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**Front cover photo:**  
Morris dancing in  
Lower Street

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

# The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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**editor@stanstedlink.org.uk**

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5 Greenfields, Stansted  
CM24 8AH

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

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## EDITORIAL



This year the extended winter has made the weather an even more frequent subject of critical conversation, but by the time this issue appears it is to be hoped that normality has returned. Certainly hard winters make us more appreciative of sunny days, especially among the over-50s! Development pressures now seem to dominate our local debates. Having seen Stansted grow by nearly a third in the past three years there is an understandable surge in protecting the green fringe. Such feelings demonstrate a healthy preoccupation with our rural heritage and raise consciousness of our lingering 'villagey' atmosphere with all that it means in good neighbourliness and local vitality. Is it too much to appeal to the planners, both members and professionals, to take our very real concerns into account?

On a related theme, we are fortunate in sustaining many small retailers. Empty shops can be a depressing sight. Moreover, although there are those who favour old-style 'drinkers' pubs, the convivial clatter of the meal-serving pubs and restaurants is symptomatic of a population that enjoys a cheerful and fixed ambience. Long may it be so, and may such a variety of tastes continue to be well served by people whose aim it is to please.

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**Stansted network** is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

While growing old can bring infirmity, ill-health and loss of independence, it can also bring serenity, hope and release. As one ageing Quaker says in our book of insights, *Quaker Faith and Practice*, "I always thought I should love to grow old, and I find it even more delightful than I thought. It is so delicious to be *done* with things, and to feel no need any longer to concern myself much about earthly affairs ... I am tremendously content to let one activity after another go, and to wait quietly and happily the opening of the door at the end of the passage-way, that will let me in to my real abiding place." Further insights into growing old are offered in the writings of Nancy Tennant, a long-standing member of Stansted Quaker Meeting who died in 2003 shortly before her 106th birthday. Nancy was a remarkable woman who was very well known in the area. Her extraordinary life will be the subject of a talk by her great niece, Margaret Birley, at Stansted Quaker Meeting House on Saturday 25th May at 10.30am. Nancy wrote a series of articles about growing old, now published in our own book of insights - *Inspiration, Faith and Practice at Stansted Quaker Meeting*. Her observations are wide-ranging, reflecting on both the pitfalls and pleasures of old age. She says: "... the most useful thing that old people can do is to try and create Wordsworth's 'central peace' within themselves. I have seen it at work and where it is achieved it is 'catching', and of great value as a counter-balance to the stress situations in which so many find themselves". She concludes that the 17th century poet George Herbert points the way:

*"Whether I lie with the angels, fall with dust,  
Thy hands made both, and I am there:  
Thy power and love, my love and trust  
Make one peace ev'rywhere."*



Jonathan Morrell  
Stansted Quaker Meeting



### STANSTED FREE CHURCH

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**Minister** Rev'd David Keeble  
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[minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

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7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG  
Tel: 814059  
[lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### Preachers for May

5th 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions  
12th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble – Communion  
19th 10.30am Denis Walker  
26th 10.30am Nigel Uden

#### 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.



## Shalom

On Monday 13th May 8.00pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens, we welcome Sister Gillian Price from St Elizabeth's, who will be giving a presentation about global poverty, entitled '1.4 billion reasons'. This should be a very interesting evening, and all are welcome. There is no 'At home' this month, as the fourth Monday falls on a bank holiday.

Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

**Clerk** Mrs Anthea Lee  
24 Lea Close  
Bishop's Stortford  
Tel: 01279 656707

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am

### NANCY TENNANT

**Saturday 25th May 10.00am-12 noon at the Friends' (Quaker) Meeting House, Chapel Hill**

There is an open invitation to a morning event to remember the life of Nancy Tennant. Nancy was a very active member



of the local community for all of her 105 years of life. She grew up in Orford House, thereafter lived in Ugley, and was very involved in the Women's Institute, music and gardening, as well as being a Quaker. Her great-niece will talk about her, aided by clips of recordings made by Nancy herself. Anyone who attends is encouraged to contribute their own memories and it should be of interest to local people

who knew Nancy and also to those who did not. Coffee and biscuits will be served.

Jane Mitchell  
Tel: 503024



## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the March draws:

£100 No 169 – Kaye Jones  
 £ 50 No 232 – Peter Ballard  
 £ 25 No 41 – Anthony Minshull

This year of operation of the St John's 300 Club ends on 31st April and I should like to express a huge thank you to all those people who have supported this venture. As well as paying out £2,500 in prizes during the course of the year, it has raised over £2,900 to help finance the ever increasing costs of running and maintaining the church. The scheme re-commences on 1st May with another £2,500 of prizes to be distributed (including the two extra prizes of £200 drawn at the end of July and December) and there are still numbers available. If anyone would like to join the scheme at a cost of £2 per number per month (maximum of five numbers per household), please contact me or Rosaleen Nagle on 816204 for an application form. The first draws for the new year will be held on Sunday 26th May, following the 9.30am service in St John's and winners will, of course, be notified as soon as possible thereafter.

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.com

**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 Worship 4 All (1st Sunday)  
 9.30am Choral Eucharist (2nd-4th Sundays)

### Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer There are services of Holy Communion on the first Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the month in Norman Court, Hargrave House and Broome End Nursing Homes.

**Tuesday**  
 9.00am St John's Tots

**Wednesday**  
 9.00am Morning Prayer  
 10.00am Holy Communion

### Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

## JAZZ EVENING

On a cold, damp night in March, St John's Church was packed for the 10th Anniversary Jazz Evening with Peter Baker's Half Dozen. Peter introduced his fellow musicians, welcoming back John Rodgers recovered from his long illness, and we all settled down for an enjoyable evening of jazz. After a superb supper the dancing started and the band played a tribute to Kenny Ball. Regular St John's jazz fans will remember that Kenny had joined the Half Dozen at a Jazz Evening a few years ago.



Photo: Helen Baker

Once the raffle had been drawn there was more music and dancing right to the end of yet another lovely evening of good jazz, good hot food and good company. Long may they continue!

Ted and Marion Pretty

## From the Registers

### March

#### Baptism

31st Ryan Christopher West

#### Funeral

27th Peter Johnson, age 47 - service at St John's followed by cremation at Parndon Wood

# 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

## TASTE Easter

TASTE *Easter* took place in the Day Centre on 30th March, after a packed Family Café and an Easter Egg Hunt.



A collection of puppet sketches and puppet songs and dances were interspersed with a game and various Easter-related activities, including the children planting their own sunflowers to take home. Thanks to all the families who attended and especially to all the team who make these events possible!

Ros Page  
Stansted Family Church



# ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Church Stansted will be open on **Sunday 5th May from 2.00-5.00pm**. Do come along and see this beautiful church. Refreshments will be on sale.

Sally Argent

## Apologies

The Committee of The Friends of St Mary's Church apologise for having had to cancel the Baroque Theatre Company on Friday 12th April. This was due to lack of ticket sales.



## Huw Johnson Club

We finished before Easter with a disco for Andrew's birthday, with a big cake and some fairly groovy dancing to everything from the Music Man to the Locomotion! As always, we're very grateful to Garry King who has been DJ-ing at Club discos for many years now. After a short break we restarted on 18th April with bingo and birthday celebrations for several Club members. In the next few weeks we've got a curling competition, a quiz and a games evening, where we play anything from dominoes to football. We're also looking forward to a Thursday evening visit to the Chequers pub again, for a sausage and mash supper and a few drinks.

We were very sorry to hear of the passing of Peter, the son of the Club's founders, Marion and Tom. Our thoughts are with them, and on behalf of everyone involved with Club, we send them, and their daughter Ann, our love and best wishes, and look forward to seeing them back at Club in the coming months. If you want to learn more about Club or would like to come along, do get in contact with either Sandra (812627) or myself (461270).

Katharine Collis  
Tel: 461270

## THANK YOU

As many of your readers will be aware, Peter passed away on 13th March and was a dear colleague and regular at The Cock public house. We have raised a total of £318 - £200 by way of donations and £118 from a Quiz Evening held at the pub on 28th March. I understand, from speaking to Marion Johnson, that the money will be passed on to Cancer Research. We would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to everybody who kindly contributed.

Paul and Samantha Salmon  
The Cock Public House



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

12th to 18th May

There will be a house-to-house envelope collection. Please give generously.

**BOWLING FOR BEGINNERS**  
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2- 5 pm

**Sunday 5th May**

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**VILLAGE EVENTS**

**May**

29 Apr - 3 May Bowling for Beginners

1/8/15/22/29 Wed The Place on the Hill

1 Wed Mountfitchet Club  
Mountfitchet Garden Club

2 Thu Tag Rugby begins  
Local History Society

3 Fri NCT Tea, Toys & Crazy Ceramics

5 Sun St Mary's Church open & teas  
Red Cross Week begins

5 Sun/6 Mon Windmill Open

9 Thu WI

11 Sat **Link copy due in today**  
Skips

12 Sun Stansted Family Café  
Windmill Open  
Christian Aid Week begins

13 Mon Shalom

16 Thu U3A

18 Sat May Fair

19 Sun Rainbow Family Fun Day

22 Wed Stansted Lunch Group

25 Sat Stansted Family Café  
Remembering Nancy Tennant  
Skips

26 Sun/27 Mon Windmill Open

27 Mon Spring Bank Holiday Fete

Bowls Club, Rec Grnd 6.30 pm  
Free Church 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm

Recreation Ground 7.30 pm

Day Centre 8 pm

St John's Hall 10 - 11.30 am

2 - 5 pm

1.30 - 5.30 pm

Free Church Hall 7.45 pm

**before 12 noon**

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am

1.30 - 5.30 pm

7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm

St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm

Bentfield School

MMCC 11 am - 3 pm

Bury Lodge Hotel 12.30 for 1 pm

Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am

Friends' Mtg Hse 10 am - noon

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

1.30 - 5.30 pm

St John's Church noon - 4 pm



**Stansted Windmill**

Open Days

1.30 - 5.30 pm

Sun 5th & Mon 6th May

Sun 12th May (Mills Day)

Sun 26th & Mon 27th May

Sun 2nd June

*All Welcome*



**Red Cross Week**

**5th - 11th May**

Please support the collections  
which will be made during  
Red Cross Week in Stansted

**New collectors welcome**

**Please contact**

**Christine Stiles 813172**

**ELSENHAM VILLAGE FÊTE**

**1 - 5 pm Sat 8th June**  
**Elsenham Playing Fields**

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Refreshments ~ BBQ ~ Bar

Demonstrations by local Crafters

Hadstock Silver Band

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**Quiz Night**

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12th - 18th May



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**SPRING BANK HOLIDAY**  
**FÊTE**

Mon 27th May 12 - 4 pm

Games ~ Stalls ~ Crafts ~  
Tombola ~ BBQ ~ Ice Cream  
Refreshments

Entry FREE ~ A Fun Day for all the Family!

**Remembering Nancy Tennant**

10 am - noon Sat 25th May  
Friends' Meeting House

*A talk by Nancy's great-niece on the  
fascinating life of this very active  
member of the local community,  
with recordings by Nancy herself.*

*Other contributions welcome*

All Welcome ~ Refreshments  
For more information tel Jane 503024



**Family Fun Day**

11 am - 3 pm Sun 19th May  
Mountfitchet College

Face Painting ~ Bouncy Castles  
Rides ~ Stalls ~ BBQ ~ Licensed Bar  
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the osteopath

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## IN MEMORIAM

### ANN DOCKERTY

19th September 1942 – 1st February 2013

At the very start of her life Ann had problems with her breathing and had to be baptised while still in hospital. I suppose that's where her fighting spirit began. Ann grew up along the Rec where she said she had a happy childhood even though life was hard, but she enjoyed such things as pea and potato picking with her mother at local farms before she even reached school age. Ann attended the convent school in



Bishop's Stortford to be taught by the nuns. She was an active brownie and girl guide and spent some time in the church choir. Her dad encouraged her to do nurse training so that she could support herself if need be. Following in her mother's footsteps as a nurse she started work at Haymeads (Herts & Essex) Hospital as a nursing cadet at 16, and from her meagre earnings paid for a bicycle on the never-never to get to and

from work. She went on to train as a State Enrolled Nurse and then took up a position at Mile End Hospital in the East End of London in the '60s where she said she got her real nurse training on wards of up to 52 patients. From letters she kept, I gathered Ann was held in high regard by all staff from the matron down. Eventually she decided to specialise, and chose the Institute of Urology in London's old Covent Garden area (which is where we met). She gained valuable nursing experience during the early days of kidney dialysis and transplant surgery and Ann got the Governor's Award, a prize for top nurse of the year, when we qualified.

The beginnings of an illness gave her a fear of heights so we travelled the underground via stations with lifts - that fighting spirit again found a way! Thanks to free theatre tickets, given to local hospitals to swell the numbers when bookings were down, they were always the best seats. After a short spell nursing in Canada, Ann returned to the UK and in the 'summer of '69' we were married in Chertsey at St Ann's Church. We lived in Addlestone, Ann working at a hospital in Weybridge, and then on an industrial nursing team at a large factory in the area. Ann's worsening health prompted us to move first to London and then back to Stansted, where her illness improved under the excellent care of Dr Gabb.

After a short spell in Bishop's Stortford and nursing at the Herts & Essex Hospital, we eventually moved back to Stansted and settled in our first family home in Woodfields. After having the children, Ann did agency nursing on night duty for a while and in 1981 on the day of the Royal Wedding we moved to the place which was her true home on the Recreation Ground. Stansted has offered Ann and I friend-

ship, a sense of community, and a place where we were happy to raise our children; as those of you who have moved around the country will concur, places like this are hard to find. From 1984-87 Ann worked as a mid-day assistant (dinner lady) at St Mary's School in St John's Road, a job she enjoyed immensely. Even years later, teenagers would stop us in the street to say "Hello Mrs Dockers" ('Dockers' by then had become our son's nickname) and have a chat. Ann was a supporter of the Huw Johnson Club where her dear brother John was a founder member. She was a Stansted 'Miller' and also took time out to help the British Legion Poppy Appeal, by manning the stall at the airport each year. She did house collections for numerous charities for many years, and then continued to be a generous contributor to many charities including those concerning animal welfare and more recently the British Liver Trust. She was always contributing selflessly in the background.

As William and Alex were growing up Ann also cared for her mum, who was suffering from Alzheimer's, which upset her terribly, her dad with his physical ailments and her brother John. All the while she had her own health issues to contend with. She often had it so hard but managed to do so much good! Eventually, the major cause of these health issues was identified as serious, then she fell critically ill and in 2000 underwent a liver transplant. Over the past 13 years, Ann said she had met some wonderful and amazing people among patients and staff, especially the Liver Transplant Team in whom she had complete faith. High praise indeed from a nurse who judged the care provided against her own high professional standards. I have had extra time with Ann that we didn't expect to have, thanks to the team at Addenbrookes, and would urge everyone to consider registering as an organ donor. Last year when she saw Alex and Becky get married, the hospital staff planned her routine treatments so she would be at her fittest and most comfortable on the day. She loved it all and was twirled around the dance floor by more young men than any teenager could hope for and was among the last to leave!

On 12th November we received the unexpected diagnosis of untreatable lung cancer and Ann knew this was a battle she

was not going to win. But she remained positive, passing away peacefully at home with all her family around her. It was typical of Ann to hide her declining health to protect others, not to make a fuss. She probably always cared and feared too much, but still managed everything with the dignity and virtue she was raised with and that her faith asked for. She showed amazing courage ... an amazing lady and an even better daughter, wife and mother. Ann took comfort in her belief that she will be reunited



again in her final resting place with her granny, parents and beloved brother John. She will be missed dearly by her sons William and Alex, her daughters in law Becky and Cheryl, all her friends, but most of all by myself.

William Gordon Dockerty

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## Stansted Cricket Club

The Club had a successful NatWest Ground Force Day on 7th April at which the pavilion was painted, bar and kitchen cleaned, mower shed tidied, outfield cut, sightscreens assembled, etc. During the winter several major projects have been undertaken with the help of keen volunteers and generous grants from various organisations. A new flat roof has been fitted on the dressing rooms (thanks to a Big Society grant), and asbestos has been removed from the verandah ceiling (Stansted Airport Community Trust grant).



There are on-going projects to install new ceilings inside the dressing rooms (England & Wales Cricket Trust grant); lay new paths to connect to the disabled ramp; and for a winter route to the pavilion behind the mower shed (Stansted Sports Association grant). In addition Keith Ayres and David Hedge have refurbished the verandah with new uprights, panels and decking, removing the multi-step hazard from the previous design and replacing rotten timbers with a supporting brick wall, built by David Powter. At the AGM on 21st March new captains for 2013 were appointed: 1st XI : Richard Gardiner, VC : Fred Kirby; 2nd XI : David Powter, VC : Keith Ayres; Sun XI : Josh Monk, VC Keith Ayres, and Keith Ayres and David Hedge were both made Honorary Life Members in recognition of their services to the Club over the last 35 years.

Home fixtures for May are:

Wed 01	1800	U15 v Stansted Hall U15
Fri 03	1800	U12 v Rayne U12
Sat 04	1330	2nd XI v Potter St II
Wed 08	1800	U15 v Rayne U15
Sat 11	1330	1st XI v Dunmow II
Sun 12	1400	Sun XI v Epping Foresters
Thu 16	1800	U12 v Stansted Hall U12
Sat 18	1330	2nd XI v Albury
Sun 19	1400	Sun XI v Clavering
Sat 25	1330	1st XI v Roding Valley I
Sun 26	1400	Sun XI v Little Hadham
Wed 29	1800	U15 v Little Bardfield U15
Fri 31	1800	U12 v Dunmow U12

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

David Hedge  
Hon. Secretary  
Tel: 812509

## STANSTED JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB

(located at Hargrave Park)

### 2013 Season

This year the Club will be running under 15, 13 and 12 teams. Training will take place on Mondays 6.30pm-8.00pm starting on 6th May. These sessions will be run by multiple ECB qualified coaches. Also we will be running our popular softball training sessions on Fridays from 4.30pm-6.00pm starting on 3rd May. The Club is Clubmark accredited and provides a safe and enjoyable environment. Just come along on the night or contact me.

Keith Ayres  
Tel: 814471

## STANSTED HANDBALL TEAM

Stansted boasts the 'only village' in the UK to have a handball team! Fact ... We have between 18-25 players (male and female) of mixed ages who play every Saturday morning at the Romeera Leisure Centre between 10.00am and 11.00am. The Club was formed post-London Olympics 2012 and the players have formed a real bond on and off the court. We applied and received funding from Stansted Airport Community Fund and from early May will have official goals and pitch markings. Handball is a fast-paced sport that would suit anyone of a sporting background. We have players with rugby, football, netball and squash backgrounds. If anyone is interested in playing or finding out more, please contact:

Will Hughes - [willhughes50@yahoo.com](mailto:willhughes50@yahoo.com) - 07968 539038  
Stuart Thomas - [stuartjthomas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stuartjthomas@hotmail.co.uk)  
Olly Pocknell (Club Chairman) -  
[ollypocknell@btopenworld.com](mailto:ollypocknell@btopenworld.com)

## TAG RUGBY

A reminder to all those wishing to play 'Tag Rugby' this summer, the sessions are every Thursday from 2nd May at 7.30pm on the Recreation Ground. The hour-long, mixed and social game tends to end at one end of the pitch in 'The Cock' pub for re- fuelling! If you are interested, please contact me

Will Hughes  
Tel: 07968 539038  
Email: [willhughes50@yahoo.com](mailto:willhughes50@yahoo.com)

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## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

With the season now drawing to a close it gives the Management Committee a chance to reflect back over the last nine months our experiences of being involved in the organisation and running of a Step Five Senior League Football Club. Although the majority of the Committee had been involved in football activities in the past, this was mainly at youth team level. We encountered many different policies and rules in place at both national and county association levels which caused many headaches, but we managed to successfully fulfil them all inflicting no financial penalties. Whilst on the playing side our expectation was to develop two teams of local players who could compete in their respective leagues, our results saw us not win as many games as we would have liked but we became the 'Draw' specialists of the division, and although we achieved more league points than last season, we know that by turning three or four of those draws into victories would have been a bonus.

The managers and players I feel must be congratulated for working hard all season, as for many it was a step up, however as a group they bonded together really well, accepted decisions when not selected to play, no-one acted as a 'prima donna', respected the match officials, our disciplinary record was much improved over previous years and I am sure as a group will want to be involved with the Club next season. Over the close season we have a number of projects to work on to improve the ground facility and satisfy the FA, and with the financial support of our sponsors we hope our supporters will see and enjoy the facilities when we begin playing again in September.

Tom Williams  
Secretary  
Tel: 07921 403842



## STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

**Reminder for Bowling for Beginners** starts Sunday 28th April at 10.00am and each evening during that week at 6.30pm. All you need is a flat pair of shoes and a good sense of humour, and we will supply the woods. Many thanks to all those who have been helping around the green and within the Club to prepare for the opening of the green - your support is invaluable. Good luck to all those who have entered county competitions.

**Maurice Ingold** we have said a sad farewell to Maurice who was a member of Stansted Bowling Club for many years and passed away on Wednesday 27th March. We will remember Maurice as a great lead in matches, always friendly and with a kind word for everyone.

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

## Stansted Tennis Club



### Dates for your diary:

#### Ladies' Night

Monday 13th May from 7.00pm - all lady members are very welcome to come along!

#### Club Tournament

For the month of May, entry sheets will be up on the notice-board in the Clubhouse. All members are encouraged to support this year's tournament.

#### Coaching

If you are interested in finding out more about coaching at Stansted Tennis Club, please contact either Chris Hollis or Martyn Taplin 816386 (Monday night adults). Chris currently has the following vacancies:

Mondays 4.00pm-4.30pm - ages 6-7 (one place)

Mondays 4.30pm-5.45pm - ages 13-16 (girls)

Thursdays 4.30pm-5.00pm - ages 9-11

Fridays 1.45pm-2.45pm - ladies (one place)

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#### 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, Catherine Hodgen (Membership Secretary) 656151. Website: [www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk)

Chris Hollis  
Tel: 319155

## STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

Indoor coaching continues for girls and boys. We have recently had 20 girls being coached by Matt Hyam, our ECB Level 3 coach at Birchwood. Outdoor sessions begin at the end of April on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Matches for juniors begin in early May midweek and at weekends. Kristen Beams and Bryony Butcher, who play for Essex Women, will be helping club coaches this season. Kristen comes from Melbourne and plays state cricket. Bryony is yet another member of the famous Butcher cricketing family. Both grounds have been tended and groundsman Phil Maule is well on top of matters. He is confident of once again producing one of the best wickets in the area and one of the best outfielders. Matches begin on 26th April for both senior and junior teams. If you are interested in joining your local Focus club please contact me.

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Our Easter activities last month were a wonderful success so thank you to all those who were involved in organising the events, the special guests who attended, and those who came along to support. We had 35 children attending the Easter egg hunt and craft morning at Ugley Village Hall and Linnets Wood, which luckily saw the first sunshine in a long while! Over 25 children attended our tea and toys themed session 'What I Want To Be When I Grow Up' and met a policeman who took their fingerprints, a paramedic who checked heart beats and oxygen levels, a fully uniformed soldier and a photographer who helped the children take photos and then change them using Photoshop. The children loved it - there was definitely something for everyone; a big hit with all though, was the paramedics' spit and sick cups!!

Our Tea and Toys this month will have Crazy Ceramics attending ready for children to make Father's Day presents, as well as general toys in St John's Church Hall for all pre-school aged children to play with, full details are below. Stansted NCT arranges fantastic events throughout the year for the children in our community, but desperately needs more volunteers to help co-ordinate the needs of a busy branch. If you have 2-3 hours a month that you could spare for the NCT and be part of an organisation that works on a national level as well as providing community support please let me know. The current Committee's children are getting older, as they have a habit of doing, and we need to have parents involved that have babies or are currently pregnant. Working with a charity whilst on maternity leave or during a career break is a great opportunity to keep your CV up to date with employable skills. I would also like to add a personal note, that before I had my two children, I knew very few people in the village as I worked in London and did not grow up locally. The NCT has not only provided my children with playmates and fabulous activities, provided me with support when I had young babies at home but also I have made very, very special friends.

Fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates? Why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings, which are informal gatherings held in members' homes. We would love to meet you and it is a great way of making new friends. Contact me for details of our weekly events.

**Additional events being held this month**

**Friday 3rd May 10.00am-11.30am** All pre-schoolers - Tea and Toys with Crazy Ceramics, St John's Church Hall. £3 per child or £5 family. Crazy Ceramics items individually priced.

**Sunday 5th May** All children – Empire Juniors cinema trip, film and time to be confirmed, please contact me for further details.

**Thursday 23rd May from 8.00pm** Mums, dads or carers all welcome, Social Branch meeting, please call for venue details.

**Wednesday 29th May** All children – Hatfield Forest Trip. Meet at 10.00am at the first car park with bikes and scooters. Picnics if good weather

**Thursday 30th May** All children – Audley End Trip. Meet 1.30pm in the car park for the miniature railway.

Anna Sedgbeer  
Tel: 812257

During the very cold weather of March, the beautiful white wood anemones have been happy to start flowering in Birchanger Wood. The wood anemones and the later showing English bluebells are a Spring feature of Birchanger Wood and it is for this reason that the Trust is seeking to conserve and encourage their growth over the woodland floor. The means we have used to preserve and encourage these colourful flowers has been by refurbishing our winding woodland paths so that feet and boots refrain from venturing onto the soft woodland floor and these lovely bulbs have a chance to regenerate and reinstate. The wood now has 5.3km of all-weather winding well-surfaced paths including the refurbished public footpath and they are free for use by all the local community.



The Trust has been busy over the winter months constructing a secure compound for our tree nursery, and equipment store. When the construction works are completed, we will be installing a QR trail – initially only in the Bishop's Stortford side of the wood, but if successful, we will seek necessary funding for a similar trail on the Birchanger/Stansted side. A QR trail comprises small square signs like bar codes placed on stakes throughout the wood and will be linked to the Trust's website. To understand them you will need the appropriate 'app' on your mobile or i-pod, so by pointing your mobile at any sign, you will be able to pick up information about that point in the Wood. The Trust is also currently researching funding to provide some conventional information boards and signs. Look out for artwork in the wood. This is where local primary and junior schools show off their artwork – this would normally have been at Easter, but because of our building works this will be held a bit later in the year.

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis  
Secretary  
Tel: 812259

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The Government's long-awaited aviation policy was released on 22nd March, setting out its approach towards the future development of UK aviation and the measures it would implement to control aviation's environmental impacts. SSE believe the new framework lacks meaningful measures to control noise, air pollution and climate change, adding to condemnation by airport community campaign groups and environmental organisations nationwide. Ministers had claimed during the consultation phase that the new policy would pave the way for action, highlighting the need to address community concerns about noise. This raised hopes that a tougher approach would be introduced to tackle the aviation industry's worst impacts.

One consolation is that the new framework is silent on the issue of airport expansion. Responsibility for that issue rests with the Airports Commission and we are now focused on convincing the Commission that there is no case for major expansion at Stansted, particularly given the irreversible destruction of historic landscape and heritage which this would bring.

Peter Sanders  
Chairman

Tel: 01799 520411

Email: [petersanders77@talktalk.net](mailto:petersanders77@talktalk.net)



## BRITISH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION (BBKA)

After seeing the bees fly for the first time after the winter on Valentine's Day, things got grim. The bees thought it was spring, but the good old British weather thought different, as cold and snow swept the country. It was time for human intervention in the form of me boiling sugar to a good old recipe. Heat until the sugar gets to 118 degrees centigrade – which believe me takes a long time – and keep an eye on an old fashioned brass thermometer which conveniently shows this temperature as 'firm ball' (as opposed to soft ball or hard ball) – I am sure a lot of people will understand. Add a little honey to attract the bees, then cool it down and put into curry take away cartons. As it cools it forms 'candy' which is just right for a cold bee in the depths of winter. Invert the carton over the hole made for this purpose on top of the hive, and hope!

Six long weeks pass and I wonder if I have got it right. I lift the edge of the hive (called hefting) to feel if it is heavy enough to indicate sufficient stores of food. Still no sign of the bees. Easter comes and no sign of flying bees. Either it is still too cold or the colony has died. Then on 2nd April the sun came out and as the shadows passed away from my two hives, first one and then the other started showing signs of activity – out they came in their hundreds to enjoy the sun and start foraging for nectar. The flying didn't last long, but at least the bees are alive and enjoying the sunshine. What joy of renewal this brings; I decide to cut the lawn and I feel good as the smell of the grass fills my nose and bees fly past me as I make my way up and down the lawn.

John Dockerill  
Training Officer

Email: [training@stortfordbees.org.uk](mailto:training@stortfordbees.org.uk)



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### Littlebury 'beyond the Pale' talk by Lizzie Saunders

Our last meeting was very well attended for a very informative and enthusiastic talk by Lizzie Saunders on Littlebury and Audley End, and how the two have been intertwined throughout history. Lizzie started by describing 'beating the bounds' - every three years, before trigonometrical mapping was introduced, the residents all placed themselves in a line around the parish boundary of Littlebury, so that everybody knew by eye where the boundaries lay. She then took us right through to Sir John Griffin Griffin, 1762 owner of Audley End with Lord Bristol and the Reverend William Gretton formally of the vicarage next to Littlebury church, acquiring all land and property possible which included vast areas of Littlebury and Audley End village. Nothing could stop the purchases; even the property and land from the Littlebury charities were purchased through Acts of Parliament by Sir John Griffin Griffin through Lord Bristol, who acquired 14 acres from the trustees of King Edward VI Almshouses by swapping with them 20 acres he didn't want, which made possible the removal of two nearby hamlets, which were re-sited to a position that could not be seen from the house. Little Shackleton Field (21 acres) lying on the London to Cambridge road, which had a right of commonage for the villagers of Littlebury to graze their cattle, was eventually purchased by Griffin Griffin through Gretton, Thomas Pennystone and Lord Bristol acting as trustees to the poor and granting the villagers two acres in Peacock Field to which they had to pay back £2 14s in rent. Highways were removed; farm land turned into estate grounds; all property razed to the ground - nothing could stop the progress of the Palace and grounds being returned to their former glory with their uninterrupted views. It was necessary to create a boundary, fixing in the public consciousness the outmost reaches of his control and irrevocably establishing the position of those lesser mortals 'beyond the pale' acting as a marker for where one lifestyle began and another ended.

Our next meeting is at 8.00pm in the Day Centre off Chapel Hill on Thursday 2nd May, which is our AGM followed by a presentation by our Vice-Chairman Peter Saunders. All are welcome.

Steve Leaney  
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## OUR ROAD



*Map of Stansted in 1873*

Private speculative builders, having bought the plots from Mrs Welch, built the older houses along the West side of the old part of the road. The Manse (no 17) was probably built in the 1890s, just after the completion of the church, numbers 19 to 26 were constructed between 1902 and 1906, and numbers 13 to 15 probably after 1906. Houses 19 to 29 were all of similar construction; two rooms with two bedrooms above for the adults, and at the back a kitchen and scullery with three small bedrooms above for the children and probably a maid /nurse, which may have indicated that they were built for middle class people? These have been modified over the years so they are very different now.



*Photograph reproduced with permission from Paul Embleton's book 'Around Stansted Mountfitchet'*

Like many of the roads in Stansted, St John's Road is not maintained by the public purse, nor is it clear who actually owns the road. Up to sometime after the Second World War, the road had gates at the junction with Chapel Hill, and so at

St John's Road was one of the major roads of the 1840s village of Stansted Mountfitchet. It started as a short track off Chapel Hill finishing with a gate to open fields, but it wasn't called that then, probably getting its present name when the church was built. The Welch family owned these fields. When her husband died Mrs Welch sold off the land in building plots but with an extension of the original track to form the road as we now know it, to the point where it joins St John's Crescent. All of the plots bordering this extension had a condition in the deeds requiring the owner to maintain their frontage of the road, but over the years this has been lost from most of the deeds. But we have a road association who do their best to manage the task.

that time it was a private road. But for reasons now unknown, the gates were left open for several years, so the privacy was lost. We now have a situation where it would appear that St John's Road is an unadopted highway, which limits the rights of the frontagers but leaves them with the legal responsibility to maintain the surface. The owners of the road itself do have some rights in terms of parking and misuse. The rest of St John's Road and St John's Crescent are of much later vintage and are in the same legal state.

The East side of St John's Road was taken up by the Carpet shop on the corner and the rest was all church land, St John's Church being built in 1889. In 1971 a new County Primary school was built in St John's Road (a prefab style building) with a recreation field for the school. During the 1970s we had a lot of problems with flooding, caused by a number of conflicting events. The introduction of paving and concrete drives meant many square yards, or metres, of soak-away were lost, so rain had no place to go! Prior to the building of Clarence Road and St John's Lane there was an open drain, which came down from the Cambridge Road, across the school field and finished in the culvert under Lower Street. The top part just became surface water, but the open drain across the school field was converted to a six inch pipe by the county when the school was built which over the years got choked with roots from trees planted right on top!! This was eventually cleared, so we now have little or no flooding problem.

Now the school has moved to the Forest Hall estate with the 'prefabs' being empty, so the residents of St John's Road are wondering what the future will bring?

David Manley

## ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING STANSTED

Why not take up a new interest and meet new friends - we have lots of interesting subjects for this term:

- Meeting Your Ancestors 16<sup>th</sup> April
- Computers for Improvers 17<sup>th</sup> April
- Drawing and Watercolours 17<sup>th</sup> April
- Drawing and Painting 17<sup>th</sup> April
- Upholstery 18<sup>th</sup> April
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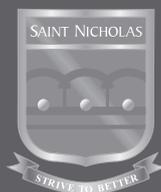
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## GUESS WHO I AM

**I was born** and spent the first 19 years of my life in Bishop's Stortford, the eldest of three children. My childhood was a very happy one. Being shy, small for my age and having to wear ugly wire framed national health glasses, I was often teased by my peers but still loved school. My favourite subject was English and I enjoyed playing in the hockey team. Aged 16 I left school with 5 GCE 'O' Levels and the dubious distinction of having been the only one in my class to fail Domestic Science (otherwise known as Home Economics or Food Technology)!

**My first job** was at Robert Sayle's (now John Lewis) in Cambridge where I received two weeks training before being allowed anywhere near a customer. Part of that training was to learn how to neatly wrap even the most awkward shaped items only using brown paper and string. It's something I've never forgotten and a useful skill that comes into its own around Christmas time! The '60s and '70s were fantastic with lots of employment opportunities. I changed jobs regularly, working mostly in the hospitality industry at various resorts along the South Coast and in the West Country.

**I have lived in Stansted** for 32 years during which time I've gained a City and Guilds teaching qualification in adult education and have taught Fashion and Design and Dressmaking. I'm married and have a son and a daughter, who grew up here but have now moved away. I enjoy village life and have spent many happy hours volunteering for local organisations. Now retired, I'm able to indulge in my other passions: walking, gardening, writing, dancing and Tai Chi as well as volunteering.

**Claim To Fame?** I once won 2nd prize, a steam iron, in a national dressmaking competition. Guess Who I am!

*Answer on page 29*

## FIND THE MISSING LINK

Fill in the eight missing four letter words that link the words on the left with the ones on the right. Unscramble the letters marked with a star to form an eight-letter word.

Clue: Stansted landmark.

FOX	- * - -	THE THIMBLE
SING	- - * -	BIRD
PUB	- - - *	OFF
PEPPER	- * - -	STONE
TAKE	* - - -	SCALE
RED	- * - -	BOARD
AFTER	- - * -	BOAT
BEAN	- * - -	STAR

*Answers on page 30*

## THE CRAFTON ROOM

[www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk](http://www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk)

At last the sun is shining and all in the garden is coming up roses – well that is a bit of an exaggeration as nothing has actually been planted yet, but by the time you read this I'm sure the lawn will be laid and the flower and vegetable beds springing to life. The garden is well under way with the ground now cleared, levelled and the raised beds in place for our vegetable plot. I would like to say a huge thank you to David and Sandra who have made such fantastic progress working in all weathers to achieve this for us, and to everyone who has so generously donated plants. While I am thanking people, March saw a new kitchen being fitted at the Centre. Nick Whitaker from Nouvelle Carpentry and Building made sure this was done with the minimum of disruption and fuss, so thank you. With all these improvements being made to our wonderful facility, I would like to remind you that the Centre is available for hire at very reasonable rates. See our website or call for more details, and don't forget 31st May is the next Fish and Chip lunch. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Julie Beck  
Centre Manager  
Tel : 815091

*music@stansted*

Saturday 6th July is the date set for our popular, biennial **Summer Soiree** featuring many award-winning local young musicians, **including the outstanding young pianist George Harliono**, in the Church and Gardens of St John's Church. The first half of the concert will begin in the Church at 6.00pm. In the interval there will be supper with a licensed bar in the Church Gardens. Further details will be in next month's 'Link' but tickets, **which we ask you to purchase in advance please for catering purposes**, will be available shortly. Adults £12, accompanied children £5, including food, from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford; and Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill tel 815282. For more information about music@stansted and future events please visit our website at [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com).

Alan Corbishley

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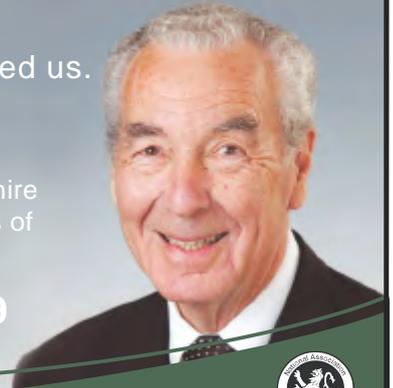
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# Stansted Network

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

\*\*\*\*\*

### STANDING ROOM ONLY AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It is pleasing to report that approximately 80 parishioners turned out on a cold night to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in the Free Church. It is worth noting in relation to most other large communities, the interest and attendance is by far the highest in this parish. This is a useful forum to raise issues and express views and the Council will continue to encourage even greater numbers to come next year perhaps in a different and larger venue.

A presentation was given by Jamie Hogg on behalf of Save Stansted Village in which he encouraged everyone to stand firm in opposing the planning applications which are expected to be registered with Uttlesford District Council before the end of May. The two applications cover land to the west of Bentfield Green and to the north beyond Walpole Farm and each proposes the construction of about 160-170 dwellings.

After discussion the following resolution was passed by a large majority:

**“Does this Annual Parish meeting oppose the two development proposals by Taylor Wimpey at Bentfield Green and Bloor Homes at Walpole Farm and all further significant/major development in Stansted Mountfitchet, including Elms Farm?”**

A major development was defined as any involving more than fifteen dwellings. It should be noted that resolutions approved by this meeting are not binding on the Parish Council but will be taken into account.

### The Open Forum raised a number of issues:

- *The inadequacy of policing* was raised by several parishioners especially as the police precept for 2013/14 has increased by 3.5%.

Anti-social behaviour and speeding should be priorities and requires more on-street policing. The Parish Council will pursue these concerns with Inspector Colin Cox, the latest officer taking responsibility for this area.

- *The future of the police station was raised.* In response it was explained that the station is expected to close soon but it is still hoped to provide a police reception and private meeting facilities in the new community building.
- *The perennial issue of dog owners* who fail to clean up remains a general concern and the Parish Council is launching a new campaign to educate and perhaps shame.
- *The shortfall in primary school places* given the pressure from additional developments needed to be considered. Cllr Gooding responded that contributions from developers would not cover the cost of a new school nor would Essex County Council have access to the necessary funds.
- *The future of the site in St John's Road* (formerly occupied by St Mary's School) was discussed. It is hoped to retain the playing field as a sports facility but no decision was expected for about two years. Uttlesford District Council considers the site suitable for 35 dwellings.
- *The changing demands on the library* were raised. It was pointed out that the number of books lent had not fallen while the population is still increasing. More computer facilities and children's activities are planned.

A number of other issues were raised including the state of the surface in Coopers Alley, the demolition of You're Furnished, empty premises, provision of a swimming pool and the relationship with the new owners of Stansted Airport (a meeting is being arranged).

The Council would like to thank all who attended and contributed to a successful village meeting.

## **AWASH WITH DEVELOPERS BUT WHERE ARE WE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?**

**The Local Development Framework or Local Plan is still in the process of being compiled** by Uttlesford District Council (UDC). After a further period for public consultation the plan will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate. If it is approved then the plan will be adopted and planning applications will be judged against the Local Plan. This position is unlikely to be reached before Spring 2014. In order for the Inspector to approve the draft plan, it will be necessary for UDC to demonstrate that its fifteen year housing programme meets the anticipated needs (UDC has targeted 6255 dwellings which falls in the middle of the possible scenarios considered), as well as allocating sites for development.

**The provision of a rolling five year land bank is required by the Government.** Although UDC has granted planning permission for 2819 dwellings over the next five years, the slow rate at which these permissions are being implemented by developers leaves UDC, strange as it may seem, in default and open to further applications!

**As the Local Plan has not yet been adopted, UDC is now subject to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** and will remain in this position until the Local Plan is adopted. Under the NPPF development proposals will be judged in terms of 'Achieving Sustainable Development'. The criteria for sustainability appear general, even vague. As such planning applications for housing development will be judged against these criteria on a first come, first served basis – a cause for concern.

**So where does Stansted Mountfitchet stand in the development process?** Although the draft Local Plan included sixty new dwellings for the village and the recent Position Statement a slightly lower number, this encouraging position, even if no changes are made in coming months, will not be relevant until the Local Plan is adopted. As such any planning applications for development will be judged by the officers and Planning Committee of UDC under the principles of the existing Local Plan and the sustainability criteria under the NPPF with the latter carrying most weight. If UDC refuses a

planning application then an appeal (if made) would be considered by an Inspector at an enquiry under the NPPF. In this sense decisions may be taken away from the local area.

**Over the next three months it is likely that this parish will face four applications to develop housing** – Bentfield Green (170 dwellings), Walpole Farm (160), Elms Farm (58) and Pines Hill (54) with the latter two sites being located in green belt. Whilst these two sites are likely to be rejected by UDC as the Council opposes any breach of green belt, the decisions on the two larger proposals are much less certain. A detailed case to refuse will need to be submitted and supported by public opinion. Even if UDC supports refusal, appeals are likely to be submitted.

The inadequacy of the local infrastructure and services will be set against the perceived need for more housing and this will form the heart of the battle. If the target for new housing is confirmed or even increased and if Stansted Mountfitchet is allocated sixty dwellings or less, then difficult decisions on allocation throughout the district will need to be made.

## **ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF GRANTS BY THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council once a year allocates 1% of the precept raised to support the works of organisations which benefit our parishioners. This year £1,870 was available to be allocated. It was agreed to contribute the sum of £1,000 towards the cost of new flooring at St John's Church (subject to the project going ahead) and £435 each to Grove Cottage (Mencap) and Uttlesford Community Travel.

## **CHRISTMAS FAYRE ..... PLANS IN HAND**

We have set to work on getting the basics in place for the Fayre to be held in the Lower Street car park on the 8/9 December. Keith Honour has agreed to bring the Steam Engine and Organ again this year and we are hoping to get some Victorian rides to carry on the theme. Gluhwein will be sold, hopefully in special Stansted Mountfitchet mugs, crafted for the occasion.

We will also be having two marquees this year, one for the stall holders so they do not need to pack away at the end of the day, and one as a hospitality suite, where shoppers and visitors can sit and drink their wine, coffee and chat or be entertained.

A full programme of events will be available nearer the date.

The Best Mince Pie and the Best Table Decoration competitions will be run again, so don't forget to enter nearer the time ..... entry forms will be in the Link later this year.

Thanks to those of you who offered your services to help arrange the Fayre, and to those who have been asking for a stall space already - we will be in touch in due course.

If you have any ideas about what attractions you would like to see at the Fayre please let us know - we will see what can be arranged.

Contact us: Maureen Caton - 813914 or email: m.caton@hotmail.co.uk or Parish Council - 813214 or email: parishcouncil@stansted.net

We will update you again in the next edition.

**CREATING A NEW PARISH WEBSITE**

The Parish Council recognises the inadequacies of the current website and is undertaking research and seeking advice to create a new and more useful website. If you have views or ideas on what the website should contain or how it should look, contact any councillor or the office (email: parishcouncil@stansted.net or telephone 813214. )

\*\*\*\*\*

**STANSTED IN BLOOM**

Last few days - deadline for submitting Stansted in Bloom forms is fast approaching If you need another form please get in touch with the office - 813214.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The Council's cabinet agreed in March to permit the developers of the Hilton Cars site to increase the size of the car park in Lower Street to serve the planned health centre, shops and apartments. The number of parking spaces will rise from about 110 to 210. The owners of the development will lease up to 85 spaces for their purposes. This excludes any uses for the ground floor retail units. Shoppers will use the pay-and-display area. Some estimates suggest that the net effect of the retail demand on the car park will be a net shortfall of spaces of between 30 and 50 spaces. After strongly concerned representations from district and parish councillors, the council has agreed to monitor the impact of the new building as it comes into operation. This is expected to be in the second half of 2014.

Stansted's Economic Development Working Group has been in discussion with landowners and potential developers on the Cambridge Road development opportunity site that stretches from Crafton Green to the new flattened site that was You're Furnished. The District Council has started to revise its local plan housing policy to re-designate two of the sites away from housing. The group hopes to see new jobs created in the area and is also looking at how the capacity of the car park can be increased and access to it improved.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive a phone call in March about the award of a trophy to Stansted. Google has nominated us as the fourth most successful town in the UK for e-commerce. Stansted has been ranked behind Stratford-upon-Avon, Edinburgh and Richmond-on-Thames. A lady who runs a beauty clinic from her home on Foresthall Park (who is also one of our Link advertisers) was featured in the publicity, having grown her business through internet promotion and on-line bookings. At the second business breakfast on 5 April, Sr Alan Haselhurst presented the trophy. The event was again fully booked. (Cllr Alan Dean)

## STANSTED BUSINESS FORUM

We are organising monthly meetings to promote local businesses and economic growth in Stansted. This is a very good opportunity for local businesses to meet, exchange ideas and work with each other to promote their businesses. If you are interested in more information about the Forum, please contact Peter James, Murdoch's Property Shop on 01279 813318. One of the first things that the Stansted Business Forum is involved in is to promote the Stansted Summer Fete which will be in Station Road on Saturday 6 July. If you are interested in booking a stall for this event, please call 810899.

**(Cllr Iris Evans)**

## OLD PARISH FIRE PUMP

Each member of the district council has been allocated funding from the New Homes Bonus to spend on projects within their ward. I chose to fund the restoration of the wheels on the old parish fire pump as the group had been unsuccessful in securing grant funding from other sources. The next aim is to procure a trailer so that this vintage pump can be brought out to village events for all to admire.

**(Cllr John Salmon)**

## DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

8 May	Full Council & Annual Council
15 May	Open Spaces

## CONTACT DETAILS

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

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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John Salmon	814789 sam@salmonfamily.me.uk
John Savopoulos	817687 johnsav8@gmail.com
Geoffrey Sell (Chairman)	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
Valerie Trundle	813433 prtvrt@btinternet.com

## Uttlesford District Council Members

Alan Dean	813579 cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
Iris Evans	815848 cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Salmon	814789 cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Joe Rich	813112 cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk

## Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding	813103 cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk
-------------	---

## 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

# DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimer's Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: <a href="mailto:494@aircadets.org">494@aircadets.org</a>	Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Contact: Kathy West Tel: 816293 Email: <a href="mailto:kewest@btinternet.com">kewest@btinternet.com</a>
Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	Pilots (age 5-18)	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: <a href="mailto:doreenscraggs@talktalk.net">doreenscraggs@talktalk.net</a>	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 07968 347176 Email: <a href="mailto:admin@rainbowpreschool.net">admin@rainbowpreschool.net</a>
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: <a href="mailto:yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk">yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 816172	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: <a href="mailto:skr@skr.org.uk">skr@skr.org.uk</a>
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: <a href="mailto:rospagemusic@yahoo.com">rospagemusic@yahoo.com</a>
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: <a href="mailto:drlunnon@gmail.com">drlunnon@gmail.com</a>
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	U3A	Christine Chair Tel: 817587
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Huw Johnson Club	Marion and Tom Johnson Tel: 812284	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Inner Wheel Club	Lynn Rutt, President Tel: 654537	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 01371 873156/ 07920 466 923
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213		
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: <a href="mailto:info@musicatstansted.com">info@musicatstansted.com</a>		
NCT	Anna Sedgbeer 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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Sender's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_



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## CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Tomato & Mozzarella Cous-Cous

This is a delicious recipe for when the weather gets warmer ... I'm ever the optimist!

#### Ingredients

1 teacup (about 225g) cous-cous  
1 tbsp pesto (red or green)  
½ vegetable stock cube  
150g mozzarella, torn into pieces  
2 large, ripe tomatoes  
Handful of rocket or other salad leaves  
*For the dressing:*  
4 tbsp olive oil, 1tbsp pesto, juice of 1 lemon

#### Method

Tip the couscous into a large bowl, add the pesto and crumble over the stock cube.  
Pour over 400ml boiling water and give it a good stir to dissolve the stock.  
Cover with cling film and leave to stand for 10 minutes until all the water has been absorbed.  
To make the dressing, mix together the olive oil, pesto and lemon juice.  
When the couscous has swelled up, pour over the dressing.  
Chop up the tomatoes and add with the mozzarella and rocket.  
Mix and flake with a fork.

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).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Respected Editor

On a recent visit to your delightful city I obtained a copy of your most charming book from the temple of St John. Coming from Asia, again the fountain of world enterprise, I was fascinated that you will be having a most fabulous wind turbine where now stands the monument you call a 'windmill'. We also hold these memorials to a glorious past in high esteem so wish to offer the roof of our new Malaysian restaurant and emporium in Stansted as a site for your 'windmill'. We would be enchanted to see your admiration of history built into our most splendid house of fine eating, and so make our two amazing cultures as one.

(Our many patrons may wish to visit your 'windmill' for which we would, for conviviality, make no charge.)

With unceasing respects,

Lei Tin Loo  
Kuala Lumpur

*Thank you 'Mr/Mrs Loo' and to everyone who responded to the 'Stop Press' item in last month's issue identifying it as an April Fool joke. Apologies to those who may not have appreciated the humour. As to whether there will be a repeat performance next year – our lips are sealed!*

Editor



## RED CROSS WEEK

5th - 11th May

There will be door-to-door collections in Stansted during this week as part of the annual fundraising event. The Red Cross helps people in crisis, wherever and whoever they are, both in the UK and abroad. Some of the ways the money is spent:

First Aid - training people to cope with emergencies and providing first aid cover at public events.

Medical Equipment - short and long term loan eg wheel-chairs, walking frames (the local medical equipment hire centre is in Harlow).

Care in the Home - volunteers help people after stays in hospital.

Therapeutic Care - this provides gentle massage for people in stressful situations.

Skin Camouflage - shows people how to cover a wide range of skin conditions.

Emergency Response - the Red Cross responds to hundreds of emergencies in the UK each year.

International Work - responding to major disasters around the world:

- refugee support and assistance
- international tracing and message service, putting people back in touch.

Your support for these collections will be really appreciated. Any enquiries please contact me.

Christine Stiles  
Tel: 813172

## YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO A CHILD'S LIFE

On Friday 26th July, a group of orphaned or abandoned children from some of the poorest parts of Romania will arrive in our area for a two-week break courtesy of the Moreton Romanian Orphans Fund, a local charity that has been organising such visits for more than 20 years. These children have to go without many things in their homeland, but the one thing they lack the most is the love of a parent or family.



Would you be able to give them that one massive missing ingredient in their lives? Well now is your chance. The charity is looking for families in this area to accommodate and care for a child for the duration of the trip. The children are unlikely to have ever

stepped foot outside Romania or experienced being part of a family group before, so for them it is a huge step. The entire cost of the trip is funded by the charity, which also puts on a full programme of events such as discos, picnics, sports events and days at the seaside - meaning all you need to supply is food, accommodation, and of course lots of love! Interested? Then please call the hosting officer Barbara Saunders on 832001. For more information on the charity, please visit our website, [www.mrof.co.uk](http://www.mrof.co.uk).

Paul Jarvis  
Publicity Officer

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## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th May in St John's Church Hall. Doors open 1.30pm and the meeting starts at 2.00pm with the AGM prior to the monthly meeting. The speaker is Ken Brazier giving an illustrated account of 'An Old Man Climbing Kilimanjaro'.

### Amsterdam Trip

We boarded the coach to begin our long weekend in Amsterdam. Gary, our coach driver, was an extremely amusing and knowledgeable guide, closely related to Joe Pasquale surely!! Once through the Channel Tunnel we eventually reached the Ramada Hotel in Amsterdam's city centre. Converging on the restaurant on the 17th floor overlooking the city for a buffet dinner and later retiring to the hotel bar we were able to enjoy the great vistas. After a hearty breakfast we all needed ballast to stop us from being blown off our feet by the incredibly strong and cold winds. After a visit to the cheese and clog making farm, run by the Family Klomp – yes really – we went off to Volendam on the Islemeer. The sun was bright but the wind was bitter, straight off the North Sea almost taking off your ears! Cars covered in layers of ice made them look like frozen ladybirds.



Sunday was lovely and bright, once again, but soooo cold. The canal boat trip was wonderfully interesting with a further outing, by coach, to the windmills at the Zaans Museum. In the evening many of the group went to a restaurant similar to that run by Basil Fawly. The meal was low on culinary delights but very high on laughs, an experience to tell the grandchildren about! On the way home the coach took us to the Keukenhof Gardens but with the biting winds not a daffodil or tulip could be seen apart from in bulb form at a roadside stall, only crocuses neatly decorated the numerous roundabouts. Another great trip thanks to Jan and Maggie - roll on Paris.

Julie

### Forthcoming Outings

There are still a few places to Southend on **Wednesday 22nd May** which includes a matinee theatre production of Cole Porter's 'High Society' after half a day browsing around the shops, sightseeing or having lunch. The cost is £35. On **Sunday 23rd June** a trip to Blenheim Palace has been arranged. Within the Palace the State Rooms are filled with examples of superb craftsmanship and treasures. The beauty of 'Capability' Brown's landscaped parkland is unrivalled anywhere in Britain. The brand new Blenheim Palace Flower Show has it all. It celebrates everything floral to garden celebrities and experts who can help you transform your garden into a tranquil haven. The cost is £26.

Please contact Maggie 503848 or Jan 812481 for either outing.

### Activities

The U3A has over 24 group activities. See our website [www.stanstedu3a.org](http://www.stanstedu3a.org) for full details. For further information please contact Chris (Chair) on 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) on 814304.



Caroline Bore



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

[www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk](http://www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk)

### AGM

Another successful year was reported by the Chairman. Membership numbers had held steady and the number of 'day' visitors had increased. The 2012-13 programme had been well received and members were looking forward to the new season's speakers. The Treasurer was pleased to advise that subscriptions would not be increased. Single - £12.00 Double - £20.00 (two persons living at same address) Visitors - £2.50.

### Mini-spring Show

The number of exhibits was down this year due to the very cold, wet weather and some classes did not have any entries. However, in some sheltered gardens members managed to find daffodils and flowering shrubs to display whilst others brought a selection of pot plants, succulents and flowers to show. The highest number of entries was in the floral arrangement class where members entered an 'Arrangement in a mug or teacup'. A list of the winners is on the website.

### May Meeting

The Club's new season starts on 1st May with Mr Robin Carsberg talking about 'Gardens of the Italian Lakes'. 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

or leave message on contact tab on our website

## CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS

Now that May is here let's hope for some more seasonable weather. The cold has put us all behind and it is time to catch up with sowing most vegetables now. It will be safe to sow French and runner beans straight into the ground. If you have plants leave them until towards the end of the month when it should also be safe to plant marrows, courgettes, tomatoes and other such produce. The end of the month is also time to set out bedding plants and to plant out your containers. If you have gaps in your flowerbeds where plants haven't survived the winter, an easy way to fill them is to sow some hardy annuals directly in the soil.

Somebody asked me if I knew why their bearded irises have never bloomed very well. When I looked at them I said I thought they were planted too deep. When planting, the rhizomes should always be on top of the ground so that the sun can get to them.

Cyril Stoneham

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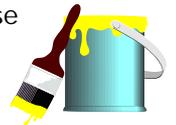
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## HATFIELD FOREST SNIPPETS

Once again we welcomed over 2000 children on the Easter bank holiday weekend. We all love our jobs and want to thank all of our brilliant volunteers, particularly new ones Esther and Liz, who jumped in at the deep end on day one. It is so lovely to see everyone enjoying the Forest as it is starting to dry out and displaying the signs of spring. If you have visited us already you will know the car parks and the shop are open 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 which are good at time of press.

I often get asked "So what can you do when you visit Hatfield Forest?" Well actually there is so much you can do here; some things we can help you with, such as geo-caching and cycling (May-October), and some things require a little more imagination from you such as den building or animal tracking. You could also be creative and take a camera with you to capture some of the signs of Spring, or you could sit quietly and watch the birds nesting on the lake. If you are feeling artistic, why not paint or draw your favourite part of the Forest or perhaps bring a picnic and enjoy the surroundings from your blanket.

We have a couple of new additions to our Visitor Experience which will help you understand the Forest more and perhaps help you find your way around. The first is the digital media app available for you to download to your smart phones and devices; we also have some Google Nexus tablets available for free loan from the shop. The second is the new long awaited guidebook which will be on sale from the shop and the kiosk. If you want a behind the scenes view we are still recruiting for volunteers in most departments. Bike hire will be starting soon so if anyone has a keen interest in cycling I would be pleased to hear from you. 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 more details. When you visit us at the Forest look out for our new events leaflet and posters which advertise our current events. These are bookable through the box office 0844 2491895 and online [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfieldforest](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfieldforest) except Woodfest camping which is now sold out. If you have any feedback for us at the Forest please let me know and I can send you a link to our online visitor survey or I can send you a paper copy in the post. As always, I look forward to seeing you all at Hatfield, please come and say hello if you visit the lake area.

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

## GUESS WHO I AM – THE ANSWER



Yvonne Ayres  
'Link' editor



## ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

After new members of Rotary have had time to settle in, they are normally invited to give a 'job talk' at one of the meetings. Joan George settled in very quickly and soon became active, notably in our support for Windhill School, our Santa



collections and more recently the food bank project. From an early age Joan had resolved to pursue a career in social services and, although females were scarce in higher education, prepared the way at the London School of Economics. Joan subsequently undertook appropriate training and spent several years monitoring progress and advising on children in care. These years,

she said, were the most enjoyable and fulfilling of her career. Joan had a family life also and put her career on hold to bring up her children. She still however had a desire to contribute and as her family grew up she trained and practiced as a marriage guidance counsellor. Initially this was voluntary work and she was able to fit it round her home responsibilities. It became evident to Joan that the world was evolving and that the Marriage Guidance Charity needed to be updated and in the early 1990s change came and Relate was born. Joan involved herself enthusiastically with the changes which brought much more structure and professionalism to the work. It also changed the approach which had been reactive rather than led; to being much more participative by the counsellors who would need to give much more of themselves in their consultations with clients. Joan had realised that to be fully functional, training in sex therapy was essential and explained the concepts to her challenged audience with her typically gentle candour. Family breakdown is still a major problem in society but thankfully is less hidden away and Relate has achieved many successes.

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



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There were lots of three and four year old pirates and mermaids in Stansted on Thursday 11th April and they were all heading for Spangles Children's Centre where author Pauline Stewart shared stories and poems with them. The children then decorated their own treasure chests, made sea creatures, built sand castles and caught fish. This Easter holiday treat was funded by the generous donation given to Spangles by Stansted Churches Together after Christmas. The money has also been used to buy resources and provide workshops to help parents support the development of their children's communication skills so that they get the best start at school.



*Pirate twins decorating their treasure chests*

Try this well-known nursery rhyme with young children. It helps them learn the order of numbers as well as the anticipation of pretending to have their finger bitten!

One, two, three, four, five.  
Once I caught a fish alive,  
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,  
Then I let it go again.  
Why did you let it go?  
Because it bit my finger so.  
Which finger did it bite?  
This little finger on the right.

Lesley Murdoch  
Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator  
Tel: 0796 4106378  
Email: [lmurdoch@spurgeons.org](mailto:lmurdoch@spurgeons.org)

## FREE MICROCHIPPING!

We are pleased to let all dog owners know that we are working in conjunction with Sue, the dog warden for Uttlesford, to offer free microchipping for dogs at our Stansted surgery. As you may know, compulsory microchipping looks set to be brought in by 2016. We will be offering the service free for at least the next 18 months as long as we have enough chips, so the sooner you have it done the better. Just ring 813780 for an appointment with the nurse. This offer is only available for dogs in Uttlesford.

Ilse Pedler  
Mercer & Hughes

## SAVE STANSTED VILLAGE (SSV)

Since our March 'Link' article the village has been besieged by developers. We now face an outline planning application from Knight Developments for Elms Farm (58 houses) and we expect three more applications very soon:

- Taylor Wimpey, Bentfield Green (170 houses)
- Bloor Homes, Walpole Farm (160 houses)
- Linden Homes, Pines Hill (60 houses).

If all are approved around 450 houses are added to the village (and that's before the developers revise their numbers upwards as happened when Foresthall moved from outline to detailed permission). So another equally large scale development albeit spread across four sites looks a realistic possibility while the village still assimilates Foresthall. No doubt we all look forward to negotiating Cambridge Road/Chapel Hill/Church Road etc in the rush hour when that's all built, let alone trying to get a doctor's appointment or a local primary school place!! In the last two months we have:

- secured strong support from the Parish Council, including a unanimous resolution opposing the development at Bentfield Green
- presented and publicised our cause to the annual Parish Council meeting
- met with and lobbied Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP and Uttlesford District Councillors about the unprecedented scale of developments we face
- appointed a planning consultant to prepare our case to UDC.

The coming months will be crucial. Many local residents have already submitted their views on Elms Farm to UDC and we need to do the same when the other applications come forward (expected imminently). With current national planning policy favouring building in the countryside there has never been a more important time to stand united and protect our village. Some of our efforts bear costs (consultant fees, website, flyers) for which we are fundraising. We hope that supporters will be willing to contribute and if you wish to make a donation we will gratefully accept cheques made out to 'Save Stansted Village' to the Parish Council address below or to 20 Bentfield Green. Thank you for all your continued support.

Email: [bentfieldgreen@hotmail.com](mailto:bentfieldgreen@hotmail.com)  
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Website: [www.savestanstedvillage.co.uk](http://www.savestanstedvillage.co.uk)

Simon Thompson

## MISSING LINK ANSWERS

Hunt, Song, Sign, Mill, Time, Card, Life, Pole, **Fountain**

## STANSTED IN DAYS GONE BY

These photographs were all taken in the same year - do you know which one? Answer next month.



Photographs from the Ayres Family



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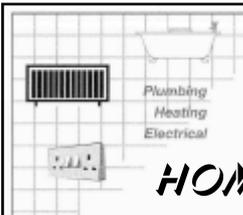
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## Nature Notes

At this time of the year before the crops have grown tall in the fields and before all the leaves are on the trees and hedges, a lot of wildlife can be seen when driving along the roads and lanes. Sadly, however, not all of it is still running around. On a recent trip to Norfolk there were staggering numbers of birds and animals lying dead by the roadside. Most numerous were pheasants - there must have been over a hundred. It has been said that they have the smallest brain of any bird and at least three were seen risking their lives running across busy main roads. They prefer to run along the ground rather than fly and, as most pheasants these days have their food delivered by quad bikes when they are reared during the summer, they probably do not fear motor vehicles. There were quite a few dead pigeons which reflected their huge numbers in the flocks which come over from the continent to feed in our fields during the winter. Rooks and crows are rarely hit by traffic because they are bright birds and can be seen stepping across the white line on to the hard shoulder when vehicles approach. Other casualties included rabbits, a hare, polecat, roe deer and several foxes, muntjac deer and badgers. The muntjacs are abundant everywhere and a dozen or more were seen grazing on and near the verges, often in pairs. Badgers are raising their young in their setts at this time of the year and there will be many badger families across the country missing a parent. Birds of prey were not so prevalent as usual in the skies and just one sparrowhawk, buzzard and marsh harrier were seen. Also there was only one kestrel instead of the usual several hovering over the verges. Their numbers have probably dwindled due to the harsh winter. To end on a happy note, we were lucky to see a handsome barn owl perched right by the road, although the small rodent hanging from its beak may not have felt so lucky.

Felix

## ELSENHAM VILLAGE FETE AND CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 8 June 1.00 - 5.00pm

This year's fete plans are coming together nicely and we hope by June that we can look forward to some warmer weather. We seem to have a musical theme this year with the Hadstock Silver Band performing along with Bishops Stortford's Ukulele Band, where you will be able to have a go! This year we have introduced a small selection of crafters from the Essex Guild of Craftsmen who will set up in the big marquee, so come along and take a look and watch some of them in action. There will be the usual pony rides, bouncy castles, BBQ, beat the goalie, teas, bar and raffle along with over 40, and counting, various other stalls run by local people and organisations. As ever we are on the lookout for raffle prizes, so if you or your company would be willing to donate please get in touch on the number below. If we have any budding crafters who would like to try and sell some of their gifts why not apply for a booking form and come along. We cannot guarantee the weather but good company and lots of people make the day worthwhile. For more information on the fete or to donate a prize please call me.



Jennifer Jarvis  
Tel: 814434



### New Airport MD to speak at the next Lunch

Andrew Harrison is the newly appointed managing director of Stansted Airport, following the acquisition by Manchester Airport Group. He will be speaking at the next Stansted Lunch Group

meeting at 12.30pm for 1.00pm on Wednesday 22nd May at Bury Lodge. His talk is entitled 'Stansted Airport - new ownership, new vision'. Join



us to hear Andrew talk about his vision to grow Stansted and make it the best airport serving London and the East of England. His talk will be followed by a questions and answers session.

Over 50 members were present at the last meeting when Bishop's Stortford's deputy mayor, Janice Elliott, spoke about her forthcoming Liberty Business in Stortford event which takes place on 12th June. Janice has a programme for stimulating all aspects of life in Bishop's Stortford with a series of events including business, music, singing and boxing. The Stansted Lunch Group is organised by Marketing Kinetics. Membership is open to all in and around Stansted, and there is no membership or joining fee, simply pay for the lunches you attend. Meetings cost £20 and include a two course meal with wine. They take place every second month with a different speaker on each occasion. For details of the programme and to book, go to [www.stanstedlunch.com](http://www.stanstedlunch.com). We hope you are able to join us at some time in the future.

Bob Lee

Tel: 758850

Email: [robert@marketing-kinetics.co.uk](mailto:robert@marketing-kinetics.co.uk)

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

### 19th May Family Open Day and Concert

This month we are joined by the members of the Saffron Walden Town Band who were a huge hit with visitors last year, and we are sure that this year will be just the same. They will be performing at 2.00pm and 3.30pm with a programme to suit the whole family. Why not sit on the lawn with a cream tea and enjoy the show? Gates open from 12 noon-6.00pm (last entry 5.00pm). Entry Fees: Adults £3.50 Children Free. There are complimentary guided tours at 1.00pm and 3.00pm giving some of the history of these fascinating gardens. Homemade soup and bacon rolls are on sale at lunchtime; drinks, homemade cakes and cream teas are available all afternoon. Picnics welcome.

Helen Carter

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# MORRIS DANCING

*As with many folk customs, the origins are hidden in the mists of time and coloured by later perceptions, which may or may not have been correct.' Alun Hawkins*

Morris dancing has been a part of English life for at least 600 years. It is possible that the word Morris is derived from the word 'Moorish' or 'morisco' (a derogatory term meaning little Moors) although there is no proof of any connection between Morris dancing and Moorish dancing. There is little evidence that Morris dancing has any connection with pagan festivals either. What we *do* know is that Morris dancing has a long recorded history in this country, dating back to 1448.



Today it is usually thought of as an English activity, although there are around 150 Morris sides (or teams) in the USA, and more in Europe. By the early 16th century Morris dancing had become a fixture of Church festivals, but during the 19th century Morris dancing declined rapidly as people found new activities. On Boxing Day in 1899 Cecil Sharp was visiting a friend's house when a Morris side arrived to perform. He was intrigued by the music and collected several tunes from the side's musician. This is widely thought of as the Morris Revival.



In the first few decades of the 20th century several men's sides were formed and in 1934 six revival sides started the National Association of Men's Morris and Sword Dance Sides known as the Morris Ring. In the 1960s there was an explosion of new dance teams, some of them women's or mixed sides. At the time there was often heated debate about women dancing the Morris, even though there is evidence as far back as the 16<sup>th</sup> century that there were female Morris dancers. Today there are male, female *and* mixed sides. Different parts of the country have their own style of dance and distinctive costume. In Cambridgeshire there's the Molly Dance, which has associations with Plough Monday, where at least one man is dressed as a woman. The Thaxted Morris men are famous for their Abbots Bromley Horn Dance, where again at least one man is dressed as a woman.

## Thaxted Morris Men

This group was founded in 1911 on the initiative of Conrad Noel, vicar of Thaxted, and is the oldest revival side in the country. One of the first public performances was for the local celebrations of the coronation of King George V. The 1920s saw meetings being organised between some of the Revival clubs and Thaxted were hosts in 1927. Except for the war years, there has been a meeting every year in Thaxted since, the only club in the country to do so.



This year's meeting, the Thaxted Morris Ring will be held on the weekend of Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> to Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> following the usual format. On Saturday sides will tour around north west Essex stopping off at various locations, including Stansted, to dance (usually outside a pub!) finally meeting in Thaxted for massed shows, culminating with the Abbots Bromley Horn Dance as darkness falls. A church service on Sunday with an Offertory dance will be followed by a massed show in the churchyard. The weekend will be an excellent opportunity for a family outing, with lots to see and do. Great colour and fun!

*(Timings and locations will be advertised locally, so look out for posters nearer the date.)*

Stella Skingle

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## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Eight of us attended our County Annual Meeting at Colchester to hear the main speaker, Adam Henson, along with more than 500 WI ladies! Adam Henson's grandfather, Leslie Henson, was a well-known music hall and musical comedy artist, and his uncle is Nicky Henson a film and TV actor. So it is no wonder that Adam, although following his father into farming, has been so successful in the BBC's 'Countryfile' programme, as well as teaming up with Kate Humble on 'Lambing Live'. Something there for everyone; Kate, Adam and those adorable baby lambs! He took the vast audience of women in his stride and with the aid of colour slides and a glass of water, enthralled us with the story of his life before running the Cotswold Farm Park. He spent time farming in both Australia and New Zealand as well as diving in California and Canada; but farming is his first love and he now owns the lease of the Country Farm Park and runs it with a staff of 60, including his Dad. He spoke without notes for over an hour and then answered several questions – what a lovely young man – every home should have one!



Clare Mulley was the speaker for our March meeting and told us with great enthusiasm of the life of Eglantyne Jebb. She was born into a well-to-do family in 1876, had a happy childhood and went to Oxford to study History and then to a teacher training college. She didn't take to teaching, but realised the difficulties that under-privileged children had, and became involved in charity work in Cambridge. In 1913 she went to Macedonia on behalf of the Relief Fund, which was an extraordinary thing for a single woman to do. After the war she and her sister Dorothy worked to relieve children in Germany, Austria and Hungary, who were suffering because of the effects of the war and the Allied Blockade. In April 1919 the Fight the Famine Council set up a fund to raise money for these children and it became the Save the Children Fund, internationally as well as in London, where she was in charge. Clare has written an inspiring book called 'The Woman Who Saved Children' about this woman, who admitted that she didn't really care for them individually, but did care about their plight! Clare lives in Saffron Walden and has three daughters; the eldest is named Millicent Eglantyne – it means 'wild rose' which sounds much nicer!

Our next meeting on 9th May will be in the **Stansted Free Church Hall** at 7.45pm and is our Annual Meeting, when changes happen and we look at the past year. All are welcome.



Judy Colliver  
President  
Tel: 812470



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our recent meeting was the very entertaining Lynn Croot who came to share her dream with us - that of scuba diving in the Caribbean. She had wanted to scuba dive for as long as she could remember; in fact ever since she had watched Jacques Cousteau and the delights of his under-sea world on television. A trip to the Caribbean island of Tobago for her silver wedding anniversary turned her dream into reality. Since then she has returned on numerous occasions and has become very passionate about the conservation of the beautiful island and its marine life. She gave us a very interesting insight into the beautiful coral reefs and bays that form part of the island, illustrating this with gorgeous underwater photos that she had taken, worthy I am sure of the great Cousteau himself! Lynn brought a large number of interesting exhibits to show us too including beautiful shells and pieces of coral, most of which she'd brought from charity shops at home! Another exhibit, perhaps more functional than beautiful, was her scuba diving outfit which one of our members quite gamely agreed to 'model' and be photographed in for posterity! Lynn ended her entertaining talk by urging us to follow our dreams and turn them into reality just as she had done. Other highlights on the horizon include a flower arranging demonstration by a member of NAFAS in June and memorable moments at the BBC with the well-known Brian Curtois in July. Why not come and join us? You would be most welcome. We meet in Ugley Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm.

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

I am pleased to say that our coffee morning on 20th March was a great success, which was clearly due to the hard work of everyone concerned. After coffee and hot cross buns, most people headed for the cake stall where there was a splendid selection of cakes to choose from. All our stalls did well, thanks to the organisation of the committee, and I would also like to thank all those who attended and supported the event.

Now for the Windmill. Our new notice board erected outside has attracted many people to the mill. I am pleased to say that both our Easter open days were very well supported by both villagers and folk from further afield. I hope we can maintain this level of interest and also encourage some new stewards to help. With good support we would like to have some ad-hoc openings. We will of course have our usual five openings during May: Sunday 5th, Bank Holiday Monday 6th, Sunday 12th (National Mills Day), Sunday 26th, and Bank Holiday Monday 27th all 1.30pm-5.30pm.

Molly Clark  
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## THE DARLING BUDS OF MAY

After one of the coldest springs for decades, never has the phrase 'ne'er cast a clout 'til May be out' been more apposite, even when pulling apart the adage reveals ambivalent meanings. 'Clout' is an Old English word variously meaning a clot of earth or clothing. Thus it can be taken as advice not to work the earth until it has warmed by the end of May, but also as a warning not to put away winter clothing too soon. Either would seem to work well this year! The double meanings extend also to May – does it simply refer to the month, or could it be urging us to wait for the queen of the may or may blossom of the hawthorn, to be 'out' and in full bloom before daring to hope that summer is on the way?



'Haw' is derived from 'hage', an Old English word for hedge, and the abundant hawthorn and its wealth of poetical and proverbial references occupies a central place in country lore. Since the Middle Ages, the end of winter has been celebrated by the crowning of the May Queen with may blossom and dancing in a weave to decorate a maypole with ribbons. The song, *Here we go gathering nuts in May*, in fact

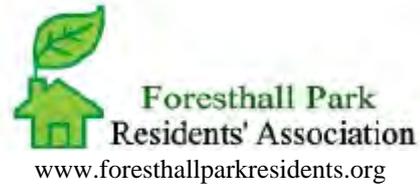
refers to 'knots' or posies of may blossom. Yet it has always been unlucky to bring may blossom into the house, quite probably because the flowers give off a slightly curdled fragrance due to the presence of trimethylamine, a chemical also formed when body tissue starts to decay.

Spring blossoms are cause for celebration all over the world, perhaps most famously through the *hanami* or 'flower viewing' festivals in Japan, during which thousands gather to admire the beauty of the cherry tree blossoms and feast underneath them. During the short season of just a week or two, the Japanese meteorological office issues a 'blossom forecast' to help in *hanami* planning. Both cherry and hawthorn belong to the Rose family, along with many other spring favourites such as rowan, apple, pear and almond. If we are lucky with our blossom forecasts, many will be in bloom for our own flower celebration, a Festival of Plants, on 18th May. During this day dedicated to bringing plants into focus, there'll be drop-in ask the gardener sessions, pop-up plant science, fantasy flowers and the Fairyland Trust for younger visitors, independent local nurseries offering choice plants for sale, tours, meet the experts and 'grow your own' giveaways. So whether it's getting advice on which plant goes where, discovering the inner workings of flowers, a bit of garden retail therapy or simply having a fun day out with the family, there'll be something for everyone at our celebratory Festival of Plants.

The Botanic Garden is open 10.00am-6.00pm. Admission £4.50, Giftaid £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



The new postbox in Foresthall Park at the junction of Walson Way and Forest Hall Road is now operational. My thanks to Cllr Dean for seeing this through. On the subject of post, I have heard from a resident of Walson Way who has had some problems with deliveries as a result of the recently opened Watson Way (you may also have seen the recent article in the Herts & Essex Observer on 11th April). To have two almost identically sounding roads with almost identical postcodes does point to poor planning. I believe that Walson Way was meant originally to have been called Watson Way (after the Watson family) but for a clerical error, so I can only speculate that the new Watson Way was a misguided attempt to fix this oversight. Uttlesford District Council (UDC) is the street naming authority but for some reason, this obvious point of confusion was not picked up in the planning stages. If you have experienced problems as a result of this then please get in touch (or add to the comments on the website post on 11th March). I believe that UDC is looking into this situation but I do not know what action they are able to take. Someone suggested renaming the newer road, but that can be problematic – based on my reading, it requires unanimous support of all homeowners on the street to be renamed and would likely incur a cost (unless the powers that be accept responsibility for fixing this issue). I will update as and when I hear more.

I notice that the area close to the school which will become the urban square is getting tidied up ready for landscaping. It will be mainly grass (see the plans in my post on 12th January) with a few benches and trees around the outside. I understand that the Parish Council has agreed to call this Rochford Square in recognition of Rochford Nurseries upon which Foresthall Park has been built. At time of writing, it feels like the weather is turning for the better. I hope I have not tempted fate with that sentence but I thought it worth reiterating that there are a handful of us that go out for a short run most Tuesdays at 7.00pm in and around the development if anyone fancies joining us.

Stephen Berry  
Chairman  
Tel: 647652  
Email: [s.berry@mac.com](mailto:s.berry@mac.com)

### UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 18th May

Ugley Village Hall

10.00am-12 noon

*meat, poultry, eggs, honey, bread, home baking  
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**Refreshments with cake and bacon rolls**

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