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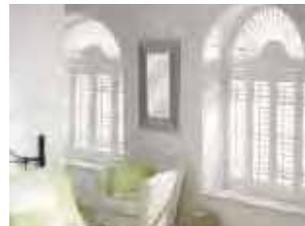
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by **noon** on **11th May** for June Link

or by hand to:  
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Stansted CM24 8HG  
by **noon** on **8th May** for June Link

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## EDITORIAL



At a time when Stansted and nearby villages are expanding it doesn't make sense to close our last remaining bank. The fact that people now use internet banking instead of the High Street banks may be true for some, but there are many who are either not computer users or just prefer to deal with a friendly face rather than an impersonal machine or ATM; and what about small businesses? Going to the nearest banks in Bishop's Stortford may look easy on paper, but a round trip will cost extra in fuel, parking and time. (The prospect of yet another supermarket along the Cambridge Road and more delivery trucks adding to the current traffic chaos doesn't bear thinking about!) We pray that Barclays will reconsider and stay. When our population is growing it's a shame NCT (see page 13) have to scale down their activities due to a shortage of volunteers to help run them. Getting involved with a local group is an ideal way of meeting new friends. If you've never tried it before why not give volunteering a go? Any organisation featured in The Link would welcome more help, and it could change your life.

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

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Dear Friends

It is with a real sense of sadness that I write this for The Link. Why? Because I am retiring in a few months' time. Fran (my wife) and I will be moving back to the Felixstowe area where both of us were born and brought up. What does the future hold for us? Well, I think our children have already lined up baby-sitting duties; but a question that is holding my attention at the moment is, "What next?" What has God got lined up for us? A colleague of mine who has been retired for a few years seems to be working incredibly hard; in fact the only difference I can see is that he no longer gets paid for what he does!! For Fran and I, it is "What can we give to the community we will be moving to?" God has blessed us so richly in our lives in that we haven't always had what we wanted, but we have always had what we needed. Something else that has come home to me quite forcibly during my ministry years is that the vast majority of us have no idea what is 'just round the corner.' It could be a lottery win that will change our lives or, far more likely, it might be bad news about a member of our family, a friend or indeed ourselves. It is very important that we make best use of the time we have on this earth, being as positive and as helpful as we can in every aspect of our lives.

I am so pleased that Fran and I, as we prepare to move on, can see that the Churches in Stansted are making a difference to the community. The addition of Stansted Family Church with Ros and Howard reaching out to the community is a real inspiration. The Place on the Hill at Stansted Free Church now opens twice a week and is a brilliant venue for folk of any age to meet and enjoy tea and coffee etc. The Food Bank, which has been set up by Churches Together in Stansted, is meeting an ever growing need and the Lent Project to provide defibrillators for the community could literally be a life saver. We so often hear people say that Church and God are irrelevant to our modern society, but I believe God and Church are a vital part of our lives and we ignore them or try to dismiss them at our peril. It has been a real pleasure to serve God in Stansted. May you know His richest blessing for the future.



Rev'd David Keeble  
Stansted Free Church Minister



### STANSTED FREE CHURCH

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7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG  
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#### Preachers for May

4<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Joint Service at Bishop's Stortford URC  
11<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins - Communion  
18<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Jan Bisschoff  
25<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Jenny Martin

#### The Place on the Hill – every Wed and Fri 9.30am- 12.30pm

Our free Wednesday and Friday drop-in is very popular, with Art for All on the first Friday, and storytime on the third Friday of each month. Come and join us – all ages are welcome.



## Shalom

Our next meeting is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 8.00pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens, when Anthea Lea will be talking about 'Quakerism and Spiritual Healing'. All are welcome. There is no At Home this month as the date falls on a Bank Holiday.



Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059

## THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

**Clerk** Sue Moloney  
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Bishop's Stortford  
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**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am

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Sunday 10.00am  
Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm  
Tuesday-Saturday 9.00am

**Confessions**  
Saturday 10.00am  
and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment



## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the March draws:

£100 No 78 – Ruby Hollis  
 £ 50 No 23 – Richard Nagle  
 £ 25 No 79 – Joe Hollis

The first draws for the new 300 Club year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> May, will be held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. If you would like to join, please contact me for an application form. If I receive a completed form and payment (£2 per month per number with a maximum of five numbers per household) prior to 25<sup>th</sup> May, you will still be eligible for entry into the May draw. Good luck to everyone for the coming year, especially those members who are still waiting for their number to come up – perhaps this will be your lucky year!!

Francine Cope  
 Tel: 814562



## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

At the AGM in March, following the official business and the Chairman's thanks to the Officers and Committee, gratitude was expressed to all The Friends who support the work of keeping our ancient church open and welcoming to so many visitors. Sally Argent's quiz and fish and chip supper rounded off a very enjoyable evening. On 18<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm, Keith Turner and Keith Ayres will join forces again to produce the second 'Music for the Book of Common Prayer'. There is such a wealth of great music, only rarely heard in our Church services, though still sung in our Cathedrals. It is a joy to listen to it again in St Mary's. Please make a note of the date for St Mary's contribution to the Churches Conservation Trust Annual Tea Party on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 11.00am-3.00pm in the Day Centre. This is St Mary's major fundraising event for the Conservation Trust. As well as several stalls, craft, cakes, books, plants etc we will be serving light lunches and cream teas. We, the Friends, look forward to seeing you and your friends at all our events.

At the request of the Conservation Trust, we have compiled a file of all the memorials dedicated to Stansted men who died in World War 1 with a photograph of each gravestone, a note of the position of each grave or memorial in the churchyard and in St Mary's Church. We are grateful to Glyn Warwick for allowing us to print extracts from his book 'They Sleep in Heroes' Graves' to complete the work. Copies of the file have been deposited in St Mary's and in St John's Church and with the Stansted Local History Society Library so that visitors may have easy access to family records. Please contact either of the telephone numbers in the file for any further information you would like to include or for any corrections which may be necessary. There will be a simple ceremony in St Mary's Church on 4<sup>th</sup> August to remember and mark the start of World War 1 in 1914. In September we hope to mount an exhibition of memorabilia, photographs, letters and postcards, medals etc to mark the village's part in the commemoration of the start of the Great War. Dates and times in the next edition of The Link.

Audrey Rodgers  
 Chairman  
 Tel: 812162

**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.btik.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:** Rachel and Olly Pocknell  
 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

#### Tuesday

9.00am St John's Tots

#### Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer  
 10.00am Holy Communion

#### Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

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

## From the Registers

### March

#### Baptisms

16<sup>th</sup> Harry Richard Stephen Lushington  
 30<sup>th</sup> Heidi Grace Pink

#### Funerals

10<sup>th</sup> Molly Carter - at St Mary's  
 13<sup>th</sup> Keith Hughes, age 70 - at Parndon Wood  
 13<sup>th</sup> Evelyn Stubbings, age 91 - at Parndon Wood  
 20<sup>th</sup> Janet Bundock - at Parndon Wood  
 26<sup>th</sup> John Povey, age 92 - service at St John's, cremation at Parndon Wood

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## SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



You may have seen a piece in the papers recently with the delightful heading 'Scientists hunt for Martians ... in Yorkshire'. The piece, nevertheless, was serious, suggesting that matter from Mars had, over billions of years, 'swapped' matter as a result of random crashes of passing rocks in a time when the Solar System was awash with high speed boulders travelling to and fro from any corners of the Universe. We live in a much calmer time, though we still have the odd lumps that we have to keep our eyes on and there are preparations to use atomic missiles if necessary. It is in these distant times we believe that, somehow, the very start of single cell life was born and, even better, they were able to replicate and, later, to expand from nature to nature. You may be thinking, 'Why should all this be happening to just Earth and Mars?' Well, in fact, all this new matter was, indeed, not just travelling through the Solar System but the whole Universe. But in our little bit of the Universe, Earth and Mars were able to exist here; Mercury and Venus would just burn everything up (as they still would do) and the outer planets? Well we can't be sure. Various craft have been sent to the outer planets for more information and hoping to find a hint of life, but with no luck so far, anyway. Mind you, if we found life elsewhere, it would be most foolish to touch it, let alone talk to it. Personally, I believe there is loads of life; in every direction there are stars and it is from stars we have life. I'm off now to have a chat with my friend Scarth from the planet Twinkel-South The Mighty.

Martin West  
Tel: 8135141  
Mooncraft Productions

## CHILDREN'S RECIPE Honey Tea Loaf

### Ingredients

Oil to grease container  
100g mixed dried fruit  
70ml warm decaffeinated tea  
1 heaped teasp honey  
1 egg  
150g plain flour  
1 level teasp baking powder  
½ teasp mixed spice



### Method

Put the dried fruit in a bowl and pour over the warm tea. Add the honey and the egg to create a 'wet bowl' and give it a stir.

In another bowl mix the flour, baking powder and mixed spice to make a 'dry bowl'.

Tip the 'wet bowl' into the 'dry bowl' and mix together until the mixture becomes thick and sticky and all the flour has mixed in.

Grease a small loaf tin. Pour mixture into tin and bake 180°/Gas 4 for 20-25 mins or until cooked through.

Simone Teese  
Stansted Kiddy Cook  
Tel: 07837 008715



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.stanstedu3a.org

The next meeting is the AGM on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May in St John's Hall, doors open at 1.30pm. There will be a talk afterwards by an Air Ambulance representative.

### Trips and Outings

**Bletchley Park** 14<sup>th</sup> May (seven places left). Explore the Home of Codebreakers in the Codebreaking huts. Exhibitions include the Life and Works of Alan Turing, a quite brilliant mathematician, founder of Computer Science, whose unique contribution helped to turn the tide of war. The elegant resort of **Southwold** is the destination for a luncheon outing in June. Members will also visit **Aldeburgh**, an attractive coastal town noted for its Blue Flag shingle beach and the fishermen's huts where freshly caught fish are sold daily. Contact Maggie on 503848 or Jan on 812481 if you are interested in either trip.

### Group activities

The Natural History group goes on a monthly nature walk in and around Stansted or sometimes further afield. May heralds bluebell time and the group will visit one of our local woods to admire this wonderful spectacle. The photo shows some of our group among the bluebells last year. Sign up to the group and come along, look on our website for further details.



### Saturday Seminar

28<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am-12.30pm Free Church Hall  
'Western Christian Art – the beginnings, the development of Christian iconography from the catacombs to Giotto.' Based on what survives from the earliest western Christian period, Jo Brooks will show us the way art changed when Christianity became the State religion of the Roman Empire and as the earliest churches were built. The talk will be illustrated by a series of PowerPoint slides. Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members from Alan Wheeler on 07790 213510 or email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com.

For information about Stansted U3A contact Chris (Chair) 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) 814304 or visit our website.



Caroline Bore

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## STANSTED CRICKET CLUB

Work continues on re-carpeting the main pavilion area and refurbishing the bar. The NatWest GroundForce working party on 6<sup>th</sup> April made a good start to tidying up the ground and pavilion, and getting our facilities ready for the start of the season on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. We have one friendly fixture arranged for April (v Thorley away on 26<sup>th</sup>). Players are reminded to enter their availability on the Club website. Junior outdoor training will begin again with a registration meeting at 6.30pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May at Hargrave Park. The Club is arranging a senior tour to Dorset for 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June. Any former or retired players interested in joining the tour as player, umpire or scorer, would be most welcome. Senior home fixtures for May are:

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	13.30	1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Epping Foresters I
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	14.00	Sun XI v Hatfield Heath
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	13.30	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI v Takeley II
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	14.00	Sun XI v Epping Foresters
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	13.30	1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Hockerill I
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	14.00	Sun XI v Clavering
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	13.30	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI v Epping Foresters II
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup>	13.30	1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Birchanger I

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



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



### Aircraft Noise

We welcome the recent Aircraft Noise Summit conference held in London where a further call for an independent noise ombudsman was the main item on the agenda. A group of leading industry, political and local government figures signed a joint declaration calling on the Government and politicians of all colours to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to implement one of the key recommendations in the Interim Report published last December by the Airports Commission, chaired by Sir Howard Davies, calling for the creation of an Independent Aviation Noise Authority to provide expert and impartial advice about the noise impacts of aviation. At present, airport operators are themselves responsible for monitoring and reporting upon the environmental impacts of their own operations. It is not therefore surprising that there is so much mistrust amongst local communities in relation to the fairness and transparency of the current arrangements for policing aircraft noise and other adverse environmental impacts of airports on local communities.

Martin Peachey  
SSE Noise Adviser  
Tel: 870374/07803 603999  
Email: martin@peachey2002.freeserve.co.uk

## PETER PAVITT

We learnt with sorrow of the death of Peter Pavitt, lately of Bishop's Stortford but formerly a Stansted resident. Peter came from Hemel Hempstead in the late 60s and took an active part in village life. He was Churchwarden during the incumbencies of Rev'd Stanley Davies and Rev'd Barry Rose and was more widely known for his position as Treasurer to the District Council. He was also on the original Stansted Helpline Committee and was its Organiser for many years.

In his early retirement he enjoyed watching the cricket from his bungalow in Gilbey Crescent and was often sought as a Treasurer for numerous voluntary organisations. Peter became known as a wise head to turn to when advice was needed and was thoroughly liked by all who knew him. He was at heart a Stansted man so it seemed fitting that his funeral service was held in St John's Church. Our sympathy goes to Pauline and the family.

Derek Honour



## BISHOP'S STORTFORD BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

During the past few months, DEFRA has been working with a large variety of interest groups (including the British Bee Keeping Association) to develop a 'national pollination strategy'. Now the Government is launching a public consultation on the proposed strategy (link page [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-pollination-strategy-for-bees-and-other-pollinators-in-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-pollination-strategy-for-bees-and-other-pollinators-in-england)). The strategy sets out proposals to safeguard insect pollinators, given their role in pollinating many of our important food crops. It also outlines the pressures these insects are under from insecticides, loss of habitat, and climate change, and includes a report on the evidence of how these pressures are affecting the numbers of pollinating insects. The strategy has three main elements:

- 1 Evidence gathering in 12 areas of concern.
- 2 Developing action plans based on the evidence.
- 3 Reviewing and refreshing the strategy as new evidence becomes available.

The British Bee Keeping Association is having a large input into the strategy through its place on Governmental committees, but individuals can log on to the site and give their views as well. Give it a try! One of the key objectives of the Bishop's Stortford Bee Keeping Association is to encourage people to keep bees in order to replace bee numbers which are continually being lost. In this context, I am very glad to report that 19 people are attending our Beginners Course which runs during April and May, and it is hoped many of those will go on to keep bees. If you missed this year's course, join us as an Associate member for £5 which entitles you to attend all meetings (including apiary meetings) and starts you on the ladder of learning about bees. Oh, and just a reminder to log on and have a look at the Government web site – your food could depend on it!



John Dockerill  
Email: training@stortfordbees.org.uk

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## STANSTED 10k FUN RUN



[www.stansted10k.org.uk](http://www.stansted10k.org.uk)

### Sign up now!

St Clare Hospice is delighted to be organising the Stansted 10k Fun Run on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00am. The run starts and finishes at Bentfield Green, and the route will begin in the village and take in the beautiful Essex countryside. Please sign up on-line at [www.stansted10k.org.uk](http://www.stansted10k.org.uk) or download the registration form and send to St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood CM17 9JX.



*Photo by Peter Webb taken at the start of the 2012 run*

All are welcome to enjoy the day, whether you want to improve your personal best time running the 10k or would simply like a leisurely walk with your family, friends and even your dog. Please make sure that you train appropriately if you haven't taken part in a 10k event before. Unfortunately, as the majority of the route is cross-country it is unsuitable for wheelchair participants. On the day there will be fun for all who attend with refreshments and entertainment on the green. Many familiar local faces have agreed to volunteer on the day for which we are very grateful and believe that this will be essential to the success and enjoyment of the day. If you can spare time to help in advance of the event or on the day please contact me.

We are delighted to confirm that the headline sponsor for this year's event is George Cooper Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic. We would like to thank George for supporting the event and are very much looking forward to working with him. George and his team will be providing sports massage and advice to all the runners on the green. We would like to thank Angela Lever, Lever & Co Solicitors for generously continuing to sponsor the medals and ribbons. If you have any queries or suggestions please contact me.



Rebecca Barnett  
Tel: 773753  
Email: [rebecca.barnett@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.barnett@stclarehospice.org.uk)

## SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL RUNNING

### Part 2 - Training

Having selected the appropriate running shoes, the next step is to devise a progressive, structured training programme. Although it may seem as if the event is many months away, you can never start training too soon as it will allow your body more time to adapt to the demands you are asking of it.

- **Train progressively** over successive weeks, using a combination of walking and running, gradually increasing the amount you run and decreasing the walking element.
- **Running style** can be a vital component of successful running. Limiting arm swing will preserve energy reserves. Try watching how your foot strikes the ground - aim for a straight heel to toe action as much as possible and maintain an upright posture, focusing on the course ahead of you rather than bending forward too much.
- **Motivation.** Training can take a lot of self-discipline. If possible, team up with a friend to train with you as you will find it more enjoyable having company and together you can encourage each other.
- **Understand your limits.** Set a realistic target time for your race and bear it in mind as you run. The aim, after all, is to complete the course and enjoy your day.

In the next article we will examine nutrition – another key element in your preparation. For training advice or treatment for injuries, please contact me. To register for the Stansted 10K, please go to [www.stansted10k.org.uk](http://www.stansted10k.org.uk).

George Cooper  
George Cooper Sports Injury and Physiotherapy Clinic  
Tel: 813253



## BIRCHANGER 10k AND CHILDREN'S FUN RUN

The fourth Birchanger Fun Run is at 10.00am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May with all proceeds going to help enhance our children's education. Whilst organised by the Birchanger Primary School PTA, it is not a school event but one that is open to the wider community, and is now a well-recognised event in the running calendar. We have again been fortunate with the support received from the local business community by way of sponsorship and donations. As well as the 10k race for the adults we also hold a one mile Fun Run for the children with medals for everyone who takes part. If you would like to take part whilst supporting a good cause, please email: [birchangerpta@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:birchangerpta@hotmail.co.uk) or sign up at [www.entrycentral.com](http://www.entrycentral.com).

Geoff Slide  
Acting Head Teacher  
Tel: 812362

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May will see our biggest fund raising event of the NCT year with our Nearly New Sale on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May at Forest Hall School 11.30am-1.00pm ( NCT members from 11.00am to be one of the first to bag a bargain). For those who have not been to a Nearly New Sale before, the event is a must if you are looking for clothes, toys, books, outdoor equipment or nursery furniture. We accept items from new-borns to 11 year olds. Forest Hall School is an excellent venue giving free parking as well as a central location. At the time of going to print there were still a few places left if you wish to sell, advertise your business through flyers or volunteer to help at the sale.

The NCT in Stansted is run by a committee of volunteers who give up their time to ensure that mums, dads and carers have access to social events for babies to pre-schoolers. Without these volunteers the branch cannot function. Unfortunately, some of the remaining Committee members are unable to dedicate the time previously afforded and we have not had any new volunteers despite numerous appeals. With regret this means that the Branch is having to scale back to its basic function, and updates will be delivered via email or our Facebook page. Therefore, if you have not liked our Facebook page please do so as this will become our main means of communication. We will, however, continue to hold weekly bumps and babes classes, and toddlers will meet every two weeks on a Monday morning. For details on these meetings please do not hesitate to contact me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NCT for giving me the opportunity to meet wonderful local mums, dads and carers and I wish the NCT Stansted branch all the luck for the future.

Anna Sedgbeer  
Tel: 812257

Email: [annasedgbeer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annasedgbeer@yahoo.co.uk)



### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> May

To get the week off to a good start there will be an Act of Worship on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, Chapel Hill. This will be an opportunity to hear how Christian Aid is helping people caught up in conflict, by tackling the consequences and the causes. Once upon a time every street in Stansted had an envelope deliverer and collector, but as the village has expanded it has been difficult to recruit enough volunteers. So this is a final plea for you to come forward to join the team this May – it's only a few hours, but it makes a huge difference to the lives of the most disadvantaged. You don't have to be a church goer to do a collection - just as you don't have to be a Christian to receive the support that Christian Aid gives.

Please let me know if you can join us. Thank you.



Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579

May is one of the loveliest times of year to visit Hatfield Forest. The plains become a yellow carpet, covered in over 300 million buttercup flowers. It really is a spectacle to behold. When you walk through the buttercups, your shoes turn yellow. The abundance of buttercups is due to centuries of grazing of the wood pasture. This keeps the growth of scrubby trees like hawthorn at bay and allows wild flowers to flourish.



Today the plains are grazed by Red Poll cattle, which are conker coloured and a native breed. The cows return in May, having spent the winter on a local farm. There is an old wives tale that rubbing buttercup flowers on a cow's udder improves milk production, however we won't be testing that theory! There are many different types of buttercups, including Creeping, Bulbous and Goldilocks. They are perennial and grow best in damp meadow conditions, so after such a wet winter, will we have an amazing show? May also brings a significant anniversary for Hatfield Forest – 90 years of National Trust ownership. The Forest was gifted to the National Trust by Edward North Buxton, a passionate conservationist who wanted to save it from future development. The Forest was opened on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1924 by Lord Ullswater, Vice-President of the National Trust. To mark the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we will be opening for **free** on 10<sup>th</sup> May 9.00am-5.00pm and holding an exhibition of some of the items we have in our archive, including the original sales catalogue and guidebooks.

Fiona Harrower  
Visitor Experience Manager  
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[www.grantachorale.org.uk](http://www.grantachorale.org.uk)

Our concert on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm includes Frank Martin's *Mass for Double Choir*, Brahms' *Fest und Gedenksprüche* and music from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Tickets £12, £3 (under 18s) from: Saffron Walden Tourist Information tel 01799 524002; Saffron Hall box office tel 08455 487650; [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) or at the door.

Sue Sylvester-Bradley

## VIEWS OF STANSTED by local photographers



Lower Street by Emily Callow



Bentfield Pond by Ralph Phillips

We would like to thank everyone who sent in photographs in response to our request. Here is a selection. Please continue to email us your contributions: [photos@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:photos@stanstedlink.org.uk)



Poppy and Daises by Clair Rava

We are still looking for suitable photographs for the front cover showing Summer views of places in Stansted which have not previously been featured. Please email: [photos@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:photos@stanstedlink.org.uk)



St John's Church by Claire Crommie



Stansted Windmill by Clair Rava

We have just reached the end of another exciting term - classes 3 and 4 performed the fantastic production 'Sam and Sammy's Shammy Double Whammy' in the final week. I was lucky enough to attend both showings and I am sure those who were there will agree that it was very impressive. All the pupils showed tremendous confidence on stage and sang and acted with great ability. I know it takes a lot of time and effort to put together performances like this and they should be commended for the end result. Well done to all the pupils and to the staff who worked so hard to put it all together. Class 6 had an excellent time in the Isle of Wight during their recent residential trip. They visited HMS Victory, The Spinnaker Tower, Amazon World, Dinosaur Isle, Alum Bay and took part in other activities such as a boat trip around the harbour, bowling, swimming and laser tag. It makes me enormously proud to hear that all the children behaved themselves impeccably and were a great credit to the school. Residential visits such as these offer the pupils a wonderfully enriching experience, yet they would not be possible without a great deal of time and effort from staff members. A big thank you to all the adults who went on the trip, for making it happen. It was lovely to see so many mothers attend the special Mothers' Day lunches we put on at the end of term. From the feedback I received I know that everyone appreciated the chance to come and have lunch with their child or children at school. Dads will get their turn in June! In other news a group of year 6s have raised £130.45 for epilepsy awareness by holding a cake sale; we raised over £200 for Sport Relief by having a non-uniform day, and once again the PTFA Easter egg hunt was a huge success with over 200 eggs won from solving clues.

David Rogers  
Headteacher  
Tel: 813626

## THANK YOU HELPLINE

I would like to express my thanks to all the volunteers of the Stansted Helpline who came to my assistance in my hour/MONTHS of need recently. I have spent the last 35 years as a front-line paramedic looking after other people so it came as quite a shock when I came off our horse last December and broke my femur and had to rely on others for assistance. My wife and I were very concerned about how I was going to be able to make countless journeys for physiotherapy at times when my wife was at work. From first contact with Helpline, it became apparent that I would get the help with transport that I urgently needed. I would therefore simply like to acknowledge the help, courtesy and reliability that these good people afforded me, whether answering my calls or driving me to my appointments. I am now driving myself to my treatment which is ongoing and work in progress. Without Helpline, this challenging time in my life would have been much more stressful and difficult to manage. With thanks

A Stansted resident

Last month I attended a Presidents' Conference in the Kingsgate Centre in Peterborough arranged by our National Federation. Presidents from four local WIs came with me and we were welcomed into this splendid venue together with over 500 ladies. The image for the WI is no longer 'Jam and Jerusalem' but 'Inspiring Women' and indeed it is quite inspiring hearing what some WIs achieve and to know that our 215,000 members in 6,500 Institutes, are listened to and respected by Government departments. I enjoyed talking to other presidents who came from several nearby counties. My high spot of the day was talking to one of the men employed by our National WI Centre who wore a wide white satin sash bearing the slogan 'Inspiring Women' - I didn't ask! A few days later I attended the Essex County Annual meeting in Southend, where 1600 members gathered in the Cliffs Pavilion chaired for the first time by Pat Pratley, from nearby Manuden. Carol Bundock, who has worked for the BBC for many years, spoke of her interest in the Guiding Movement, her career in television and radio, meeting the Queen at Sandringham WI in January and now her new career as a Civil Funeral Celebrant. She confessed that she and Michael Portillo had something in common - they were both 60 last year! Michael Portillo, looking very dapper in a deep red jacket, white shirt and black trousers, spoke very entertainingly after lunch, even making losing his seat in 1997, which must have been devastating, sound amusing. He derives great enjoyment from his new career on television making his 'British and Continental Rail Journeys', which has allowed him to research his father's home country, Spain. He answered lots of questions from the floor and was obviously quite at home facing women en-masse.

We had an enlightening talk in March from Eve Regelous who told us of her encounters with Mohammed Al Fayed at Harrods when her events company worked for him. Harrods has a fascinating history beginning in 1824 as a drapers, which, despite being purchased by Qatar Holdings for £1.5 billion pounds, still retains its reputation as the number one store in London. Our next meeting is our AGM on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.45pm in the Day Centre.



Judy Colliver  
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## **SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL**

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Saint Nicholas School is committed to providing affordable, quality care to children in the community.

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[www.saintnicholasschool.net](http://www.saintnicholasschool.net)  
[admissions@saintnicholasschool.net](mailto:admissions@saintnicholasschool.net)

Hobbs Cross Road, Old Harlow, Essex, CM17 0NJ  
01279 429910

***"I am really excited about this development which will enable young children to benefit from the quality education we provide?"***

*Keith Knight - Headmaster*





## TOUR DE FRANCE

As you may be aware the Tour de France will be coming through the Uttlesford district on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Although Stansted is not part of the route, it could still lead to some disruption to the normal course of business operations during the day. Businesses may not be able to receive deliveries on that day. Staff and clients may experience delays on their route, or may not be able to travel at all, due to the road closures, as the entire Uttlesford route will be closed to all traffic from 7.30am until 4.00pm on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

**The Route:** Enters the district from Cambridge on the B184 past the turn-offs for the Chesterfords and down Windmill Hill into Saffron Walden. At the traffic lights/crossroads on the High Street it turns left onto George Street/Hill Street and continues onto East Street and then Radwinter Road. It then carries on through Swards End and all the way to Radwinter, at which point it turns right onto the B1053 travels through the Sampfords and out of the district towards Finchingfield. A little while later it returns to Uttlesford at Bannister Green, along the B1417 Braintree Road towards Felsted. The riders will take a left turn onto Chelmsford Road in the village centre and finally exit the district on the B1008.

For further information please go to: [www.essex.gov.uk/Pages/Tour-de-France.aspx](http://www.essex.gov.uk/Pages/Tour-de-France.aspx) and for a map showing the full route from Cambridge to London: [www.essex.gov.uk/Documents/tdf-TheRoute.pdf](http://www.essex.gov.uk/Documents/tdf-TheRoute.pdf). The Visit Essex site: [www.visitessex.com/events/tour-de-france.aspx](http://www.visitessex.com/events/tour-de-france.aspx) also contains a wealth of information to help your understanding and enjoyment of the event on the day.

Lisa Cleaver  
Communications Manager  
Uttlesford District Council  
Tel: 01799 510442



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

Our open day on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May will see us joined in the gardens by The Saffron Walden Town Band and the Epping Forest Hawk & Owl Sanctuary. The band will play two sets at 2.15pm and 3.15pm which will include a variety of different pieces - shows, songs, musicals, pop etc - perfect light easy listening. The birds will be with us for most of the afternoon and visitors will be able to have handling sessions for a donation of £3.00 towards the wonderful rescue and rehabilitation work done at the sanctuary by Brian and Rita Wells. Hot food will be on sale at lunchtime including bacon rolls and sausage baps; hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes will be available all day. There will be children's craft and nature activities available and guided tours at 1.00pm and 3.00pm. The gardens are now open from 11.30am-5.00pm with last entry at 4.00pm. For more information please visit our website, telephone 01371 876979 or email: [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk).

Helen Carter  
Trust Administrator

## GOD PROVIDES ...

An elderly Christian lady lived next door to an atheist. Every morning the lady came out her front door and shouted, "Praise the Lord".

The atheist always yelled back, "There is no God".

Time went by and the lady ran into financial difficulties, having trouble even buying food. One morning she came out her front door and asked God for help with the groceries ending "Praise the Lord".

The following morning when she came out her front door there were the groceries she'd asked for and of course she shouted, "Praise the Lord".

The atheist looked across and said, "Ha, I bought those groceries - there is no God". The lady looked at him and smiled.

She shouted, "Praise the Lord, not only did you provide for me Lord, you made Satan pay for the groceries as well!!"

*Reproduced from the Guild of the Sanctuary publication*



### Let's Get Ready for School

Will your child be starting school in September? Would you like to feel confident that your child is well prepared for the next exciting step in their life? Family Adult Learning is running a three week course on Monday afternoons from 1.00pm-3.00pm at Spangles Children's Centre, starting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The course will be full of information and ideas to support your child into school. These sessions are for parents only so your child will remain in their childcare setting or you can book them a place in our crèche. There will be no charge for these classes but all places must be booked, so please contact us. Please note that Spangles will be closed on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May as the building will be used as a Polling Station.



Lesley Murdoch  
Community Engagement and  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Tel: 812348  
Email: [lmurdoch@spurgeons.org](mailto:lmurdoch@spurgeons.org)

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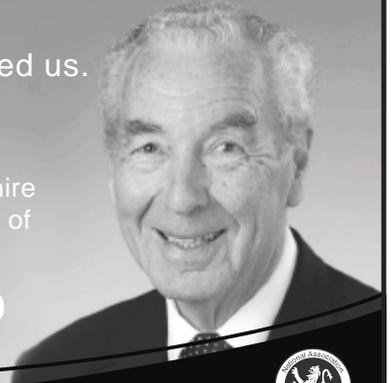
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# Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

## A QUIETER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The lack of any really controversial issues to exercise residents might explain why attendance at this year's meeting held on Wednesday 19th March was lower than in recent years. Nevertheless there were a number of important issues on which information was given and discussion took place.

- Essex Police were represented by Inspector Colin Cox and PSCO Simon Horne. Inspector Cox highlighted some of the crime statistics for the parish and drew attention to the areas where crime has risen. House burglaries cause particular distress and they try to support victims and neighbours. A number of offenders have been charged and currently the position has improved. He stressed the budgetary pressures under which the police have to operate and emphasised the need for good quality information and cross county border co-operation as the proximity to motorways and major roads leaves this part of Essex as an easy target.
- Claire Morris, Chief Executive of the West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group confirmed that most of the outstanding issues related to the planned new Health Centre in Lower Street have now been resolved. The local doctors' practice will be undertaking some public consultations relating to the services that will be offered at the new facility. They hope to start building work in May (fingers crossed).

As always your views are important so keep talking to your local councillors or The Parish Council Office and put Wednesday 18th March 2015 as a date in your diaries and attend the next Annual Parish Meeting

## PARISH LITTER PICK

The good weather and the promise of a free lunch from Churchill's produced a record turnout for the March Litter Pick. The photograph shows two of our younger volunteers, Bradley and Luke. They did a fantastic job with their Nan, Helen D'Aguiar in the Church Road area.

We would like to thank all our volunteers as well as Churchill's for supporting the event. At first glance litter is not an obvious problem in the village but on closer inspection of hedges and ditches there is a significant amount of very anti-social litter being deposited.



## LITTER ISSUES

The improved weather has seen more people enjoying picnics on the village open spaces. We are very fortunate to have some scenic locations and it is in our interests to ensure these are respected by us all. Sadly, already this early in the picnic season we have seen some anti-social people failing to take litter home or use the bins provided. If you do picnic in the village please leave the area in the state you would hope to find it.

We are fortunate to have a very conscientious litter collector in Gerard but some residents are making his work more difficult by depositing household waste in litter bins. This is an unsocial activity so please use your own rubbish bins which UDC empty.

## PARISH OFFICE PRICE LIST

The following are available from the Parish Office:  
Blue Trade Refuse Bags £1.87 each  
Garden Waste Sacks £1.20 each  
Kitchen Waste Bags £4.99 a roll  
Senior Citizen Rail Cards £23.50

We cannot process card payments in the office so you need to pay by cheque or cash.

## **VOLUNTEER VACANCIES**

Royal Voluntary Service are looking for volunteers who are prepared to give up an hour or two each week to help older people with shopping, take them to a social event or appointment or just to have a chat. This is a great chance to make a difference to older people in our community. You will get full training and out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed. For further information call 01279 827638 or email [safeandwell@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:safeandwell@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk)

We need volunteers with language skills who would be prepared to act as interpreters should we ever need to implement The Stansted Parish Council Emergency Plan. If you are able to help please contact us at [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net) with your contact details and the languages you can offer.

## **COMMUNITY CARS**

Community Cars have a team of dedicated volunteers who help elderly people keep their independence by taking them to appointments and social events. There is a charge of 55p per mile (£5.00 minimum charge).

To book transport, telephone 01279 827638. Please allow as much notice as possible.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REQUEST**

During the past few years Neighbourhood Watch has had the support of over ninety residents who have given of their time delivering the Observer leaflets. There are eight areas of the village to cover, with more than 2,500 leaflets. These are printed three times a year, free of charge by Uttlesford District Council. The delivering of such a large amount of leaflets takes much dedication by the residents involved in sharing the load. At the present time there are a few gaps in the delivering system, and some people are doubling up to try and counteract the shortfall! They are therefore putting in a request for more help to keep the vital work of Neighbourhood Watch continuing in Stansted. If you can help in any way, please contact Valerie Trundle on 813433 or email: [prtvrt@btinternet.com](mailto:prtvrt@btinternet.com)

## **SKATEPARK ACTION GROUP**

Planning for the new skatepark continues to progress. Three different design and build companies have made site visits and are working on indicative designs. Once we have the competitive tenders we will start applying for grants from local and national funding bodies. Local fund raising plans include a grand draw, a wine tasting and quiz evening, a skate festival and a stall at the Lower Street Summer Fayre.

The picture on the front cover shows Will in action at the skatepark. The skatepark is still well used by skateboarders, BMX riders, inline skaters and scooter riders although numbers are dropping off as the park shows signs of ageing and the older users travel further afield to find more attractive and challenging facilities. If all goes to plan we hope to have a new skatepark in place for Will and our other users at the same time as the New Health Centre opens in the summer of 2015.

## **DAFFODILS**

This Spring we have seen the full impact of all the bulb planting the Parish Council has undertaken over recent years. We have had lots of positive comments from residents and visitors who tell us that the floral displays really improve the environment and lift the spirits.



## **NEW WEBSITE**

The construction of the new website is almost complete and we will be going live in the very near future. We hope the design of the new site will encourage more of you to log on and improve communication with residents.

## **NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL** **From Cllr Alan Dean**

The Local Plan is expected to have passed another stage on April 8<sup>th</sup> when what is known as the pre-submission version goes before a full council meeting for agreement. "Submission" comes later when a government planning inspector tests whether the plan comes up to expected standard at a public hearing. Despite overwhelming public opposition to the housing proposals, in particular against the semi new town proposal between Elsenham and Henham, the council's cabinet has made no significant changes to the proposals it consulted on recently. All residents will be asked to comment yet again in what could be the final consultation over a six weeks' period until early June.

The proposal to re-open the old school premises on St. John's Road is proving highly controversial. Extra primary school capacity will soon be needed in Stansted because the county council failed to plan adequately for future children's places at the new St. Mary's school at Foresthall Park. The county council has suggested that the old St. Mary's school premises might be refurbished and put back into service. This idea is viewed by some parents and councillors as a second class solution. The whole exercise has come in for heavy criticism.

The scheme would also mean that Farnham primary school, which has space for more pupils, would close and be 'moved' to Stansted with around 30 pupils. Understandably, there is vigorous opposition to that in Farnham. Unfortunately, the Farnham school's future is largely in the hands of school governors mostly from Rickling as Farnham and Rickling schools are linked in a federation. They share a head teacher. At the time of writing this article, I have not been persuaded that this attempt to mix together Farnham's problems and Stansted's needs makes much long-term sense.

April Fools' Day was Uttlesford District Council's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. There were no visible celebrations or private parties.

#### **SIR ALAN HASELHURST SURGERY DATES**

##### **May**

30th Parish Council Offices, Stansted 5.45 pm  
30th The Old Armoury, Saffron Walden 7.00 pm

##### **June**

27th Village Hall, Boreham 5.15 pm  
27th Parish Council Offices, Great Dunmow 6.30 pm

#### **DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

##### **May**

3rd Parish Reception  
7th Full Council and Annual Council  
14th Open Spaces  
21st Finance and General Purposes.

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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

#### **PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Denise Oliver and Nigel Collingwood have resigned from the Council. Cllr John O'Brien has been co-opted and, as we write, there is one vacancy.

Margaret Ambrose	814675
	maggielincoln@aol.com
Maureen Caton	813914
(Vice Chairman)	m.caton@hotmail.co.uk
Catherine Dean	813579
	catherinemarydean@btinternet.com
Samantha Dunn	810859
	samanthadunn@talktalk.net
Jo Freeman	812524
	j.freeman195@yahoo.com
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489
	john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk
Peter Jones	813252
	peter@lowerstreet.com
John O'Brien	816772
	Johnedobrien@gmail.com
Frances Richards	812748
	frannie.richards@gmail.com
John Salmon	814789
	sam@salmonfamily.me.uk
John Savopoulos	817687
	johnsav8@gmail.com
Geoffrey Sell	815925
(Chairman)	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: 07889 702340

**Neighbourhood Watch** www.stanstednhw.org.uk

#### **Parish Public Transport Representatives**

Valerie Trundle 813433 Joy Thomas 813871

## STANSTED IN BLOOM

This year the competition will be judged on Saturday July 5th, and all entries need to be in by Friday 27 June. The entry form is printed below. Please send your form back to the Council Offices by the said date. We hope to make Stansted in Bloom even more special this year, and we can only achieve this with your help and enthusiasm for the competition. Local residents, businesses, organisations and charities can all enter and you can also enter communal areas that are you are responsible for.

The judges will consider use of space and design, colour and layering, variety and planting plus visual and sensory impact. Prizes will be awarded on 19th July at Crafton Green Day Centre with plaques being awarded for 1st/2nd/3rd winners in each category.

### *STANSTED IN BLOOM 2014 COMPETITION*

#### *Entry Form*

*To be completed and returned to:  
Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council  
Council Offices, Crafton Green House  
72 Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex CM24 8AQ*

*by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

*Name of resident/business/organisation*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Address*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Contact Tel.no.*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Location to be viewed (please be specific re location, e.g. front garden, tubs at side of house etc).*

- *garden area*
- *tubs*
- *hanging baskets*
- *communal area*

#### *Judging Criteria*

- *use of space and design*
- *colour and layering*
- *variety and planting*
- *visual and sensory impact*

## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK	Contact: Kathy West Tel: 816293
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Email:kewest@btinternet.com
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: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbow Tots (age 1½-rising 3)	Tina South Tel: 814371
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1 @btinternet.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Inner Wheel Club	Shirley Fordyce, President Tel: 758289	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com	U3A	Christine Chair Tel: 817587
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: info@musicatstansted.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

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 details 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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After a season which had already included concerts by the Albarni String Quartet, soprano Louise Alder and the Cambridge Chorale, in March music@stansted treated its audience to an evening of orchestral music from the Kammerphilharmonie Europa as part of their 2014 Tour.

The predominantly young musicians, who played standing up to inject the maximum energy into their performances, delighted the audience with works varying from the sumptuous *Nocturne* by Borodin to a sparkling trumpet concerto by Albinoni, plus music by Schubert, Fauré, Holst and Hugo Wolf; the highlight for many was a vigorous rendition of Bach's A minor violin concerto.

After a slightly formal start (perhaps attributable to their dress - Stansted is not usually associated with tie and tails!) the players soon loosened up and began to talk to the audience between pieces, introducing themselves by name and nationalities (of which many were represented). Rapport increased palpably as the evening progressed, climaxing with a splendid encore which started out as *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* but morphed into any number of well-known pieces, including tunes from the Beatles, and had the audience clapping along to a gypsy interlude before Mozart eventually regained control of the reins. Comments overheard afterwards included "most enjoyable for years", "I was swept along" and (alluding to the multinational orchestra) "musicians should rule the world!"



Photograph by Sean Clark

We now look forward to our 2014-15 season, opening with a recital by pianist Erdem Misirlioglu, a former star of our Summer Soirées and now on the brink of a professional career. To join our mailing or emailing list for details of all concerts and how to make substantial savings on tickets, email: [info@musicatstansted.com](mailto:info@musicatstansted.com) or telephone 659521.

Richard Allaway

## CONGRATULATIONS

Very best wishes to Tony Dunn, of Lanone Computers, on the occasion of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. With love from his family and friends.

The 100th meeting of the Stansted Lunch Group will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 12.30pm for 1.00pm at Bury Lodge, with a few additional features for this special occasion. It was founded as the Stansted Lunch Club in 1997 by Alastair Richardson, at the request of the Parish Council, to provide a forum for businesses in and around Stansted to meet and network. Alastair's diligent work over 15 years made the Club into a great success, attracting a very wide range of speakers covering a diverse range of subjects. Meetings are very popular, attracting 40-60 attendees on most occasions. There is no membership fee or attendance criteria; simply book in and pay for the meals you wish to attend. The Group is open to all local business people, both active and retired, with a current membership of around 350. The speaker at the 100th meeting will be Wendy Emberson of Stort Physio, who will be talking about some of the ways physiotherapy can help those with persistent headaches and migraine, a problem which costs the economy about £3 billion per year. The Stansted Lunch Group is organised by Marketing Kinetics. For more information please visit [www.stanstedlunch.com](http://www.stanstedlunch.com).

Bob Lee  
Tel: 658850

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



March was another busy month for our Stansted Supporters' group who raised over £500 at their Spring Bridge Drive - congratulations to Liz, Christine, Kathleen and their helpers on organising such a popular event and providing such a delicious afternoon tea!

Sworders are hosting a Preview Evening of their Silver and Jewellery Sale at 7.00pm on 15<sup>th</sup> May. No entry charge, but there will be a collection in aid of the Hospice. We are holding an Ascot Ladies' Day event at Manuden's magnificent new Village Hall on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Guests are invited to dress up as though they were going along to Ascot - hats and fascinators included - and to join us for a light lunch, a fun flutter and afternoon tea, all for £15! I was very grateful to the Stansted Business Forum for allowing me to speak about the Hospice at their recent meeting. The Forum really is a great asset to business life in the village, so if you are not involved yet, do give it a go! We will be running a tombola at their Summer Fair on 5<sup>th</sup> July so come and try your luck. My colleagues are busy with preparations for the Stansted 10K on 13<sup>th</sup> July, so do sign up and start training if that's your thing! If not, how about a skydive on 19<sup>th</sup> July? There is a £50 registration fee and 'divers' are asked to raise a minimum of £390 for the Hospice - just contact me if you are a thrill seeker looking for a new challenge, or if you are interested in any of the above.



Sarah Calder  
Community Fundraiser Uttlesford  
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## THE MAN BEHIND THE NAME



Some of our roads are named after people with connections to Stansted, and Walson Way was meant to be named after Joe Watson who worked at Rochfords Nurseries, the former occupants of the site that is now Foresthall Park. Due to a clerical error the main thoroughfare through the estate was christened Walson Way instead.

Charles William 'Joe' Watson was a local man who rarely left Stansted. He spent his childhood at Bury Lodge where there was nothing he liked better than helping out on the land



(and if that meant losing some time at school, all the better as far as he was concerned!). He would have made an excellent farm manager but his education in the early 1900s didn't provide him with the necessary qualifications. Joe was employed by Major Cawkell who owned land in the Bury Lodge area as well as Rochfords Nurseries where grapes, cucumbers and considerable quantities of tomatoes were grown. It was the

perfect job for Joe with his flair for farming and his affinity with animals; he was never without a dog at his side. He had horses to care for, stabled on the east side of the Nurseries and one of his regular Friday tasks was to lead horse and sewage cart down Stoney Common, where Joe then lived, to empty all the soil bins. Most inhabitants kept out of the way whilst this unsavoury but necessary work was done. It wasn't a job for the squeamish, and one Joe carried out with his customary cheerfulness.

When the new houses were built in Churchill Corner for Rochfords' foremen and leading employees Joe and his family moved into number eight where he stayed until he died at the age of 97 in 2004. His large garden was always well cared for, the back packed with fruit and vegetables, and the front containing flowers. His annual display of dahlias was spectacular and visitors to his house never came away empty handed as it gave Joe real pleasure to give away his surplus produce. After Rochfords' demise Joe went to work at the Mountfitchet (now Forest Hall) School where his brother Douglas, better known as 'Duke' also worked. Joe looked after the chickens and vegetable plot taking particular pride in the tomatoes grown in the school greenhouse by the pupils under his watchful eye. He carried on working at the school way past retirement age and was held in great affection by both pupils and staff.

Joe Watson was a unique character, so happy and content with his life that he never saw the point in going away on holiday, much to the frustration of his wife Fan and son John no doubt! The developers at Foresthall Park are looking to

rectify the earlier mistake by naming a new road 'Watson Way'. Joe would have considered such a fuss unnecessary. But, maybe it's meant to be a case of 'so good they named it twice'!

Yvonne Ayres  
Margaret Silvester

## HEALTH CENTRE LATEST

During the recent Parish Meeting, Clare Morris, Chief Officer of NHS West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group, gave a presentation of the agreement for our Health Centre. A few days later at the NHS West Essex CCG Board meeting she reaffirmed their and NHS England's full approval of our Health Centre to be on the former Castle Lotus Garage site in Lower Street. This was an historic day for our community. Hilton Properties, the site owner, has stated that they are happy, and relieved, to finally have the green light to build the medical centre that Stansted and surrounding areas so badly need. The doctors in Stansted do an excellent job in their current inadequate surgery, and we are proud to have the opportunity to be a small part of the solution to put that situation right. We are very mindful that it has taken a long time to get here, for a variety of reasons, indeed the six years since Peter Hilton first agreed to look to redevelop the site is a small portion of the time you have all had to wait. With this in mind, we are hoping to clear a few minor outstanding issues with Uttlesford District Council over the next few weeks, and provided it is confirmed by the planning department that we are allowed to, we plan to commence demolition of the existing site late April, and commence ground works in May. Our development partners have told us that it will be a 15-month build - although we want to do this as quickly as possible - for two reasons: firstly so we can hand over the building which will be a brilliant resource for the centre of the village, and secondly so we can minimise the inevitable disruption that will occur at times during the build. The programme has been phased to minimise disruption, and please understand we will do our best to minimise the impact on the village during construction.

I am proud to have been part of the small group of villagers who have been very actively campaigning for this Health Centre since late 2007; we are now almost at the winning post. By late 2015 or possibly very early 2016 we will all have a Health Centre which we can be proud of. The ground floor will house an NHS dentist, medium size supermarket and dispensing chemist; the upper stories will contain 14 apartments which will help pay for the Health Centre.

Ray Woodcock  
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## STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

### Cricket Coaching Heaven

Being coached by England captain Alistair Cook - what an opportunity!!! Four young cricketers from our Club will be going to a two hour coaching session run by Alistair Cook in June. They will travel down to the County ground at Chelmsford and be taught skills from the England captain 'and friends'. Heather Graham is coming over from Australia to play for Essex Women and she will be joining the Club's coaching team mainly to concentrate on working with the girls' section. The Club now boasts some 13 ECB qualified coaches. Heather will be doing some work in schools when her Essex commitments allow. She will also be working with Matt Hyam, the Club's ECB level 3 coach. James Brown and Tom Langley-Jones, both 16, are now Coach Support workers having passed exams, and Tom together with Tom Blake have recently passed the Umpires exam - congratulations to all.

The Club has been busy all winter raising money for a new scoreboard and improvements to the Elsenham pavilion (Stansted Airport Community Trust), and Sue and Jason Brown ran a hugely successful Music quiz which raised £410 for Club funds. Friendly matches start on 19<sup>th</sup> April and league begins on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. New members are very welcome - girls, boys, ladies and gentlemen. The summer starts here 'at the Hall'.



David Brown  
Chairman  
Tel: 831011

Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com



### Barnardo's Big Toddle comes to Stansted ... AGAIN!!

Some people may remember the success of this event when we ran it a few years ago, and equally the fun we had subsequently at The Mini Olympics on the Rec in 2012. As a result, we thought we would repeat The Big Toddle and add our own little twist to it. The Barnardo's Big Toddle is a short sponsored walk for toddlers to raise money for Barnardo's vital work with the UK's most vulnerable under 5s. This year, we are inviting all children under school age (babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers) including pre-school classes, to join us on the Rec in Stansted on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 10.30am-1.00pm for a sponsored 'toddle', whizzing round the Rec looking for all the different planets of our solar system and building a giant rocket from boxes and tubes. The event will have a 'Space' theme, and everyone is invited to dress up. We hope to see at least one Buzz Lightyear!!! All sponsorship money raised will go to Barnardo's. There will be a chance for all to have a group photo taken in front of the rocket before it blasts off to Planet Recycle. Photos can be ordered on the day with profits also going to Barnardo's. For more information, please 'like' our Facebook page (search for Barnardo's Big Toddle in Stansted) or contact me.

Rachel Pocknell  
Tel: 816215 Mob: 07818 213723  
Email: rachel@sunnysidechildcare.org.uk

## Stansted Tennis Club



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

### Pearce Tournament 4<sup>th</sup> April

Thirteen ladies and one man took part. Players competed in two round robin groups and then paired up for the knockout stage. The final was won by Carol Cook and Catherine Gibby, who beat Debbie Lane and Fiona Pye 6-3. A bring and share lunch was enjoyed by the players after the tournament.

### Working Party

Seven members spent a couple of hours on 5<sup>th</sup> April cleaning up the courts and surrounds and spruced up the Clubhouse paintwork. Many thanks to those who volunteered!

### Club Tournament

Entry sheets are now on the Clubhouse noticeboard for the 2014 Club Tournament and members are encouraged to sign up to play in as many events as possible.

### Ladies' Night

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May from 7.00pm. All lady members welcome.

### Adult Club Sessions

Sunday mornings, Wednesday mornings and evenings and Friday mornings. All members are welcome.

### Junior coaching

I have restarted the junior and senior coaching groups. Please contact me for more information.

### Tennis balls

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

### Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574. For more about Stansted Tennis Club, please visit the website at [www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk)



Chris Hollis  
Tel: 319155

## WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

Unscramble these words to make eight girls' names and eight boys' names:

1. Wander
2. Sail
3. Larches
4. Airman
5. Bury
6. Anker
7. Nailed
8. Events
9. Naiad
10. Yarn
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12. Mail
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Answers on page 33

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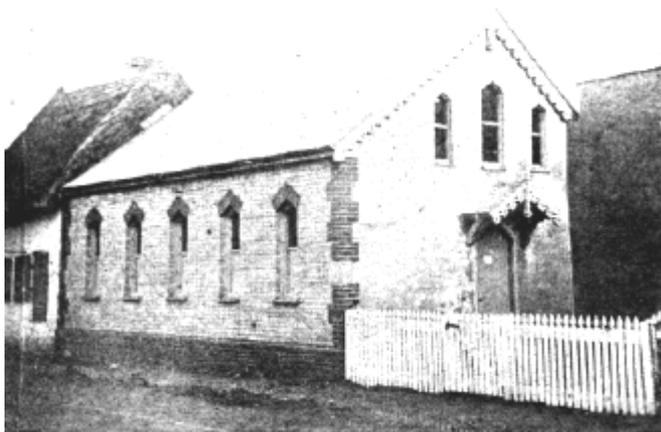
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## STANSTED PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL

Stansted was 'Missioned' in 1851, that is to say formal open camp meetings or at best a series of meetings in private houses were held where local people were converted to the faith of the Primitive Methodist Connexion. Unfortunately there is no record of these momentous events, and momentous they were. Primitive Methodists were quite different from most other Christian sects, according to Tobias Smollett's book, *Humphry Clinker* 1771, "nobody reads sermons but Methodists and Dissenters". The congregation had strong views on many topics, one concerning ministers or priests dressing up in strange clothing and worshipping in gothic palaces. Even if one of their own worshipped in a Wesleyan Chapel, ie at Bishop's Stortford, they would be listed in the Society Roll Book as 'Fallen'. They were heavily censured by more orthodox churchgoers and often went by the nick-name of 'Ranters'. In 1864-5 the Congregationalists in Stansted built a new church on Chapel Hill and the Methodists with their enlarged congregations moved into the former Congregational Church on Silver Street.

The Cambridge Road Primitive Methodist Chapel shown below was built in 1876, the building cost £28-12-6d with seating for 110 people, 35 pews for renting and 75 free. Ominously there were only 13 members at the time but they attracted congregations of 80 people. They had few or no paid elders. Each preacher earned his own living by the sweat of his brow; in this area working mainly as agricultural labourers. An unusual exception was in 1914, Kelly's Directory shows among private residents in Stansted, the Rev H D Halls (Primitive Methodist) Cambridge Road. In pure speculation, he may have lived in the thatched cottage that was then attached to north end of their chapel. The Primitive Methodist Chapel was built adjoining the pavement on the east side of the Cambridge Road, now converted to a private residence; it stands roughly opposite the former Police Station. It is still possible to see that in past times there were five windows facing the road, now only two, as shown in the recent photograph opposite.



A Trust Estates account for 1881 shows Stansted as still owning one house besides their Cambridge Road Chapel, another reference to Stansted states: "they had found a barn, cottage and a small garden". This could have been the former thatched cottage attached to the north end of the chapel which itself would have been built on the site of the former barn. Alfred Phillips recalled that his parents were Primitive Methodists and worshipped there. He had to

attend chapel morning and evening with Sunday school in the afternoon, without fail! The chapel services were 'powerful' with the congregation continually ejaculating "Hallelujah", "Praise the Lord" etc.



A favourite hymn was 'Work for the Night is coming!' "We were teetotallers and joined The Band of Hope", he recalled. The Chapel closed July 1921 after months when the collections averaged about 2/= or 10p per week.

They then approached the Wesleyans in Bishop's Stortford for support; their meetings re-opened and they continued until 29<sup>th</sup> June 1929, when an agreement to share the Quaker Meeting House for £13 per annum, was signed with the Society of Friends. It was said that the main reason for the move, was that the former chapel was too close to the road and the clatter of the traffic interrupted their services. Winifred Phillips worshipped there. She said when she was a girl, alone and learning to play the harmonium, the noise of hunger strikers' boots on the gravel road, marching onto London, during the great depression made her quake with fear, and some of the travellers even disrupted their religious services.

The sale of the old chapel, took place on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1932; it realised £150 when a local builder purchased it free from restrictions, except it was not to be used for the sale of intoxicating liquors. Mr Robinson, senior, used it as a venture to keep his hands in employment during the depression but then his son, Horace, or more likely his future wife, Roy who fell in love with the building and the result of which was they spent the rest of their days living in it. In May 1942 the Methodist Sunday collections at the Friends Meeting House amounted to just 14s-6d and a Joint Rebuilding Fund raised £1 from married couples while single people gave between 2/6d and 5/=, making a total of £10.

By September 1944 the Methodists were relying heavily on sub-letting. The rent paid by the Stansted Freemason's Lodge, who also shared the Quaker building, helped to make their books tally. The building was condemned by an architect and all moved out in 1962 - except the Methodists moved to another part of the same building for some while before it closed. The Freemason's left to meet in Stansted Hall. The new Friends Meeting House was reported as being reopened, 'the previous Saturday', in the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1967 issue of 'The Friend's Magazine.'

Ralph Phillips

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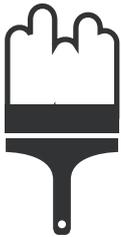
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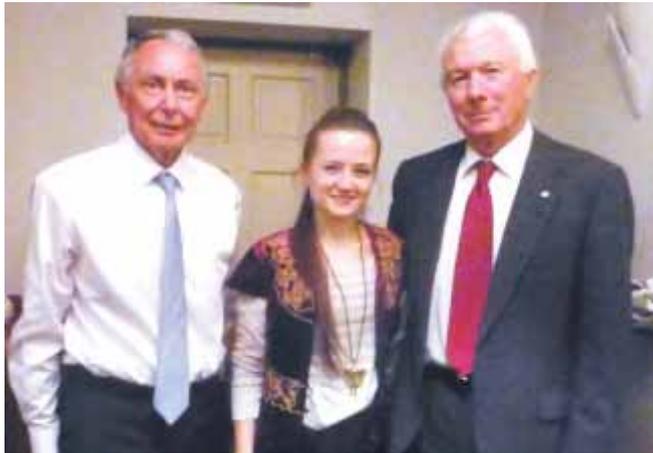
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LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We recently had a visit from a charming and talented young lady from Kyrgyzstan born just after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Valeriya Melnichuk described the painful transition to an independent state and a market economy. The government was quickly bankrupt, unable to import essential medicines or pay state employees, factories closed as demand collapsed. Young people have little hope of earning \$100 per month which is less than the rent of a simple apartment. Low level corruption is accepted as a fact of life and any interaction with the administration is likely to be accompanied by a request for money. David Scott, who invited Valeriya to speak to us, spent 2006 teaching in Kyrgyzstan and was a guest of the Bishkek Rotary Club for the year. He was impressed how Valeriya, with determined support from her mother, has made the most of the educational opportunities and won a place at Cambridge. To understand the tragedy of Kyrgyzstan, we should envisage how Wales would cope if the United Kingdom was dissolved. Who would pay the pensions, how would health care and care of the elderly be provided, what would happen to employment as English firms withdrew, and what would happen to law and order? Since his return from Kyrgyzstan our Club has contributed to two medical projects and is now considering a third. The picture shows Valeriya with David Scott left and Colin George.



We meet on Tuesdays, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Bishop's Stortford. Rotary provides the opportunity to enjoy convivial activity whilst learning more about our community and our world. We support a range of good causes, and anyone wishing to be involved please contact me or visit our website.



Peter Latham  
Tel: 507294  
Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net

## WHAT IS YOUR NAME? – ANSWERS

1: Andrew 2: Lisa 3: Charles 4: Marian or Marina 5: Ruby 6: Karen 7: Daniel 8: Steven 9: Diana 10: Ryan 11: Alice or Celia 12: Liam 13: Gary 14: Cathy 15: Tessa 16: Adrian

### Ancient Rabbit Warrens

Fiona Bengtsen's talk on 3<sup>rd</sup> April was about warrens not made by rabbits, but ancient warrens created by humans specially to house rabbits. Rabbits or coneys, their original name, originated in the Mediterranean and were first brought to England by the Romans during the invasion. They were housed in walled enclosures with pillow mounds inside them. They died out after the Romans left Britain but were reintroduced by the Normans in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. As these were a much hardier breed they adapted well to our climate. These rabbits too were kept in special enclosures because both their meat and their fur were valuable commodities and intended for the exclusive use of the nobility. The meat was a delicacy reserved for royalty. Selective breeding gave rise to black and other unusual colour rabbits whose fur was highly prized. Stansted Castle had two rabbit warrens and remnants of these still exist; one inside the castle grounds and one outside. The one inside would have been an important source of meat in times of siege. There are some areas of the country where these structures can still be seen. In the Brecklands, near Thetford in Norfolk, there are the remains of mounds which are now partly incorporated into a golf course, and within the site still stands one of the best preserved medieval Warrener's Lodges in England. There are also ancient rabbit warrens which can be seen in Hatfield Forest constructed in 1640 and a large number are visible at High Beech in Epping Forest near The King's Oak Public House. Commercial warrens continued in Breckland until the mid-20th century but the value of rabbits declined after the onset of myxomatosis in the 1950s which not only devastated the rabbit population but made the meat unsaleable, although it appears to be making a comeback on restaurant menus today. Our next meeting is our AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> May at the Crafton Centre at 8.00pm

Steve Leaney  
Tel: 647177

Email: stephenleaney@gmail.com



**STANSTED  
BOWLING  
CLUB**

As this goes to press we will have played our opening game, also welcoming potential new members to our Bowling for Beginners during week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> April. Bowls is a sport for all so why not come along and have a look at the green, meet and greet the members, enjoy the facilities of the Club-house (remember you can always join as a social member if you do not feel up to bowling). You can be assured of a very warm welcome and the opportunity to forge new friendships. During the first year we always have a reduced membership fee for new bowlers; bring along a friend, or come and watch a game. Please contact me for further information regarding Club matches, friendlies etc. We look forward to hearing from you.

Doreen Scraggs

Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 Mobile: 07812 483178

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The time leading up to the Easter holidays has been very busy, both groups made gifts for their mums for Mother's Day. Easter cards and pictures have been made and the older group were lucky to have a cooking session making 'Easter nests'. The older children have also been enjoying PE sessions at St Mary's School and learning the importance of staying healthy. With the good weather lots of fun has been had in the garden and the children have been very excited about the arrival of some frogspawn, which they are looking forward to watching change into tadpoles then frogs. Our handyman Dave constructed a child-friendly frog pond for us during the Easter holidays, which will create lots of interest.

Remember the Family Funday Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 11.00am-3.00pm at St Mary's School. If you are interested in having a stall or require further details please contact Simone Teese (Chair of the Committee) via the Pre-school email address. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place. Places for September 2014 and 2015 are filling up fast!

Gill Pursglove  
Administrator Tel: 814242  
Email: [admin@rainbowpreschool.net](mailto:admin@rainbowpreschool.net)



[www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery](http://www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery)

As the term drew to a close we made chocolate Easter nests with shredded wheat and mini eggs, which everyone agreed were delicious! According to mums and dads very few cakes made it home. The children also enjoyed making and wearing rabbit masks and the annual Easter egg hunt went down very well. Birchanger mums were thrilled with the beautiful scented hearts the children made as Mother's Day gifts. We were lucky enough to look after four beautiful chicks which the children loved having in the nursery and they enjoyed having their photo taken holding a chick. "They were very soft!" said Oliver Aiken, aged four. Although we were all very sorry to see them go we are grateful to Nic Wrigley for providing them with a new home!

Our next open day is on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am-noon. If you would like to come and see the work we do, meet the staff and other parents and see our wonderful setting, please call to reserve a space. We are currently full for September but if you would like to join our waiting list contact us as spaces do occasionally become available. Places are still available for September 2015. Birchanger Nursery provides a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2½ to 5 years. Please call to arrange a visit or see our Facebook page.

The Committee  
Tel: 810800  
Email: [admin@birchangernursery.org](mailto:admin@birchangernursery.org)

## FARNHAM SCHOOL

The last month has seen busy times for Farnham School. The parent body has grouped together to fight for the school to stay in Farnham, and after considerable research, have given a united response to the consultation that states that they believe that this is the best future for the school. By the time this goes to press, the decision should have been published; watch this space!



The children had great fun raising money for Sport Relief, coming into school in their favourite sports clothing, and completing a range of activities such as penalty shoot-outs, a skipathon, bouncing tennis balls on racquets and a hockey circuit. For World Poetry Day, the children really enjoyed a visit from Martin Seager who came into school to share some of his poems. We hope that his visit might inspire some of the children to write their own poems. The children and teachers put on a Mother's Day tea party, baking and icing cakes and cookies which they then served to their mothers. The hall was filled with beautifully set tea tables with vintage cake stands, miniature flower pots and handmade table mats on which the children had written personal poems of a recipe on how to make the perfect mum. At the Easter service the children read eloquently of events of Easter through letters, followed by a cake sale, and Easter egg hunt, set up as a maths trail. The children completed this with their buddies (the older children are paired up with younger children, making up a strong support system), having great fun, and really appreciating their prizes for the hunt! Farnham remains a strong learning environment, with the teaching staff supporting the children, and the children supporting each other. For more information about our school, please feel free to contact us.

Rachel Pocknell  
Friends of Farnham School  
Tel: 771339

## THE CRAFTON ROOM

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

April was a huge success, with dining levels significantly up, and new faces joining us all the time. The Italian night was a sell out and the Easter special generated plenty of interest - sherry on arrival, delicious roast lamb lunch and a raffle, always makes for a good day! Our AGM is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 1.30pm at the Day Centre. Fish and Chip Friday is on 30<sup>th</sup> May at 12.30pm. For more information about these events or general enquiries please don't hesitate to call.



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# ST MARY'S CE FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL



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The second half of the spring term was short this year but it was packed with events and activities for St Mary's. Following our successful Book Week, we went on to support Sport Relief with a week of sports and competitions. We began each morning with a session of 'Fit-Steps'; ran our annual intra-house tournaments to contest the House Cups for netball, tag rugby; planned and prepared a healthy lunchbox and enjoyed the intra-house dance competition. This is the highlight of the week! It is always the most difficult affair to judge, but this year the victors were Templars. On Wednesday, we saw an impressive array of 'onesies' when the children all took part in a sponsored distance run around the school grounds – wearing their pyjamas! Thomas Basten won the prize for the greatest number of laps and the school raised over £1000 for Sport Relief. Well done to all the pupils, and thank you to all their sponsors.



The school production for the spring term was staged by the staff and pupils of Lower Key Stage 2. They treated the whole school, and all their parents and families, to a wonderful performance of *Alice – the Musical*, a version of *Alice in Wonderland*. The scenery and costumes were beautiful, singing was excellent, the children all performed with confidence and energy... this show really did set the standard for all our future productions.



Like much of Stansted, St Mary's is expanding! During the Easter holiday, work will begin on our eleventh classroom. This means that from September the school can take 45 children each year group across the school. During the summer

holiday, the grass field will be replaced by an all-weather pitch. The advantage of this is that we will be able to use the school field for PE throughout the year and also create more space for our increased pupil roll at playtimes.

Christine Tonkins  
Headteacher  
Tel: 812212



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our March meeting was designated members' day and we were entertained by Edna Wright and her husband Alan. Their subject was a beautifully filmed tour of Victoria, a delightful city where horse drawn carriages still ply their trade and one feels that one has stepped back in time to a more civilised world. The highlight of this amazing place is the Butchart Gardens, a huge area covering 55 acres of land. The gardens began as a limestone quarry and are the brain child of a cement contractor Robert Butchart and his wife Jennie, and over a period of 19 years between 1906 and 1925 they created the Japanese and Italian gardens. Robert Butchart was given the key to the city and made a freeman of Victoria in 1928. Jennie was named citizen of the year in 1931. Sadly after Jennie died the gardens fell into disrepair but in 1946 her grandson Ian Ross and his wife resurrected them. The gardens are open all year round and attract over a million visitors a year! The rose collection - beautifully filmed by Edna and Alan - is one of the best in the world. There are over 117 varieties of tea roses, 64 types of floribundas and 400 grandiflora roses! The flora is not the only attraction; the gardens are home to some amazing water features too. Edna and Alan managed to film these for posterity and our huge enjoyment. A lovely afternoon was rounded off with a delicious traditional afternoon tea. If this sounds like your cup of tea why not come and join us? We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall. You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Message to the patients of Elsenham Surgery

I am writing to let you know that I will be retiring from Elsenham Surgery on 28<sup>th</sup> May. It will be nearly 35 years since I moved out of London to join the practice in October 1979. During my time here I have got to know many of you very well and have valued the privilege of being taken into your confidence and allowed to help you solve your problems and hear about your successes. I will certainly miss hearing all your news. I did not want to leave without saying goodbye and wishing you all the best for the future. I am leaving confident in the knowledge that you have a great team at Elsenham Surgery who will continue to look after you to the best of their abilities, as I have always tried to do. With best wishes for the future.

Dr Juliet Rayner

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## STANSTED BUSINESS FORUM

### Summer Fayre

Plans are under way for the annual summer fayre on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July noon-5.00pm in Station Road. We will have a good variety of events for all ages, including children's rides, live music for all tastes, champagne and beer tents. It really is a family day out so do come along and support your local businesses. You still have the chance to book a stall, which costs only £20, and stallholders will be able to park in the nearest car park. Contact Peter James of Murdochs Property Shop, Stansted on 813318 for a booking form - book now to avoid disappointment. So put 5<sup>th</sup> July in your diaries and come along and join in the fun.



Iris Evans  
Treasurer  
Tel: 815848

### ST MARY'S ELSENHAM FABRIC FUND

Please drop in to our exhibition at Elsenham Village Fête and Craft Fair on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 1.00pm-5.00pm on our Playing Field. We are not going to sell you anything, except maybe to welcome you as a new member, but we do feel that you might like to see pictures of our fundraising events and the projects we have spent the money on. We are organising a Car Boot Sale on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July in the Playing Field so please start turning out your goodies. Remember, what you consider as 'junk' will be someone else's treasure. On that same evening, after quite a long absence, we will be welcoming the return of the De Merc Choir. The choral capabilities and wide range of this choir is truly wonderful, so we may hear a medieval madrigal one minute to be followed by something from Andrew Lloyd Webber - and of course the acoustics in our Church are really fantastic.

John L Segar  
Vice Chairman  
Tel: 813289



### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7.30pm, Saffron Hall

Accompanied by the Will Todd Ensemble and conducted by Janet Wheeler, Saffron Walden Choral Society will perform Wheeler's *On the Breath of the Sky* and Todd's *Mass in Blue*, his flagship work. Bethany Halliday, Todd's wife, sang the original soprano solo in Cambridge in 2003 to ecstatic reviews and will be singing at this performance. Bethany will also reprise the solo part in *On the Breath of the Sky*, having sung in this work's première in 2007. This cantata, to words by Nick Warburton, deals with the plight of the albatross and uses the same jazz ensemble backing as the Mass, with additional drums. It also has a part for young singers and SWCS is pleased to be joined for this by SignuptoSing, Saffron Walden's Youth Choir. Tickets £16 and £20 (with concessions) and are available from the Saffron Walden Tourist Office on 01799 524002 or at [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) and on the door (subject to availability).



## Huw Johnson Club

The Club has now fully restarted on Thursday evenings. We have enjoyed a fun night of Bingo that got pretty competitive, a general knowledge and music quiz, and a bowling competition. We also celebrated Joanne and Andrew's birthdays with a visit from Jezo the Magician, who performed some impressive magic tricks, even cutting his arm off at one point (thankfully, it was just an illusion!). We have a busy few weeks coming up with some exciting activities to look forward to - Easter 'cake-pop' making and decorating, curling, a pub trip and dancing to name but a few. We are also busy planning a summer trip for all members as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> year celebrations - we have been very fortunate to receive several generous donations which are funding the trip, which is fabulous. We recently received a £1,000 donation from local Stortford-based company Dotmatics, thanks to a nomination from a Stansted resident - thanks Jon! Our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea Party is on the afternoon of Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August. We want to make sure everyone who has been involved with the Huw Johnson Club in any way over the last four decades is invited, so let us know if you would like to attend. Our AGM is on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 8.00pm at Sandra's house. Please get in touch for more details if you would like to come along. As always, we are looking for more volunteer drivers (to or from Saffron Walden) or helpers. Please contact myself or Sandra Embleton on 812627 for more information.



Katharine Collis  
Tel: 461270  
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### STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Our AGM was successful with a larger attendance, including some new faces, which was very pleasing. A Fun Quiz, compiled by Peggy Honour, was very enjoyable. Peggy announced that she has decided to stand down from the Committee due to health reasons. We all wish her well and a speedy return to full health and thank her for her past dedication and support. I am sure when her health improves she will always be on hand to advise us on Mill matters, for her knowledge of windmills has been of great benefit to us all. Our forthcoming openings will include some new windmill banners on display, which is largely due to a project that was initiated and has been very dear to Peggy. During May the Windmill will be open 1.30pm-5.30pm: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>, Bank Holiday Monday 5<sup>th</sup>, National Mills Day Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>, and Bank Holiday Monday 26<sup>th</sup>. We are always looking for volunteers; if you would like to join us please contact me.



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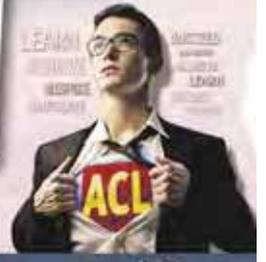
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