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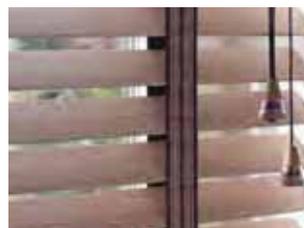
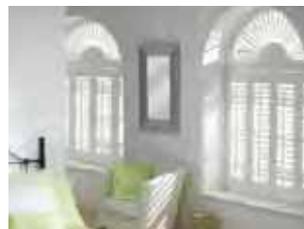
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by **noon on 8th May** for the June issue

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## EDITORIAL



If all goes to plan the Peter Kirk buildings could soon be ringing with the sound of primary schoolchildren's voices. The proposed opening date of Stansted's new school on the Peter Kirk site is September 2016. That seems very optimistic as the consultation process is still taking place and plans have yet to be drawn up let alone approved. However, if the seemingly impossible is achieved it could well be opening around the same time as Castle Maltings, our new Health Centre – a classic hare and tortoise scenario maybe? If you've spent the winter hibernating, eating comfort food and over-indulged at Easter, then this month's Link is packed with ways to burn off all those extra calories. The outdoor bowls, cricket and tennis clubs have all started their summer season and welcome new players; there are details of a beginners course for runners at a nearby running club, page 4; if walking is more your thing there's the local footpath association page 31; the Stansted Stroll page 14, and of course gardening is very good exercise, see page 15 for this month's tips. Make the most of the warmer weather and enjoy the May Bank Holidays.

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

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

### Faith and politics

On 7<sup>th</sup> May the polls will open and voters will decide what shape of government they want for the next five years. As citizens we all have a responsibility for the government of our local community and the nation as a whole. This necessarily involves seeking to understand the causes of social unrest, injustice and fear. If we want to build a better and fairer society we should not shrink from the challenge of confronting what we believe is wrong in our world. It is often said that religion and politics do not mix although quite why this should be is unclear to me, given that both are fundamentally about values and how people live.

In reflecting on the relationship between our inward spiritual life and our outward political expression in the world, the words of Eva I Pinthus in our book of insights, *Quaker Faith and Practice*, may be helpful: "Uncomfortable we stand with one foot in the kingdom of this world and with the other in the Eternal Kingdom. Seldom can we keep the inward and the outward working of love in balance, let alone the consciousness of living both in time and eternity, in timelessness. Let us not be beguiled into thinking that political action is all that is asked of us, nor that our personal relationship with God excuses us from actively confronting evil in this world. The political and social struggles must be waged, but a person is more and needs more than politics, else we are in danger of gaining the whole world but losing our souls."



Jonathan Morrell  
Stansted Quaker Meeting



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**Minister** Rev'd Roy Fowler  
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**Lettings** Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059  
[lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### Preachers for May

3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30 am The Worship Team - New Directions  
10<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Rev'd Charles Martin  
17<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion  
24<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Julie Finbow  
31<sup>st</sup> 10.30 am Tearfund Service



[www.stanstedfamilychurch.com](http://www.stanstedfamilychurch.com)

**Contacts** Howard and Ros Page  
Tel: 810813  
[Email: contactstanstedfam@yahoo.com](mailto:contactstanstedfam@yahoo.com)

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

Our @27 meeting (contemporary worship and Bible-based talks) this month will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm coffee for 7.45pm start. All interested are welcome. For details of topic and venue please contact us.



Howard and Ros Page

### ROMAN CATHOLIC St Therese of Lisieux High Lane

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**Office** Tel: 816889  
Email: [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

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

**Confessions**  
Saturday 10.00am  
and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment

### THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill  
Stansted CM24 8AE

**Clerk** Jane Mitchell  
Tel: 503024  
Email: [sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com](mailto:sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com)

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am



#### Be Still and Know that I am God (Silent Prayer Day)

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am-3.30pm in John's Church led by Magdalen Houlihan from Clare Priory. Please bring a packed lunch - tea and coffee will be provided.

Kathy West  
Tel: 816293  
Email: [kewest@btinternet.com](mailto:kewest@btinternet.com)



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

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

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

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

**St John's Diary**

**Sunday**

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

**Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday**

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

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

**ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB**

Many congratulations to winners of the March draws:  
£100 No 166 Mr B Robinson  
£ 50 No 93 Lindsey Venter  
£ 25 No 187 Roland Pelly

The first draws for the new 300 Club year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> May, will be held on Sunday 31<sup>st</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 31<sup>st</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

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**



Cooks who have made the **Bahama Mama Carrot Cake** have advised that it needs only 200ml oil not 360ml as stated in the recipe printed in last month's Link!



Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579



**Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May**

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm there will be a united service at the Friends Meeting House to begin the start of Christian Aid Week. All welcome, particularly Christian Aid collectors.



Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579

Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



At 8.00pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7 Blythwood Gardens, Linda Smith will be giving a talk about her trip to Cuba taking in bibles, medicines and money. There is no 'At Home' due to the Bank Holiday.



Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059



**THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH**

The Friends held their Annual General Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Following the official business, when the Chairman thanked all the standing committee for their help during the past difficult year (especially for her personally) and without a secretary, the present committee was re-elected. A challenging quiz set by Ray Rogers and a fish and chip supper all made for a very pleasant, enjoyable evening. Our events, particularly the musical ones have been well attended and much enjoyed. St Mary's is open to many visitors throughout the year, but the Christmas Celebration saw some 700 'footfalls' for our annual weekend, and 300 or more for 'Carols for All' on the Saturday.

The coming year will be busy, highlighted by the commemoration of the sealing of Magna Carta in June, and St Mary's will be hosting several connected events later in the year. Our 'First Sundays' will begin on 3<sup>rd</sup> May when the church will be open 11.00am-5.00pm and visitors will be refreshed with tea and cakes. The following Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 3.00pm will be a new venture for us when Bishop's Stortford Band will perform their Spring Concert. Tickets £5 (under 16s free) from me, Stella Rodgers 814814 or Simon Wilson 813147. We would like to have a good audience and hope that the Band will want to come again, perhaps for an Autumn Concert and maybe to play for our Carols at Christmas. Other fundraising events will be published soon. If you are already a 'Friend' could you recruit a new member in the coming year? Our subscription is still only £5. Remember St Mary's Church is open daily 11.00am-300pm.

Audrey Rodgers  
Chairman  
Tel: 812162



## 40 YEARS WITH FREE CHURCH PILOTS

The Stansted chapter of the national organisation **Pilots** is now closed, after decades of dedicated leadership from Valerie and Peter Trundle of the Free Church Pilot Group, who retired, following an emotional celebration and farewell on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. In 2014, the couple received an Uttlesford District Council Community Achievement Award from Councillor Keith Artus for their service to children and young people, and in recognition of 40 years leading Pilots. The farewell party was organised to celebrate their contribution, and thank the support of families and volunteers over the years.



The Pilots enjoyed a party with games, a fancy dress parade, stories, memorable recounts and refreshments to say goodbye to each other. Nicola Grieves, Youth Officer for the Eastern URC Region, reminded us that although the Stansted chapter is closed, children will continue to do the good work as Pilots in other spheres, and will remember their club for many more years than the club has been around. All children received a memento and were made to feel 'special' with chocolate Easter eggs to take home. Michelle King presented a bouquet of orchids to Valerie and Peter with a signed card from all of us. We were very pleased to hear stories about old Pilot days from senior Pilots living in the village, including a brief account from Rev'd Roy Fowler, and Arthur read a memorable note about the many cherished moments we had with all members of the club. The children talked about some of their favourite activities too.



The atmospheric party showed how well we bonded over the years as adult volunteers with the children - a feature of Stansted Pilots, where children not only played with each other, but learnt to co-operate with adult members during games and activities, whilst sharing their world views. Many families have supported the club's activities and while it

would be impossible to pick out individual people, Valerie and Peter say "You know who you are, and we appreciate the support you have given us over the years". We hope to keep in touch with each other and meet again for a church service in the summer.

Sanjukta Ghosh



## RUNNING FOR BEGINNERS 10 WEEKS TO 10K!

### Join our popular Beginners Course

The 10-week course has been developed over several years by our experienced coaching team, to introduce you to running in a safe and enjoyable way. We start with gentle walk/jog sessions, and by the end you will be able to run 10 kilometres. Along the way we give you advice on footwear, nutrition and clothing, and teach you stretches to help you stay injury free. The course runs for ten Wednesdays 7.15pm for 7.30pm from 6<sup>th</sup> May until 8<sup>th</sup> July, at the clubhouse, Beldams Lane, Bishop's Stortford, and uses the club field and local off-road tracks.

### Is this course for me?

It is suitable for absolute beginners or for those who have not run for a number of years. If you can walk at a brisk pace for 30 minutes to an hour, and can jog the distance between two lamp posts then you are ready to start the course. You do not need to attend every session – most miss a few sessions due to work or family commitments – but you do need to practise running another 2-3 times every week so that you are ready for the next session. If you can already run 10k, you may prefer to join the running club immediately.

### What do I need to wear?

You do not need lots of kit, but it is important that you are comfortable. Special running shoes are not needed as you will not be running long distances just yet. Kit advice is given in the information packs before and during the course.

### Who leads the course?

Sessions are supervised by qualified running coaches.

### What happens after the course?

At the end of the course you will have the chance to take part in a race (this year, the Takeley 10k on 6<sup>th</sup> September) with the others on the course. Beyond this, the running club has groups for all abilities and you can continue your running in one of those groups. You will also be able to attend club events and regular coaching sessions free of charge until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. The course costs just £70.

### How do I join?

Visit [www.bsrc.org.uk/join-beginners/beginners](http://www.bsrc.org.uk/join-beginners/beginners) and email the completed forms to me. Please pay by Internet Banking if possible or send payment by cheque – details on the forms. Entry is on a first come, first served basis and the course fills up quickly, so be sure to get your entry in early! For further information please contact me.

Lorraine Evans

Tel: 814360

Email: [membership@bsrc.org.uk](mailto:membership@bsrc.org.uk)



## Stansted Windmill

Open Days  
1.30 - 5.30 pm

Sun 3rd & Mon 4th May

Sun 10th May (Mills Day)

Sun 24th & Mon 25th May

*All Welcome*



## St Mary's Church

11 am - 5 pm Sun 3rd May

**Open for Teas**

\*\*\*\*\*

3pm Sat 9th May

**Spring Concert**

with Bishop's Stortford Band

Tickets Adults £5 **Children free**

from 812162 or 814814

St Mary's also open daily 11 am - 3 pm



## Silent Prayer Day

**Be Still and Know that I am God**

10 am - 3.30 pm Sat 9th May

St John's Church

**Led by Magdalen Houlihan  
from Clare Priory**

Bring packed lunch - drinks provided

Tel Kathy on 816293

## WHAT'S ON IN MAY

3 Sun	St Mary's Church Open	11 am - 5 pm
3 Sun / 4 Mon	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
6 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
7 Thu	Stansted History Society AGM	8 pm
9 Sat	Silent Prayer day	St John's Church 10 am - 3.30 pm
	B S Band Spring Concert	St Mary's Church 3 pm
10 Sun	Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
	Skips	Lower Street Car Park 9 am - 1 pm
	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
	Christian Aid Service	Quaker Meeting House 6.30 pm
11 Mon	<b>Link copy in due today</b>	<b>before 12 noon</b>
	Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
12 Tue	Dementia Café	Quaker Meeting House 10 am - noon
	Planning Care for the Future	Mountfitchet House 2 - 3.30 pm
14 Thu	WI AGM	Day Centre 7.45 pm
16 Sat	U3A Saturday Seminar	Free Church Hall 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
17 Sun	Rainbow Fun Day	St Mary's School 11.30 am - 3.30 pm
	Open Day	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 4 pm
19 Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog & Duck 8 pm
21 Thu	Stansted U3A AGM	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
23 Sat	Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
24 Sun	Skips	Lower Street Car Park 9 am - 1 pm
24 Sun / 25 Mon	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
27 Wed	Dying Matters Awareness	Mountfitchet House 1.30 - 4.30 pm
29 Fri	Fish & Chip Friday	Day Centre 12.30 pm
30 Sat	Magna Carta Sale & Coffee	Day Centre 10.30 am



Act of Worship  
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6.30pm Sunday 10th May

Friends' Meeting House

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10th - 16th May

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Free Events

2 - 3.30 pm Tue 12th May

**Planning Care for the Future**

*All Welcome but please book*

1.30 - 4.30 pm Wed 27th May

**Dying Matters Awareness**

*For domiciliary and Care home staff*

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Email: sharon.butler@careuk.com

Mountfitchet House, High Lane

## UGLEY VILLAGE FETE

2 - 4.30 pm Sat 13th June

White Elephant ~ Bottle Tombola

Side Shows ~ Entertainment

Fun Dog Show ~ Raffle ~ Jolly Jumble

Cakes ~ Produce ~ Books & DVDs

Teas ~ Barbecue

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## OPEN DAY

Sunday 17th May

11.30 am - 4 pm (last entry 3 pm)

Guided tours at 12.30 & 3.15 pm

**Dunmow Wind Band 1 - 3 pm**

Adults £3.50 Children Free

Homemade soup, baps & bacon rolls

Hot drinks and homemade cake

*All Welcome Tel: 01371 876979*



## Saturday Seminar

**It's all in the Genes**

by Prof Graham Jellis

**The role of genetics in crop improvement**

9.30 am - 12.30 pm Sat 16th May

Stansted Free Church Hall

Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members

from Alan tel 07790 213510

Email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com

**Limited places - advance booking only**



## Magna Carta

10.30 am Sat 30th May  
Day Centre

Sale of Embroidery Items

Materials ~ Threads ~ Wools

Refreshments ~ Books

**Tel Liz on 812509**



## Family Fun Day

11.30 am - 3.30 pm

Sun 17th May

St Mary's School

Meet Elsa from 'Frozen' 11.30 am - 12.15 pm

Bouncy Castles ~ Rides ~ Hook a Duck

Dunmow Majorettes ~ BBQ

Licensed Bar ~ Stansted Street Dancers

Footlights Theatre & much more

Entry 50p adults ~ children various prices

## UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

10 am - noon Sat 16th May

Ugley Village Hall

*Meat ~ Poultry ~ Fish ~ Eggs ~ Honey*

*Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Knitting*

*Fruit & Veg ~ Skincare ~ Crafts*

Refreshments with cake and bacon rolls

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### Trips and Outings

We had a great outing to Cambridge beginning with a coach tour in and around the city. The guide knowledgeably pointed out the different colleges and places of interest.



We then went to the Cambridge American Cemetery with its beautiful chapel and Memorial. Although very cold and exposed, the site was beautifully preserved. Four statues (a soldier, airman, sailor and Coast Guardsman) guard the Tablets of the Missing inscribed on a 427 foot long wall of Portland stone which is washed down three times a week. The cemetery is well worth a visit. Several of the members then went to the Eagle pub for lunch. The inn, dating from 1667, was originally known as The Eagle and Child and owned by Corpus Christi College. Perhaps that is the child who is said to haunt the pub and where a particular window has to be left open for her at all times. The RAF bar there has its ceilings and walls full of graffiti made by WWII American soldiers who burnt messages with their cigarettes. Francis Crick and James Watson are also said to have come up with the proposal for the structure of DNA whilst in this bar. We then visited King's College Chapel, a wonderful chapel famous for its Carol Service at Christmas and its fan-vaulted ceiling. The glaziers took 30 years to install 26 sets of stained glass windows.



### Seminars

The next Seminar, *It's all in the Genes*, is on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am-12.30pm in the Free Church Hall, when Professor Graham Jellis will be presenting an introduction to genetics and its role in crop improvement. Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members from Alan Wheeler in advance on 07790 213510 or email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com.

**The next meeting** at St John's hall is on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May. The doors open at 1.30pm and the speaker is Peter Webb, *The Good Life, a Humorous Tale*. This meeting will include the AGM and will see several key committee members having to step down. **It is vital to the survival of Stansted's U3A that these members are replaced.** A new Committee, a new era for Stansted's U3A! Visit our website for full details and watch out for new activities at the meetings or contact Sandra (Secretary) 814304.



Caroline Bore

### Mini-Spring Show

The show is governed by Mother Nature - some years the flowers in the gardens are coming to an end, another year everything is blooming - or like this year, the flowers normally displayed were still buds or dormant. Although entries were down, a colourful display of daffodils, flowering shrubs and flower arrangements were on show. Congratulations to the winners - details are on our website - and to everyone who rose to the challenge and took part!

### AGM

Jon Sims stepped in at short notice to read the Chairman's Report. The club had a successful year, membership stayed steady, and feedback indicated members enjoyed the talks and trips. The Treasurer outlined the finances and announced that the membership fees would not be increased. All Committee members were re-elected, but a plea for extra committee members was made. The Chairman thanked the committee and co-opted helpers for all their hard work.

### Coach Trip

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July we are organising a coach trip to visit two gardens: in the morning to a private garden at Buckden St Neots and in the afternoon to Coton Manor Gardens, Northants. The cost is £23.50 which includes the coach, entry to both gardens and a tip for the driver. To reserve a seat on what promises to be an interesting trip, please telephone me or go to the contact page on our website.

### Next Meeting

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm (refreshments) for 8.00pm at the Day Centre, subject: 'GYO VEG Grow your own Vegetables' by Geoff Hodge. Membership is £12 single/£20 double (two at same address). Visitors (£2.50) are always welcome.

Maralyn Harris  
Tel: 07919 478144



### UGLEY WI

Our March meeting was designated 'members day' when the meeting was led by a 'stand in' President and Secretary. The speaker was Chris Winter and his subject *Growing old disgracefully*. He was a very amusing speaker and his anecdotes, given the seal of approval by his wife (a WI member herself), were hilarious! He ended his amusing talk with the amazing fact that vigorous clapping burned up thousands of calories - the applause could be heard for miles! Our very entertaining afternoon ended with a lovely traditional WI tea, complete with sandwiches and cake which no doubt replaced some of the calories we burned off earlier! Other highlights on the horizon include 'From Russia with Love' a talk by Margaret Rogers in June, 'Treasures beneath your feet' with Gordon Bailey in August and a talk on porcelain jewellery from Sean Brady in October, so a lot to look forward to for our members. If this sounds like your cup of tea why not come and join us? You would be very welcome. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 2.15pm in Ugley village Hall.

Andrea Fitt  
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## RAINBOW PRE-SCHOOL

www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

The children have been enthusiastically recording the growth of their runner bean seeds following their look at growth, and towards the end of the term they had a cooking session making Easter nests. Maria has been busy planting up the Pre-School pond and tadpoles have been placed into them so fingers crossed for frogs! Summer term is following the theme of people who help us, so we are hoping to have a visit from the police and maybe a fireman. Rainbow has been very lucky to have been awarded £500 by Councillor Joe Rich which we are using to refurbish our book corner.

### Rainbow Fun Day – 17<sup>th</sup> May 11.30am-3.30pm

Get ready to have some fun! This year's event is at St Mary's School, Hampton Road.

- Meet Elsa from Frozen 11.30am-12.15pm
- Enjoy the Bouncy Castles and Rides
- Have a go at Hooking a Duck or getting the Ball in a Bucket and lots more
- Stroll around the wide range of fun stalls, including one by Essex Air Ambulance
- Watch and enjoy displays by Stansted Street and Ballet Dance, Footlights Theatre, Dunmow Majorettes and more
- Purchase succulent burgers from the BBQ followed by a cool refreshing drink from the bar, and lots more!

Entry 50p adults. Wrist bands are available for children with unlimited access to bouncy castles and rides, priced £5 (one child), £8 (two children), £12 (three children).

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. Contact Gill Pursglove the Pre-School Administrator for further information, email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net or call 814242. Places for September 2015 are filling up fast!

Clair Rava  
Parent/Committee Member

## STANSTED FAMILY CAFE

Our TasteEaster event took place just before Easter, after the Family Café at the Day Centre, and featured a mixture of puppets, live drama, music, games and more, all on the theme of *Easter is Good News for Everyone*. Many thanks to the various adults and children who took part, and those who attended. As well as actors, puppeteers etc we were blessed with excellent sound and screen operators, and great support from our regular café volunteers. A number of the older children from Investigators helped with stage-management and puppeteering, with many using full size puppets and the puppet stage for the first time. The *Have I Got News for You* style games involved adults and children alike, and the return of *Cream Egg Curling* was popular. Well done and a big THANK YOU to everyone involved!



Ros Page  
Tel: 810813  
Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com

## CARNIVALS OF YESTERYEAR

Many people in Stansted will remember the Stansted carnivals, held in several different locations over the years. One of the first I recall was in Water Lane, which is now built on. Others were on the school fields at Forest Hall and of course Hargrave Park. I have memories of events held on the Recreation Ground. One of the highlights was the carnival parade and procession. Crowds used to line the route and really enjoyed the occasion. I used to dress up as the jester and be at the head of the procession, which gathered at Bentfield Green and proceeded through the Hargrave Estate, along the Cambridge Road, down Chapel Hill then up Church Road ending at the school grounds. At times I had a float in the procession for the cub scouts, driving a vehicle loaned to me by Mickey King (there's a name lots of people will remember!).



In 1967 the vehicles assembled at Stoneyfield Drive for the procession, and Fancy Dress competitors assembled at the Recreation Ground. The procession was led by Miss Anglia 1967 and included the Stevenage Pipe Band, the Bishop's Stortford and District Band, the Austin Seven Club from Southend and the Carnival Princess. The programme priced 6d contained the events during Carnival Week: Stansted Music Hall, Carnival Whist Drive, Crazy Cricket, Fashion Show, Jumble Sale, Outdoor Wrestling.

Admission to the Carnival Day Fete was 1/6d for adults and 6d for children. The picture below is the centre page showing the events on carnival day. The annual carnival was very popular covering a whole week of events. We had various celebrities over the years. One I recall was Kenneth Horne who was extremely well known at the time. It seems a shame that it is some years since Stansted staged a carnival, but it does involve lots of people. I am sure there are many in the village who will have fond memories of the carnivals of yesteryear.

Dick Pollard

*Ed: If you have any memories and/or photos of past carnivals you would like to share please let me know. Contact details are on page 1.*

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On Friday 24th July, our latest crop of children will be setting foot in Britain for the first time, probably feeling more than a little nervous about what is ahead of them. Given that they won't speak much, if any, English, they will be feeling the need for someone to look after them - which is where you come in! Upon arrival, each child will be placed with a hosting family, who will care for them, house them and feed them for two weeks. During the time they are here, the charity will be organising a full programme of events such as discos, picnics, sports events and days at the seaside, meaning that all you need to supply is a roof, and of course lots of love and attention! As well as the obvious benefits for the Romanian children, the trip can be enormously beneficial for our own children, helping them to understand how those in other parts of the world may not have access to things we would normally take for granted. The good news is that for families hosting for the first time, the entire cost of the trip is funded by the charity. If you are interested, then please contact the hosting officer Rachel Berry, email: [rachelberry46@gmail.com](mailto:rachelberry46@gmail.com) or call 07830 534129. You can find out all about the charity, which this year celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, on our website.

Paul Jarvis



### STANSTED WELL READ

Our next meeting is at 8.00pm on 19<sup>th</sup> May in the Dog and Duck, when we will be discussing *The Glass Room* by Anne Cleeves, a DI Vera Stanhope mystery. Copies should be available from the Stansted Library. Do not worry if you have not read the book, as we talk about lots of different things. For more information contact me.

Victoria North  
Email: [vnorth63@gmail.com](mailto:vnorth63@gmail.com)

## STONEY COMMON ROAD

Dear Editor

I write after reading the April Link with regard to highway problems. I should like to draw your attention to the fact that Stoney Common is an un-adopted road, meaning the Parish Council has no obligation to maintain it. The homeowners are responsible for the road, as it forms part of the boundary for each individual house. At one stage there was an active Residents' Association, and the road formed part of the discussions that took place.

I have lived on Stoney Common for 20 years and the road surface has been maintained by the Residents' Association. However this road continuously gets spoilt by those who use it as a thoroughfare to access other areas of Stansted. We do not want our road used as a rat run and have, in the past, looked at trying to have the road shut off, but at the time there were some issues with the fire service, and of course access in and out for the residents who live on Stoney Common. We would like to save our road for us but I think we have all given up on the maintenance as it always gets destroyed by others. By leaving the road as it is, we are at least sound in the knowledge that our children and pets are safe from speeding cars.

Annette Tidy



**STORT VALLEY ROTARY**  
[www.stortvalleyrotary.com](http://www.stortvalleyrotary.com)

Last month, we held our third annual Rotary quiz at the Charis Centre, Bishop's Stortford - a very enjoyable and well attended event, raising £1,600 for the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank - a charity which provides short term emergency food relief to people in crisis. Stort Valley Rotary Club supports Contexture, a professional repertory company with strong links to our local community and based at the Rhodes Centre. Simon and Gailie Anderson, joint founders of the company, visited the club to give us an update on their progress and future plans. On 17<sup>th</sup> May they are putting on *May Games* having worked on similar productions for The Globe Theatre, London. This interactive event will start in Stortford Town Park with a traditional Mummers' Play and then progress through the town to the Monastery Gardens for Morris Dancing, Elizabethan food and arts and crafts. We were also visited by Dr Ben Croxford from the Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, University College London, which runs post-graduate courses teaching architects and engineers together, equipping them to build low energy, aesthetically pleasing buildings which encourage social interactions and healthy behaviour. Ben showed examples of how and why buildings did not 'work', and stressed that strong collaboration between architect, engineer, environmentalist and user is vital to get things right for the future. We always welcome new members so please visit our website where you can read our newsletter and get further information. We meet Tuesdays, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at The Lemon Tree Restaurant, Bishop's Stortford.

Jan Durkin  
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## THE CRAFTON ROOM

Following a pleasant spring lunch and a successful quiz evening in aid of Breast Cancer in April, I am pleased to announce that we will be holding a free event in remembrance



of Nellie Tyler. Nellie enjoyed visiting the Day Centre over many years where she enjoyed the company of her friends, and all the special occasions that occurred. Her visits were the highlight of her weeks. The event will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2.30pm-4.30pm. Funded by a contribution from her family and friends for the enjoyment and pleasure of current users and supporters of the centre, Afternoon Tea will be served with classic sing-along entertainment and

transport provided for those who need it. I look forward to seeing you there.

Please note, as from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May we will no longer be offering the services of volunteer drivers to bring people to lunches at the centre; however transport will still be available at a small cost from Uttlesford Community Transport and will need to be booked in advance through myself. Please call for more information. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the volunteer drivers for their hard work, dedication and commitment over the years. The next Fish and Chip Friday is on 29<sup>th</sup> May 12.30pm priced £7.50 with a lucky ticket draw.



Julie Beck  
Manager  
Tel: 815091  
Email: juliebeck1989@gmail.com



Thank you to all those who supported our 5<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night in March at Forest Hall School and to all who helped to make the evening such a great success. Supporters were very generous in buying raffle tickets which raised an amazing £510 and a final total of £1,757 was given to the Hospice which will benefit both patients and their families at a difficult time in their lives. Gill Robinson would also like to thank all the volunteers who turned out before, during and after the recent Jumble Sale in order to help raise a further £588 for the Hospice. It was rather disappointing not to see more local support for this event; however, many of the Hospice's shops benefited from the items which were left over. The quiz nights at the Kings Arms have already raised £245 since January. Jackie has built up a great following of quizzers who not only enjoy her quizzes, but also donate their winnings to the Hospice. Thank you all again for your continuing support; we are most grateful.



Caroline Bore  
Tel: 813938

## KEEPING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE ONLINE

[www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk/news/item/staying-safe-online](http://www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk/news/item/staying-safe-online)

The Internet is full of very useful information but just like the offline world, being cautious is paramount.

- 1. Put effective locks on your accounts** by making sure you have different, difficult-to-guess passwords for your email and important accounts, eg bank. Good passwords include a combination of letters and numbers - longer is better. **Top Tip:** use a phrase – a quote, song lyric or book title, eg "To be or not to be - that is the question" = 2bon2btitq. **Do not use easy-to-guess passwords** like your children's names and avoid trying to remember infrequently used passwords – use the password reset instead
- 2. Use the security lock on your phone/tablet** - apps often store password information such as your email
- 3. Keep your family safe from other people's posts** by using your broadband provider's parental controls; use security software filters for each device and specific sites/apps
- 4. Have conversations with your children** about what to do if they see something online that they are uncomfortable with or get messages from strangers; children don't have the life experience to help them spot or deal with difficult situations. Facebook and Instagram have **age limits for a reason**
- 5. Keep your family safe from the things that they post** Assume everything posted on the internet is public. Even if you use privacy settings on social media sites, it is easy for onward sharing to expose information you had not intended. Identity thieves can use information across different sources; date of birth and pictures of your car and house are particularly useful to them. **Do not give away your location** as doing so can compromise personal safety or that of your property. **Do not announce your holiday plans** or check in on social media; turn geolocation off when uploading photos

**6. Protect yourself from scammers and fraudsters** by keeping your security software up to date, and when buying something, make sure the website is secure by checking the address starts with https://

**7. Be alert to 'phishing'** – emails or social media messages trying to defraud you of money directly/indirectly. Typically, they are urgent such as: verify your account, change your password, pick up a parcel or claim a prize immediately

**8. Don't click on links/download attachments/software** especially in emails. If it is a phishing message you might be downloading something sinister! Instead, phone the sender or go to their website via your own search engine.

Jo Hancock  
Tel: 01799 618840  
Email: bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabinet.org.uk



[www.mitp-bentfield.co.uk](http://www.mitp-bentfield.co.uk)

Advance notice that this year's event is on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2.00pm-8.00 pm. Tickets on sale from 1<sup>st</sup> May. Email: [mitp@btinternet.com](mailto:mitp@btinternet.com) for details or visit our website.

Sam Scott

## STANSTED STROLL

This month's stroll is suitable for parents with buggies on footpaths that are generally easy to walk. Another circular route, going past St Mary's Church and with views across Stansted Park to Stansted Hall (Arthur Findlay College) from **FP54** featured on the front cover. It's about 2 miles and takes approximately 30 – 60 minutes.

Note for dog walkers: **Red crosses** on the map indicate special red bins along the route for the disposal of bagged dogs' poo.

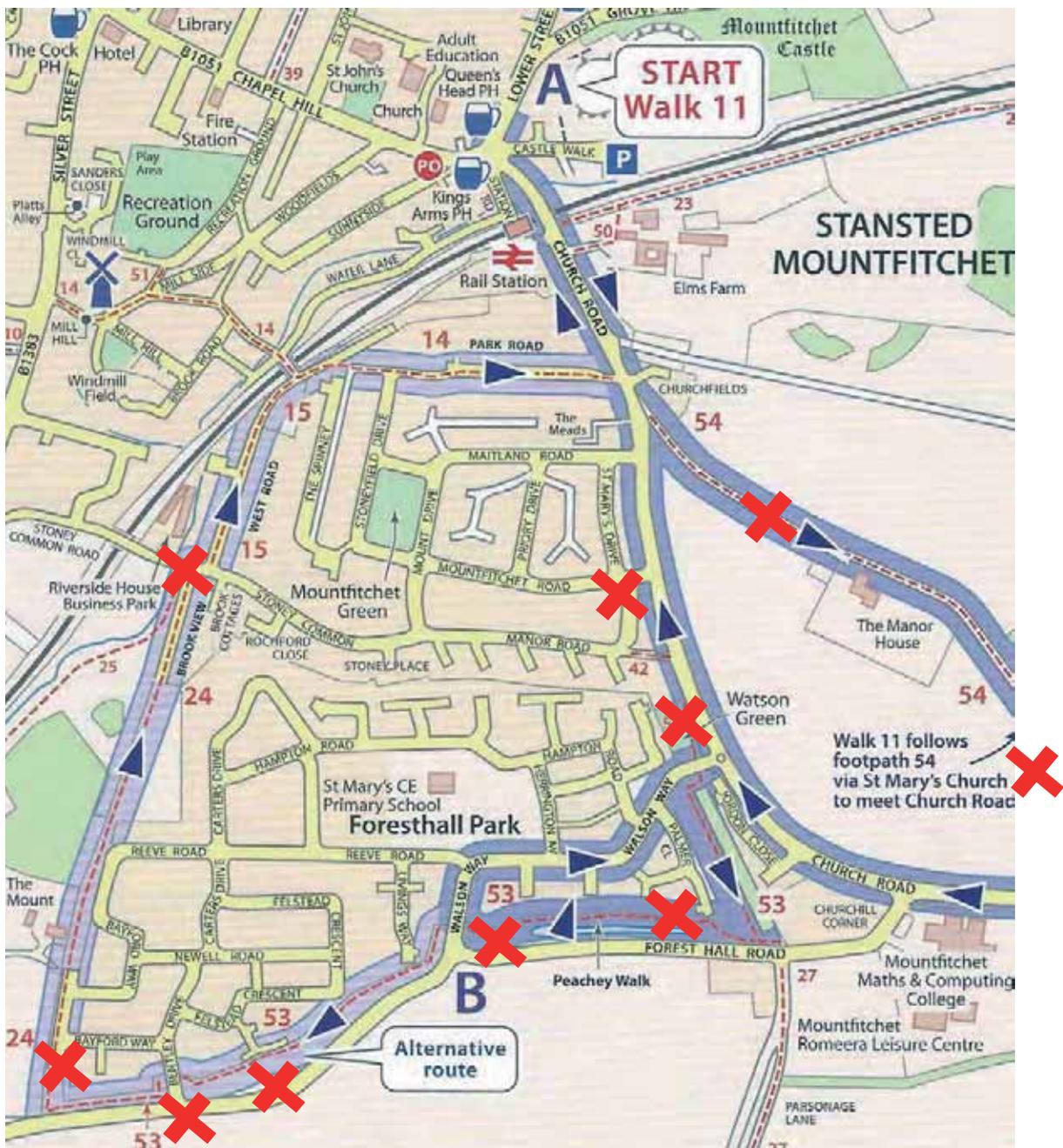
Starting in Lower Street by the shops marked **A Walk 11** on the map, walk over the railway bridge up Church Road to **FP54**. Go along the footpath passing St Mary's Church and re-join Church Road. Turn right then left at the junction of Church Road and Walson Way and left again onto **BR53**.

Follow the bridleway where it becomes Peachey Walk and continue along Peachey Walk until it re-joins Walson Way. Turn right at point **B** and follow Walson Way back to the junction with Church Road. Walk downhill back to Lower Street and starting point.

The walk can be extended by about a mile at point **B** but is only suitable for single buggies and in dry weather. Cross over Walson Way and continue along **BR53** beside Forest Hall Road to **FP24**. Walk along this path to Brook View and Stoney Common Road. Turn right, then left into West Road, bearing right at the end to join **FP14** along Park Road. Cross Church Road, being careful as sight lines can be obscured at this time of year, turn left and back to Lower Street.

Enjoy the stroll and the lovely scenery.

*Taken from 'Saunters Round Stansted' produced by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council with their kind permission*



## BISHOP'S STORTFORD AND DISTRICT FOOTPATHS ASSOCIATION

www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

*OK Quiz time...what does the BSDFA stand for?*  
*Answer* Bishop's Stortford and District Footpaths Association. The BSDFA!!! The words to remember are - '**and district**'... This local voluntary organisation embodies a wide local area and has its roots dating back to 1957. It is a multi-aged group who enjoy walking the many and generous number of footpaths, bridle-ways and by-ways in our area, and who wish to ensure they are well maintained and available **free for all** for the foreseeable future. Our area encompasses North Harlow, Stortford, Hatfield Heath, Stansted, Birchanger, Much Hadham, Little Hadham and all the super villages around and en-route to Saffron Walden. We walk twice a month, on a Sunday morning, setting off at 10.00am sharp, so there is plenty of time after a five or six mile walk to enjoy the rest of the day participating in other activities and being with the family. This is not an all-enveloping commitment, simply come when you can and join in. It is not an expensive experience. You do, however, need to have suitable clothes and sensible shoes or boots, particularly if it is bad weather or has been raining in the days before, as we do walk over fields. **We do not hurtle along** but we like to be back at our starting point at 12.30-1.00pm. Bring a banana and water if you wish, and we can normally accommodate a dog on a lead. As a bonus, sometimes there is a pub at our start/end point. We have some stunning local countryside, animals, plants and birds in the Herts and Essex borders which we will see, walk and talk through. Yes, all this, and your weekly exercise too. Remember we need to leave at 10.00am so allow sufficient time to park and change into boots and whatever! Meeting points for May are:

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May** Nags Head, Dunmow Road BS GR TL500210 Postcode CM23 5HP Tel: 07920 254825.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May** Hatfield Heath, Car Park next to the Chippy GR TL523150 Postcode CM22 7EB Tel: 501596.

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis  
Member

## STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

The World Cup has deservedly been won by Australia. The Aussies and New Zealand will be visiting these shores this summer so our Test team could be in for a difficult time. How things have changed – four years ago we were the team to beat!!! The club is up and running for the new season with grounds looking good and pavilions cleaned. The Fixture Cards are complete and sent out to all. The hard winter work has been done so let the cricket begin. Our junior outdoor coaching begins on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>; U10 boys at 5.30pm, all girls at 6.30pm along with U13 boys. The girls will be coached separately after the 'warm up'. U15 boys will net with the seniors on Wednesday evenings. All are very welcome to come and see our facilities and hopefully join our community club.



David Brown  
Tel: 831011

Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com



## THE PLACE ON THE HILL

Our Easter Special event was attended by 14 adults and 10 children, who decorated crosses (led by Betty), painted (led by Arthur) and made and decorated Easter baskets (led by Ros). Rev'd Roy Fowler gave a short talk about the meaning of Easter and led some short prayers. The children were given small Fairtrade Easter eggs and a Bible Society Children's picture booklet called *The First Easter*. The adults received palm crosses with a short message attached.



We are open Wed and Fri 9.30am – 12.30pm with Art for All on the first Friday, and storytime on the third Friday. Free refreshments and internet, good company, space for the children to run around, plus a quiet area with comfy seating. Come and join us – all ages are welcome.



Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059

## GARDENING TIPS

May is the time for hunting down and disposing of pests that wish to consume your hard working garden plants. Culprits include Viburnum beetle, Lily beetle, aphids on roses, etc. Viburnum beetle larvae tend to eat the leaves from the underside, and are about the size of a little fingernail. This month you can prune back some of your early flowering clematis (*armandii*, *montana*, *alpina*) if they are outgrowing their allotted space. Don't be tempted to plant tomatoes outdoors until all risk of frost has passed, so more to the end of the month! Remove side shoots from the leaf axils of cordon trained tomato plants. Remove leaves on pear trees with orange spots on them to prevent spread of the pear rust fungus, incidentally in winter juniper shrubs/trees you have act as a host for the fungus.

Try to allow daffodil and tulip bulbs to brown naturally with age, tying the leaves up in a neat knot reduces the ability of the plant to produce food, and can cause next year's flowers to be smaller or not appear at all. Any bulbs that have leaves that are showing signs of disease should be removed and in the case of tulips burned or sent to council compost tips as they are hot enough to kill the viruses and fungi, alas home compost heaps are not hot enough. Some plants that you may see for sale in nurseries this month that are looking great are: Geranium 'Rozanne', Alstroemeria, Penstemons and Leucanthemum. Be careful when trimming hedges and shrubs, as birds could be nesting in amongst the branches, and do not feed birds with foods such as peanuts at this time of year as they could choke little chicks.

Paul the Gardener

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The spring term has been very short this year. However, we have pushed on to achieve the school's learning targets for the term, as well as fitting in plenty of the enrichment activities that add to that learning. We have enjoyed sports fixtures with other schools in tag rugby, netball and football as well as our own intra-house tournaments. Crusaders seem to be the 'sporty' house this year, winning the house cups for netball and rugby, but we still have a football tournament and Sports Day to come.

The House Points prize is still anyone's with one term to go! The Foundation Stage have been busy planting trays of seed - cress, beans, beetroot, courgettes - ready to plant out in their vegetable garden. They have also planted sunflowers, and created some wonderful artwork inspired by Van Gogh. Years 1 and 2 have been studying a topic on flight, and spent a fascinating day at Duxford Air Museum. They created sketches and artwork, learned about the parts of a plane and finally used teamwork in building a model aircraft. Years 3 and 4 had a day in Hatfield Forest where they also had to use teamwork in building dens in the woods. They created art from materials found in the environment and navigated around the Forest using map skills.



Years 5 and 6 visited the British Library where they spent the morning working on the Magna Carta. The pupils impressed the Library staff with the level of knowledge they already had from work done in school, and also the depth with which they could discuss the significance of the Magna Carta and the issues it sought to address. During the afternoon the children completed a treasure hunt based on a wonderful collection of manuscripts, illustrations and music scores. To see the actual writings of historical figures such as Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII, Leonardo da Vinci and Charles Dickens was very exciting!

The whole school enjoyed World Book Day with dressing up and a book fair. The school was filled with all sorts of fictional characters from Romeo and Juliet to the Saucepan Man! It was very interesting to see the choice of costume worn by the staff... I have to give a special mention to Mrs Hansen who spent the whole day dressed as Captain Underpants! If you are new to the area and would like to have a look, please call us to arrange a visit. Meanwhile, you can learn about the school from our website.

Christine Tonkins  
Headteacher  
Tel: 812212

Email: [admin@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk)

Our **open day in May is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>** when we welcome **Dunmow Wind Band** to the gardens for the first time, performing from 1.00pm- 3.00pm - there is something very special about listening to live music in this magical place. Delicious homemade soup, bacon baps and cheese rolls will be on sale until 2.15pm; hot and cold drinks, crisps and homemade cakes will be available all day. There will be children's craft and nature activities on offer and **guided tours at 12.30pm and 3.15pm**, and as always dogs are welcome on leads. There will also be a selection of craft stalls for you to browse and our archive building will be open offering a glimpse into the fascinating history of the gardens. Entrance fees are just **£3.50 for adults with children FREE**. We also offer season tickets £10 for 12 months entry on open days; details are on the website or buy one at the gate. Gates are open 11.30am-5.00pm (last entry 4.00pm). For more information about open days and volunteer opportunities see our website, email: [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk) or call 01371 876979 (recorded information but you can leave a message).

### Willow Weaving Courses

We are pleased to announce that one Saturday per month over the summer there will be a willow weaving course at the gardens run by the very lovely Deb Hart. Each month she will offer the opportunity to make a different item, or even two, and we have no doubt it will be great fun. The courses would also make ideal gifts. There is a lot more information about each course and how to book on our website under the *Follow Us* tab and then *Events*. Please note that the Gardens are not open to the public at this time and the course must be booked in advance.

Helen Carter  
Trust Administrator  
Tel: 07899 9074107

Email: [helen@the-old-barn.net](mailto:helen@the-old-barn.net)



### STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

I am pleased to say that our Coffee Morning was well attended and was a very sociable occasion. Our initial openings this year during Easter were quite well attended with visitors, including children, who were very interested in the Mill. The observant among you will have noticed that the sails were in the customary position of the sign of the cross on Good Friday returning to their normal position on Easter Sunday. Unfortunately our April Race Night had to be postponed but plans are being made for it to be held in the Autumn. We will have a stall at the Summer Fayre on 4<sup>th</sup> July and later in July is our popular Afternoon Tea at the Mill.

### Windmill Open in May 1.30 pm- 5.30pm

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bank Holiday Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> (National Mills Day), Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>, Bank Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup>.



Molly Clark  
Co-Trustee  
Tel: 816768

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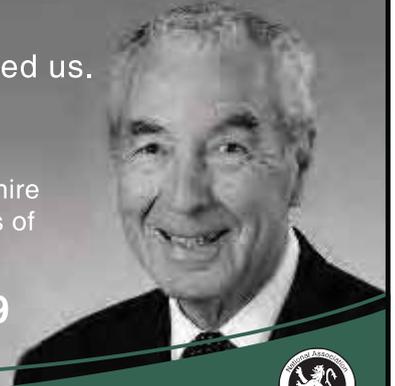
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# Stansted Network

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

### WHO DOES WHAT

You may well be reading this just before you go out to vote so it might be helpful to you to have an overview of the responsibilities that each of the three tiers of local government has.

#### Parish Council

- Maintenance of the play areas in the village i.e. Recreation Ground, Bentfield Green and Pond, Mountfitchet Green, War Memorial, the skatepark and all public open spaces - soon to include Foresthall Park
- Flood prevention-seeking a long term solution whilst pursuing short term strategies to mitigate the impact of any flood threat
- Street-lighting – maintenance of about 80% of the village lights and associated running costs
- Grass Cutting - play areas, all land owned by The Parish Council including the Windmill, Crafton Green and Tennis Club. We also look after the Memorial Gardens and Fountain. As agents for Essex County Council, we cut some grass verges within the parish boundaries. In the near future the open spaces on Foresthall Park will become a Parish Council Responsibility Park
- Full time litter collector – Gerard Frogley
- Maintenance of Stansted Cemetery
- Financial support for Stansted Youth Centre.
- Financial support for the Windmill
- Annual Bonfire and Firework event
- The Christmas Market
- Stansted in Bloom
- Welcome Pack for new residents
- Management of the CCTV system
- Communication with residents via the website, Link pages and notice boards
- We are currently working on plans for a major new community building to be opened in 2016, a new skatepark to be opened this summer, refurbishment of the Day Centre and further enhancement of play areas following the re-opening of the Bentfield Green Play Area (see page 22).

Your Parish Councillors sit on a variety committees and working groups including Finance and General Purposes, Open Spaces, Flooding, Highways and Parking, as well as attending about 20 Full Council Meetings a year. Unlike MPs they are not paid and don't have any way of claiming excessive expenses! It can be a busy and demanding role but it has its rewards (see the Chairman's expression at Bentfield Green Play Area Opening).

#### District Council

- Housing - council, homelessness.
- Elderly Services - homes, day centres.
- Leisure - countryside, sports.
- Environmental Health - air quality, noise, food, abandoned vehicles.
- Planning - residents, business, census.
- Waste - recycling, refuse collection, WC's.
- Parking

#### County Council

- Education - schools, colleges, adult learning.
- Social Services - Welfare.
- Highways - grass verge, hedgerow and tree cutting, road and pavement repairs.
- Libraries - learning centres, local history.
- Registrar - births, marriages, deaths.

#### CONSULTATION ON PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

Essex County Council have published a consultation document containing proposals for the development of a new primary school in St John's Road. They held drop-in sessions on Thursday 9th April where officers were present to discuss what is proposed and answer questions. Any person may comment upon or object to the proposal. The final date for Essex to receive these will be midday on 7 May. You may also submit your views (by that date) using their electronic response form, which can be found at [www.school.organisation@essex.gov.uk](mailto:www.school.organisation@essex.gov.uk)

A further consultation was agreed to give more people a chance to express their views and you can also access the consultation document via the Parish Council website but the following extracts outline what they are proposing:

A new school, which would be an Academy or Free School as required by Government legislation, is proposed to be established in the Peter Kirk buildings on St John's Road, Stansted Mountfitchet from September 2016. The new school would provide additional provision for pupils residing in Stansted where further pressure on places is predicted to continue as a result of a continued rise in the birth rate; increased inward migration and further new housing.

The opening date for the new school would be September 2016. The school would cater for 210 primary aged pupils. It is anticipated that the new school would open with a Reception intake of 30 in September 2016, and an admission limit of 15 in years 1, 2, 3 and 4. The school would then grow on a phased basis with future Reception intakes of up to 30. These additional 30 places in Reception each year would accommodate the forecast deficit in places.

The County Council is proposing to remodel the existing Peter Kirk buildings and use the old St Mary's Primary playing field, as well as delivering a substantial amount of new build accommodation. This building project would provide the high quality educational environment required to deliver primary education.

The accommodation will include the provision of new classrooms, group rooms, kitchen facilities and additional hall space as well as the necessary office and administration areas.

### **DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE PARISH OFFICE**

At a conservative estimate, 95% of you reading this article will never have set foot in the Parish Office and 90% of you won't even know where it is located so we thought it might be a good idea to give you some insight into what happens in a typical day in your Parish Office.

Just to set the scene the office is located on the first floor of Craffon Green House above the Health Clinic. It is an L-shaped office with a large conference table which we can just about squeeze the full Council round if we hold a meeting in the office. In addition there are two workstations with state-of-the-art computers and communication equipment (we wish!)

On a normal day there are three staff who work in the office. Ruth Clifford, who has been the Parish Clerk since 1992 is the boss. She is the font of all wisdom on how meetings are conducted, responsibilities allocated and how to manage council activities and finances effectively, including preparation of the end of year accounts. She is assisted by the long serving Anne Court who has worked for the council since 1986 and the new boy, Trevor Lloyd who started in 2013.

Officially the office opens to the public at 10.00 am but there is usually somebody here from 8.30. The first job is to check the answerphone. The most common messages are from undertakers making enquiries about the cemetery but there are often messages from residents about street lights, anti-social behaviour or trees which we need to respond to. If you ever leave us a message it helps if you say your name very clearly and say your phone number slowly and then repeat it. The first visitor of the day is usually our litter picker Gerard who drops in to give us his perspective of what is happening on the streets. His most common cause of concern is broken glass bottles which present a safety hazard and are difficult and time consuming for him to clear up.

Most days we get a couple of residents who call in for rail cards or to buy the recycling bags that we stock and the occasional unhappy resident hoping we might be able to sort out a parking problem or other issue that has impacted on their neighbourhood. The phone seems to ring on a regular basis. Green recycling dates and times seem to be our most common enquiry at the moment. At some point Steve the village handyman will drop in to discuss his varied schedule of jobs from making out graves in the cemetery to patching up the skatepark.

The Parish Chairman and Chair of Finance and General Purpose are regular visitors to the office to prepare for meetings and make sure all the paid staff are kept busy.

There are many important routine issues that have to be attended to such as the arrangements for funerals in the cemetery, reports from sub-committees and working groups, agendas and minutes for meetings take up a fair bit of time. It's also important we communicate with our residents so our website has to be kept up to date and we have to put together the Stansted Network which goes out every month as part of The Link. We also have a presence on social network through Street Life but we don't tweet or do Facebook - yet!

As well as the routine issues we have a number of long term projects we are looking after such as the new Community Building and Skatepark. We have secured the funding for these projects and now have to deal with all the bureaucracy that surround construction projects. There are a number of other projects which we want to press ahead with if we can obtain funding including outdoor fitness equipment, a new home for the village fire pump near the Windmill and the refurbishment of the Day Centre. Once our new Community Building is up and running we will have a slightly more public face with a customer service desk and extended opening hours but in the meantime if you want to see what we look like but can't get into the office you can look on our website.

## DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

### May

6th Full Council  
8th Parish Reception 8 pm Day Centre  
20th Annual Council and Open Spaces

## CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford. Admin Assist - Anne Court  
Assistant to the Parish Clerk-Trevor Lloyd  
Email: [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net)  
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10am - 1pm  
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## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Maureen Caton (Chairman)	813914 <a href="mailto:m.caton@hotmail.co.uk">m.caton@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Catherine Dean	813579 <a href="mailto:catherinemarydean@btinternet.com">catherinemarydean@btinternet.com</a>
Samantha Dunn	810859 <a href="mailto:Cllrsamanthadunn@stansted.net">Cllrsamanthadunn@stansted.net</a>
Jo Freeman	812524 <a href="mailto:j.freeman195@yahoo.com">j.freeman195@yahoo.com</a>
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489 <a href="mailto:john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk">john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk</a>
Peter Jones	813252 <a href="mailto:peter@lowerstreet.com">peter@lowerstreet.com</a>
John O'Brien	816772 <a href="mailto:Johnedobrien@gmail.com">Johnedobrien@gmail.com</a>
Rachel Pocknell	816215 <a href="mailto:Rachel.pocknell@gmail.com">Rachel.pocknell@gmail.com</a>
Frances Richards	812748 <a href="mailto:frannie.richards@gmail.com">frannie.richards@gmail.com</a>
John Salmon	814789 <a href="mailto:sam@salmonfamily.me.uk">sam@salmonfamily.me.uk</a>
John Savopoulos	817687 <a href="mailto:johnsav8@gmail.com">johnsav8@gmail.com</a>
Geoffrey Sell (Vice Chairman)	815925 <a href="mailto:sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk">sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Valerie Trundle	813433 <a href="mailto:prtvt@btinternet.com">prtvt@btinternet.com</a>

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alan Dean	813579 <a href="mailto:cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>
Iris Evans	815848 <a href="mailto:cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>
John Salmon	814789 <a href="mailto:cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>
Joe Rich	813112 <a href="mailto:cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk">cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk</a>

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Ray Gooding 813103  
[cldr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.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](mailto:alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk)

Police - PC Neil Russell 101  
Non-emergency

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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

## Parish Public Transport Representatives

Valerie Trundle - 813433  
Joy Thomas - 813871

## RETIRING COUNCILLORS

Parish Councillors Jo Freeman, Bridget Gott, Valerie Trundle, John Savopoulos and Rachel Pocknell and District Councillors Iris Evans and Joe Rich are not standing for re-election. We would like to thank them for everything they have done for the community they represent and wish them well in the future.

## STANSTED LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

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Email: [stansted.library@essex.gov.uk](mailto:stansted.library@essex.gov.uk)

## NEWS FROM ESSEX POLICE

Essex Police are working with Essex County Council and Age UK Essex as part of a campaign to warn residents to 'Be Sure at the Door'. Rogue traders are people who call at your door pretending to be qualified trades people and offering to do work on your home. They may seem friendly and persuasive but too often they target vulnerable people and carry out poor household repairs to roofs and driveways.

You decide whether you need any work done to your house, not them. Free fridge magnets with advice on how to avoid cold callers are available from your local library and GP surgery. If you think you've been taken in by a rogue trader, please let us know by calling 101, contact Trading Standards on 08454 040 506 or talk to a friend or relative.

## BENTFIELD GREEN PLAY AREA RE-OPENS AFTER MAKEOVER

The £63,000 make over of the Bentfield Play was completed in early April but regrettably due to problems with delivery of raw materials was not quite ready to let the children loose on when the opening event was staged on Thursday 2 April. The official opening party consisted of Councillor Norman Hume, Chairman of Essex County Council, Councillor Maureen Caton, Chairman of the Parish Council accompanied by Councillor Samantha Dunn, Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee and Bill Stiles representing Viridor Credits who part funded the project.



Thank you to Tesco for supplying the Easter Eggs, Millways for the Ballons and the Rose and Crown for the tea and hospitality.

## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK	Vivian Falk, Chairman
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs, Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Tots (age 1½-rising 3)	Tina South Tel: 814371
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	U3A	Sandra, Secretary Tel: 814304
Inner Wheel Club	Brenda Cox, President Tel: 812191 Email: brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver, President Tel: 812470
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Magna Carta 800th	Nigel Collingwood Tel: 813428	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213		
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@music@stansted.co.uk		
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 8th of the month for publication the following month.

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## Mountfitchet House Care Home

Corner Coltsfield/High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ

Tel: 03331 225 548

[www.careuk.com/mountfitchet-house](http://www.careuk.com/mountfitchet-house)

### Luxury and comfort at the new Mountfitchet House care home

On your first visit to Mountfitchet House you'd be forgiven for thinking you've entered a hotel. You'll be greeted by friendly staff on reception, and there's a coffee shop, a cinema, and even a hair salon. Each of the bedrooms has an en-suite wet room plus a flat-screen television, adjustable profile bed, phone and internet connections and a 24-hour nurse call system.

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

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





**THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY**  
www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Easter saw the reopening of many of the area's smaller attractions. If you haven't been for a while, do try one of our super small museums at Ashdon, Great Dunmow or Much Hadham or the Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden. You will learn much about our heritage at each of them. Please check the attractions page on our website for opening times or links to their websites. Until a hundred years ago, there was an active mill in almost every parish – primarily grinding wheat from local fields into flour for the village baker. A few mills are sufficiently well-preserved to open to the public. May 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> is National Mills Weekend and some of our local mills will be manned by volunteers and welcoming visitors: the watermill at Hinxton and windmills at Ashdon, Finchingfield, Stansted and Thaxted – see our website's What's On page. May 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> will also see the start of local Magna Carta anniversary celebrations with a medieval weekend at Pleshey Castle. Now should be a good time to visit our bluebell woods, such as those at Much Hadham, Quendon or Rickling which have public footpath access. Before you set off to one of these 'attractions', please review our parish introduction – it may encourage you to look around a little more and will give you ideas where to eat. We rely on funding from membership subscriptions to keep our website live and to be able to expand the services we provide. Membership costs only £10 a year for a household, a council or any other organisation. Please consider joining - the easiest way is to go to our website and select the Membership option.

Ken McDonald  
Secretary  
Tel: 813226

Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com



**THE STANSTED STITCHERS**  
(Magna Carta Embroiders)

We are the 'Stansted Stitches'  
Twenty ladies and one man.  
The Magna Carta is our theme;  
to display our history is our dream.  
The year was 1215.

When barons, twenty-five in all,  
forced bad King John to take a fall,  
he set his seal to the 'Plan for All'.  
In the field at Runnymede.

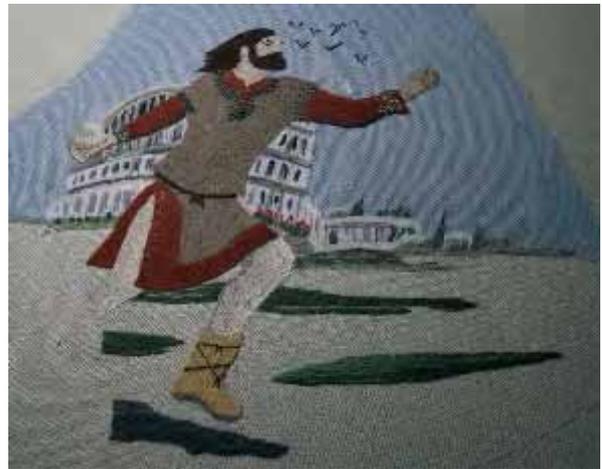
Eight hundred years, thro' joy and tears,  
thro' war and peace throughout the years.  
We lived with pride and faced our fears  
In our village of Mountfitchet.

by Betty Kuczynski  
A member of the embroidery team



**MAGNA CARTA 800**  
www.stanstedmagnacartaevents.co.uk

The Embroidery is now being assembled. The buildings are being stitched onto the background fabric which will then fit into the oak frames specially made to hold the embroidery. Meanwhile stitching the last few scenes continues. The latest photograph of a panel from the embroidery shows Richard de Montfichet who was banished to Rome and became notable due to his stone-throwing ability.



There is to be a sale of items connected with embroidery, many from the Long Bar Embroidery Study Centre, together with a coffee morning on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am in the Day Centre. Books, materials, threads, wools and sewing 'bits' will be on sale to raise funds towards further costs. Tickets for the Medieval Fayre will soon be on sale. Details will be on our website. Three hundred family tickets will be on sale at £20 for 2 adults and 2 children. Once they are sold, tickets will be sold at the standard price of adult £8, child £5 (age 3 to 15). Volunteers are needed for the smooth running of the Fayre. As all displays are staged twice no one will miss out on seeing the main events. Any horse riders who would like to take part in the Pageant please contact me. Look out for Magna Carta quiz sheets on sale for £1 at venues around the village.

**Magna Carta Events:**

In May The City of London have invited a representation to join them to mark the occasion of the City in 1215 changing allegiance and opening its doors to the rebel barons.

- 19<sup>th</sup> Jun Facsimile exhibition at St Mary's Church
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jun Arrival of cyclist Lance Allen at St Mary's Church bearing a copy of the Magna Carta
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Jun Unveiling of the embroidery and Pictorial and Card Exhibition
- 27<sup>th</sup> Jun Medieval Fayre and Pageant
- 11<sup>th</sup> Sep Music and Drama by Trouvere
- 16<sup>th</sup> Sep Talk by Peter Sanders on The Early Montfichets
- 25<sup>th</sup> Sep Celebration of Liberty, an evening of our local talent, singers and actors.

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

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## HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We had a very busy month leading up to the Easter break with the children participating in lots of activities. Everybody had great fun completing an Easter Egg hunt and we had an exciting trip to visit Birchanger Church for the Easter celebrations. The little ones also made giant, colourful eggs to decorate the nursery using their fine motor skills to scrunch, glue and stick. Here are two of our butterflies with the giant egg they were making.



We were very lucky to have the owners of Lower Street Brasserie come in and teach the children how to make bread. The nursery smelled amazing whilst the bread was cooking and the explanation of just five ingredients, mixing, rising and then forming into rolls made it all sound so easy. The best bit according to the children however, was eating their creations - delicious! The next topic we will be looking at is changes and we have some amazing things planned. We will look at all types of changes from materials to colours and using all sorts of mediums from play dough to junk modelling. We are also expecting some very important visitors and will tell you about our adventures next month.

Our AGM was held at the end of March and we welcomed reception teachers from two local primary schools to give a talk on choosing a school and the transition from nursery to 'big school'. They provided useful information on the processes involved and were able to answer parents' questions and allay some fears on how their children would cope. We were very grateful that the teachers gave up their time to talk to us and our parents found it really useful. Birchanger Nursery is a preschool facility in the grounds of, but separate from, Birchanger Primary School. To arrange a visit call 810800, email: [admin@birchangernursery.org](mailto:admin@birchangernursery.org) or see [www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery](http://www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery)

Kirsty Moore  
Birchanger Nursery Committee

## HATFIELD BROAD OAK FLOWER FESTIVAL

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> - Mon 25<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am-5.00pm St Mary's Church**  
There will be fabulous floral displays inside our historic 12th century church and numerous stalls and fun activities in the churchyard including teddy bear parachuting and a barbecue. On Sunday there is organ music in the church and on Monday you can support the 10k runners as they race through the village. Free entry, free parking. For details, visit [www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchFlowerFestival](http://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchFlowerFestival)

The Huw Johnson Club is closed over the Easter break, but we had a busy few weeks since we re-started in February. We had a great time celebrating Joanne and Andrew's birthday with fish and chips from Churchill's - we managed to polish them all off (plus a few extras) as well as quite a bit of birthday cake! We were also treated to an evening of chemistry by Fraser - we started off making a non-Newtonian fluid (yes, really!), which turned into putty if you stirred it really fast, but turned back into a liquid when you stopped. We also made ice-cream in five minutes using milk, ice, salt and lots of shaking, and created a coke-volcano with a bottle of coke and some Mentos. It was lots of fun - if a bit messy! We finished the term with an Easter crafts evening; we made some Easter decorations and cards to take home, with lots of feathers, sequins and glitter. We had a bowling evening, and our AGM was on the 21<sup>st</sup> April - our 40<sup>th</sup>!

We have a lot of exciting activities coming up - from film nights to special guests and bingo. Just a reminder, if anyone has any Disco, Karaoke or cinema equipment that we could borrow, please do get in touch - we would be very grateful! As always, we are looking for more drivers, mini-bus escorts or helpers. Please contact either Sandra Embleton (812627) or myself for more information.



Katharine Collis  
Tel: 461270  
Email: [kat\\_collis@hotmail.com](mailto:kat_collis@hotmail.com)



The number of children attending *Investigators* has continued to increase steadily since January, so in order to maintain good adult/child ratios, until more leaders can be found, we cannot accept new children on a Friday night without prior arrangement. Please contact me if your son/daughter aged 7-10 is interested in starting soon, or would like to go on a waiting list for September, and we will be sure to let you know as soon as we have more leaders in place and can accept new children. Even with additional leaders we will not be able to accept more than another five or six children in the immediate future because of the size of the hall.

Investigators is a group for children which includes games, Bible stories, challenges, creative activities, etc. Topics and activities explored this year have included the origins of our names, and local place-names, as well as creating our own puppet plays and making edible Easter 'nests'. Some of the older children recently moved on to full-size puppets and used them at the TasteEaster event at the Day Centre.



Ros Page  
Tel: 810813  
Email: [contactstanfam@yahoo.com](mailto:contactstanfam@yahoo.com)

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www.thaxtedfestival.org.uk

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Have you ever been to the Festival? If not, be sure to give it a try this year. Thaxted Church is a beautiful and atmospheric venue, blessed with an excellent acoustic and set in an attractive and interesting mediaeval town, with guildhall, windmill, almshouses and picturesque Town Street. The Festival is friendly and informal and run by enthusiastic volunteers and the 15 weekend concerts cater for a wide variety of tastes. The opening concert is by the Festival's resident orchestra, the **Brandenburg Sinfonia**. The next evening **Red Priest** borrows some of the gear and attitude of a pop band in their interpretations of famous numbers from Handel's *Messiah*. There is a centenary tribute to **Frank Sinatra**, with **Matt Ford** impersonating the great star, and two jazz concerts, one led by **James Pearson**, the artistic director of **Ronnie Scott's**. There is a Saturday morning **Family Concert** (featuring a musical setting of Roald Dahl's *Little Red Riding Hood*) and a lunchtime recital on Thaxted Church's historic, newly restored and unique **Lincoln Organ**. The closing concert is by **Tenebrae**, the award-winning choir. Full details are available on the website or ask for a brochure - email: thaxtedfestival@btconnect.com or leave a message on 01371 831421.

Gareth Stainer  
Artistic Director

### WILLOW WARRIOR

Bring out your inner warrior with a 5k or 10k lively mud run and obstacle course in the grounds of Elm Park at Elms Farm, Church Road on 14th June. Willow Warrior raises funds for Willow - the only national charity working with seriously ill young adults aged 16 to 40 to fulfil uplifting and unforgettable Special Days. The mud run is great for beginners and seasoned obstacle runners alike with a series of challenging natural and man-made obstacles including paint guns, cargo nets, tyre and river runs, and much more. You can compete as a team or on your own, but be prepared for plenty of mud, fun and adventure. Starting in waves from 9.30am, the event is open to anyone aged 17 or over. Parking, toilets and refreshments available on site, spectators welcome, plus water stations and marshals on the course. We ask everyone taking part to try and fundraise as much as they can for Willow to help create more unforgettable Special Days. To date, Willow has provided more than 11,500 Special Days for young adults diagnosed with a life-threatening condition such as cancer, motor neurone disease, cystic fibrosis and Huntington's disease. Founded by former Scotland and Arsenal goalkeeper and TV presenter, Bob Wilson and his wife, Megs, Willow is a lasting memorial to their daughter, Anna, who died of cancer aged 31. Anna's love of life and the enriching experiences of her own Special Days were the charity's inspiration. Entry fees: 10k £38 and 5k £27. Telephone 01707 259777 or book online at [www.willowfoundation.org.uk/willowwarrior](http://www.willowfoundation.org.uk/willowwarrior) by 5th June.

Jenny Davies  
PR Manager



### STANSTED EVENING WI

At our 98<sup>th</sup> County Annual meeting in Colchester, attended by 1200 members, we were lucky enough to have Stephen Kavanagh, Chief Constable of Essex, as guest Speaker. I found him an inspired and reassuring spokesman for our Police Force here in Essex. He started his career in the Met. in 1985 and by 2003 was appointed Head of Intelligence in Anti-Corruption Command. He spoke of the difficulties that women have had in the past to get promotion in the Police Force, even though police women celebrate their centenary this year, as we do. His great concern at the moment is cyber-bullying amongst young people. He had quite an ovation after his closing words: "The fastest way to change Society is to mobilise the women of the world!" After lunch our second Speaker of the day was Arlene Phillips. A small figure dressed in black, she told of her love for dancing as soon as she could walk, and how,



with monetary help from family members, she was able to have lessons. Her dance troupe 'Hot Gossip' rocketed her to fame and got her into choreography and a career that has lasted until today. She was very restrained in her comments about being asked to leave the Strictly Come Dancing Panel. Taking lots of questions at the end she was

asked if she had thought of producing a CD of dance exercises for older women - unbelievably she is 73 this year- and she promised to go away and think about it!

Lyn Brister, an Elsenham WI member and a County Adviser, attended our meeting to tell us about the history of the WI, which was especially interesting to some of our newer members. We have several new WIs in Essex, the most notable being New City Girls WI which has 350 members and meets in Chelmsford at various venues, including the Cathedral. At the moment we have 54 members and are always pleased to see more or any visitors. Our AGM is on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 7.45pm at the Day Centre - discussion of Resolution.



Judy Colliver  
Tel: 812470  
Email: [judycolliver@uwclub.net](mailto:judycolliver@uwclub.net)

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## BISHOP'S STORTFORD BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

My piece did not appear in the last edition of the Link because of family illness. My brother-in-law had been admitted to Addenbrookes with days to live. After huge efforts by hospital doctors and staff his demise was averted, and he is at home now. What good news. Coincidentally, we had a visiting speaker at BSBKA from the Natural Beekeeping Trust. His approach is that, rather than treat bees for things like the varroa mite, we should let nature take its course. We should not worry about individual bees that die, but see the whole colony as a single organism. This would lead to the survival of the fittest colonies and in the long term, bees resistant to varroa. This led me to wonder how Stansted would operate under this system. Firstly, we would have the absolute authority of a 'queen bee' who, if she said for the good of the community (via Stansted Matters!) that dog owners should clear up their dogs mess, it would happen. Also, if she said that cars should not drive at more than 20 mph that would happen. Each of us would have a designated role - guard villagers to keep all others out of the village. Foragers, who would gather food for all the community, housekeepers who would clear up after the rest of the villagers, and funeral directors who would dump the bodies of the dead outside the village. But we wouldn't have doctors, because we would not treat illness. On the basis of the weak should die, and only the fittest should survive in the interest of the long term strength of the village, my brother-in-law would not be here today.

That is the human dilemma – we either have a community-based system where the needs of the individual are suppressed in favour of the needs of the community, or one based on the individual. What we really desire is all the advantages of each system without the disadvantages - perhaps that is why there is a spectrum of political parties, and there will never be a consensus! But for beekeepers the question is – do we farm our bees by interfering with pest treatments in an attempt to stem colony loss, or let things take their course and let Mother Nature produce resistant colonies of bees in the long term. Like politics, there is a spectrum of opinion within the beekeeping world. From the perspective of our own Bishop's Stortford beekeepers, our aim is to get as many people keeping bees as possible, but it must be up to individuals how they deal with their own colonies. It is only by comparing approaches that we will discover the best way forward. So for us, beekeeping is not a destination, it is a journey of discovery with the objective of stemming the loss of bee colonies.



John Dockerill  
Chairman

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

### RHODES THEATRE

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

This May head to Bishop's Stortford for entertainment!

**1<sup>st</sup> May** *Vamos*, the masked theatre company, will be showcasing their show *Nursing Lives*. This is a heart-warming wartime tale of love and bravery.



- 2<sup>nd</sup> May** *Think Floyd* a great musical phenomena.
- 6<sup>th</sup> May** For fans of Irish folk music the *Kilkennys*
- 8<sup>th</sup> May** *Light Up The Night*, starring Charlotte Jaconelli, Daniel Koek and Jai McDowall.
- 14<sup>th</sup> May** *Aladdin* performed by Ballet Theatre UK
- 15<sup>th</sup> May** See the musical spectacle that is ELO Again.
- 19<sup>th</sup> May** An evening with Ossie Ardiles and Ricky Villa
- 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May** Bop along to Abba tribute, Waterloo.

#### Half Term

Rhodes is ready with plenty of children's entertainment from magic shows, Disney's Tangled Party, the interactive version of Jack and the Beanstalk and of course, Basil Brush! Rhodes... where it all happens. Box Office Tel: 710200.

Jennifer Austin

## NEWS FROM THE VETS

The other day when I was walking our dog Broccoli I came across a small tree by the side of the path with three doggy poo bags hanging from it. Have you seen this new phenomenon? Is there a dog poo fairy that goes round at night hanging up the little bags, a kind of 'dirty protest'? Isn't it amazing that people go to the trouble of scooping their dogs poop but then leave the bags behind rather than putting them in the dog poo bins? Sorry if that was a bit of a rant. It is good that people have got the message - after all there are about eight million dogs in the UK producing an estimated 1000 tonnes of dog poo a day!

Some dog and cat worms can pass to people via worm eggs in poo and cause various health problems including blindness if the worms reach the eye (extremely rare but it has happened). It is also important to worm dogs and cats regularly - puppies and kittens monthly until they are six months old and then every three months. One of the commonest things I hear is "I haven't seen any worms, so I don't have to worm them". The answer is "Some you see and some you don't". The delightful worms that wriggle out of a cat's bottom (sorry you weren't having breakfast were you?) are likely to be tapeworms, while roundworms hide out in the stomach and small intestine and you are only likely to see those if your cat or dog vomits. If you pop into the surgery, one of our nurses or receptionists will give you advice, and remember, the products you get from a vet are safer than those sold by pet shops or supermarkets. There is a new product called Broadline, for cats which is a combined flea, round and tapeworm treatment, so it does everything all with one application. Come and visit us for advice about the wormers but please take your dog poo home with you!



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### Ladies' Night Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 7.00pm

All lady members (especially new ones) are welcome.

### Boyd Trophy

On 20<sup>th</sup> March, 16 keen players competed for the Boyd Trophy. The extremely close final was won by Jon Budd and Fiona Pye, who defeated Ginette Basten and Debbie Lane 6-5. A bring and share lunch was enjoyed afterwards and £40 was raised which has been donated to Grove Cottage.

### Ladders

With the success of last year's junior ladder, three ladders were set up in April. There is now continuous singles competitions at the Club for Juniors, Ladies and Men.

### Club Tournament

Sign-up sheets will be on the Clubhouse noticeboard during May. All senior members are encouraged to enter.

### President's Cup Adult Doubles Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 4.30pm

There will be a fish and chip supper. Only 16 places are available, so members are encouraged to sign up early.

### Club sessions

Sunday morning, Wednesday morning and evening, and Friday morning. All adult members welcome; please use the website page to indicate sessions you will be attending.

### Tennis balls

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

### Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574, or please visit our website.



Chris Hollis



## MOUNTFITCHET HOUSE CARE HOME

### Planning care for the future 12<sup>th</sup> May 2.00pm- 3.30pm

Daniel Kern, Financial Planner at Ashcourt Rowan, will give expert advice and guidance on funding long-term care. There will be a question and answer session, and an opportunity to meet the team and take a tour of the home.

### Dying Matters Awareness 27<sup>th</sup> May 1.30pm- 4.30pm

To support *Dying Matters Awareness Week* we are pleased to provide free training for domiciliary and Care home staff, including the role of the funeral director, dispelling myths about death and dying and how to plan for future care around having difficult conversations. There will be a certificate of attendance and the training is being provided in partnership with staff from South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, The Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust and Daniel Robinson and Sons Funeral Directors. Staff will be available on the day to aid the discussion from a variety of local services that care for people at the end of life. To book a place for either event please contact me.



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

## CASTLE MALTINGS

Some developments in our village we would like to slow down or even stop, but there must be one which most people would like to see grow even faster than it is - Castle Maltings the name of the new building which will house our health centre. Demolition of the former Castle Lotus garage started last August with construction starting in November when 219 piles were drilled to a depth of up to 50 metres forming part of the foundations. It seemed that construction was progressing rather slowly but we now see it advancing at quite a pace; as at the end of March columns to support the building above the first floor are being constructed and concrete for the first floor is being poured. But what will Castle Maltings look like when it's finished and how tall will it be? Hilton Properties Ltd has given permission for The Link to reproduce their drawing. It shows the elevation from the Social Club side, where the road goes towards the car park. The front right is a retail unit which could be a quality cafe, going to the left will be a NHS Dentist with up to three treatment chairs, further to the left will be a medium-sized supermarket (possibly the Co-op), and next door a chemist.



The first floor will be the GP surgery and community health services centre, a facility which we have waited for since 1970. The two floors above will be 14 apartments. The highest point of the building will be no higher than the Social Club. Parking bays in Lower Street car park will be increased and their size will also increase to conform to new standards. Lower Street has long needed a pedestrian crossing for everyone, including Foresthall school children, to cross safely, and this will be another feature as a result of this development. Likewise the junction of Lower Street / Chapel Hill / Church Road and Station Road will change; another long-needed improvement. All this is the result of the Castle Maltings development, which I hope you agree will be a feature and an asset to our community and the people from villages around us who already use the facilities in our village.

Ray Woodcock



## THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION www.whitechapel.org.uk

The Whitechapel Mission is one of London's oldest charities dedicated to helping homeless people. St John's Church acts as a collection point in Stansted. If you have spare clothes, shoes, bedding, toiletries, razors, towels, tinned food, pasta etc they can be left in the back corner of the church behind the font in plastic bags or sacks. For more information visit their website which gives lots of information. Please note that items should **not** be left at the Free Church.

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## ARTHUR FINDLAY COLLEGE OPEN WEEK

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The College has a public **Open Week** from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May until Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Everyone is welcome to attend. Open week hosts a huge range of spiritual subjects, demonstration of mediumship by world-renowned tutors, workshops, tutorials, lectures, trance, mediumship and more. The restaurant, gift shop and museum will also be open and tutors and staff will be on hand to offer support and advice and answer any questions you may have. Adult tickets are £15.00. To book call 813636.

Tanya Fernsmith

## THE MANUDEN SCARECROW TRAIL

Manuden village is creating and displaying scarecrows, on a theme of TV and film characters, from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Come and follow the trail to see them all and vote for your favourite! Trail maps priced £2.50 will be on sale from 10.00am-4.00pm daily at Manuden Village Community Centre. Two lucky trail maps will win cash prizes of £50 and £25. Each completed trail map wins a prize. Tea, coffee and cakes will be on sale at the Community Centre and there will also be face painting and a bouncy castle so it promises to be a fun family day out! To enter a scarecrow in the trail please email: [themanudenparkgroup@gmail.com](mailto:themanudenparkgroup@gmail.com) or send by post to: 11a Stewarts Way, Manuden CM23 1DR with the name/title of your scarecrow, your name, telephone number and address, by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Entry for scarecrows is free! First prize for the best scarecrow is £50 and second prize is £25. If you live outside Manuden you can still enter as we will find a spot to put your scarecrow! All proceeds go to improving the children's play area in Manuden. For more information find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/tmstrail](http://www.facebook.com/tmstrail)

Lizzie McLean  
Tel: 816200



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At our April meeting we enjoyed a very informative and interesting talk by Peter Lawrence on Essex country houses and their empire-building occupants. He told us about some of the dominant houses in Essex and explained how parishes and county lines have changed over history. He focused on south Essex which of course, in the past, incorporated the villages of Stratford, West Ham, East Ham and Chigwell. Peter went on to detail how a number of the large houses in Essex were tied by marriage and business, such as Elizabeth Fry (back of the five pound note) who was born in Norwich into a Quaker family, the Gurneys. Her father, John Gurney (1749-1809) was a partner in Gurney's Bank. Her mother Catherine was a member of the Barclay family who were among the founders of Barclays Bank; they moved to Plashet House which was a famous mansion in East Ham. Peter then took us through a journey learning the history of Copped Hall, Hylands House, Castle Hedingham, and Wanstead House as well as others and their owners. The next meeting is on 7th May at 8.00pm at the Crafton Centre, Chapel Hill, which is our AGM followed by a presentation from Peter Saunders.



Steve Leaney  
Tel: 647177

Email: [stephenleaney@gmail.com](mailto:stephenleaney@gmail.com)

## BIRCHANGER WOOD

It has been a very nippy early April and this has not been conducive in encouraging our woodland bulbs to flower. Recently I was in Birchanger Wood and the wood anemones were out - wall to wall green foliage and with a good spattering of white pristine flowers, but a bit more sun would have seen absolutely masses of them - come on sun!! The wind was extremely strong and has succeeded in bringing down a lot of dead silver birch trees. The birch is not a long-lived tree and its roots do not go down deeply into the soil, so it is most often the first tree to succumb to strong winds. The dead wood will be used by numerous insects for safety, and as a breeding ground. In turn, birds and spiders will eat the insects. Ultimately, fungi will convert the tree to dust and manure. I saw no buzzards, but I did see the great spotted woodpecker - well I heard it first, hammering away at the top of an oak tree, and because the leaves were not out, I could spot its silhouette in the tree. It doesn't sit on a branch but clings upright to a branch or tree-trunk and hammers with its beak, most often against a hollow part of the tree, so that the resonance is greater and a prospective mate will more readily recognise it. Now to squirrels; they are in Birchanger Wood, but look out for them elsewhere. There is a large walnut tree in a garden in Stansted which has lost a branch a good way up; this has created a very sheltered 'cave' in which a pair of squirrels are squatting, and in which they are very likely to build their dray (nest).



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis  
Secretary, The Birchanger Wood Trust  
Email: [secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org](mailto:secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org)

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We had a lively breakfast meeting at Linden House on the 10<sup>th</sup> April. Maureen Caton, Chair of the Parish Council talked about the importance of local businesses being involved in the Neighbourhood Plan for Stansted. Our businesses should have a say about the future of Stansted, as we all know the problems with traffic, parking and developments on Cambridge Road. Linda Howells, the Business Support Officer at Uttlesford District Council, was keen to maintain links with our business forum and local businesses. We will be linking with schools at the beginning of May about our Magna Carta project with local schools, so watch this space.

This month our spotlight is on local business George Cooper Sports Injury & Physiotherapy Clinic in Cambridge Road. George is a local resident and chartered physiotherapist with over 15 years of experience as a physiotherapist to elite sportsmen and women, including a host of Premier League football clubs. He offers clients a comprehensive range of treatments and the same level of care experienced by professional sportspeople. Since the practice opened in December 2012 George has treated over 800 clients and many clients come along for treatment through referral from friends and relatives. It is a local success story.



We are still taking bookings for stalls for our summer fayre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July at Station Road. Contact Peter James, email: peter.james@murdochspropertyshop.co.uk or telephone 813318 if you would like a stall or are interested in becoming a member of the Forum. Our business directory will be coming out soon so buy local and think local.



Iris Evans  
Treasurer

## BISHOP'S STORTFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

Bishop's Stortford Dog Training Club started in 1954 at the Corn Exchange. After several moves in and around Bishop's Stortford, we moved to the Village Hall in Great Hallingbury in 2008. Classes are held there every Tuesday at 7.00pm by our four experienced trainers. We have a six week puppy course as well as classes for the more experienced, be it for household obedience or for competitive training. Our trainers compete all around the country and have taken part at Crufts. Our club is Kennel Club Registered. For more information see our advertisement on page 10 of The Link.

Sue Jagers  
Tel: 812785



## Stansted Cricket Club

Work continues on refurbishing the bar. Extensive wood-worm damage was uncovered and is being treated before the sink and new base units can be fitted. An old inscription was found on an upright from a previous repair done by 'J. Day & Tim Snelling - Jan 1960'! The NatWest GroundForce working party on 3<sup>rd</sup> April made a good start to tidying up the ground and pavilion, and getting our facilities ready for the start of the senior season on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Hard-ball training for U12s and U15s will be on Mondays 6.30pm-8.00pm from 27<sup>th</sup> April. Softball Terrier training for 8-10s will be on Fridays 4.00pm-5.15pm from 1<sup>st</sup> May. We are arranging a senior tour to Dorset 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June. Any former or retired players interested in joining as player, umpire or scorer, would be most welcome. Senior home fixtures for May are:

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1330	1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Matching Green I
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1400	Sun XI v Hatfield Heath
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	1330	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI v Little Munden
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	1400	Sun XI v Epping Foresters
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	1330	1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Hockerill I
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	1330	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI v High Beach
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	1400	Sun XI v Stocking Pelham
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	1330	1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Birchanger I
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	1400	Sun XI v Furneux Pelham

Anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis please contact me. 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



**Green** Lots of work was carried out in preparation for our April opening. A big thank you to the working parties who have worked hard inside and outside the clubhouse for the last few weeks. It is great to have so much support.

**May Fixtures** We have three home games:

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Elsenham (Daniel Robinson Cup)
9 <sup>th</sup>	Birchanger
10 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Bushnell (Memorial Cup)

If you would like to come and watch any of these games you will be more than welcome; they all start at 2.30pm.

**Carpet Bowls** This will sadly come to a temporary end once we start playing outdoors. It is good to see so many people taking part on a Tuesday afternoon. With our carpet bowl supremo, Dave Hunt, you can be sure of a good challenge! We welcomed Takeley on 26<sup>th</sup> March, and had a very good result. Thanks must go to Yvonne for the lovely spread which culminated in a great evening for all. For further information please ring or email as below.

Doreen Scraggs  
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Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178  
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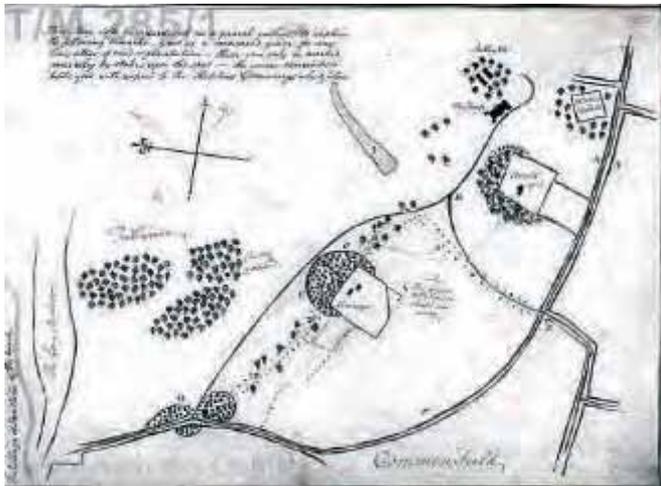
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## DID YOU KNOW?

Stansted Park was designed by Humphry Repton (1752-1818) in 1790/91. He was the last of the great English landscape designers of the 18th century. Born in Bury St Edmunds, at the age of 12 he was sent to the Netherlands to train as a merchant, but it did more to stimulate his interest in sketching and gardening.

In 1788 with his capital dwindling he moved to Hare Street, Romford. That Repton, with no real experience of practical horticulture, became an overnight success is a tribute to his undeniable talent. He worked to a more modest scale than Capability Brown, often fine-tuning others' work, even Brown's. He contrived approach drives and lodges and other views to enhance the impressions of size and importance of the park he was working upon. Repton wrote one of his many famous Red Books on Stansted Park for William Heath, Lord of the Manor 1760-1797. He said of Stansted Hall, "It possesses so much dignity both in character and situation, that there requires more care to preserve its natural importance than to increase it". He offered this early sketch of the Park and the High Road, not unlike that which still exists today.



Of the Approach Road he suggests, "the lodge is surrounded by plantations, the road then proceeds along a very interesting line to left is Hanging Wood and broken ground about the Cherry Orchard and Warren, and to the right some very handsome single trees now growing in the hedges of the old road and beyond them is a sufficiently extensive view of the park which terminates by distant woods. The screen about the vicarage serves to throw the road in a graceful curve. After passing the plantation the house will first appear and the church also seen betwixt the stems of these beautiful trees which are now lost by standing in the hedge rows. Until the hedge rows are removed it is not possible to ascertain the exact line it will take".

Repton's conclusion was that, "Stansted Hall is not only capable of being a very fine place, with vignette of 'its appearance from the turnpike road". I wonder what he would have thought to the current recommendation that an estate be built on the western, and possibly other buildings on the eastern boundaries of this green field site.

SEAX D/DQ 29/1 T/M 285/1

Ralph Phillips



## NATURE NOTES

It is that time of the year when the sun has warmed up and the birds are singing and all seems right with the world, but things are not always so wonderful for our local wildlife, especially the smaller animals and birds. Red kites have now moved into our area to join the buzzards, sparrowhawks, kestrels, crows, magpies and jays which all take their toll of the smaller birds and their nests. There are also predators on the ground: foxes, badgers, stoats, weasels, polecats and domestic cats and dogs. However, the biggest threat of all to our wildlife is us humans. To keep us fed, much of the old nature friendly agricultural techniques have necessarily been abandoned and now crops and their surrounding areas are sprayed with insecticides and weedkillers and intensive farming has put paid to a lot of wildlife habitats. Badgers may kill and eat hedgehogs but probably more have died through being stuck in a plastic bag or squashed on the roads. In addition, on top of all those predators there has been talk of introducing sea eagles which supposedly only eat fish; wolves which don't eat sheep or humans, and, 40 miles from here, the lynx – a large cat which will supposedly only prey on deer.

Increased traffic must be the biggest threat. On a trip to Norfolk I saw the usual carnage on the roads - dead pheasants, badgers, foxes, polecats, hares, squirrels, rats, surprisingly few rabbits and what looked like an otter. There were seven dead muntjac or roe deer but they were outnumbered by the living ones - I counted 11 but some may have been the same ones seen on the way up and back. Talking of muntjac and foxes reminds me of when I saw one of each very close to each other, quite unconcerned. I suppose a fox need not waste its energy chasing a deer or even a rabbit when it can scavenge at leisure round our streets and houses. Let us get back to where all seems right with the world, and enjoy the spring flowers now blooming which include primroses, cowslips and oxlips, soon to be followed by the bluebells and orchids.



Have you spotted this purple carpet of red dead nettles in the field on the left as you leave Stansted going northwards?

Felix



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Helen Sterling

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