visit to the Fire station meeting Firemen Paul, Paul, Mark, Bob and Jim (no Fireman Sam unfortunately!), and everyone was allowed a turn with the hoses and to sit up on the fire engine. Most importantly, they learnt not to play with matches and how necessary it was to have a smoke detector at home. The staff of Rainbow would like to say thank you very much to the firemen for giving up their time.

We are holding an open day on Saturday 2nd March 10.00am – noon. We welcome all past, present and future pupils. Please bring along the whole family to see what happens and talk to the leaders. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website [www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk](http://www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk) for details. You need to put your child’s name down now, however young, to ensure a place. Places for September 2013 and 2014 are filling up fast!

Gill Pursglove  
Administrator  
Tel: 814242

Email: [admin@rainbowpreschool.net](mailto:admin@rainbowpreschool.net)

Year 11 Mock GCSE exam for Art took place in January. There were a range of ideas being explored and it was nice to see students taking creative risks with the media they have used. We have an extremely talented portrait artist, Miss Ella Bristow, who produced a very inspirational piece to all of those that love Art! Good luck to all in the final exam!



**MMCC sporting achievements** – Years 8, 9 and 10 won matches in the Bishop’s Stortford Basketball league. The girl’s netball team reached the semi final in the North West Essex Netball cup. We competed in the Essex Badminton tournament in February. This is part of the Winter School Games and the Olympic legacy.

It was a welcome return of the MMCC PTA car boot sale on 10th February. The next proposed date is 28th April. Contact the College for further details.

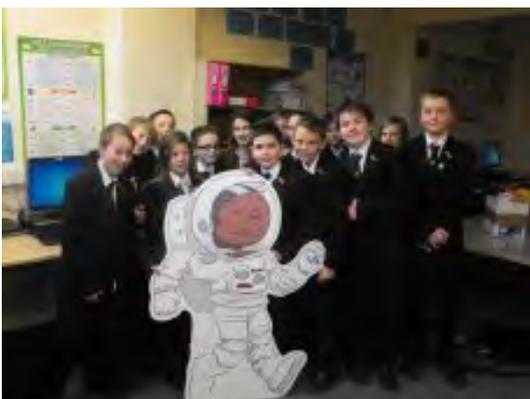
Victoria Owen  
Student & Community Administrator  
Tel: 813384



## MOUNTFITCHET MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



Mission X launched for the third year at MMCC on 25th January with a visit from Astro Charlie as he took steps on his ‘Walk to the Moon’. We are the lead school in the country for this project and hosted the pilot year in 2011. The project is in conjunction with the UK Space agency and NASA. Further information about the Mission X project and photographs of the MMCC launch day can be found on the website – <http://trainlikeanastronaut.org>. We are holding a Mission X Finale on Tuesday 26th March. The College will be open in the evening to parents/carers and the public to join us in the ‘Mission X’ experience.



### Ladies Pamper Evening

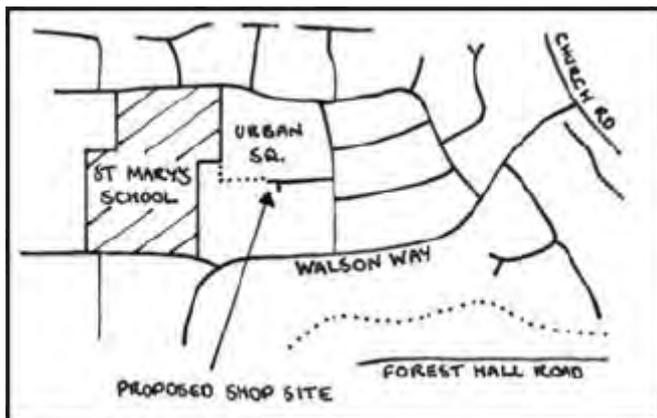
The PTA are having a Ladies Pamper Evening on Thursday 7th March from 7.30pm. We will be working hand in hand with Avant Garde Hair & Beauty Salons from Bishop’s Stortford and Harlow and their expert team, as well as a whole host of other experts, all ready and waiting to give you that new look. Tickets are £5.00 (this includes a glass of wine or fruit punch) and all tickets bought before 1st March will be entered into our **fabulous** makeover prize draw and there are **eight FREE Makeovers to be won ...** There are also four prizes of hair cut and colouring @ Avant Garde (winners need to visit the salon between 2nd and 7th March by appointment and the makeover will be completed on the night) and four prizes of a Makeover on the night. Also available on the night will be mini makeovers, manicures, facials, hand massages, pedicures, stalls selling gifts, aloe vera, costume jewellery, cupcakes and much more, plus a raffle:

- 1st Prize - a pair of GHD straighteners
- 2nd Prize - £50 Avant Garde Hair Voucher
- 3rd Prize - £50 Avant Garde Beauty Voucher and many more exciting prizes.

Please do join us for what is going to be a very special evening and make the most of these super opportunities. Tickets available from MMCC reception tel 813384 or from Christine (who can also answer any general queries) tel 07905 830159, email [christinechesterhellyar15@gmail.com](mailto:christinechesterhellyar15@gmail.com).

Elaine Terry

This month we distributed around 1000 surveys to the residents of Foresthall Park and some of the adjacent roads, as well as school staff and parents, about the possible new convenience store in Foresthall Park. The original plan for the development included a shop next to the school and urban square but now the developer is keen to build a house on this site (which they are allowed to do if they can prove a shop is not viable). We think it is important to establish if people are supportive of a shop first, although we recognise that even if well supported, it does not mean it is viable. At time of writing we are collating the results of the survey and will publish our findings on our website soon. We will be passing this feedback on to the Parish Council, District Council and developers. In our last general meeting I said that we were looking for four sponsors and I am pleased to say that we have now achieved this goal with the addition of three more sponsors this month. I am delighted to welcome Linden House bar, restaurant and hotel, The Men's Room gentleman's hairdressers and The Cock pub. We are grateful for their support, without which we would not be able to carry out activities such as the recent survey.



I have again received some comments from residents using the Walson Way playground that it has been vandalised a few times. This is sad to hear and I would appeal to everyone to help look after the equipment. Unfortunately, I doubt that the very small number of people responsible for this will read this article so I would simply remind people to report instances of vandalism to Taylor Wimpey as they are still responsible for the upkeep of this area until the official handover to the Parish Council; or should you witness anything then report this to the police non-emergency number (101). We are also speaking to the Parish Council but are open to suggestions that anyone else might have to help alleviate this minor but nonetheless sad-denning problem.

Stephen Berry  
Chairman  
Tel: 647652  
Email: s.berry@mac.com

**LEAVING DOG POO IN A  
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The Club's AGM will be held on Thursday 21st March in the Club pavilion at 8.00pm. All existing and prospective members are welcome. Club net sessions are being held at the HECC cricket centre on Monday evenings 9.00pm-10.00pm. Please contact Keith Ayres on 814471 for further details. The Club will be running U15, U13 and U12 junior teams this year. The Under 15s have vacancies for the coming season so please bring along your friends. We welcome our new Coach for 2013, Shaun Gleeson, who brings with him a wealth of coaching experience - 16 years in total at Elsenham CC and Stansted Hall CC! Shaun will focus on the U13s this year and bring his energy and enthusiasm into our coaching sessions. Shaun joins our five other Level 2 coaches: Keith Ayres, Mark Allen, Mike Burgoine, Ben Baker and David Ayres. If any parents are interested in helping out in any capacity, please get in touch.

Please note that we welcome players of all abilities. We pride ourselves in providing young cricketers with a platform to enjoy their cricket in a safe and friendly environment where we endeavour to improve their ability and enjoyment of the game. We have increased our commitment to coaching at the club by qualifying our coaches through the ECB scheme to Level 2; all are First Aid trained and CRB checked. We have attained ClubMark status and have qualified Child Welfare Officers on hand. The club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact the secretary. Any adults wishing to join the club should contact me on 812509; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.

David Hedge  
Hon Secretary

## **STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB**

The Club has had a very busy winter with a very successful music quiz, a Christmas Draw and Presentation Evening, and a General Knowledge quiz with 200 in attendance. The cricketers have been playing indoor league cricket seniors and juniors. The senior club will be running two Saturday league teams, one team on both Saturdays and Sundays playing friendlies. The junior section will be playing at U10, U11, U12, U13, U15, and U16 in the Bardfield League, the West Essex League and the Essex Matchplay. The section has some 80 players so all players will enjoy playing in matches. During the winter numerous boys and girls have had trials with West Essex. One boy has made the county squad and seven have joined West Essex squad training. Two girls are training with Essex squads. The Club will expand the girls' section during the 2013 season. The coaches at the club have ECB level 1, 2 and 3 qualifications. Both grounds are already looking in good condition and the Club will be participating in the Natwest Cricketforce weekend 5th-7th April. The Club is looking for players aged eight upwards. We have Clubmark Accreditation and are an Essex County Cricket Club Focus Club with close ties to Chelmsford. We are a friendly Club with two lovely grounds. If you are interested in being part of our future please contact me.



David Brown  
Tel: 07788 999663  
Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com

## OUR ROAD

### CHURCHILL CORNER

Some locals believe that Churchill Corner was originally called Church Hill Corner, but that is not the case. The eight houses were built in 1946 soon after the Second World War, and the road named after Winston Churchill, as he was then.



Mr Edmund Cawkell was the owner of Rochfords Nurseries and lands around, and when he directed the houses to be built on his field he had his employees in mind. His clerk, Mr John Meredith, took advantage of the opportunity to live near his place of work as did his engineer, Mr Jim Williams. Others like Joe Watson, his farm manager (pictured

here), and several foremen like Mr Fred Palmer, lived nearby but were keen to have the facilities that these more spacious homes could offer to their growing families. The Stansted family firm of builders, William Robinson & Sons, based on Chapel Hill, were employed for the job. The standard of their work was known to be very high.

The new residents of Churchill Corner had no need to journey to allotments as the ground that went with the houses was more than ample for their needs, and they could entertain the idea of growing fruit trees, vegetables, keeping chickens and making the front garden colourful with flowers. The late 1940s, in particular, were challenging years for the gardener tenants. The plots had an open plan appearance and in the spring there would be a great swathe of daffodils on the corner which caught the eye of many a passer-by. Later on in the year it would be Mr Watson's splendid dahlias that made a display. There were often surpluses of fruit and vegetables to be had from the gardens of Churchill Corner, and Mr Bunting the greengrocer in Lower Street (now Yeoman's) took full advantage of this.



We all enjoyed a very rural aspect until the secondary school (now Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College) was built opposite us in 1970. With this came alterations to the drainage system, and a pond on the site was filled in, as was a ditch that ran in front of numbers 5 and 6 Churchill Corner. The consequence of these changes was that surplus water at times of heavy rainfall would greatly inconvenience road users. It is a problem that has not yet been mastered.



When the houses were first built, Rochfords Nurseries, important growers of tomatoes, was a thriving concern but 20 years later the industry suffered a great decline. This led Mr Cawkell to give his tenants at Churchill Corner, and on Stoney Common, the chance to buy their homes. He also sold his Nurseries and this century has seen the growth of the Forest Hall Park estate on the site. Churchill Corner has now become a hub of activity and many of the houses have changed hands several times. New owners have put their own imprints on their properties and extensions have, and are, being made. The gardens have been tailored to suit individual requirements but, it must be said, are rather less labour-intensive than in the days of yore!

Margaret Silvester



## Huw Johnson Club

The Huw Johnson Club started on Thursday 21st February after our usual winter break, with a disco to celebrate Joanne's birthday. We ended last year on a high note, with our now annual Carol Service at St John's Church, where we enjoyed carols, readings, mince pies and a raffle, with the local Tesco generously donating some of the prizes. We also recently had a trip to the excellent 'Jack and the Beanstalk' pantomime in Cambridge, which was enjoyed by members and helpers alike... lots of booing and hissing could be heard coming from our seats! Before we finished for the winter, we also enjoyed an evening bowling at Bishop's Stortford, and our usual fireworks party at Hannah's house, which this year escaped the rain! We were also visited by the Bishop's Stortford Woodwind Band, which is always one of our favourite evenings in the calendar. By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed our New Year dinner at 'The Chequers' in Ugley, which we are all looking forward to.

After the retirement of Tony Gurr as one of our minibus drivers, we are delighted that Gary Waller, from Foresthall Park, has just passed his test and joined the drivers' rota from February. We are very grateful to all our dedicated drivers, who provide an often unseen but essential role in transporting our members to and from Stansted. If you want to learn more about the Club or would like to come along to our AGM on Wednesday 13th March, do get in contact with either Marion (812284) or Sandra (812627).

Katharine Collis  
Vice Chair

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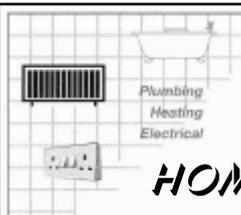
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## PEDAL FOR THE J'S

### April bike ride through beautiful Essex countryside

What could be better than spending a Sunday cycling through Essex villages and countryside, enjoying the Spring sunshine, absorbing the beauty of the countryside and perhaps enjoying a short stop for lunch or a drink at one of the village pubs or cafes en route? We are inviting couples, families and friends to take part in Pedal for The J's, now in its fourth year, a successful charity bike ride that draws people from across Essex with excellent reviews on its organisation and variety of routes. The event is on 28th April and promises to be a great day out for experienced cyclists and novices alike. The ride takes in some of Essex's most beautiful villages with a choice of three routes of 15, 35 and 50 miles, all starting and finishing at Admirals Park in Chelmsford with the 15 mile route taking in the Easters and the longer ones travelling west to Hatfield Heath via High Roding before returning via Matching and Abbess Roding. The spirit of the event is 'taking part' so you can go as fast or slow as you like.



The J's Hospice provides hospice care in the home for young adults throughout Essex. Due to improvements in medical care and technology, the population of young adults with life limiting conditions is growing. But at 19 years old, these patients have outgrown children's services and need age appropriate care and support. The J's Hospice team provides hospice, medical, nursing and respite care for patients, carers and their families. They also provide emotional and bereavement support. The long term aim is to build a stand-alone hospice building in Essex. You can register to take part by visiting [www.thejshospice.org.uk](http://www.thejshospice.org.uk) or call Katie on 01245 475474 for a form. Registration is just £12 (£7 for under 16s) and this includes a t-shirt and refreshments; there is no minimum sponsorship but of course please try to raise as much as you can! Registration is open now so hurry as places are filling quickly!

Beryl Hastie  
Fundraising Team Volunteer



We are holding a quiz on Saturday 23rd March 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre. Tickets £10, Concessions £5 (includes ploughman's) from me. Licensed bar. All welcome.

Rory Gleeson  
Tel: 311922 or 07849 131934



## HATFIELD FOREST SNIPPETS

The months are flying by at Hatfield Forest and half term is upon us. We have been playing muddy games, welly wanging and making mud pies so thank you to everyone who came down to join us and thank you for your patience where the car parking spaces are concerned. There are parts of the forest that are still really muddy and will take a while to dry out so please avoid them if you can. From 4th March we will be opening the car parks and the shop weekdays 10.00am-5.00pm and weekends 9.00am-5.00pm, and the cafe 9.00am-5.00pm every day. The internal car parks will be open; however, the grass car parks will be subject to ground conditions. We are very excited to announce our digital media app is finally available to download to smart phones and devices; we will also have some tablets available for loan from the shop. The digital app will help you find your way around the Forest and will provide further information to help you have an enjoyable visit to Hatfield Forest. You will find games and activities on it to keep younger members of your group entertained and it has videos and recordings which you can select to deepen your knowledge and understanding of the Forest history and its families over time. When you visit, look out for our new events leaflet and posters which advertise our current events. Events are bookable through 0844 249 1895 or online [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfieldforest](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfieldforest) box, except Woodfest which is bookable through the Estate Office on 870678 from 1st March.

We are also recruiting for volunteers in most departments: retail, education, events and visitor experience. Visitor experience roles include Bike Hire volunteers to start in May; Shell House volunteers to start in March; and importantly Meet and Greet volunteers to help in the car parks and at events. I am also looking to recruit enthusiastic people to help at our Forest Festival Woodfest 6th-8th September. If you are interested in any vacancies please contact the office on 870678 for an application form and role profile.

This February the Forest once again played host to Woodlife Trails who piloted their brand new course The Warreners Course. This exciting course was a traditional countryman's course where everyone who attended experienced traditional methods of vermin control and learnt how to prepare rabbits and game for the pot. We work closely with Woodlife Trails as they will be helping us run the National Trust Wildcamp weekends on 28th-30th June and 23rd-25th August. They also have a full schedule of course, including Woodland Tracker, Wilderness Immersion and their full diploma course. If you would like to book onto any of the Woodlife courses have a look at [www.woodlifetrails.com](http://www.woodlifetrails.com).

We are looking forward to spring coming and all of our Easter events; get booking early for our Easter Egg Trail 29th March -1st April. Thank you for all your support and we hope you continue to enjoy the Forest throughout 2013.

Hannah Morrice  
Visitor Experience Team Leader  
Tel: 870678 or 07825 861560





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## SPECIAL NEEDS' NURSERY - APPEAL

### Under threat of closure

This wonderful special needs nursery, based in Bishop's Stortford, was under threat of closure in March due to a funding shortfall. However, thanks to the will-power and determination of a few parents and friends, a full-scale fundraising programme has been put into place to preserve this wonderful nursery. Most of the children who attend the nursery are from Essex and two live here in Stansted, including our own daughter Isla. Here's our story:

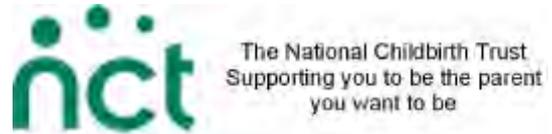
*Isla has attended Grove Cottage nursery since she was only five months old. She's now a busy three-year-old and still loves her time there. The nursery has been amazing in so many ways. It has been a great source of support and advice for us, including putting us in touch with other parents. The staff provide Isla, who has Down's Syndrome, with the most incredible level of care, working with us to help Isla achieve her goals. The staff and volunteers all work extremely hard to ensure the children have a happy, loving and developmentally stimulating environment. Words can't explain the relief, as a parent of a disabled child, of finding such an amazing place – knowing that we can have a break, but that our children are being given the best one-to-one care and still being developed to the best of their ability. There is no doubt that Grove Cottage has made a tremendously positive difference to our lives, providing us with a lifeline at a very difficult time and wonderful continued support as our daughter grows up. We have a lot to thank them for and it will be devastating for many families if it has to close.*



We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Stansted and our justgiving page has raised almost £1000 in just a few days. We also have lots of fun events planned, including a Ladies pamper evening (organized by our lovely Stansted NCT), a vintage tea party, a children's fashion show and lots more to come. **We would welcome any support you can offer**, whether it be a donation to our justgiving page [www.justgiving.com/SaveGroveCottageNursery](http://www.justgiving.com/SaveGroveCottageNursery), arranging your own fundraising event, offering raffle prizes, help with any of our events, or simply coming along and having fun at any of our events. Please like our Facebook

page Grove Cottage Nursery Fundraising Campaign to keep up to date. If you would like to donate £5, you can text the code GCPS99 to the number 70070. On behalf of all the parents and children, thank you for taking the time to read our appeal.

Claire and Andy Cook  
Tel: 814782



We had such a wonderful Tea and Toys session at the beginning of February with Fingerprint Jewellery displaying their fabulous products and local group Disco Ducks putting on a taster session of the toddler/preschool disco dance session they provide locally. The children just loved moving to the music and shaking their instruments, all ages from babes in arms to pre-schoolers joined in the fun. As we go to print, our Ladies Pamper Evening organised to raise funds in aid of Grove Cottage Nursery has not taken place but with all 50 tickets pre-sold it is sure to be a successful and fun fund raising event.

Our March Tea and Toys arranged for Friday 1st March 10.00am-11.30am in St John's Church Hall will be aimed at new mums and their babies, as we have invited Baby Sensory to run a session and introduce us to different sensory activities and experiences designed to support your baby's sensory development. The session should be really interesting and useful with lots of bonding activities for babies and their parents. We are also gearing up for our Nearly New Sale which takes place at the Hilton Hotel on Sunday 28th April 11.30am-1.00pm. Please make note of the new time; NCT card holders will be allowed in at 11.00am giving half an hour before the doors open to have the first choice of the bargains. We also have spaces for sellers left, so if you are interested in receiving a seller's pack and selling up to 80 items at the sale, please contact me. Local businesses also have the opportunity to advertise at the sale, so if you are interested in the advertising opportunities, please let me know.

Have you liked our Facebook page? All our events are updated on this site for our members with information about local events or classes relevant for Mums to be, babies and pre-schoolers. Our coffee mornings are an informal gathering held in a members house, so if you fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings. We would love to meet you and it is a great way of making new friends. Monday mornings is Toddlers, from walking till three years, and Wednesday mornings is for pregnant bumps and babies up to walking age. Contact me for details of our weekly events.

### Future events

**Friday 1st March** 10.00am -11.30am For all pre-schoolers

–Tea and Toys with Baby Sensory St John's Church Hall

**Tuesday 12th March** from 8.00pm, Parents and Carers – Social branch meeting please call me for details.

**Monday 25th March** 10.00am-11.30am For all pre-schoolers – Tumbledowns soft play Saffron Walden



Anna Sedgbeer  
Tel: 812257

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# Bentfield Primary School

Inspire, Discover, Encourage one another

Here at Bentfield Primary School we have had a fantastic term so far. I am particularly proud of all the wonderful fundraising events we have been doing; not only because they have raised money for worthwhile causes, but also because they have been planned, advertised and run by the pupils themselves. Several of our Year 4 boys have held a cake sale and raised nearly £80 for cancer research (selling cakes they had made themselves), a pupil in Year 5 has raised £20 for the British Heart Foundation by doing a challenging sponsored silence, and some of our Year 6 girls have organised a 'Onesie and Pyjama Day', where pupils can wear their onesies or pyjamas to school for a small donation to St Clare Hospice. The children involved in these events are to be highly commended for their charitable efforts. In other news Year 3 and Year 6 represented the school fantastically in their multi-skills competitions at MMCC, and Year 5 had a very rewarding time during the Mission X launch. Year 3 have also had the pleasure of being taught the ukulele by Mr Smith, who has kindly given up his own time to give the pupils this fantastic experience. Recently, we took part in 'Safer Internet Day' with the slogan "Connect with Respect". All classes completed an activity based on the very current and important issue of the dangers of using the internet and how we remain safe when online.

As always if you are interested in sending your child to our school, particularly if you are considering nursery places, then it is never too early to enquire. Please feel free to give us a call to organise a visit or to answer any questions you may have.

David Rogers  
Acting Headteacher  
Tel: 813626

## FLY TIPPERS ARE ABOUT IN OUR VILLAGE

Recently fly tipping has started again. This happens mostly in the single track country lanes around our village. An example is shown in the photo.



It happens mostly late at night in very quiet locations. If you see parked vehicles please note their registration number, location, date and time and email the information to [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net). This information will give the council a greater chance to catch and take action against the culprits.

Ray Woodcock

## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Do you have some spare time and want to give something back to help people affected by cancer? Macmillan in Hertfordshire are always looking for new volunteers to help raise more funds for people affected by cancer. Throughout the county we have Committees and Fundraising Groups who are always looking for new members – these groups organise exciting events and collections in their local towns and in 2012 raised over £100,000. Moreover, we greatly need more volunteers to take up other roles including cheerers to support fundraisers at runs and local sporting events, local collections volunteers, and Macmillan speakers to help spread the word about the great work of Macmillan. Every day in the UK another 822 people are diagnosed with cancer. We want to be there to reach every one of them and we need your help to do this. For more information please call the Macmillan Fundraising Support Centre on 0300 1000 200.

Steve Woodgate  
Volunteer Area Chair

## CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Easter Biscuits

These traditional Easter biscuits are delicious at any time of year!

#### Ingredients

2oz butter  
2oz caster sugar (plus extra for dusting)  
1 egg  
4oz plain flour  
1tsp cinnamon  
½tsp ground ginger  
2oz currants  
A little milk if necessary



#### Method

Preheat oven to 180°C.  
Line a baking sheet with greaseproof paper.  
Separate the egg - crack it onto a saucer, hold an egg cup over the yolk, then tip the white into a bowl.  
Cream together the butter and caster sugar and beat in the egg yolk. Fold in the flour, currants, cinnamon and ginger and mix to form a ball of dough.  
Add a little milk if mixture is too dry. Chill for 10-15 mins.  
Roll out dough 5mm thick on a floured surface, cut into rounds and put on baking sheet. Brush with egg white and sprinkle with sugar. Bake for 10-12 minutes until pale golden.

For details of cookery classes and parties for 2-11 year olds contact Jane Chate, Kiddy Cook 07796 270068 [www.kiddycook.co.uk](http://www.kiddycook.co.uk)

## UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

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## ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

During the early part of the year our efforts have been directed towards local issues. With fantastic support from the Harlow food bank we have been able to set up the food bank in Bishop's Stortford which is available to those needing help in our area. This help has allowed us to start with a prototype operation early with the opportunity to assess the need before committing to the fully resourced operation for the long term. To raise funds for the food bank our club are organising a quiz at 7.30pm on Friday 15th March at the Charis Centre. Tickets are £10 including a 'Yeoman's Supper' (like a ploughman's but better!) available from Derek Crowther tel 832580 or email: john.crowther2@ntlworld.com. Bring your own drinks. Tables of eight. Come along for an enjoyable evening while supporting a worthy cause.

At a recent meeting we were addressed by Philomena Lawrence, Chief Executive Officer of the West Essex Alcohol and Drugs Service (ADAS). ADAS was established in 1987 by Dr Omar Daniels, a member of our Club, as a charity that supports people from West Essex who are concerned about their alcohol and drug use. Over 800 people are treated annually by the service and Phil said that every case is treated separately and they work to support all family members affected, particularly when children are involved. She also said that changing behaviour and lifestyles are resulting in growing problems particularly in young and middle aged women where cirrhosis of the liver is emerging for the first time. Those dealing with alcohol misuse see themselves in a Cinderella service and Phil does not think that increasing the price of alcohol is likely to assist with the growing problems of its abuse. Before going to press we will be given an update on local issues by Chief Inspector Gerry McDonald - It is a year since Gerry took responsibility for community policing in our area.



Rotary provides the opportunity to enjoy convivial activity whilst supporting a range of good causes and anyone wishing to be involved with our new look club please contact me or visit our website [www.stortvalleyrotary.com](http://www.stortvalleyrotary.com). We meet on Tuesday evenings at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford.

Peter Latham  
Tel: 507294

Email: [yp.latham@uwclub.net](mailto:yp.latham@uwclub.net)



## Stansted Tennis Club



It has been a very quiet few weeks at the Tennis Club. The snow and rain has meant a lot of Essex Small Clubs League matches being cancelled. We are now hoping for early spring weather in order to get back into the swing of playing! Fortunately, the build-up of moss on the court has recently been chemically treated and we are hoping for an improvement in the playing surface.

### Ladies' Nights

Monday 11th March from 7.00pm - all lady members are very welcome to come along!

### Coaching

Please contact either Chris Hollis (319155) or Martyn Taplin (Monday night adult coaching session) (816386). Chris's junior spring classes have recently restarted so if you are keen to get involved (ages 6-15) why not give him a call!

### Used tennis balls

£1 per tube of four from Jan Hollis telephone 812073.

### Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions:  
Wednesday from 9.00am and 6.00pm  
Friday from 9.30am. Sunday from 10.00am

### Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574, Antony Dynamou (Membership Secretary) 813121. Website: [www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk)

Chris Hollis

## DON'T FORGET!!

### The clocks go forward on Saturday 30th March



## DID YOU SPOT THEM ALL?

There were nine Easter bunnies and eight chicks.  
Happy Easter!

## AND LASTLY ...

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, the little girl would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch her grandfather's wrinkled cheek. She would then alternately stroke her own cheek, then his again. Finally she looked up and said to him, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart he did," the grandfather answered, "God made me a long time ago." Oh," she paused, "And grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed," replied the grandfather, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces yet again, the little girl quietly said, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

*Reproduced from The Servers' Guild magazine*

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