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by **noon** on 11th November  
 for the December/January  
 issue

by **noon** on 11th January  
 for the February issue

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**EDITORIAL**



The current practice of parking on pavements is, at times, forcing mothers with young children and those in wheelchairs to take to the road. Pavements are there for pedestrians. It's unacceptable, and potentially dangerous, for vehicles to encroach to such an extent that it impedes pedestrian progress. Motorists must be encouraged to park responsibly and legally, instead of dumping their vehicles on pavements, zig zag and double yellow lines (and people's driveways!). We trust the authorities are aware of the situation and are able to take the relevant action soon. Still on the subject of traffic, there is an update on the Community Speedwatch scheme on page 20.

There has been much discussion concerning the possible development of various pieces of land in Stansted recently, but the future of the site presently occupied by St Mary's School has hardly been mentioned. Dare we hope that it's because there aren't any plans to develop this partly green area in the centre of the village once the school has moved up to Foresthall Park? It would be lovely to keep it as an open space. (Part of the site could even be turned into a car park to alleviate pressure on our congested streets.) One can dream!

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Our cover photograph was taken in Bentfield Bower.

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

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

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

It's not until you lose it that you value it, some say. Freedom. So, we haven't lost it, but when we see so many Arab countries fighting for it, perhaps we are reminded of its worth. But our freedoms have not come about by chance. They have emerged over centuries of struggle, battle and sacrifice. And yet we can so easily take them for granted, and whenever we come up against any lack of freedom we are immediately fighting for our rights. So, some say, we have a right to die when we wish to, we have a right to defend our property with force, we have a right to believe in God, or not to believe in God. We have a right to a whole range of freedoms. It will not be for nothing that we will honour those who gave their lives in a whole series of wars, many of which were fought to obtain or to protect our various freedoms. The remembrance event in our calendar should always be there, and should always be honoured; it stands for a great deal of sacrifice by people whom we can no longer thank; but we can remember them.

However there is one gift of freedom that comes with the human package; the gift of free choice. Whatever the situation we can choose how we respond to it. Some choices are quite trivial, like which food we eat, which holiday we take, which car we buy. Far more serious and long lasting are the friends we choose to make, the way we choose to relate to our own families, whether we respond to God's love for us by ignoring him completely or by throwing our lot in with him.

God gives us the freedom of choice. How well we exercise that freedom is perhaps the biggest decision of our lives. Remember that too on Remembrance Day, and every day.

Rev'd Stuart Veitch  
Stansted Free Church



### STANSTED FREE CHURCH

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Tel: 01799 522037  
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7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG  
Tel: 814059  
Email: [lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### Preachers for November

6th 10.30am The Worship Team – New Directions  
13th 10.50am Remembrance Day service at St John's -  
preacher Rev'd David Keeble  
20th 10.30am Peter Dawe  
27th 10.30am Faith Paulding

#### What does the Bible say about Food?

A series of Thursday bible studies led by Rev'd Stuart Veitch in the church foyer. The November sessions are on 10th and 24th 2.30pm-3.30pm followed by tea. All welcome - please join us!

#### Church News

Rev'd Allen Morton (our URC minister) took early retirement at the end of October. We have been very blessed by his ministry with us over the past three years, and we wish him and his wife, Daphne, every good wish for the future.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

A reminder that the annual parade will start from Crafton Green Car Park at around 10.40am on Sunday 13th November, followed by the laying of the wreaths in the Memorial Gardens and the service in St John's Church.



### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux  
High Lane

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

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

#### Confessions

Saturday 10.00am  
and by appointment

#### Baptisms

By appointment



## Shalom

On 14th November, Rev'd Stuart Veitch from the Free Church will be leading a bible study. This meeting is at 7 Blythwood Gardens. Our At Home is on 28th November at 49 Recreation Ground. Both meetings start at 8.00pm and all are welcome.

Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059



## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the September draws:

£100 No. 135 – Derek Honour  
 £ 50 No. 109 – Jean Newson  
 £ 25 No. 131 – Katy Dockerill

The draws for November will be held in St John's Church following the 9.30am service on Sunday 27th November.

Francine Cope



## ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

This will be held from noon-3.00pm on **Saturday 19th November** in St John's Church. There will be all the normal well-laden stalls: gifts, crafts, toiletries, candles, cakes, toys and games, books, bric-a-brac, tombolas and grand raffle, etc, together with tempting refreshments to enjoy whilst savouring the festive ambience. Do come along to find some Christmas presents, grab a bargain, have a chance of winning a great prize in our raffle or on one of the tombolas and generally join in the fun. Hope to see EVERYONE there!

Francine Cope  
 Tel: 814562

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

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

**Director of Music:** Lorraine Everett  
 Email: lorraine@everett.info

**Church Hall Bookings:** Rachel Pocknell  
 Tel or text: 07972 373994  
 Email: stjohs.hallbookings@gmail.com

### St John's Diary Sunday

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

### Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday

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

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

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

### Monday-Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

### ST JOHN'S HALL - URGENTLY REQUIRED

A Bookings Administrator for St John's Church Hall. Duties include making diary booking dates, key control and some book-keeping/accountancy. An honorarium is payable. This is an interesting post that would suit a village based person. Please contact Ray Smith for details - 01279 461151 or 07920 000940 or email: [raysmith9@btinternet.com](mailto:raysmith9@btinternet.com).

## From the Registers

### September

#### Baptisms

11th Alec Sedgbeer  
 25th Thomas Jasper Welfare

#### Weddings

1st James Ayres and Tanya Debley  
 3rd Paul Tarran and Alison Bennett  
 16th Oliver Shapter and Annabel Hayward

#### Funerals

Catherine Whall, age 90 years - at St Mary's



### Carol Singing

As usual we will be carol singing round the streets of Stansted at 7.30pm on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd December. At the time of writing the roads to be visited and the charity we shall be supporting has not been decided, so please see next month's 'Link' for more details.



Mike Dyer  
 Tel: 814059  
 Helen Baker  
 Tel: 814865



## CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Saturday 17th December 3.30pm

This is our annual concert of Christmas music and readings celebrating the birth of the Christ child, featuring musicians from local schools and the usual Stansted Village Choir conducted by St John's director of music Lorraine Everett. Our choir is a **village** choir - **you** could be part of it on the day! Watch out for an announcement of the single rehearsal in next month's 'Link'.

**Please note this year the celebration will take place in St John's Church (not St Mary's!).**

### Why the change?

Although the celebration has, in previous years, been held in St Mary's, Churches Together in Stansted (which is a forum representing all the churches in the village) has decided that St John's is the right location for a number of reasons. Heating St Mary's during the winter for such a short period is not really economically or environmentally sensible. In the past, it has meant a large part of the proceeds went towards heating costs and could not be focused on maximising the takings for our chosen Christmas charity. Also, people struggled last year to make it through the snow, and many faced disappointment at not being able to get there. St John's should be much more convenient for old and young alike, particularly if we get a repeat of the 2010 severe weather.

We hope to see you there.

Alan Wheeler

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

### Christmas Tree Festival



On Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th December the newly-formed Friends of St Mary's will be hosting a Christmas Tree Festival. The church will open from 10.00am-5.00pm on each day and local charities, social organisations and businesses are invited to supply and decorate a Christmas tree to be displayed in the church in order to promote their organisations and services. Mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments will be available and there will be informal carol singing by candlelight at 3.30pm on the Saturday afternoon. We will supply a platform for your tree and an electrical supply should you require it for lights. You can display an A4 sheet about your organisation and have leaflets for people to take. Where appropriate you can also have a collection box or plate in front of your tree for people to make donations to your cause. Trees should be erected between 5.00pm and 7.00pm on Friday 9th, and removed during the same hours on Sunday 11th. Places are limited and must be pre-booked. There is no charge for participating in this commu-



nity event. For more detailed information, please contact Sally Argent on 812418, email [argent62@btinternet.com](mailto:argent62@btinternet.com) or Audrey Rodgers on 812162. St Mary's Church is in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust, a national charity, who are assisted in their work locally by The Friends of St Mary's.



## MOORHEN MODEL BOAT CLUB

The Moorhen Marina, Burnt Mill Lane, Harlow

As Secretary of The Moorhen Model Boat Club I would like to say what a wonderful day we had on 3rd September putting on the exhibition of radio controlled models for The Friends of St Mary's Church. I would like to point out that in the article in last month's 'Link' the picture illustrated was not The Yorkshireman but that of a fire tug named Iris. Our thanks go to all those people who helped on the day especially to the ladies of The Friends of St Mary's who served tea, coffee and cakes all day. The Yorkshireman is shown below.



Established in 1979, the Club currently has 44 members. We attend a lot of shows during the course of the year, such as The London Engineering Exhibition at Alexandra Palace in January; Thornwick Modelling Week, Yorkshire in April; Charity Model Boat Show, Surrey in May; Wings and Wheels Spectacular at North Weald Airfield in June; The Essex Country Show at Barleylands, Billericay in September; and many more. We are always looking for new members who have an interest in radio controlled model boat making, so if you would like to become a member or even just want to visit us, please contact me or see our website <http://mmbc.webplus.net>.

Alan Argent  
Secretary  
Tel: 812418

## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Thank you to everyone who came to the coffee morning at Old Lane House on 29th September and to those who so generously supported the event. An excellent total of £423.50 was raised - a record amount.

Thank you everyone.

Christine and Bill Stiles

## Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

7 pm onwards Thu 3rd Nov  
Free Church Hall

Come for coffee and bring along your fully or partly completed shoe boxes



For more information tel  
813579, 814865 or 812109  
or see Link article

**All welcome**



## Village Fireworks & Bonfire

Elms Farm - entry by Archway Cottage  
(park in Lower Street car park)

**Sat 5th November**

- 6.30 pm Gates open
- 7.00 pm Bonfire lit
- 7.30 pm Fireworks



Pay on gate ~ Adults £4, Children £2  
Family Ticket £10 (2 adults, 2 children)

Refreshments Available

## Bishop's Stortford Ladies Tangent (Round Table)

### FLOG IT AUCTION

7 for 7.30 pm Wed 9th Nov  
Stansted Day Centre  
Admission £1 - All Welcome  
Refreshments

Proceeds to Bowel Cancer Screening

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### November

|    |     |  |  |
|----|-----|--|--|
| 2  | Wed | Open Morning<br>Mountfitchet Club<br>Mountfitchet Garden Club    | St Mary's School 9.45 – 10.45 am<br>Day Centre 2 – 4 pm<br>Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm<br>Free Church Hall 7 pm |
| 3  | Thu | Shoe Box Packing<br>Local History                                | Day Centre 8.00 pm<br>St John's Hall 10 am   |
| 4  | Fri | NCT Christmas Make and Do  | Elms Farm 6.30 pm  |
| 5  | Sat | Bonfire and Fireworks  | Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm   |
| 9  | Wed | Flog It  | St John's Hall 7.45 pm   |
| 10 | Thu | WI   | <b>before 12 noon</b>  |
| 11 | Fri | <b>Link copy due in today</b><br>SSE Quiz<br>U3A 60s & 70s Night | Village Hall, Henham 7 for 7.30 pm<br>St John's Hall 7.30 pm   |
| 12 | Sat | Skips<br>Windmill Quiz<br>Lib Dem Annual Dinner                  | Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm<br>St John's Hall 7.30 for 7.45<br>URC Saffron Walden 8 pm                     |
| 13 | Sun | Remembrance Day Service  | War Memorial 10.50 am  |
| 14 | Mon | Shalom   | 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm   |
| 17 | Thu | U3A  | St John's Hall 1.30 pm   |
| 18 | Fri | Day Centre Quiz  | Day Centre 7.30 for 7.45 pm  |
| 19 | Sat | Christmas Market   | St John's Church noon – 3 pm   |
| 22 | Tue | Link AGM   | Parish Council Offices 7.30 pm   |
| 26 | Sat | Skips  | Lower St Car Park 9 am – 3 pm  |
| 28 | Mon | Shalom At Home   | 49 Recreation Ground 8 pm  |



## FUN QUIZ

7 for 7.30 pm Fri 11th Nov  
Village Hall, Henham

£10 incl supper ~ teams 6-8  
from SSE 870558 or Gerry 850373  
info@stopstanstedexpansion.com  
All Welcome ~ Licensed Bar



## STANSTED WINDMILL

### End of Season QUIZ

7.30 for 7.45 pm Sat 12th Nov  
St John's Church Hall

£10 incl Fish or Chicken & Chips  
Tel 814440 or 816768  
BYO drink & glass ~ All welcome  
Please note revised date!



## Friends of St Mary's Church

### Christmas Tree Festival

10 am - 5 pm  
Sat 10th & Sun 11th December

Carols by Candlelight  
3.30 pm Saturday 10th

Mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments  
Everyone Welcome



## Celebration of Christmas



Carols, Music, Readings, and Poetry

3.30 pm Sat 17th December  
St John's Church

(note change of venue from previous years)

All welcome to this annual village event celebrating the birth of the Christ child

## Stansted Day Centre

### Quiz Night

7.30 for 7.45 pm Fri 18th Nov  
Day Centre, Crafton Green

Tables of 8 ~ Tickets £8  
incl ploughman's from 815091  
BYO drink, nibbles & glass  
In aid of Day Centre funds ~ Raffle

## St Mary's School PTFA St Mary's on Ice

1 - 7 pm Sat 3rd Dec  
30 minute sessions

£8 adults ~ £6 children  
£25 family of 4

Further details from 812212  
www.stmarysschool-stansted.ik.org  
Suitable for all ~ Join the Fun!



## Green Waste, Metal & Wood Skip Dates

9 am - 3 pm  
Saturdays only Nov - Apr  
12th & 26th November  
10th December

Look out in next month's Link for Christmas Tree recycling

## St John's Church Christmas Market

12 - 3 pm  
Sat 19th November

Gifts ~ Tombolas ~ Toiletries  
Toys ~ Games ~ Cakes ~ Books  
Crafts ~ Candles ~ Raffle

Admission Free ~ Refreshments

## Back to Basics Pilates Class

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Web: **www.tonepilates.co.uk**



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Marcel Morelli MSc (Chiro), DC.  
And Associates

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## IN MEMORIAM

### CATHERINE WHALL

1st April 1921-22nd August 2011

Cath was born into the McLeod clan in Thurso in the very north of Scotland in April 1921. She was the eldest of six siblings and became almost a second mother to her brothers and sisters. She came to England at the age of 16 and after a period living and working in London, moved to Stansted.



She met her late husband Charlie in 1938 and they married in 1942 in St Mary's Church. It was devastating to Cath when Charlie died at the age of 56. Cath and Charlie had two children, Colin and Elizabeth; sadly Colin died at the young age of 49. Cath also has four loving grandchildren in Susannah, Rhiannon, Victoria and Edward, and was within a few weeks of being a great-grandmother for the first time. Cath was never the stereotypical mother-in-law and was very close to her daughter-in-law, Caroline, and son-in-law, Tony. Although Cath left Scotland at a very early age, Scotland never left her; she remained a proud Scot, often looking through her 'tartan glasses'. She would claim the merits of Scottish potatoes over the English variety and Scottish haddock over English cod, immediately thereafter forgetting this and heartily tucking into English cod and chips! She also perpetually sang the praises of the national Scottish rugby and football teams; however, recently even her belief in them was rapidly evaporating.

After a period of grieving the death of her husband Charlie, Cath set about with vigour establishing a new and independent life for herself, from a work, community and social standpoint. She worked for many years in the village grocery store and in parallel dedicated much time to supporting the Royal British Legion where she was a committee member and secretary of the Women's Section for many, many years, almost to the time of her death. As part of her commitment to

the British Legion, Cath must have been close to the record for the most poppies ever sold, since she sold them every year even to the age of 89. Cath was also an ardent supporter of the Stansted Day Centre and again was a member of the organising committee. It was a very proud moment for Cath when at the young age of 83 she received a certificate of recognition from Uttlesford Council for her 'Service to the elderly'! Additionally Cath re-established strong links with her sibling family who had by this time widely dispersed, and was a regular visitor to them in Scotland, Wales and even Australia. She also enjoyed regular holidays to Spain, Austria and Greece, and even got to visit Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Hawaii; the latter her holiday of a lifetime!

Overall Cath had a very full and satisfying life, supported by her family and her very extensive network of friends and neighbours. It was very particularly pleasing that after a very difficult and prolonged period of hospitalisation this year, Cath recovered sufficiently to get back to the Day Centre which she loved and supported, and generally was able to meet up with her many friends and neighbours and enjoy her final few weeks. Cath will be sadly missed by all her family and many friends.

Tony Mee

## TAX RETURN DEADLINES AND REGISTERING WITH HMRC

As reported in the May edition of the 'Link', there have been some important changes this year concerning tax returns. Until now, if you had no Self-Assessment liability or paid your liability by 31st January you could file your tax return late and the £100 late filing penalty would be cancelled. The rules have now changed and everyone who files their return late has to pay a minimum penalty of £100. The penalties will also now start to become larger as the length of delay increases, as follows: If you are three months late you will be charged a further £10 per additional day, up to £900. If the delay extends to six months the higher of a further £300 or 5% of the liability will be charged. After 12 months yet another £300 or 5% is charged and in 'serious' cases HMRC may charge up to 100% of the tax at this stage. Even if you have no liability therefore, filing your tax return 12 months late will lead to penalties of £1,600!

If you have been sent a tax return it is now very expensive to ignore it! If you want to complete the form by hand it must be received by HMRC by 31st October to avoid the penalties. If you complete it online you have until 31st January 2012. If you think you need to complete a tax return but have not been sent one, for example if you have a rental property, are self-employed or in receipt of large amounts of investment income or capital gains you should register with HMRC as soon as possible. The deadline for registering for 2010/11 was 5th October to avoid a £100 penalty. Even if you are late registering it will still be better to get matters resolved before the tax return filing deadline and avoid also having all of the above late filing penalties imposed retrospectively! If you are concerned about whether you need to register for Self-Assessment or have received a tax return and need help, please do not hesitate to call either Jeremy Fozzard or Mark Williams at Mansell and Co on 658499 for a free consultation.

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# THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



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With 90 years of dedication to our ex-servicemen and women, 2011 marks the anniversary of the formation of The British Legion. After the Great War of 1914-18 many families were left destitute, bereaved by the loss of husbands, fathers, sons and other relatives. Many men returned from the war with horrific injuries and mental trauma. Most regiments formed their own benevolent and welfare funds as there was little, if any, Government support in those days, but the enormity of assisting ex-service personnel became a huge problem. Thus, on 15th May 1921 Comrades of the Great War, The National Association of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors, The Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Soldiers and Sailors and The Officers Association amalgamated to form The British Legion. Many other smaller groups joined over the years and in 1971, the Legion received a Royal Charter, becoming the Royal British Legion.



Over the years our servicemen and women have undertaken many roles in overseas conflicts. Since the Second World War (1939-45) UK forces have been involved in 47 theatres of conflict, many in co-operation with the United Nations and NATO. We all remember the recent major conflicts of Northern Ireland, Falklands War, Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan. Our armed forces are still serving all around the world. Since 1945, servicemen and women have been killed every year except one and they are all remembered at the National Memorial Arboretum, which now lists over 16,000 names. Some of their families need support beyond that available from the State, and the Legion is there to help. Most regiments, the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force have their own welfare and benevolent funds, but we all co-operate to give the best service we can to those in need. The Help for Heroes campaign has been a great success and has enabled the building of specialised medical and recuperation facilities. The Royal British Legion is committed to maintain these facilities for many years to come. The Legion can offer advice on war pensions, compensation claims and benefits as well as career advice for those leaving the Forces; it provides an independent advice service to bereaved fami-

lies; it can provide short and long term care in our six homes around the country; those who just need a short break can visit one of four centres in popular seaside resorts. These are just a few of the services that are offered.

Our greatest aim is the welfare of all ex-service personnel and the interests of their dependents in time of need, especially through bereavement and coping with disablement. To bring you up to date, The Royal British Legion has so far helped 16,000 Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. The Legion presently raises over £115 million a year, which is required to support all who serve or have served. The annual Poppy Appeal raises 30% of the Legion's funds, so please be generous in your support, especially in the 90th Anniversary year of our founding. Remember the future and help us to continue what is a very long term commitment.

John L Segar

Member of The Royal British Legion  
Ex-Serviceman RAF and RAFUR (T)

## SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect  
of the night sky



Most of the satellites we send in to Earth orbit, whatever they do, are around 100 to 150 miles above the Earth. In fact, the space above us is getting rather full, partly because there are international treaties agreeing that space belongs to everyone, including anything you want to send in space. (Though, unsurprisingly, you do have to inform various authorities.) Over the last few weeks there has been mention in the media of articles we have sent in to space, weighing some tons, deciding to come back to Earth of their own accord. So what makes these events occur? The answer is the Earth's atmosphere. But there is no air in space, you may be thinking. Actually, there is. The general 'height' of the atmosphere is reckoned to be about 20 miles and that is way too high for us to breathe: after all some mountain climbers carry oxygen with them and they are 'only' six miles above sea level. But traces of air, some of which actually escape the Earth, are up there at the 100 mile area and they, over a 20 or 30 year sojourn in space, can slow the satellite down enough to slowly enter the denser air.

There is another source of things that sometimes hit the Earth and they are rocks from around the Solar System. We are invaded by dust and small rocks all the time but they are destroyed during entry to the atmosphere. Luckily we seldom have a major problem but astronomers spend a lot of time plotting asteroids, large lumps of ancient rock, measured in miles, which might come our way in 50 or more years time. Different ways of avoiding a hit include sending a craft to the asteroid and, really, painting one side white. Over the years of the asteroid's journey it will change its trajectory because the Sun's heat will, very slightly, push it away. One problem is that it is not possible to be accurate as to when anything will re-enter and, therefore, where it will hit the ground. Another is that to get to the ground the satellite must have been very large (smaller ones tend to burn up long before reaching the ground). On its journey it will be breaking up under the forces of heat (as it 'rubs' the ever denser air) and those forces will break it up. Luckily, two-thirds of the Earth's surface is covered with water.

Martin West

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## THE GIRLS

The Editor needs help to identify this photograph. Where was it taken? Who are these girls? Any information, or indeed memories, evoked by this photo will be welcomed. (See page 1 for contact details.)



### UNSATIS NAV

*Drip, drip, drip..*

My overflow pipe is not on his satnav  
Nor is my house, my street, my village – certainly not my name.

“Where am I? CM23” calls the plumber from Chelmsford.  
“Not there! – it’s Bishop’s Stortford. So through CM24 – Stansted (Mountfitchet, **not** the Airport). See the road signs B1384.”

*Drip, drip, drip..*

Her at the office (after three days calls), “He can’t find you.”  
“I was in the garden after two days. Sorry.”  
“Carry your hand-held or mobile when you go outside.”  
“Will do. Sorry.”

*Drip, drip, drip..*

“CM22. Unnamed road?”  
“That’s it; called Pound Lane now. Sign, ‘Elsenham and Ugley Green’ ... 30 limit sign ... CM22 6 ...”

*Drip, drip, drip..*

#### Envoi

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Phyllis Harrison

### CHILDREN’S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

#### Firework Whirls

Remember, remember the 5th November ... and get the kids rustling up these ‘Catherine Wheel’ firework whirls for tea!

#### Ingredients

1 packet ready-rolled puff pastry  
Tomato puree  
Fresh basil leaves  
Grated cheese (cheddar / mozzarella)



#### Method

Preheat oven to 200°C.  
Sprinkle a little flour on work surface and unroll the pastry.  
Use a blunt knife to spread a thin layer of tomato puree all over the pastry. Make sure you spread it right to the edges.  
Grate the cheese and sprinkle it on top.  
Tear the basil with your fingers and scatter on the top. Starting with the long-edge, roll pastry into a sausage shape.  
Cut into slices and place on a baking tray lined with baking paper – spiral shape facing up (reshaping if necessary).  
Bake in oven for 15 minutes.

For details of cookery classes and parties for 2-11 year olds contact Jane Chate, Kiddy Cook Tel: 07796 270068  
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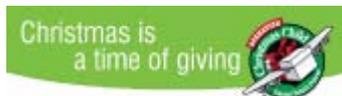


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## SHOE BOXES

Join us on Thursday 3rd November at 7.00pm at Stansted Free Church Hall, Chapel Hill, for an evening of packing gifts into shoe boxes for underprivileged children. Items for the boxes can be brought on the evening. These include toys, but nothing war related, educational supplies, hygiene items, but not liquids, hats, gloves, scarves, sunglasses, jewellery, sweets but not chocolate and no dangerous items (think airport security!). All gifts should be new. The age categories are 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14 years. Leaflets giving further information are available from the churches or from shops in the village displaying posters in their windows. Shipping the boxes abroad costs money and Samaritan's Purse requests at least £2.50 per box, so donations of cash are very welcome.

You can also bring along any completed boxes on 3rd November. Look out for the shops in Stansted with shoe box posters in their windows – you can get the labels for the boxes from them, as well as leaflets about suitable items.

From this one event we look forward to sending more than 200 boxes to bring joy to the most disadvantaged children at Christmas.

Catherine Dean Tel: 813579  
Helen Baker Tel: 814865  
Eileen Quinn Tel: 812109



Essex County Council is responsible for all the children's centres in Essex. They are currently run by 13 different organisations, called lead bodies, who are under contract to the Council until March 2012. At present Essex County Council are going through the process of selecting the lead bodies that will run the Children's Centres from April next year, which is the commissioning process. In future there will only be four lead bodies instead of the current 13 and they will each be delivering services to a whole quadrant of the county. Spangles Children's Centre here in Stansted will be linked with centres in Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Harlow, Loughton, Epping Forest, Buckhurst Hill, Waltham Abbey, Chipping Ongar and Limes Farm. We should know who the new lead body is some time during December, but during the coming months it is important that the successful bidder knows what is needed in our local community and that services are designed around these needs. Five hundred parents across Essex have already responded to a request for questions to ask the new lead bodies and seven parents have agreed to be on a parent panel to assess the answers from the lead bodies that have made a bid. We want to make sure that the voices of parents in Uttlesford are heard loud and clear and any questions or comments can be emailed to [eycomms@essex.gov.uk](mailto:eycomms@essex.gov.uk) or telephone 01245 438500. It is anticipated that the staff at Spangles will not change too much and the timetable will continue to evolve to meet the demands of the growing community. We have some more

detailed information about the commissioning process at Spangles, which you can collect or we can post to you, or alternatively have a chat to a member of staff.

Amanda Fitchett  
Spangles Co-ordinator  
Tel: 812348



## ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

It is always good to have new members but our Club is delighted to welcome Norma Symonds who is a lady with clear convictions. She has a determined commitment to improving the lot of the less fortunate in very practical ways but when necessary she is prepared to use a love that some might call tough. Norma is a past Mayor of Bishop's Stortford, has received the High Sheriff's award for service to the community and on Friday evenings she runs the Havers Youth Club. She is a Scot, the mother of four and has lived in the town for 36 years.



It is now three months since we refocused our Club on the core aims of Rotary which are "To encourage groups of friends to engage in service to the community, and the promotion of international understanding". This and our move to the Lemon Tree for our weekly meetings have been most successful. Our series of talks by informed speakers ranging from community projects to international understanding has been well received by our members and the large contingent of visitors we have been most pleased to welcome. Involvements with projects such as directly funding the saving of 50 central European children from a life of blindness, and a literary project in Africa have continued. Our commitment to the local community also continues and we are beginning to plan for our Christmas Project - we will again be taking Santa on his sleigh to meet children round the streets of Stansted and Thorley, and to the supermarkets and hopefully raise money for local good causes. Anyone who thinks he or she might like to help Santa as an elf or as a stand in for Santa himself, when he is suffering from exhaustion, please contact me. This is a brief overview of what we are doing but with all of this and our novel social programme we are all having an enjoyable and fulfilling year. We meet Tuesday evenings at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford. Please contact me for further information.

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

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## AFRICA DAY

Year Three have made a visit to Saffron Walden museum for a range of activities and a workshop linked to their theme of Africa.

The photo on the right shows an African game of logic and tactics



Photos from top left:

Traditional African children's clothing

Traditional African woman's clothing

The wide brimmed hat which protects both the person and the market goods from the hot sun

A very busy first half term got the year off to a flying start. There are some very colourful themes underway in the classrooms. We were very happy to have a day of music, drama and performance for the Year 4 and Year 5 pupils, thanks to music@stansted. They arranged for the English Chamber Orchestra, as part of their outreach, to come to St. Mary's and create a performance based on Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons'. It was a super day; a very enriching experience for the pupils ending with great entertainment for parents and the school at the end of the day.

We are having an **Open Morning** on Wed 2nd November from 9.45 – 10.45am. This is mainly for parents of children who are due to begin school in September 2012 and are looking at schools. However, if you are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school for children of other age groups, you are welcome to join us. More details of the school are available on the website: [www.stmarysschool-stansted.ik.org/](http://www.stmarysschool-stansted.ik.org/)

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December we have 'St. Mary's on Ice'. The PTFA are organising an ice skating rink on the playground. All welcome. Please see the What's On page and posters around the village for details of how to book your session.

Christine Tonkins  
Headteacher



Kathy Rivenberg, our school cook, received the 10/10 Cambridge Catering Services award at the Shire Hall Cambridge on 28th September. She was chosen for her services to catering over the past year. Her ability to produce high quality meals on a daily basis and her friendly attitude towards the children, especially for going that extra mile to accommodate for children's individual dietary needs was the special ingredient that met the requirements for the award. The children also awarded her a special Star Certificate at their celebration assembly on 30th September. The school held a 'No pens day Wednesday' which was a huge success with both the children and the teachers. Activities for the day included a variety of speaking and listening activities, maths games and science investigations. Our reception class were led to believe that aliens had stolen all the pens in the school which provoked some amazing story telling within the class!!

As part of a topic on World War II Class 5 met the author Victor Watson who shared his childhood wartime experiences. They also held a 'Carrot Bake up' based around wartime recipes tasting carrot-ade, carrot ice lollies, carrot fudge and carrot cake. They were all able to make their own carrot biscuits to take home and share. The half term culminated in our annual Harvest Assembly where contributions of dried and canned foods were collected and sent on to the Colchester Food Bank. The Rev'd Paul Wilkin was our guest at the assembly.

The Friends, Teachers and Parent Association held their first committee meeting of the term. The committee have worked tirelessly over the past year raising much needed funds and providing social occasions for the school to come together as a community. The new committee were voted in at the AGM and retiring members were thanked for all that they had achieved over the year. Ruth Rawlinson retired from the schools' governing body after 12 years service as governor and chair of the Finance and Resources committee. Ruth was a much respected member of the school community and the school very much valued her contributions for school improvement.



Cathie Bonich  
Head Teacher

### October Meeting

Mr Peter Jackson of Scotsdales Garden Centre was welcomed back to the Club and gave a very interesting and informative talk about drought-resistant plants. Preparation of the ground before planting is important and the use of mycorrhizal fungi was recommended. One of the benefits of using this product at planting time is that it greatly increases the plant's ability to take up water and nutrients from the soil by stimulating root development. Using a series of slides, members were then shown and told about the wide variety of plants able to tolerate drought conditions. Some of our popular perennial and annual plants such as kniphofia, geraniums and Impatiens thrive in these hot dry conditions, along with herbs such as rosemary and lavender. Members were advised to use plenty of mulch in the spring when the ground is wet to stop water loss during the summer months. It is essential that new plants are watered in well with extra care being given to them in their first year. A lively question and answer session followed the talk, after which, members and visitors were able to purchase plants which Mr Jackson had brought along. As the Garden Centre in Cambridge has a bigger selection of drought-tolerant plants, members were offered vouchers to redeem at the Coffee Shop if they wished to visit.

### Members' Competition

Congratulations to Mr Ian Seavers who won the Rose Bowl Competition for 'The Last Rose of Summer'. November's competition is 'A stem of autumn berries/fruits'.

### November Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd November at the Day Centre. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. The guest speaker will be Mrs Hilary Thomas who will be talking about 'Right Plant, Right Place - the importance of soil, aspect and site conditions when selecting plants'.

Everyone is welcome to our meetings - day visitors £2.50. Membership available too!

Maralyn Harris  
Chairman  
Tel: 07919 478144

## NORWICH CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

In case you missed the details in earlier editions of the 'Link', I am repeating the important bits: The date is Saturday 19th November, leaving Stansted, Barclays Bank, at 8.00am and leaving Norwich at 4.00pm-4.30pm, depending on weather and football! The cost is likely to be in the region of £15 and as usual the trip is not limited to WI members.

Norwich is a beautiful, interesting city with something to please everyone, so, if you have never been before, you have a real treat in store. Seats are still available - just give me a call to book.



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## Nature Notes

It is during this month, as the temperature drops, that hedgehogs usually go into hibernation. In the weeks before, the animals need to find enough food to build up large stores of fat. This will enable them to survive the winter. As the weather becomes colder the food on which hedgehogs depend, such as beetles, worms, earwigs and caterpillars, becomes harder to find. This is when the animals start to search for a suitable place to make a nest or hibernaculum. This nest is quite a large affair, up to 20 inches across, with thick walls of dry compressed leaves. It can be wedged between brambles or inside a log pile or under a shed. This



winter nest provides insulation and is crucial for the survival of the hedgehog during cold weather. The animal itself saves energy by more or less shutting down; its body temperature falls from about 35°C to 10°C or less,

and all its processes are slowed right down. The heart rate drops to about 20 beats per minute and there are several minutes between each breath. Hibernation is really a way of conserving energy. The store of fat that the hedgehog has built up during the autumn, making up one third of its body weight, is slowly used up while it is hibernating, which can be for three-four months. Fairly frequently during this period hedgehogs 'wake up' and their body temperature rises to about 30°C. They usually remain in their nest and then a day or two later lapse into their torpid state again. Just occasionally, especially if the weather is warm, they will emerge into the open and walk about a bit; but basically the animals remain in the nest until there is a general rise in temperature, usually some time in March. The winter nest which has enabled them to survive the winter is never used again.

Rosina Kirkwood

*music@stansted*

Our next concert is on Sunday 11th December at 3.00pm featuring Katy Bray (mezzo soprano) and William Vann (piano). Full details will appear in next month's 'Link'.

### Future Concerts

Sunday 29th January at 3.00pm - The Piatti String Quartet  
Saturday 17th March at 7.30pm - Jack Liebeck (violin) and Katya Apekisheva (piano).

Tickets for all concerts - adults £12, children £1, are available from Stansted Carpets, Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford and Sonia Levy, 31 Chapel Hill tel 815282. For more information please visit our website – [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com).

Alan Corbishley

## STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

### September Lunch

Acceptances for the September lunch were extremely slow in coming, and as I was in Perthshire at the time, I was in no position to encourage an acceleration of the process; so I decided that it would be fairer to those who could attend if I cancelled the lunch. This was the first cancellation since I founded the Club in November 1997 – naturally very disappointing but I have no doubt the correct decision in the circumstances.

### November Lunch

The next lunch marks the beginning of the Club's 15th year and will be hosted by *Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers* on 24th November in its Auction Rooms. This will be the sixth consecutive year, and tenth year in all, that Sworders has hosted the November lunch. The Sworders lunch has become a popular permanent fixture, coming a few days before its Winter Country House Sale. It is a lunch to which many members bring their wives, partners or other guests, which is enormous fun and is a lunch not to be missed.

The 2012 programme of lunches will be available shortly.



Alastair Richardson  
Tel: 815959

Email: [amg.richardson@gmail.com](mailto:amg.richardson@gmail.com)

## NATURAL HISTORY SIGHTING

Once again this autumn the Stansted windmill has been invaded by millions of little cluster flies. These are only about an eighth of an inch long and swarm in clouds round the upper windows of the mill, often piling up in seething heaps on the window frames half an inch deep.



It is not certain where they come from and it is assumed that they drift downwind from stables or some such place and, on coming to the warm brickwork of the mill, drift upwards under the skirt into the cap at the top of the mill. They eventually die off and are swept up by the bucketful.

Tony Wellings

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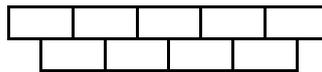
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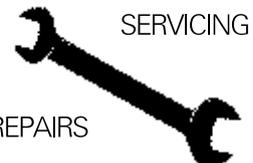
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# STANSTED NETWORK NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Bonfire Night - front page

Tribute to Ray Clifford - page 20

Uttlesford News - page 21

Contact details - page 22

Clerk - Ruth Clifford  
Admin Assistant - Anne Court  
Email: [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net)  
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10am - 1pm  
[www.stansted.net](http://www.stansted.net)

## **BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS ELMS FARM, CHURCH ROAD SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER**

**FAMILY TICKET £10 (2 adults, 2 children)  
Additional tickets: adults £4, children £2**

**GATES OPEN 6.30pm, BONFIRE 7pm  
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## **BONFIRE NIGHT!**

As advertised above, our annual bonfire and fireworks event will be held at Elms Farm on Saturday 5 November - thanks to an increased budget, the firework display should be bigger and better than last year!

The entry point is on Church Road, under the Gatehouse archway, and NOT through the main farm entrance.

Refreshments will be available - burgers, hot-dogs and some soft drinks. Should you have any timber which could be used for the fire, please do let us know.

### **SPARKLERS** - a note of caution -

The field we use is usually occupied by horses and the sparkler sticks are very dangerous to their feet if just abandoned on the ground. If you do bring sparklers along, please take the sticks home or dispose of them in the bin near the refreshment tent. Our very grateful thanks to all concerned with staging this event.

### **DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

The Parish Council is happy to put together a programme of events around the village to commemorate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012.

We have written to the village organisations to find out whether they have events planned, but we would also be pleased to know about private functions such as street parties.

If you are aware of any events, or are planning to hold one yourself, please do let us know and the details can be included in the programme.

### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

The annual parade will start from Crafton Green Car Park at around 10.40am on Sunday 13 November. The ATC will lead the parade to the Memorial Gardens where wreaths will be laid and the fallen remembered.

The service will follow straight on in St John's Church, led this year by Rev'd David Keeble of the Free Church.

Please come and join the parade and the services.

### **UTTLESFORD'S REVIEW OF WASTE STRATEGY**

Since we last wrote on this subject, the Cabinet has agreed to introduce glass collection in the green wheelie bins from April 2012.

Discussions are still being held over what to do about green waste - there are pros and cons to a wheelie bin service, but many areas of this parish would not be able to benefit as the collection vehicle is too large to gain access. The cost to the parish council of providing the green waste skips would be high and therefore this option is unlikely to be pursued .... the debate continues. However, we shall be lobbying for Uttlesford to retain the brown paper sacks for garden refuse as a number of our residents use these.

## TRIBUTE TO RAY CLIFFORD - BY GEOFFREY SELL, CHAIRMAN



I was saddened to learn of the death of Ray Clifford, at the age of 81. Ray played a prominent part in the public life of Stansted, the community in which he made his home for more than forty years.

I knew Ray all my adult life and for me he was a mentor. He was in part responsible for my entering public life. Ray became a member of Stansted Parish Council in 1973 and served as its Chairman between 1996-2002. He also served as one of the village's representatives on Uttlesford District Council between 1987-2003.

Ray possessed great qualities of energy, determination and vision. He could be impatient in meetings for he wanted 'action not words'. He was largely responsible for securing Windmill Fields as an open space. Fullers Almshouses in Church Road owe their refurbishment to Ray. He was very aware that Stansted lacked open spaces. His vision was that Stansted Park would be open to public access. This has still to be achieved.

He enjoyed talking to people. He would often be seen in earnest conversation with a resident on Cambridge Road. His journey from his home at Cannons Mead to the Co-op could often take some time.

Ray was very much his own man. He had a strong streak of individualism. This led him to helping found Stansted Liberals in 1965. He was part of a small team that was responsible for the Liberal party in Saffron Walden securing their highest ever share of the vote at the October 1974 general election. He gave strong support to Andrew Phillips (Lord Phillips of Sudbury) who fought the Constituency in 1977 and 1979. Andrew has commented that Ray "was a real one-off"

His public service came to an end in 2003 when he was unsuccessful in defending his seat as an Independent. Shortly afterwards his wife Mienneke died suddenly. He then made the decision to move to London to live near one of his daughters.

Stansted was fortunate to have Ray serving them for so many years. Thank you Ray for all you did.

## SPENDING THE NEW HOMES BONUS

The Cabinet at Uttlesford District Council has taken a decision on the allocation of the cash received from the Government under the New Homes Bonus. Out of the total of £714,365, a distribution of £500,000 will be made this year with the remainder being retained until next year on the basis that no further monies may be received. The basis of

## COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Our local Police have twice in the last year written about Community Speedwatch seeking volunteers who would be willing to be trained. Unfortunately only one person came forward, but as a minimum of six were required to progress the scheme, this did not happen and all funding for training has now been stopped.

As a result of the article last month, two people have contacted the Police to express their concern about the speed of traffic driving through the village. Watch next month's edition of The Link for the outcome of discussions we are holding with our local officers.

## MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Marie Curie Cancer Care provides high quality nursing, totally free, to give terminally ill people the choice of dying at home supported by their loved ones. Nurses in our community will be working all over Christmas to ensure that as many patients as possible can spend this time at home - even if only for a few hours.

If you can spare a couple of hours to help them with their fund raising collections at Stansted Airport, on Thursday 8th and/or Friday 9th December, they would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact Bridget on 01920 468956 or e-mail her [bridget.sneddon@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:bridget.sneddon@mariecurie.org.uk). Thank you.

allocation was made in accordance with development in communities over the past five years and was considered the fairest way to compensate major growth areas in the district.

Under this formula, Stansted Mountfitchet will receive £97,000 plus £1,000 to each District Councillor (to give to the community as each sees fit). It should be noted that the criteria for allocation and the retention of funds has been criticised. However, the decision has now been confirmed by the Scrutiny Committee of Uttlesford District Council with no votes against.

The Parish Council needs to decide before the end of the year how to spend this money. Early thoughts are investment in play equipment (it is intended to expand and re-equip the three main areas). However, any other ideas would be considered. If you would like to make proposals, please submit these to the Parish Council offices (parishcouncil@stansted.net or 813214).

## **FRAMEWORK FOR UK AVIATION - PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE**

The Parish Council recognises the right of Stansted Airport to double its current annual throughput to 35 million passengers per annum (mppa) but considers that public investment in infrastructure will be needed if this higher level of activity is not to impact adversely on this community and area.

The Council calls upon the Government, in framing its “sustainable” policy to limit noise, whether from aircraft movements (and especially at night) or road traffic (particularly on inadequate local roads), to tackle health and educational issues, to establish an independent body to monitor environmental impacts and to ensure the provision of regular, factual information.

Three issues are of particular importance to local communities:

- The responsibility for planning should remain with the local authority.
- BAA should be required to sell back, in a phased programme, all properties acquired in anticipation of a second runway.
- The Government should, following on from the earlier precedent at Gatwick Airport, make a legal agreement to prevent the construction of a second runway for at least forty years.

If these policies are pursued there is scope for the airport to double its scale whilst providing environmental protection and sustaining local communities. If you wish to read the full response, please go to our website [www.stansted.net](http://www.stansted.net) or contact the Council Offices at Crafton Green.

## **NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

This message is particularly for those residents in the Stansted North and Ugley Ward. You may be aware that the New Homes Bonus has been worked out and, to make it fair, each District Councillor has been given £1,000 to spend in their “patch”.

I am open to suggestions, but if people agree, I am quite happy to donate my share to the Youth Centre in Lower Street to help them to keep another night open for our youngsters.

Cllr John Salmon

Planning is a council service that is frequently controversial. The key to avoiding negative public perceptions is openness and transparency at all times; these are enshrined in codes of conduct and protocols for both elected members and paid officers.

The public’s perception of planning is currently being tested because of the difficult situation that Uttlesford has got itself into over planning for the future; its local development framework and local plan. Councils such as Braintree have completed up to date local plans for future employment sites and future homes; how many homes and where they will be best built. Many others, including Uttlesford, have out of date plans. Uttlesford made little progress on its plan in the past four years whilst it pursued the Elsenham Option 4 new town idea.

Uttlesford now does not have an adequate plan to show where over 400 new homes should be built for each of the next five years. There is a shortfall in the plan of over 100 homes a year. The coalition government’s draft planning rules say that if a council doesn’t have a completed plan, or has a housing supply deficit like Uttlesford has, then the presumption is that any planning application that comes in and can be shown to be “sustainable” will have to be given approval. UDC gave approval in September for a scheme at Thaxted outside

development limits against strong local opposition. Uttlesford will find it difficult to resist other similar applications.

The council has for several years held a very long list of sites across the district proposed by developers and land owners. Seventeen such sites are in and around Stansted. Many of these sites are outside existing development limits. Given the present state of Uttlesford's plan, many of these sites are vulnerable to approval by either UDC or by an inspector at an appeal against a refusal by UDC. In effect, the district runs the risk of losing control of what land gains permission for development.

In an attempt to plug the housing supply gap, a working group of councillors – none from Stansted - met in private in July to select a short-list of sites from the long list of developers' bids. These sites are meant to be those most suitable for early development. Council officers have been contacting the owners of the preferred sites to ask them whether they will put in early planning applications. The first are expected within the next two months.

The council had only started at the end of September to tell parish councils and local district councillors about this process, but the identity of sites on the short-list remained confidential.

Cllr Alan Dean

## **DATES FOR MEETINGS**

5 Nov - Bonfire Night  
9 Nov - Full Council  
13 Nov - Remembrance Sunday  
16 Nov - Open Spaces

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

Clerk - Ruth Clifford  
Admin Assistant - Anne Court  
E-mail: parishcouncil@stansted.net  
Phone/fax: 01279 813214  
www.stansted.net

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

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Dan Brett                         | 817974<br>contact@danielbrett.com                |
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| Iris Evans                        | 815848<br>Iris.evans9@googlemail.com             |
| Jo Freeman                        | 812524<br>j.freeman195@yahoo.com                 |
| Bridget Gott                      | 814440   |
| John Hudson                       | 814489<br>John@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk            |
| Peter Jones                       | 813252<br>peter@lowerstreet.com                  |
| Janice Loughlin                   | 812346<br>cllrloughlin@uttlesford.gov.uk         |
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| Ruth Rawlinson                    | 814222<br>ruthrawlinson@tiscali.co.uk            |
| Jonathan Rich                     | 813112<br>joerichlaw@aol.com                     |
| John Salmon                       | 814789<br>cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk           |
| Geoffrey Sell                     | 815925<br>sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk<br>(Chairman) |
| Bill Stiles                       | 813172<br>candbstiles@tiscali.co.uk              |
| Valerie Trundle                   | 813433<br>Prtvrt@btinternet.com                  |

## **Uttlesford District Council Members**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
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| Iris Evans  | Tel: 01279 815848<br>Email: iris.evans9@googlemail.com   |
| John Salmon | Tel: 01279 814789<br>Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk |
| Joe Rich    | Tel: 01279 813112<br>Email: cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk   |

## **Essex County Council Member**

Ray Gooding  
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Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk

## **Member of Parliament**

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

## **Police**

PC Tom Bastendorff Tel: 01279 812211  
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## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

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| Beavers<br>Age 6-8                 | David South<br>Tel: 814371  | Neighbourhood Watch  | Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433   |
| Bowls Club                         | Edward Taub<br>Hon Secretary Tel: 816932<br>Email: <a href="mailto:ebtaub@googlemail.com">ebtaub@googlemail.com</a>       | Pilots<br>Age 5-18   | Valerie Trundle<br>Tel: 813433  |
| Brownies/ Guides                   | Glynis Prothero<br>District Administrator<br>Tel: 814145  | Rainbows   | Sue Pollard Tel: 813734   |
| CAB                                | Tel: 08444 775986   | Rotary Club  | Peter Latham Tel: 507294<br>Email: <a href="mailto:yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk">yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk</a>   |
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| History Society                    | Peter Brown<br>Chairman Tel: 812816   | U3A  | Cherry<br>Chair Tel: 817140   |
| Huw Johnson Club                   | Marion and Tom Johnson<br>Tel: 812284   | Women's Institute<br>(Stansted)  | Judy Colliver<br>President Tel: 812470  |
| Lunch Club                         | Alastair Richardson<br>Tel: 07850 295109<br>Email: <a href="mailto:amg.richardson@gmail.com">amg.richardson@gmail.com</a> | Women's Institute<br>(Ugley)   | Dorothy Wallace<br>President Tel: 850215  |
| Millers (Windmill)                 | Derek Honour Tel: 647213  | Youth Centre   | Linda Barnes<br>Tel: 01371 873156/<br>07920 466 923   |
| Mountfitchet Club                  | John Robinson Tel: 812755   | Note: This list will be updated as and when we learn of any changes. If you would like the details of your organisation to be added please let us know. (Contact details on page 1.) |   |

### BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: [announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk) or send the form below to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG. Details must be submitted by the 11th of the month for publication the following month.

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shop we have in Stansted and we are assured that no one is retiring and the shop will not be closing.

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Not only carpets but curtains too; anyone passing the shop will notice the beautiful display of curtain fabrics, which can be made into curtains and blinds, in house.

For more details of their services, see their advertisement on page 24 (opposite). To avail yourself of the free measuring for carpets or curtains call Peter or any of the family on 812109 or email [stanstedcarpets@hotmail.com](mailto:stanstedcarpets@hotmail.com).

Long may he stay serving Stansted.



The National Childbirth Trust  
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you want to be

If you are struggling for Christmas gift ideas from the children to family and friends, the NCT is on hand to solve your dilemma! In November we are holding a Christmas Make and Do for all pre-schoolers; full details are listed below. The event will hold a number of stalls where children will be able to make and decorate presents adding the personal touch to gifts such as photo frames, calendars, Christmas cards and place mats. We will also have stalls from Usbourne books and Phoenix cards. Crazy Ceramics will also have a stall selling ceramic gifts such as mugs, plates and Christmas decorations which the children can decorate or put their hand and foot prints on. The event as always is open to all and not just NCT members.

As this issue is going to print we have not held our NCT sale so I cannot report back on its success, but I plan to give feedback next month. Our AGM is also being held this month which is a great opportunity to meet other parents and contribute ideas for the next year's programme of events. Are you friends with your local NCT branch on Facebook? By liking us you will then receive reminders of our planned events. Fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates? Why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings, which are informal gatherings held in members' homes? Each age group is individually tailored for, Bumps and Babes, Toddlers and Pre-school. We would love to meet you and it is a great way to make new friends.

### Additional Events This Month

For all ages – 10.00am Friday 4th November at St John's Church Hall, Christmas Make and Do

For all ages – from 3.30pm Wednesday 9th November at Coconuts, Great Dunmow for Soft Play

For Mums and Dads – Thursday 17th November AGM, call me for details

All our events are for members and non-members; for further information please contact me.

Anna Sedgbeer  
Tel: 812257



Huw Johnson  
Club

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed a sausage and mash supper at the Chequers, and visited Braintree Bowling Alley, followed by a Chinese lunch. We are beginning to practise our carol singing ready for Christmas and will be inviting you to join us in December's 'Link'. Our young helpers are all now at university, so if you know of any teenagers who would like to help us, please get in touch. This could be part of a Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Marion Johnson  
Tel: 812284

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# Stansted Tennis Club



## Club Finals Day

The annual Finals Day took place on Sunday 11th September. Results were as follows:

**Ladies' Singles** Sandra Ayres beat Ruby Hollis 1-6, 6-2, 6-3

**Mens' Singles** Alex Lupton beat Joe Hollis 6-3, 0-6, 6-1

**Ladies' Doubles** Ruby Hollis and Daphne Lunnon beat Sandra Ayres and Sue Sebley 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-3

**Mens' Doubles** Joe Hollis and Matt Hollis beat Chris Hollis and Alex Lupton 4-6, 6-1, 6-3

**Mixed Doubles** John Bitten and Ruby Hollis beat Joe Hollis and Jenny Kirby 7-5, 6-6 (retired)

## Saffron Walden & District Hospital Cup Finals

Stansted were well represented in the Finals of this local competition, which were held at Henham Tennis Club on Saturday 17th September. In the Mens' Singles final Alex Lupton (Stansted) beat Joe Hollis (Stansted) 6-4 6-3. Daphne Lunnon and Fiona Pye (Stansted) lost to Jude Walthew and Erika Tawnton (Stebbing) 2-6 1-6. Joe Hollis and Alex Lupton (Stansted) won the Mens' Doubles, beating Ben Stiles and Alex Drake (Elsenham) 6-2 6-2. In the Mixed Doubles Joe and Ruby Hollis (Stansted) beat James and Jude Walthew 4-6 6-4 6-2. £1000 was raised and presented to the Saffron Walden Community Hospital to provide equipment for Avocet Ward.

## Dates for your diary:

**Sunday 6th November - Clower Girls' Singles Tournament** - 12.45pm start.

**Ladies' Night Monday 14th November 7.00pm-10.00pm**

All are welcome!

## Coaching

To find out more about coaching at Stansted Tennis Club, please contact either Chris Hollis (Tel: 319155) or Martyn Taplin (Monday night adult coaching session) (Tel: 816386). Chris's younger groups have now stopped for the winter months. These will start up again next spring.

## Used tennis balls

Used tennis balls can be purchased for £1 per tube of four - choose your own! Please contact Jan Hollis on 812073.

## Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions:

Wednesday from 9.00am and 6.00pm

Friday from 9.30am. Sunday from 10.00am

## Contacts

Richard Mott (Secretary) 466348, Janet Hollis (Chairman) 812073, Daphne Lunnon (Membership Secretary) 817574.



Chris Hollis



# Stansted Cricket Club

Our Sunday side ended its season with four wins, two draws, and six defeats. These friendly matches give opportunities to younger players to learn adult cricket before playing in league matches, and to senior players who have not been selected on a Saturday. A few dedicated players play both days. Personal batting achievements this month include F Kirby (70) and H Kirby (56). Congratulations to the following players who won individual Herts & Essex Cricket League awards: Charlie Kirby (most runs, Div 2), Ben Baker (most wickets, Div 2 - shared with J Green of Matching Green CC), Jez Kealy (most wicketkeeper victims, Div 2), and Keith Ayres (most wicketkeeper victims, Div 6).

The Club held a most successful fund-raising Quiz Evening at St John's Hall on Friday 30th September. Ninety-two people attended and enjoyed seven rounds of challenging questions from quiz master Matt Cope. Thanks go to all who supported the event, especially the ladies who prepared the food; the scorer; those who donated raffle prizes; Mike for conducting the auction; Matt and Ian for organising the event; and Mervyn for running the bar. The event made over £1,000 towards our pavilion extension project. (A decision on our application for funding for the pavilion extension has been deferred for a further three months, due to technical difficulties.) The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact me. Any adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.

David Hedge  
Hon. Secretary  
Tel: 812509



## STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

'A great place to have fun and meet friends'

Just to remind all members that the AGM takes place on Friday 25th November at 7.30pm in the Clubhouse. If you have any items to add to the Agenda please let me know as quickly as possible. Copies of the last minutes and other documentation will be sent soon. Please read through and, in particular, the proposed amendments to the constitution. I look forward to seeing you all on 29th October at the Club dinner and presentation night.

Edward Taub  
Hon Secretary  
Tel: 816932

## THE STANSTED 'LINK' AGM

As a Community Interest Company, the 'Link' is not required to hold an annual public meeting, but its members are keen to provide an occasion for residents to raise any matters of relevance to us. The meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 22nd November at the Parish Council Offices. All are welcome.

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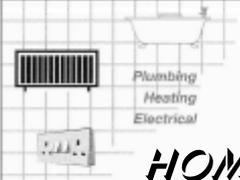
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## THE PARTY SEASON IS NOW UPON US!

I love this time of year - the decorations, food and most of all, Christmas parties! I thought it therefore only appropriate that our first fashion column helps you choose the right outfit to make you the belle of any ball! When choosing your outfit first consider what suits you and your body shape. If you have a lovely hourglass figure don't hide it away in baggy clothes which add kilos to your frame - and remember to define your waist. If you are more rounded choose soft flowing fabrics that hang from the shoulders, rather than your tummy (shoulder pads should become your new best friend). If you are lacking in curves choose straighter fabrics and styles - shift dresses will be a real winner on you. Pear shaped ladies should add detail to the top half bringing the eye away from their hips.



Don't be afraid of choosing this season's eye-catching bold colours. Purple is a great colour that looks fabulous on everyone. Another great alternative to black are metallics or shimmering fabrics. To make yourself appear slimmer wear the same colour top-to-toe (it doesn't have to be black). The illusion of super long legs can be created by choosing the same colour tights / trousers and shoes – think Kate Middleton's favourite tan tights and nude shoes and you get the drift... Spend a little more time and effort applying your make-up on the night - it will pay dividends because it will stay on longer. Use a loose powder on your T-zone to set your foundation and a lip pencil over your entire lips before lipstick to really intensify the colour and create extra staying power. For the finishing touch consider trying some false eyelashes for stunning (can't take his eyes off you) eyes!

Happy partying!!!

Elizabeth Willetts  
Tel: 07745 639554  
[www.stylemebeautiful.co.uk](http://www.stylemebeautiful.co.uk)



It is now more than a year since Grove Cottage launched its Youth Club for children with learning disability. We began with two children and now have eight regular attendees. The members are all in their early teens so we expect them to stay in this club for several years. The club will expand steadily for the next four or five years as new members transfer from the younger groups. In October the club held an Open Evening to which parents and siblings were invited. We were visited by 'the Zoo that visits you'. It was so popular that the younger members of the adult clubs joined in as well as some prospective members from the school-age clubs. Not everyone was brave enough to handle the snakes or the giant cockroach but everyone had a brilliant evening.

We have been extremely fortunate to receive three generous grants and a number of donations which we will use to improve our building. Some of the changes are not very glamorous; renewing the heating system, some double glazing and security lights. However, we have the opportunity to revamp our outside play area. We will erect a 'green screen' which should make the area more attractive for our neighbours and provide better privacy and security for our members. Planting will shield members from a very angular fire escape and the entire area will be made greener by including plants and raised flower beds for wheelchair users. Shade and shower proofing will be provided. A permanent barbeque and some seating will provide a cosy area for adults and there will be some strong wooden play equipment for the youngsters. We are praying for good weather at half-term so that most of the work is completed during the holiday.

David Scott  
Tel: 656085



**STANSTED & DISTRICT  
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

The Liberal Democrat Constituency Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 12th November at the URC Hall in Saffron Walden, 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Tickets are £17.50 and the speaker is Simon Wright, MP for Norwich South. For further information please ring 814222 or 813579.

Ruth Rawlinson

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW ADVERTISERS

This is the start of our new printing year and as we now have more pages in the Link, we have been able to include a number of new advertisements. The full index is on page 40.

# MONUMENTAL QUIZ

There are many monuments and memorials around the village, commemorating both people and events. Some are old and some are quite recent, and they are fashioned in many different forms.

Here are a few.  
Can you identify them  
and their whereabouts?



1



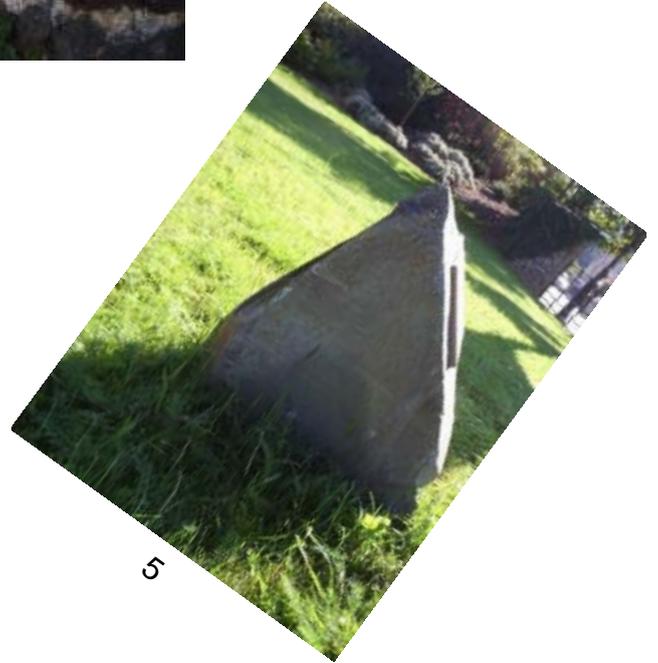
2



3



4



5

- Answers
1. Fuller Matland Monument on the Recreation Ground
  2. Monument to Henry and Mary Croasdale at the junction of Croasdale and Cambridge Road
  3. Coronation Stone set in wall by the covered seat in Chapel Hill
  4. Stone set in pillar outside gate to St Mary's Church (from the car park)
  5. Millennium Stone in Memorial Gardens



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

The September meeting was arranged for us by non-committee members led by Shirley Binder as President and Barbara Morrison as Secretary. The hall, decorated with red, white and blue flags, and the tables laid with red checked cloths and blue, white and mauve table flowers looked very festive. The speaker, David Padwick, had come along to recall the rock and roll era of the '50s and '60s, with the life story of Elvis Presley. David had previously visited us in 1999 to tell us about Ivor Novello, a heart-throb from another era. Whilst not attempting to do an Elvis impersonation he sang many of the well-known songs including 'Are You Lonesome Tonight' which had launched him into stardom - Elvis that is, not David - and we joined in with most of them. We learnt that Elvis had never had singing lessons, but always a radio listener, he sang from a very early age, copying what he heard, which was hillbilly music. Quite an outsider at school, he became popular when he sang in concerts as he didn't sound like anyone else at that time. Success came to him very quickly and overwhelmed him and his family. He was called up for military service in 1958 and sent to Friedburg in Germany, where he met the 14 year old Priscilla, whom he married over seven years later; their daughter Lisa was born in 1968. His use of amphetamines began in the army. He had a seven-year contract with Paramount Pictures and made some very indifferent films; but his live concerts attracted wide audiences of all ages and his record sales were enormous. After the collapse of his marriage in 1972 his decline in health was quite rapid and the prescriptions he was given led to his early death in 1977 at the age of 42 - a sad end to a glittering career. I wonder what he would think now of the hundreds of impersonators he still has and seems likely to have far into the future!

Our jumble sale at the end of September raised over £300 for our funds; it seems that they are in vogue again - cheaper than car boot sales maybe. We have been very busy making recyclable decorations from recycled materials for the Christmas tree at Hyde Hall, which we have been allotted to decorate, as one of the 70 Institutes in Essex who will be doing this in late November. Did you know that you can cut up plastic bags into strips and knit all sorts of exciting things? It reminds me of a speaker we once had who showed us how to make decorative walnut covers! I have never felt the need. Hyde Hall will be open for viewing and serving special lunches during December and some of us are planning a visit.

November is our AGM, a good meeting for prospective members to attend as they can hear all that goes on in the WI during the year. We meet at 7.45pm on 10th November in St John's Hall; we look forward to seeing some new faces.



Judy Colliver  
Tel: 812470



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Duchesses of Edinburgh and Devonshire are not normally seen together in Ugley Village Hall, but they were at our last meeting, or rather their floral selves were! They are flowers to be found in Bill Bosum's beautiful award winning Enfield garden. Mr Bosum was the speaker at a recent meeting and very entertaining he was too. He is a man of many parts: amateur horticulturist, flower show judge, rose breeder, area representative for the Royal National Rose Society and an accredited judge for them. He has won over 50 awards, and for the last three years has won gold medals in the Enfield in Bloom competition. In the space of an afternoon which seemed to fly by, we were given a guided tour of his garden - and what a beautifully photographed garden it was too, photography obviously being another of his talents. Roses were not the only flowers to find their way into it; I would imagine that almost every flower you can think of was represented including roses that he had bred himself and some grown from seed! He also demonstrated a very clever and much cheaper alternative to the usual hanging basket, made using four pint plastic milk containers cut to size, painted to match the trellis on his fence, and attached with wire from wire coat hangers. He explained that he had over 100 of these in his garden and that it took about two hours each morning to water them all. He also found time to appear in a short film featuring his garden made by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. His colourful talk closed with some useful gardening tips. Our December meeting which will be held in Ugley Village Hall at 2.00pm on Wednesday 7th December will be a festive finale when we will be entertained by the Nazeing handbell ringers. If this rings your bell why not come and join us? You would be very welcome.

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922

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## 494 (Stansted / Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

The Squadron has reason to be especially proud this month as our Cadet Warrant Officer, Alice Brooks, was declared the joint winner of the Hertfordshire Young Person of the Year Award! Alice, who is the senior ranking cadet on the unit, received the award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to a wide range of clubs and activities that she is involved in. The award was presented by the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire and Alice very generously shared the £400 prize with the Squadron, donating £200 to our Minibus fund, once again demonstrating her amazing commitment to the unit, the cadets and staff all being very grateful for her kind gift. Alice has had a rather eventful year having recently had the holiday of a lifetime in South Africa following her successful participation in the Duke of Westminster's Award and the news that she had won the YOPEY Award has been the icing on the cake.



Tony Gearing, a former national newspaper journalist who founded YOPEY to counteract the bad press young people receive, said: "Alice is a great YOPEY winner. She gives to so many different organisations, including the air cadets. I am sure she will grow up to be a great citizen." If anyone would like to find out more about the YOPEY Award you can visit their website [www.yopey.org](http://www.yopey.org).

The rest of the Squadron have been rather busy too with a number of cadets achieving Marksman Badges after target shooting at Carver Barracks. The new intake of junior cadets is progressing well and the Squadron now makes for a rather impressive sight when on parade with over 70 cadets on the strength. We are all looking forward to the autumn programme of events with exercises, visits and gliding all scheduled in the run up to Christmas so if you are aged between 13 and 16 and interested in joining us, please contact us: telephone 681559 Mondays and Fridays 7.15pm-9.30pm (24 hr answerphone), email: [494@aircadets.org](mailto:494@aircadets.org).

Simon Stacey  
Civilian Instructor  
494 Sqn ATC

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## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### The East Wold Wagoners

In our second meeting of the season, Stan Sutherland from the Radwinter Society, gave us an interesting and illustrated account of a group of men who served in the Great War. In 1912 Sir Mark Sykes of Sledmere House in Sledmere village near Drifffield, put together from, his own and neighbouring farms, a group of men to help with manoeuvring supplies around France during the impending war. Of these 1127 men, eight were from Essex around the Saffron Walden area, and four from Cambridgeshire. The labourers were working



in Yorkshire at the time due to the higher wages compared to local farming labour rates. He called them 'The Wagoners Special Reserve' and paid them a retainer of: private/driver £1, corporal/foreman £2, sergeant/road master £4 per year. The teams consisted of three men per wagon with two heavy horses and a modified

cart. He held an annual competition to keep the men honed and competent, with a cup and £2 prize money for the winning team.

When war was declared in 1914 the Wagoners were assembled and ready to be transported to France within three weeks, the harvest having to be taken care of by the wives and other family members. They were now part of the Army Service Corps, despatched to Rennes, and for the first time had a uniform. During their service in the Great War they constantly took part in many supply missions often supplying the front line. Split into three parts: field, reserve and park divisions. They lost 37 of the 1127 men, the first being Johnson Leighton, a Beverley man killed in the Ypres salient serving the 7th Division. When a horse was lost, the team had to produce a removed hoof as evidence to get a replacement, due to the flourishing trade in selling military horses to the local French farmers.

Our next meeting will be at 8.00pm on Thursday 3rd November in the Day Centre (entry £2 including tea and biscuits) when Rosalind and Roger Peck will talk about William Douglas Caroe, architect, the designer of St John's Church and other buildings in Stansted Mountfitchet.

Steve Leaney  
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## FORESTHALL PARK RESIDENTS

Thank you to everyone who came out for the litter pick. We covered quite a lot of ground and at the end we had collected enough litter to fill 13 large refuse sacks. It reiterates the need to get some additional bins in place soon. In the meantime, hopefully people notice that the area is slightly tidier and will perhaps think twice before dropping that sweet wrapper or plastic bottle.



We mentioned in our September 'Link' contribution that we were working on a website for the Residents' Association and I can report that it is now up and running. The address is [www.foresthallparkresidents.org](http://www.foresthallparkresidents.org). Our aim is to add regular updates to this website and also build up the content with lots of useful information for people living in and around Foresthall Park. I would encourage anyone interested in keeping up to date with what's going on to sign up for updates (via 'follow blog via email'). We will of course continue to make monthly contributions in the 'Link'. Finally, do not forget to put your pumpkins out on Halloween – although be warned, if last year was anything to go by, you would be well served to stock up on lots of sweets and candy bars!

Stephen Berry  
Chairman

Tel: 647652

Email: [s.berry@mac.com](mailto:s.berry@mac.com)

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

The Council has recently provided blue recycling bags to residents for the reuse of textiles and clothing. Their leaflet says this is in order to limit the number of commercial services and letterbox drops operating in the area and to provide clothes to charities. I thought this was a great decision in order to support local charities and provide a service to residents in the area.

We contacted the Council and they referred us to the local collection agent who said we should put our bags out with the bins. Having filled four large bags with good quality clothes and shoes, we left them out as requested on Friday 7th October. At 9.00am, a car with three men pulled up and took the bags, before the official Council collector arrived. I contacted the Council to explain what had happened, and they asked the commercial company to reply to me, which is hardly satisfactory. I am extremely disappointed.

Kay Mason

### CALLING ALL KNITTERS

Is anyone in the village interested in forming a (hand) knitting and crochet club? It can be fun to knit or crochet with a group of enthusiasts and a cuppa to keep you going. Knitted accessories are quite fashionable and popular at the moment but I have heard that many young people do not know where to start.

You do not have to start with a large project; a baby hat or perhaps some Christmas decorations could be quick and easy. We could encourage each other and get some really good ideas by chatting together. Beginners (and gentlemen) welcome. Please contact me if you are interested in starting a group or come for a cuppa to discuss. We would need to find a suitable time and day as soon as possible if we are going to make things for Christmas.

Gina Barber  
Tel: 812105

Email: [GinaB.Stansted@gmail.com](mailto:GinaB.Stansted@gmail.com)



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## REMEMBER, REMEMBER ...

It's amazing who you meet as a vet; this week I had the pleasure of treating Oscar Wilde, Dylan Thomas and Hollie Johnson (you do have to be a certain age to know who the last person is and possibly have had your disco days in the 1980s!). I must say it was a pleasure to meet them all, although I would have liked to discuss poetry in a little more detail with Dylan, rather than stopping him from scratching his itchy skin! Anyway, as you all know, November is fire-works month and as I'm sure any of you that have read my articles over the last few years also know, a lot of pets get quite scared at this time of year, including my dog Broccoli who spends every Bonfire night hiding in a wine rack in our kitchen. We have tried all the usual tricks of turning the television up and drawing the curtains but as soon as he hears the first bang, into the wine rack he goes. All the animal behaviourists agree that it is best to carry on as normal when an animal is anxious; however one of my clients pointed out this wasn't easy as when her large German Shepherd dog gets anxious it tries to sit on her lap! One of the worst things to do apparently is to make a fuss of your pet when it is scared as this only reinforces their fear. I agree it can be quite hard *not* to comfort your pet if it is in distress, as this goes against your natural instincts. The other important piece of advice is to let your pet find the place where it feels most secure. If this is under your bed leave it there, if it is on your lap then that's OK too. Good luck to you Great Dane owners out there ...

Most vets tend not to prescribe sedatives for anxiety these days, as research has shown that sedatives don't make an animal any less scared, they just make it unable to move. This reinforces the fear for the next time and so a nervous dog may become gradually worse over time. There are lots of preparations on the market that are advertised as reducing anxiety. Some of them work better than others. We have found good results with a combination of a herbal remedy, skullcap and valerian and a pheromone product. These canine and feline pheromone products are available in room diffusers or sprays, and they release the 'appeasing' pheromones that cats and dogs release when they are relaxed. I also use homeopathic remedies, the particular remedy depending on the symptoms that your pet displays. There is also a new food supplement which reduces anxiety too. We do have an advice and information sheet about pets and fire-works at the surgery that gives information about all these products, so please drop by and get one and have a chat with Emma our nurse.

Ilse Pedler  
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons

## THORNBURY BADMINTON CLUB



The Club has been running for 12 years now. It was formed in 1999. We use two courts at the Mountfichet Romeera Leisure Centre in Forest Hall Road, Stansted every Thursday evening from 8.00pm-10.00pm and also every Sunday morning from 10.00am-12 noon.



If you are interested in joining us please contact Mario or Shirley on 815871 or just pop along on club



## MOUNTFICHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

### Collapsed Timetable Day

MMCC held the first Collapsed Timetable Day of the new academic year at the end of September. The aim of these days is to give students the opportunity to deepen their understanding and enjoy an enriched learning experience without the frustration of the bell ringing just as they become engrossed in an activity. Year 7 students took part in a Mexican Day and learnt about Mexican art, food and culture. Year 8 experienced a very competitive, team-based Maths Investigation Day, whilst Year 9 spent the day in the Expressive Arts and English Faculties exploring whether street cul-



Year 10 focused on Study Skills as they embark on their GCSEs, and Year 11 enjoyed an options day where they studied one of their option subjects for the whole day, enabling geography students, for example, to carry out extensive fieldwork in Bishop's Stortford. Feedback from students was very positive and provided an excellent start to our programme of Collapsed Timetable Days.

Mr P Smith  
Deputy Headteacher

### Annual Prize Evening

The college held its annual Prize Evening on Thursday 29th September. Numerous awards were presented to students from all years and the emphasis was very much on celebrating success. Alongside the traditional academic and sporting awards, were awards for progress and commitment. A new award of Student of the Year was introduced which brought an element of surprise to the evening. Musical interludes were performed by the College Samba Band and a solo performance by Isabelle Davies-Tutt who impressed the audience with her version of Adele's 'Someone like you'. Guests were invited to a pre-presentation reception in the new Forest Café. Awards were presented by the Chair of Governors, Mrs Gina Field, and the evening was voted a

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Our next meeting is on Thursday 17th November in St John's Hall. Doors open 1.30pm and the meeting starts at 2.00pm. The Speaker will be **Colin Oakes** – who will enlighten us on 'Pepys, The Plague and The Great Fire of London'. **Remember that there will be no meeting in December.**

The last month proved to be very busy and along with our usual weekly activities we enjoyed an evening with the Stansted U3A Singers; I ask, could the choir sound better if we had men involved? So, Stansted U3A men, how about putting some of our names forward and let's find out. The Choir have CDs available to both members and non-members of U3A for a small donation.

A visit to Chatham Docks took our members back into a bygone era and a theatre visit to 'Legally Blonde' was thoroughly enjoyed.

We would like to thank **Stansted Airport Community Trust** for their generous grant of £1000, which will shortly be used for the purchase of new audio-visual equipment. Further details will follow, when the equipment is purchased.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

**'60s/'70s Night – St John's Hall - Friday 11th November**

Live group - take a trip down memory lane with classic songs from the '60s and '70s - includes fish and chip supper. Please contact Maggie on 503848 for information.

Note - **Tickets are available to non-members of U3A.**

**Tuesday 22nd November - Royal Opera House**

Ballet 'Sleeping Beauty' - fully booked.

**Christmas Market – Friday 2nd December**

Lincoln is the perfect place to visit over the festive period. Take a trip back through time and stroll along the cobbles in the cultural quarter of the city. The medieval square between the impressive Norman castle and magnificent gothic cathedral is the perfect backdrop for the Christmas Market. Contact Maggie 503848/Jan 812481

**Christmas Lunch - Friday 16th December 12.30pm Great Hadham Golf Club**

All members are welcome to our Christmas carvery and entertainment of carols with our own U3A Singers. Contact Cherry 817140.

We are already planning next year's visits so come along to the monthly meeting to find out more. See our website for full details of Stansted U3A [www.stanstedu3a.org](http://www.stanstedu3a.org) or for further information please contact myself Alan (Vice-chair) 813938 or Cherry (Chair) 817140 or Chris (Secretary) 817587.

Alan Bore

**UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET**

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The Kings Arms kindly presented a cheque to Caroline Bore, Stansted Friends Group secretary, for £1,000 last month, the result of a very busy, fun-filled charity day on August Bank Holiday. The total amount raised for St Clare Hospice is well in excess of this amount with the addition of their quizzes and collecting tins and therefore we are most grateful to the staff and all their customers who contributed; a huge thank you to them all.

**Join us for a special time of celebration**



The Christmas season is a very special time of year. A time for celebration with our families and friends, but for many it can be a sad time where our thoughts turn to our loved ones who are no longer with us. St Clare Hospice invites you to 'Light up a Life' and come together with your friends and family to remember and celebrate the life of someone close to you. At each special 'Light up a Life' event, lights will be illuminated in memory of your loved ones. 'Light up a Life' is open to everyone; you don't have to have experienced hospice care. After the service, there will be time to enjoy Christmas music and refreshments. These events will take place at Dunmow, in the United Reformed Church on Sunday 11th December at 3.30pm or you are welcome to attend the Hospice Event at St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood CM17 9JX on Saturday 3rd December at 4.00pm or Wednesday 7th December at 7.00pm (please call to book your place 773750). If you would like to **dedicate a light** in memory of someone special to you, please call 773750 or visit [www.stclarehospice.org.uk](http://www.stclarehospice.org.uk).



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|   | Helpline                          | 32 | Painting & Decorating           | FC                               |     |
|   | Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club | 10 | Brown's Painting & Decorating   | 24                               |     |
|   | Uttlesford Carers Support Group   | 26 | JP Tiling                       | 28                               |     |
|   | Ugley Village Hall (for hire)     | 36 | Lesley Anne (Decorating)        | 24                               |     |
|   |                                   |    | Perfect Plastering              | 12                               |     |
| <b>Computing</b>                              | Alan Horsley (Computer Repairs)   | 8  | Ray Morton (Decorating)         | 32                               |     |
|   | Lan One (Accessories & Repairs)   | 26 | Shutes Painting & Decorating    | 16                               |     |
|   | TCS (Set Up & Repairs)            | 26 | T F Plastering                  | 12                               |     |
| <b>Education</b>                              | Adult Community Learning          | 26 | <b>Personal Services</b>        | Bonne Santé (Beauty)             | BC  |
|   | Kiddy Cook                        | 26 |                                 | Cambridsge Weight Plan           | 8   |
|   | High House Montessori Nursery     | 26 |                                 | Essential Gems                   | 38  |
|   | Rainbow Pre-School                | 34 |                                 | Fancy Fingers (Beauty)           | 32  |
|   | St Nicholas School                | 26 |                                 | Glynis Cheers (Hypnotherapy)     | 38  |
| <b>Electrical</b>                             | Tuition                           | 8  | R Handford (Chiropody)          | 10                               |     |
|   | Albury Electrical Services        | 28 | Natural Hypnobirthing           | 32                               |     |
|   | A&I Electrical                    | 16 | Julie Golden (Chiropody)        | 32                               |     |
|   | Ethical Electrical                | 28 | Lino Thomas (Hairdressing)      | 10                               |     |
|   | Stansted Electric                 | 28 | Lola Jones Executive Assistance | 24                               |     |
| <b>Financial &amp; Legal</b>                  | Greenways Financial Planning      | 34 | Lower Street Clinic             | 6                                |     |
|   | Mansell & Co                      | BC | Jan Rickwood (Baby Massage)     | 32                               |     |
|   | Tee Financial                     | 34 | Stansted Chiropractic           | 6                                |     |
| <b>Food &amp; Lodging</b>                     | Chimneys Guest House              | 34 | Sole Reflexions (Reflexology)   | 32                               |     |
|   | Eddie Ho Fish & Chips             | 8  | Stansted Psychotherapy          | 38                               |     |
|   | Pocknell Food Co                  | 36 | Style Me Beautiful              | 38                               |     |
|   | The Cock (Stansted)               | BC | Williams (Osteopath)            | 6                                |     |
|   | The Dog & Duck                    | BC | What's a name's (Hairdressing)  | BC                               |     |
|   | 33 B & B                          | 36 | <b>Pilates</b>                  | Back to Basics (Pilates)         | 6   |
|   |                                   |    |                                 | Tone Pilates                     | 6   |
| <b>Funeral Services</b>                       | Daniel Robinson & Sons            | 34 | <b>Photography</b>              | Chris Campbell Photography       | 326 |
|   | J Day & Son                       | 32 |                                 | Copyzone                         | 24  |
|   | D C Poulton & Sons                | 34 | <b>Printing</b>                 | Bareham Overy (Architects)       | 12  |
| <b>Garden Supplies, Services &amp; Floral</b> | N W Brown (Landscapes)            | 36 | <b>Property Services</b>        | Chris Osborn (Brickwork)         | 18  |
|   | Crystal Clear Ponds               | 16 |                                 | Churchills General Builders      | 12  |
|   | D Honour & Son (Landscapes)       | BC |                                 | DJS Building Services            | 12  |
|   | Ian Gill Sculpture                | 16 |                                 | Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)       | 12  |
|   | Steve Hall Garden Services        | 36 |                                 | Jason Bagge Architecture         | 12  |
|   | J R Johnston (Trees)              | 32 |                                 | David Fortune (Builder)          | BC  |
|   | Mayfair Ponds                     | FC |                                 | Persimmon Homes                  | 10  |
|   | Gill Owen (Gardening Services)    | 36 |                                 | Unique Construction              | 12  |
|   | The Secret Gardener               | 36 |                                 | Westwood Building & Construction | 18  |
|   | Uppercut Trees                    | 36 |                                 | A C Wright Building Contractors  | 12  |
| <b>Heating &amp; Plumbing</b>                 | Harpers Plumbing & Heating        | BC | <b>Retailers</b>                | Babygorgeous                     | 32  |
|   | JDW Gas Heating Specialist        | 16 |                                 | Family News                      | 36  |
|   | Jones & Co (Plumbing)             | 28 |                                 | John Wilson Jeweller             | 36  |
|   | Newman's Home Services            | 28 |                                 | CJ Fitness Academy               | 38  |
|   | Orion Heating                     | 8  |                                 | Ruggerbugs                       | BC  |
|   | Stansted Gas Services             | 28 |                                 | Will Writing                     | 8   |
|   | A T Plumbing                      | 28 |                                 | Herts & Essex Wills              | 8   |
|   |                                   |    | The Will Practice               | 8                                |     |

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