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Lane
by Ralph Phillips

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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

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EDITORIAL



This month promises to be a busy one judging by the overwhelming number of social activities we've received for our Village Events section – and it's only November! Too many to squeeze onto page 5, but every event is mentioned somewhere in The Link, so please read the magazine very carefully to make sure you don't miss any of the exciting things taking place locally! One of the 'excitements' we could have done without last month was the extensive power cut. Most large businesses ground to a halt and closed their doors, but in spite of having no operational tills or weighing scales (and at least one staff member having to literally work in the dark) a few of our local independent shops, in true 'Blitz' spirit carried on regardless and continued to serve their customers as best they could. They all deserve a medal, and our continued support.

The recent disappearance of the lovely tree that once graced Bentfield Green, opposite the duck pond and play area is a worry. I do hope it hasn't been chopped down to make way for another potential housing development!!

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I was asked recently by a friend who was dying if I would speak at his funeral. After he died and the funeral date was set, I began to reflect on what I would say. I knew others would feed me treasured memories, but I struggled myself to remember my friend beyond the ravages of his final illness. Gradually, with the lapse of time, a clearer picture took shape of the person I had first met 23 years earlier. His charm and sense of mischief; his impatience, waspish tongue and his tenderness and deep concern for others in adversity. A challenging and complex personality with a capacity to surprise. Each of us has our own memories of how another person touched our lives. We should celebrate the fact that different people see the same person in different ways. How boring life would be if people were perceived in exactly the same way by everyone they knew. If they were, there would be no room for discussion or argument as a way of deepening our understanding of another human life. We would be like cardboard cut-outs – one dimensional and dull. In reality, however, everyone is multi-dimensional and the richness of who we really are is expressed through the many different ways we are seen and understood by other people.

As a Quaker, I believe there is that of God in every human being. This means everyone is inherently interesting because the beauty of our world and our experience is disclosed through our relationships with other people. One of the cruellest things we can say to another person is: "Go away. You do not interest me." To deny another person their essential humanity by dismissing them as irrelevant is not only a shameful conceit but also a self-destructive act. In our quick and easy denial of others, we deny ourselves.



Jonathan Morrell
Stansted Quaker Meeting



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Tel 814059
lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Preachers for November

3rd 10.30am New Directions - The Worship team
10th 10.50am United Service at St John's
17th 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins - Communion
24th 10.30am Gordon Doyle

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

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am



Celebration of Christmas

This annual family event will be taking place in St John's at 3.00pm on Saturday 21st December. As usual, we are inviting people to sing in 'the choir'. It is always great fun and for the last two years we have had over 40 people leading the singing - it would be good to have even more this year! There will be two rehearsals, both in St John's, on Thursdays 5th and 19th December, from 7.30pm-8.15pm. If you wish to see the music beforehand there will be some copies available from mid-November in the Parish Office at the Church Hall.

Carol Singing

As usual we will be carol singing round the village and the dates for this year are Sunday 22nd and Monday 23rd December. More details next month. Both the Celebration of Christmas and the Carol Singing will be raising money for Care Network (Uttlesford).



Alan Corbishley



ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS MARKET

This is on Saturday 23rd November 12 noon-3.00pm 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.com

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

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

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

St John's Diary Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer
Tuesday
9.00am St John's Tots
Wednesday
9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

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.

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

From the Registers

August

Baptisms

18th Benjamin George Harrington
Yves Frederick Arthur Harding
Cicely Blythe Rose Harding

September

Baptisms

1st Edward Trevor James Lyne
Phoebe Stephanie Winder
Florence Jane Winder

Funerals

3th Bill Hancock - at St Mary's followed by burial in Stansted Cemetery
4th Victor Duncan, age 59 - at St Mary's followed by burial in Stansted Cemetery
4th Winifred White, age 97, at Parndon Wood

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the September draws:

£100 No 20 - Lesley Hawkes
£ 50 No 147 - Yvonne Ayres
£ 25 No 215 - Kath Johnson

The draws for November will be held on Sunday 24th November in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. Numbers are still available at a cost of £2 per month per number. Please contact me for an application form if you would like to be in with a chance of winning whilst helping to support the work of St John's Church.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562

REV'D CANON BARRY ROSE 1935-2013

Barry Rose, who died at the end of September after some years of poor health, was Vicar of Stansted throughout the 1980s. He came to Stansted from St Mary Latton in Harlow, having spent many years before in Antigua and Dominica where he and his wife, Janet, worked as missionaries for USPG (the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel). Barry was a good parish priest and in his time in Stansted called many to mission. He was also very highly regarded and much respected in the Diocese, training many young



curates. Two of these, who had their first curacies in Stansted are Andrew Proud and Tony Bundock. Andrew is now Bishop of Reading and Tony is Rector of Leeds Minster. From Stansted, Barry went on to Halstead from where he officially retired. He never did actually retire, continuing to work at St Peter ad Vincula Church in Coggeshall until weeks before his death. Barry's funeral there on 8th October was attended by over 300 people, many from Stansted. It was a Requiem Eucharist and all the hymns and prayers had been chosen by Barry. The Right Rev'd Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, conducted the service, The Right Rev'd Andrew Proud gave the address and Rev'd Canon Tony Bundock read the Gospel. It was an amazing service and a wonderful send off for Barry. Please pray for Janet, and David, Peter and Helen and their families at this very sad time for them.

Alan Corbishley



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

We are fortunate in Stansted to have our beloved St Mary's Church; although no longer used for worship, it is open on a regular basis and for special events. Keith Turner, a former long-term resident of the village treated us to a talk on 'Music for the Book of Common Prayer'. He included a number of recordings made in Salisbury Cathedral on the famous Willis Organ. It was wonderful to hear the choir of the cathedral in such a beautiful setting as St Mary's, using the new sound system which is worth a visit in its own right. I thoroughly recommend that you watch out for the next special event - they are always advertised in The Link.

Derek Francis

'Music for the Book of Common Prayer' on 15th September was a most appropriate choice to mark National Heritage Day. Keith Turner's talk drew on his wealth of knowledge as organist and choirmaster and it gave so much pleasure to a very appreciative audience. We have had so many requests for a second performance, and, as Keith edited his talk to last for about an hour, we look forward to another edition, hopefully in the spring. The occasion was greatly enhanced by the Friends' recent acquisition of a PA system, purchased with a gift in memory of Kevin Halsey from his family and friends. The system will be a great asset to any performances in the church and we are most grateful for their generosity. Thanks go, as always, to Keith Ayres for his expert knowledge in its selection.

14th and 15th December

St Mary's Annual 'Celebration of Angels and Christmas Trees', 10.00am-5.00pm, with our joyful 'Carols for All' on Saturday at 3.30pm. Come early for a seat – last year we had a full church with standing room only! Please stay for mulled wine and all sorts of Christmas fare on sale after the carols. Entrance is free, donations welcome. **Important Information!** Secretary Sally Argent will be informing all organisations in Stansted of the need to reserve a space for an angel or Christmas tree. The last years have shown great support for this village event. If you have not heard from Sally by 15th November, please call her on 812418, or me.



Sunday 15th December 11.00am

St Clare Hospice have asked if they may have one of their 'Light up a Life' services in St Mary's. Led by the Hospice Chaplain, everyone is welcome. A special tree will be in place to donate a candle in memory of a loved one. We are pleased to host this service in Stansted for the first time. It will be a moving and memorable occasion. Donations to be shared by the Churches Conservation Trust and St Clare.

Wednesday 18th December 11.00am

Forest Hall School will be holding their service of carols and readings in St Mary's Church. We are so pleased to welcome the staff and pupils and all are invited to join in their celebrations for Christmas.

Audrey Rodgers
Chairman
Tel: 812162



Shalom

Our meeting on Monday 11th November is at 7 Blythwood Gardens, when Joley Baker, granddaughter of Helen and Pete Baker, will be talking and showing pictures about her experiences working in Thailand as an assistant teacher. Our At Home on Monday 25th November is at 49 Recreation Ground. Both meetings start at 8.00pm and all are welcome.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



Spangles is a Sure Start Children's Centre providing services and free activities for families with children under 5 years in Stansted and the surrounding villages. Please contact us if you would like information about childcare, local activities, benefit changes, employment and training. If we don't have all the answers then we can help you to find them. We can also give advice and support on the most important job of all, that of parenting. All parents find aspects of bringing up their children challenging at times so please give us a call if you would like some help.

Fun with under 1's, every Friday 10.00am-11.30am

This is a group for babies aged 0-12 months and their parents, carers and expectant mums and dads. The group offers stimulating activities to explore with your baby in a safe and friendly environment, an opportunity to meet other parents and babies, share experiences and if you choose, to go for a Buggy Walk for some exercise.

Stay and play, every Thursday 10.00am-11.30am

This is a drop in session for under five years, with two rooms of play and activities. Snack and drinks provided.

Just4dads 9th November and 14th December 10.00am-11.30am

A Stay and Play session just for Dads and male carers with children 0-5 years. For more information please call or come and see us at Spangles in Lower Street.

Lesley Murdoch
Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator
Tel: 812348



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNINGS 27th September

The event at **Old Lane House** raised a marvellous total of £600 including gift aid. The weather was very kind to us and it was great to see so many people from all over the village. Thank you to everyone who supported this occasion.

Christine and Bill Stiles

The Cock coffee morning raised over £200. We would like to say a big thank you to the following local businesses who assisted and donated raffle prizes: D C Poulton and Sons, Yuva Restaurant, Lino Thomas Hairdressers, Fancy Fingers, B'looms Flowers and Gifts, Shelley's Salon, Reflexology, and Steve Golding. It was a great morning and thanks everyone who came along and tried all those lovely home-made cakes ...

Paul and Samantha Salmon
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QUIZ EVENING

7 for 7.30 pm Day Centre
Saturday 9th Nov

£10, conc £5 (incl ploughman's)
Tickets from Rory 07849 131934
Bar ~ Raffle

VILLAGE EVENTS

November

1	Fri	Business Forum	Linden House 7.30 am
2	Sat	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
		Village Fireworks	Elms Farm from 6.30 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
7	Thu	Shoe Box Packing	Free Church Hall 7 pm
		History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Sat	Pre-Revolutionary Russia Talk	Free Church Hall 9.30 am - 1 pm
		Lib Dem Quiz	Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm
9 & 23	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
10	Sun	Remembrance Day Service	Memorial Grounds 10.50 am
11	Mon	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
		Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
13	Wed	Windmill Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon
		Tangent Flog It	Day Centre 7 for 7.30pm
14	Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.45 pm
16	Sat	Stansted Family Café Birthday	St John's Hall 9.30 - 11 am
		Huw Johnson Wine Tasting	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
17	Sun	Christmas Shopping Event	Bentfield School noon - 4 pm
19	Tue	Link AGM	Parish Council Offices 7.30 pm
21	Thu	U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
23	Sat	St John's Christmas Market	St John's Church 12 - 3 pm
		Day Centre Bistro Evening	Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm
25	Mon	Shalom At Home	49 Recreation Ground 8 pm
29	Fri	Fish and Chip Friday	Day Centre 12.30 pm
		Christmas Shopping Evening	St Mary's School 6.30 - 9 pm
30	Sat	Christmas Fair	Bentfield School 2 - 5 pm



Stansted Millers

Coffee Morning

10 am - noon Wed 13th Nov
Day Centre

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Cake Stall ~ Raffle

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FLOG IT AUCTION

7 for 7.30 pm Wed 13th Nov
Stansted Day Centre

Admission £3 incl refreshments
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Proceeds to Multiple Sclerosis Society



St Mary's School PTFA

**Christmas Shopping
Evening**

6.30 - 9 pm Fri 29th Nov
Christmas Stalls ~ Refreshments
Children's Craft Activities
Santa's Grotto and more ..
Entry £1.50 includes glass of fizz
Children free



Bentfield School
PTFA

Christmas Fair

2 - 5 pm Sat 30th Nov
Santa's Grotto ~ Raffle
Stalls ~ Mulled Wine
Lots of Games to Play
Admission FREE!



Farnham Primary
School

Christmas Bazaar

11.30 am - 2.30 pm
Sun 16th Nov
Seasonal Stalls
Mulled Wine ~ Barbecue
Activities for all ages groups
Entry Free

**St John's Church
Christmas Market**

12 - 3 pm
Sat 23rd November

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

Admission Free ~ Refreshments



Bentfield School
PTFA

Christmas Shopping Event

12 - 4 pm Sun 17th Nov
Lots of retailers with crafts & gifts
Bring your friends and Christmas lists!
Admission £1 Children Free
Refreshments



**WINE
TASTING**

7.30 pm Sat 16th Nov
St John's Hall

Tickets £12.50 (incl Ploughman's)
from Sandra 812627
or Katharine 461270

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FOREST HALL SCHOOL



Wednesday 18th September saw Forest Hall School open its doors for the first formal Open Evening for the new school. The hall was extremely busy for the Headteacher's talk and was then followed by tours of the school. Year 7 students showed how confident they already feel after only two weeks in the school by acting as guides alongside Year 11 Prefects. The range of activities available for students and their parents/carers to try was vast and really encouraged the young people to get involved. Although the evening is very much about 'showing the school off,' morning tours are also available, by appointment, to ensure that parents/carers see the school on a 'normal' working day.



The Annual Prize Evening in October is one of the most enjoyable evenings in the calendar, when we are able to celebrate the achievements of our students. Awards for Progress and Attainment in individual subjects are interspersed with individual awards for aspects such as Sport, Leadership, and Exam success.

Perhaps the most exciting award is that of Student of the Year. Staff nominate students from each year group and those with the highest number of nominations receive an award. Citations are then read out as to why each student has been nominated. This is the opportunity to really show just what some of our students contribute to the school as a whole and it really is a heart-warming moment. The overall winner is announced there and then to much rapturous applause and expressions of surprise! This year, our guest presenter was Sarah Dignasse, ex-headteacher of a large Essex comprehensive and the Trustee for two charities. Her talk was both inspiring and thought-provoking and was clearly well received. As a Games Maker for the London 2012 Olympics, she was able to draw on many experiences and examples of just what young people



can offer to today's society. Sarah presented the Selene Wrankmore Prize for Poetry to Georgia King. Her winning poem, 'Undefined', is reproduced opposite. Our thanks go to all our guests, including parents and carers and we look forward to celebrating the successes of this academic year next September.

Victoria Owen
Student and Community Administrator
Tel: 813384

The enthusiasm and vigour of the students was tangible and a sense that no mountain is too high. The evening was peppered with inspirational speeches by guest speakers, staff and students alike, making it memorable and rewarding for all of us who attended.

Anna Nolan

UNDEFINED

Unlike a box of chocolates or a single red rose,
Love cannot be defined or wrapped up in bows,
My gift to you is simple, look beneath and you'll see.
It's the ability to trust, be safe and be free.

You see what I've got you, it can't be defined,
Like the vines in the forest, each one is entwined.
It's the earth and nature and the moon and the sun,
The red roses in the garden, the petals undone.

My present I got you, as silly as it seems,
It reaches to the stars beyond your wildest dreams.
The moon and its reflection, is just for you,
It captures the night and symbolises us two.

I didn't spend any money or fork out the cash,
The sun for you is free, with all its burning ash.
As it glows bright for the entirety of the day,
It can reassure you our love won't fade away.

It's the ability to trust be safe and be free,
My gift for you is simple - look beneath and you'll see.
Love cannot be defined or wrapped up in bows,
Unlike a box of chocolates or a single red rose.

Inspired by Carol Ann Duffy's Onion Love

Georgia King

Winner of the Selene Wrankmore Prize for Poetry

Stansted Tennis Club



The Wilby Tournament

Twelve players took part in this annual doubles tournament. After some hard fought round robin matches the semi-finals saw number one seeds Ed Wombwell and Sandra Ayres beating Simon Fox and Catherine Gibby 6-0. The other semi was a closer affair with number two seeds Rick Lim and Daphne Lunnon beating Chris and Jan Hollis 6-3. The final was a close and exciting match with Ed and Sandra winning the trophy 6-4. The prizes were awarded to the finalists by Honorary Member, Angela Wilby.

Ladies' Night - Monday 11th November 7.00pm.

Tennis balls £1 for four from Jan at 105 Cambridge Road.

Contacts

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

Chris Hollis

Dylan's Dog Walks

Rob Fuller

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Stansted Cricket Club



The cup for the most promising Under-15 player each year, donated by former player and Vice-President Bob Stoddart, was awarded to George Mullins (who is actually a member of the U13 team).

The square has been dressed and reseeded, ready for next season. A plan for further improvements to the pavilion and the bar is being prepared. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact

me. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres 814471.

David Hedge
Hon. Secretary
Tel: 812509



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Last Bowl Great support from all members on our final day of bowling outdoors, a very close competition which was won by Doreen Scraggs. We followed this with a Fish and Chip supper which was enjoyed by all.

Bowling Green has now been put to bed – many thanks to all those who came to help during that week – it was greatly appreciated.

Presentation Dinner Saturday 16th November – catering by Walkers – menus are being circulated.

Club AGM Friday 22nd November at 7.45pm – notification letter and agenda to be circulated.

Darts League has re-started on Wednesday evenings – great support to the Club during the closed season.

Carpet Bowls has re-started on Friday evenings – also sessions have taken place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm. All welcome to come and play, please telephone below for details, it is great fun.

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



SHOE BOXES

We will be packing shoe boxes with gifts to send to children in Africa and Eastern Europe at the Free Church Hall on Thursday 7th November 7.00pm-9.00pm. If anyone has items to include, Christmas paper wrapped boxes or money (we send £3 per box for shipping), please let us have them before then or bring them along on the night. There are leaflets around the village with lists of suitable items and those which we can't include, or please contact one of the below if you have any queries. We look forward to seeing you.

Catherine Dean 813579
Helen Baker 814865
Eileen Quinn 812109

STANSTED HALL CRICKET CLUB

The season has finished and a large work party of members have put the grounds 'to bed'. Groundsman Phil Maule has done a great job this season in producing good bouncy even wickets. Having got a new netting system the old netting area has been demolished and laid to grass. The Club committee is looking forward to the Annual General Meeting in late November where it will be able to report on a very enjoyable season for both seniors and juniors in both playing and financial terms. The club has put forward some 16 youngsters for all age groups for West Essex trials in November and December. The successful players will then go forward to squad training with West Essex in February and March. If indeed any do particularly well they will join the Essex squads. The U11, U13, and U15s are playing in indoor winter leagues. The Presentation and Christmas Draw evening will take place on 6th December at the Day Centre and the very enjoyable annual quiz will take place on 25th January at Bishop's Stortford College. The Club gets about 180/200 attending the quiz but if you are interested in putting in a team of eight or 10 please contact me. The Club are very fortunate to have such wonderful facilities and the committee would like to thank all members, vice presidents and friends of the Club who have made the 2013 season so very enjoyable.

David Brown
Chairman
Tel: 831011



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

The fast few weeks has given us all that feeling of how football has that nasty habit of making you feel great on a Tuesday evening and then miserable on a Saturday afternoon, as our results recently have proven that we have yet to reach a level of consistency which is needed to compete at this level. For Manager Dave Roach being able to field the same side for each game played is difficult as we are trying to play catch up on both league and cup fixtures; therefore two games per week means that players have to arrange their own availability which can sometimes be very frustrating. However on the positive side, everyone appreciates the work that needs to be done throughout the team in order to return to the sort of form we were showing through pre-season. One thing for sure is our players all take great pride in their performances so I know we will get it right. We have certainly been in the spotlight of the national media recently after our ex player Dwight Gayle moved to a Premiership Club, Crystal Palace. Interviews with Dwight done in and around the Club were aired on BT Sport and gave interest to many followers of non-league football who have contacted me about coming to watch one of our home games. Maybe we may unearth another future star! Stansted Veterans under the leadership of Gary Cook have started their home games; these very competitive fixtures always finish with a well-earned social drink in the bar afterwards and are good fun to watch. Remember entrance to all our home games is only £5 adults, £3 concessions, under 16s, and under 12s free. Your support is always valued. Upcoming Home Fixtures, kick off 3.00pm
Sat 9th vs FC Romania – League
Sat 23rd vs Southend Manor – League

Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842

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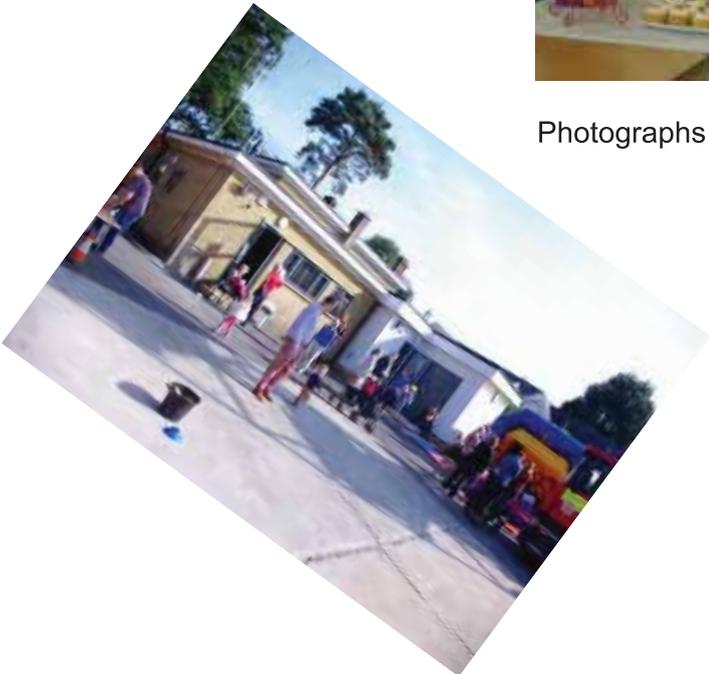
FIRE STATION OPEN DAY

Around 400 people attended the fire station open day on Saturday 28th September. More than £500 was raised for the Fire Fighters Charity and a further £500 plus for other local causes. Attractions included the opportunity for children to clamber amongst the vehicles and set off the sirens, as well as stalls, a bouncy castle, sideshows and a barbecue. The weather was sunny and a good time was had by all.

Anna Nolan



Photographs by Sean Clark




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September was our Members' Day when seven of our members gave the Committee a rest and two of our newer members, Liz Long and Jackie Davies, acted as President and Secretary for the evening. Before the meeting began, Judy Colliver informed members of the death of Jean Fuller who had served on the WI committee for 30 years; her funeral was attended by four members. The meeting began with the singing of two verses of 'Jerusalem' in her memory. Guests from Elsenham, Ugley and Hallingbury WIs were welcomed. The highlights from the previous meeting's record were read, and also various items of correspondence. Members were thanked for their contributions and help at the Windmill Fête held on the August Bank Holiday. The refreshments of tea and cakes were organised entirely by WI members who also supplied many of the cakes.

Our speaker, David Vroobel, was then introduced, his talk being on Peter Carl Baberg, creator of Fabergé eggs. He said Baberg was of French descent and that his father was a jeweller. David first told us about his work in the jewellery world and how he had been held up during his work; also how he had to pick out the villains in a line up. He said that he had been giving talks on cruise ships during a four to five year period. He then talked about Fabergé eggs, the first egg that Baberg made being a golden hen. He then told of the various other items made such as Blue Serpent egg, Fantastic Bird match holder and opera glasses in red and gold owned by Mrs Bing Crosby. There was also a mechanical sedan chair which was wound once a year. Most of these items were made for the Russian Royal Family. Baberg died in 1920 when his son took over the business. Peter Vroobel was then thanked by me, being one of the Members' Day committee. Refreshments were then served, the rather splendid raffle was drawn and the results of the competition announced, the subject being a bracelet which was entered by a good number of members. This brought the meeting to a finish at around 10.00pm. Our November meeting will be held in the Day Centre at 7.45pm on Thursday 14th when the speaker's talk will be 'Nineteen Years on the Bench' by Graham Williams.

Brenda Ryan

HERTS & SOUL COMMUNITY CHOIR RETURNS TO STANSTED!

The choir's Christmas Concert is on Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm in St John's Church, and includes Christmas Carols (with audience participation) and Christmas songs. Tickets £6 (children under 14 free) from St John's Church Office (815243), Ray Smith (813270) or any choir member. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available during the interval. Under the dynamic direction of Royal Academy trained Josie Cowley and accompanied by Toby 'fast fingers' Heath, Herts and Soul is Bishop's Stortford's ever popular 160-strong Community Choir. Founded in 2010, this not-for-profit group of 'Soul Brothers and Soul Sisters' offers singers of all ages and abilities a platform to sing in an encouraging, lively and supportive environment. The Herts and Soul repertoire crosses all musical ages and genres – from pop, rock and gospel to folk, musical theatre and seasonal offerings.

Pauline Mantle

Huge thanks to Linda Deavey for a fantastically organised Winter Walkies event which started from the Dog and Duck on 6th October. It was a beautiful morning and landlord Griff Evans did us proud with some delicious bacon rolls. If you missed the walk this year, look out for it next time as it really was an enjoyable event which also raised valuable funds for St Clare. Thanks also to the lovely people at Lower Street Brasserie who, by the time you read this, will have held a Ladies' Charity Champagne Evening in aid of the Hospice. Our Stansted Friends Group is now selling tickets for their annual Christmas Bridge Drive which is on the afternoon of 29th November at Little Hallingbury Village Hall – for full details, please contact Christine Hope on 01279 815007. As I write, it is Hospice Care Week, and at the Hospice we have been highlighting how we go that extra mile to help our patients and their families. There is the story of the lady in our In Patient Unit who desperately wanted to see a donkey as she hadn't seen one since she was a girl. Our staff were on the case straight away, and a couple of phone calls later, a donkey appeared at the Hospice with a big bunch of carrots and our patient was able to give it a big hug. Then there are the Pamper Days which we hold regularly, not just for patients but also for their hard-working carers, where everyone can relax together and just enjoy a bit of 'me' time with pedicures, manicures and massages available to all. Finally, the story of our lovely chef who went out and cut some rhubarb because one of our patients fancied a crumble. Your support for St Clare Hospice, and for the great local events means that we can do these things. Thank you.



Sarah Calder
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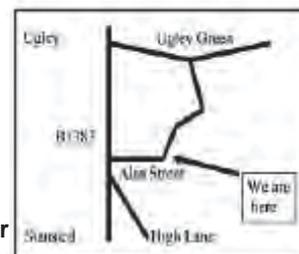
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KENYAN ORPHAN PROJECT

Dear Stansted Village

I just wanted to thank everyone who donated to Kenyan Orphan Project (KOP), which I was involved with throughout the summer raising money for Kenya's most vulnerable children. Many of you will remember me running a cake sale in St Johns Church in December and talking at the Quiz evening in March. I was really overwhelmed with everyone's kindness and generosity at both events and thought I would let you know how my journey to Kenya went and what a difference your donations made. At the end of June I set off with a group of university peers to Kisumu, Kenya. It was a 24 hour journey in which we left the safety of the UK and found



ourselves in a culturally contrasting place. Over the next two weeks I worked at two projects, HOVIC (Hope for Victoria Children) and Kochogo Feeding centre. This involved our group interacting with the children by playing games such as volleyball, football and draughts. We also ran some teaching sessions which focused largely on the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases; by using a game of British Bulldog we were able to show how germs can spread between people and how measures such as washing hands can really make a difference.

We experienced what daily life was like at the projects by preparing, cooking and serving food to the children and also the elderly who attended. I was really privileged to visit some of the local homes and find out what life was like for those who lived there. It was challenging to see the reality



of poverty in these areas and how thankful the families were for the little that they had.

The money which you donated really did reach a long way in Kenya. A powerful statistic which has probably influenced me the most is that £40 feeds 120 children in Kenya two hot meals a day. All the children I spoke to were so thankful for the work that KOP were doing in their lives and I just wanted to pass on their thanks to you. KOP wouldn't have been able to touch so many of their lives without your help and your donations. Thank you all again for your help.



Caroline Crosby

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Julie Bradley
Admissions Secretary
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Email: admissions@saintnicholasschool.net

Our second concert this season will be on Sunday 15th December at 3.00pm in St John's when Cambridge Chorale, under their Music Director, Julian Wilkins, will be giving a concert of seasonal favourites. Cambridge Chorale has been voted one of the top ten adult choirs in the UK. Fuller details will be given in next month's Link but in the meantime, tickets adults £15, Under 18s free, are available from Stansted Carpets, Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford; or Sonia Levy on 815282. For further information about us, please visit our website www.musicatstansted.com.

Alan Corbishley

MANUDEN SINGERS

Christmas Concert

A Christmas Fantasia of seasonal music at 7.30pm on Sunday 15th December in St. Mary's Church Manuden. The concert title is taken from the beautiful arrangement of ancient English Carols by Ralph Vaughan Williams, noted for his devotion to the English folk tradition, perhaps nowhere more evocatively expressed than in this wonderful piece for choir and orchestra, with baritone soloist James Priest. The programme also includes the less well known but delightful Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint Saens, perhaps best known for his 'Carnival of the Animals' but here providing an attractive meditation on Christmas, full of his characteristic warm humour and beautiful melodies; a chance too to hear our other soloists including Stansted soprano Emily Yarrow, Rosemary Harrison (mezzo), Katy Edgecombe (alto) and Jeff Phillips (tenor). The concert begins with Handel's Chandos Anthem, 'O Praise the Lord with One Consent'. Tickets adults £10, children £5 from 812157 or on the door, proceeds to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust www.essexairambulance.uk.com. We would welcome new members especially tenors; please contact me.

Teresa Priest
Tel: 647050

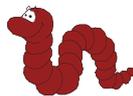
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CHILDREN'S RECIPE

Squeamish Squares

Ingredients

150g dark chocolate, broken into pieces
100g unsalted butter, 4 tbsp golden syrup
100g Rice Krispies cereal
50g dried blueberries
50g cranberries
100g mini marshmallows
50g white chocolate, broken into pieces
Jelly Worms



Method

Place the dark chocolate, butter and golden syrup in a pan over a low heat and stir until melted.
Mix together with the Rice Krispies, blueberries, cranberries and marshmallows.
Spoon into cake cases and leave to set before topping with melted white chocolate and a jelly worm. Makes 16.

Simone Teese
Harlow Kiddy Cook
Tel: 07837 008715

STANSTED FAMILY CAFÉ

2nd Birthday Celebration

There will be a birthday-themed café on Saturday 16th November, held in St John's Church Hall (not the Day Centre) to give us a bit of extra space for this special event, since even regular cafés seem to be fast out-growing the Day Centre! As well as all the usual café ingredients - great coffee, cakes, healthy snacks and craft activities for the children, and lots of lovely friendly families - at this event there will also be some games for the children, balloons, and a little surprise to take home! We are inviting anyone who has ever been to the café to join us, along with the many families who come regularly, for what should be a fun and rather different Family Café. This also seems like a good opportunity to thank all the many families who come to the café and give it its friendly and unique atmosphere, as well as our brilliant volunteers without whom it would not be possible for the café to exist. We are very blessed by all your support. Don't forget you can see future café dates and some of the children's craft work on our website www.stanstedfamilycafe.org and on the Facebook group *Stansted Family Café*.

Howard and Ros Page
Tel: 810813

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Even late in the year, a little sunny warmth on a late autumn day can induce a syncopated rhythm to the garden as the last of the year's seedcases crack, split, shake and explode to release their last seeds into the soil. Take advantage of this and gather up this annual bounty and scatter so as to introduce an element of surprise to the garden next spring. Good candidates for overwintering are the curved, caterpillar like seeds of calendula, the oval, mid brown seeds on the quill-like purple tansy flowerheads, the shuttle-shaped seeds of cosmos, the matt black seeds of love-in-the-mist held in seamed and horned pepperpots, the flattened seeds of members of the mallow family, which includes the hollyhocks, tightly packed into carousels, the shiny black nutlets held in packs of four which need prising out of the papery hoods of borage, or the tiny round seeds filling the lipped goblets of white and red campion to the brim. Collect up a mixed handful and perhaps mix with a bit of sharp sand to aid an even distribution. All these seeds will happily sit in the soil through the winter, ready to make early growth and flower next year. Some perennial species actually need to be exposed to a period of intense cold in order to break dormancy and improve germination, a phenomenon known as stratification. This was why we could be seen sowing seed into January snow at the beginning of the year for our new perennial, drought-tolerant meadow - the resulting magical mayhem is still looking fabulous, with spectacular first year flowering on the big-fruit evening primrose, Berkheya and Indian paintbrush. The Botanic Garden is open in November and December 10.00am-4.00pm. Admission is £4.50, Giftaid admission £4.95 or join the Friends, get free admission and help the Garden grow! For more details please visit the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk.

Juliet Day
Development Officer
Cambridge University Botanic Garden

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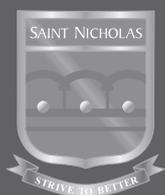
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STANSTED BUSINESS FORUM

Welcome to all our new children, who are settling in very well. Also to our new staff and volunteer, Alison, Sarah and Ela. Plus welcome back to the children who were with us last year. Our themes this term are settling in, looking at ourselves, and celebrating the Harvest. The children have been busy making plate faces replicating themselves and looking at their features. We also had a lovely harvest service led by Rev'd Paul and the children have safely delivered their gifts to the elderly in Norman Court. We have talked a lot about why we must look after the elderly in the cold weather. Our 'Mud Kitchen' was installed by our handyman Dave over the summer holidays. The children have been very excited to take turns in this new addition to our outdoor area making mud pies and cakes a plenty! Over the October half term the committee have organised a 'Nature' sponsored alphabet – with a prize for the child who raises the most. All proceeds are to go to our 'Welly Wall'.



Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising five. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website (www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk) for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place. Places for September 2014 are filling up fast!

Gill Pursglove
Administrator
Tel: 814242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net

LINK ADVERTISING

November sees the start of our new advertising year. We thank our renewing advertisers for their support and welcome a number of new ones - take a look at the index on page 40. There are a few spaces available; please visit www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising or telephone 814059.

THE LINK AGM

The AGM of Stansted Link Magazine CIC is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19th November in the Parish Council Office. All parishioners are welcome, so come along if you have any matter to raise, or have an interest in our operation.

Derek Honour
Chairman
Tel: 647213

There was a fantastic turnout for the meeting on 4th October. Ashley Gowing and Sue Rudd from Absolute Travel - the village's newly opened travel operators and agents - provided insight into the perils of buying holidays on-line. Nigel Collingwood gave an interesting talk about the History of the Magna Carta, its significance to Stansted Mountfitchet and forthcoming plans to celebrate its 800th year. New members Keith Honour (D Honour and Sons Landscapes), John Costello (Tim's Sweets), Sharon Gibson (Mariposa beautician) and Richard Burns (Aerial Videographer) were welcomed, and Chairman Andrew Blatt of Murdoch's Solicitors reported on the recent SBF social event hosted by Griff Evans at the Dog and Duck Pub, which apparently has the best onion bhajis in the village! Councillor Iris Evans brought to members' attention the financial hardship experienced by some families in our community and members voted to establish a Christmas food vouchers initiative organised and funded by the SBF, providing food vouchers to families in need over Christmas. A SBF directory will be sent to Stansted residents so that villagers can see our surprisingly wide range of local suppliers, services and offers. Local businesses (including non-SBF members) are invited to support the Stansted Christmas Fayre on 7th and 8th December through sponsorship of the Stansted Christmas tree, marquees, or donating raffle prizes for the event. See page 20 for details or email peter.james@murdochspropertyshop.co.uk. Stalls are available - please telephone 813214 or email parishcouncil@stansted.net. SBF breakfast meetings are held on the first Friday of the month; the next is on Friday 1st November 7.30am at Linden House. Please visit our website www.stanstedbusinessforum.co.uk.

Geraldine Allars
Tel: 813747

Email: info@allstars-office.co.uk



Investigators (for children aged 7-10) continues on Fridays 6.15pm-7.45pm in the Free Church Hall, with a mixture of fun games, Bible stories, creative activities and other items. In September someone appeared out of the 'tree' as we acted out the story of Zaccheus, and we had a very 'fishy' time as we made fishing boats from chairs for another story and played lots of fish-related games, including a relay using magnetic fishing rods with the fish fridge-magnets we had made the previous week. Flapping the paper fish in the fish race proved popular, although some of the paper fish were quite 'battered' by the end! By the time you read this we will have had a visit from Kristin, a 6th-form student from Stansted who visited Uganda this summer, and is coming to show us some pictures and answer the Investigators' questions about what she was doing there. For more information about Investigators, please contact me.

Ros Page
Tel: 810813

Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com

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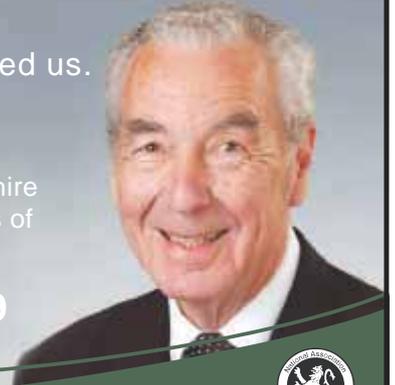
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BENTFIELD GREEN - TAYLOR WIMPEY

The Parish Council has joined forces with Save Stansted Village to become a Rule 6 party at the forthcoming planning Appeal submitted by Taylor Wimpey.

We shall be jointly represented by a planning consultant at the Inquiry which will be held in Saffron Walden on 5-7 November.

PARKING ON OUR STREETS

We hope that you have all received the paper on parking on our village streets which was circulated for guidance and consultation with the last Link. If not, please let us know and we'll send one to you.

We should stress that this guidance relates to adopted roads and not to the unadopted/private roads in our village. We would also add that you should not take it to mean that the Parish Council

condones parking on pavements - we are just issuing the legal position as we have been told it by the Police and North Essex Parking Partnership (the law enforcers)!

FOREST HALL ROAD - A NEW FOOTPATH

Last month we referred to the proposed new pavement which will join Peachey Walk, along Forest Hall Road and cross over the road to the Leisure Centre and Forest Hall School. Sadly, progress is slow but technical work is taking place at the moment relating to the drainage improvements.

FROM ESSEX POLICE

We would like to update you all in relation to the spate of dwelling burglaries which occurred during the summer months in Stansted. As reported last month, we have charged a male with a number of these burglaries and, since his

arrest, we have not had any more reported to us. This male has targeted some of the most vulnerable people in our community and I am hopeful that the courts will ensure that he cannot repeat his actions.

Whilst this spate of burglaries is now over, many residents have lost valuable and sentimental items which are unlikely ever to be replaced. This is a timely reminder to ensure that you take home security seriously and take steps to make your homes as safe as possible. Please also keep an eye on elderly and vulnerable neighbours.

I would like to thank all residents for the assistance which was given to us while this investigation was going on - you are the eyes and ears of our village and if you feel that something is suspicious, please do report the circumstances to us.

Stansted Neighbourhood Policing Team

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

We hope as many people as possible will join us at the War Memorial on Sunday 10 November to honour those who gave their lives for us. We shall follow a new format this year, with the whole commemoration taking place in the Memorial Gardens. The Parade will leave the Crafton Green car park just after 10.30am.

TREES IN THE VILLAGE

We shall soon be commissioning a tree survey in Stansted. This will cover all of the trees which are on land owned or maintained by the Parish Council and will give us an up-to-date report on the condition of each tree.

This will enable us to prioritise necessary works and plan a phased programme of maintenance into the future.

OUR DOG FOULING CAMPAIGN

We still have certain areas of the village where dog fouling is really bad - a case in point is 'Grippers', the footpath which links Stoney Common Road to Pesterford Bridge. We know

that readers of the Link are probably not guilty, but please encourage fellow dog walkers to pick up after their pets. There are dog bins at either end of this path so there is no excuse not to use them - there is no such thing as a dog poo fairy!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Gluhwein mugs have arrivedso Christmas is coming! Most things are in place now. Two marquees, one for the craft stalls who can stay set up over night, with security services standing guard. The entertainment and hospitality marquee feels like it is already buzzing with places to relax, eat and drink, kids can play and live acts to keep you entertained. Street entertainers, Xmas trees (to buy), a metal worker, the steam engine and organ, fairground etc etc will all be in place outside the marquees.

There is a good mix of stalls selling a variety of Christmas goodies, food etc but there are (book through the Parish Council Office) still spaces available on both days.

All SM residents will receive a programme through their door this year with information on the acts etc. Thanks to Murdoch's solicitors and Geraldine Allars for their support with this. Donations have also been received from Sworders Auction Rooms and Lino Thomas. Setting up the event is costly and we are still looking for sponsors to ensure we break even on the financial outlay.....*we know you are out there....just get in touch!*

Raffle prizes are also coming in. We have a spectacular sports car available for a weekend of driving, it can be won via a raffle but you have to be over 25. Tickets will be £1 and will be available soon - our thanks to Peter Hilton for this donation. Next month we will be almost there.....so look forward to seeing you at this annual community event.

MAGNA CARTA

In June 2015, the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta at Runnymede will be celebrated by many national and local events.

Eight hundred years ago, twenty-five barons were elected by the baronial opposition to King John to

ensure that he honoured the charter. Without them, it might just have been another piece of parchment long forgotten by history. For the first time since 1215, representatives from what were those barons' chief manors met in Leicester on 27 September to form the **Magna Carta Barons Association**.

When the barons rebelled, their manors were small communities of villeins and serfs tied to his land and castle. The towns and villages that developed on them over the next eight centuries were formed by generations of ordinary people working the same fields, living in the same houses, attending services in the same parish churches, and being laid to rest in the same cemeteries.

In 2015, these towns and villages will not only be celebrating the anniversary of Magna Carta and the role their barons played, but also eight hundred years of their own history. Commemorative plaques, heritage signage, walks, themed exhibitions, school history projects, talks, medieval banquets and festivals are just some of the activities their local communities are planning for this very special occasion in their shared histories.

The 17 founding members of the Magna Carta Barons Association are:

Alnwick (Northumberland)

Belvoir (Leicestershire)

Castle Hedingham (Essex)

Clare (Suffolk)

Curry Mallet (Somerset)

Helmsley (North Yorkshire)

Huntingfield (Suffolk)

Leicester

Long Crendon (Buckinghamshire)

Pontefract (West Yorkshire)

Skipton (North Yorkshire)

Stansted Mountfichet (Essex)

Thirsk (North Yorkshire)

Topcliffe (North Yorkshire)

Trowbridge (Wiltshire)

Walkern (Hertfordshire)

Warkworth (Northumberland)

For more information about them, their barons and the other Magna Carta Baron towns and villages, see www.magnacartabarons.info.

YOUTH CENTRE

We shall be holding a 'Safer Halloween Event' for Young Children aged 5-11 yrs on Thurs 31st Oct 5.30-7.00pm, Entry is free and there will be refreshments for the adults as well as the children with apple bobbing, face painting, bat races, a raffle and lots more. This is the first of our fundraising events for the Belfast Exchange and the Skatepark. Please feel free to join us at the Youth Centre in Lower Street.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Feelings of satisfaction in July at the refusal of the Taylor Wimpey planning application at Bentfield Green were swept away by the overwhelming approval by the planning committee on September 25th of Bloor Homes' house building plan at the adjacent Walpole Farm site. Councillors and members of the public present could not work out how two similar applications on the north-west corner of Stansted could be decided so differently. Planning officers had recommended that both applications should be approved.

The Elms Farm application was considered for a second time on October 2nd and was resoundingly approved in line with a reversed officer recommendation for approval. On the same day Fairfield's plan for the first phase of a new town between Elsenham and Henham was refused by a margin of one vote. The traffic impact on Grove Hill, Stansted was raised as a concern, though highways officers think all the traffic to Stortford and the M11 will travel via Takeley. We are not convinced.

Refusal of the "Hellsenham" plan meant that the council could not add an additional 800 homes to its list of approvals. This means that UDC still does

not have what is known as a five-year supply of planned homes on its books. The consequence is that planning officers will continue to recommend places for development that would otherwise not be supported.

Stansted has now seen over 200 homes approved in the parish in the past month that are in no formal plan. It remains to be seen whether others will get through the system before the council finalizes a proper local plan. At time of writing there is no firm project plan with dates for completing a new Local Plan, so uncertainty will regrettably continue into 2014.

What is certain is that the draft Local Plan's total of about 60 homes for Stansted has already been exceeded. The demand for new homes will not go away.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS/EVENTS

30 October	Highways & Finance
2 November	Bonfire and Fireworks
10 November	Remembrance Sunday
13 November	Full Council
20 November	Open Spaces

CONTACT DETAILS

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Margaret Ambrose	814675 maggielincoln@aol.com
Maureen Caton (Vice Chairman)	813914 m.caton@hotmail.co.uk
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Catherine Dean	813579 catherinemarydean@btinternet.com
Samantha Dunn	810859 samanthadunn@talktalk.net
Jo Freeman	812524 j.freeman195@yahoo.com
Bridget Gott	814440

John Hudson	814489 john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk
Peter Jones	813252 peter@lowerstreet.com
Denise Oliver	814335 denise@olivers.uk.com.
Frances Richards	812748 frannie.richards@gmail.com
John Salmon	814789 sam@salmonfamily.me.uk
John Savopoulos	817687 johnsav8@gmail.com
Geoffrey Sell (Chairman)	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
Valerie Trundle	813433 prtvt@btinternet.com

Uttlesford District Council Members

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

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding	813103 cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk
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Member of Parliament

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

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

Neighbourhood Watch
 www.stanstednhw.org.uk

Parish Public Transport Representatives

Valerie Trundle	- 813433
Joy Thomas	- 813871

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Contact: Kathy West Tel: 816293 Email: kewest@btinternet.com
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Pilots (age 5-18)	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Tots (age 1½-rising 3)	Tina South Tel: 814371
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	U3A	Christine Chair Tel: 817587
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Inner Wheel Club	Lynn Rutt, President Tel: 654537	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 01371 873156/ 07920 466923
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213		
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: info@musicatstansted.com		
NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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PILOTS

Children from Pilots of Stansted Free Church demonstrate their talents in a variety of roles during the rehearsals for their Christmas play, 'Jonah and the Whale'. Pamela Jenner, the guest artist for the Club, is very pleased with the way all the children are motivated to perform for the show. Much of the play will be improvised on the day of the show, the date of which is not yet confirmed. Children will be drawing posters for the stage too, as part of the workshop. The Club will be holding its usual activities geared towards the Remembrance Day and Christmas celebrations. Any children aged five years and above are welcome to join in the fun.



Please note that there are no places left for the drama workshop for this term, but plenty of opportunity to be involved in other activities. The club will meet on 11th November and 9th December 6.00pm-7.30 pm in the Free Church Hall. Regular updates of the Club activities are found on <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stansted-Pilots>. If you are interested please contact Valerie Trundle on 813433 or e-mail: sanjukta@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk.

Sanjukta Ghosh



The children at Birchanger Nursery have had a very busy autumn, settling into their new groups and making new friends. This month we have concentrated on: self-care - helping the children to become more independent as they grow bigger; the changing season - using autumn materials such as conkers and leaves to learn about numbers and to encourage creativity by making collages and pictures; and festivals in other cultures such as Diwali. The older group have been trying interesting new food at the regular Friday morning 'snack café' and even making vegetable soup for everyone to enjoy. On Wednesdays and Thursdays the children are invited to stay an extra hour for 'lunch club', a new scheme which has proved very popular with both children and parents. On Friday 1st November we are holding a craft morning at Spangles Children's Centre in Stansted from 10.00am-11.30am, cost is £2.50 per child with all craft activities included in the price and there is a used toy stall. We are also hosting a ladies' bingo night for parents and staff of the nursery on Friday 8th November so if your child attends Birchanger please ask for more information. Birchanger Nursery takes children aged 2½ to five. We currently have spaces available. Please call to arrange a visit, email admin@birchangernursery.org or see our website www.birchangernursery.org.

Carol Bullot
Nursery Manager
Tel: 810800

BEWARE THE BLACK BAG!

A bit of a morbid subject but I was discussing the death of a much loved cat with a client the other day. She was saying it was so nice that we saw the cat from when it was a kitten through its various illnesses, encounters with the tom cat next door, the time it had to have a pipe cleaner removed from its stomach (yes really!), right through to its last moments, and helping with sorting out cremation and return of his ashes. It got me thinking that we really do offer a cradle to grave service and are often there for people at the best and worst of times. It reminded me of a particular incident that happened many years ago and always makes me smile. I had been out to a client's house to put their old dog to sleep, and in those days the cremation bags were black. The nurse and I had just said goodbye to the owner, carried the dog into the waiting veterinary ambulance and zipped up the bag when we heard a little voice say "Hello dears are you collecting the jumble?" We both spun round, instinctively shuffling closer together to shield the black bag, and saw a little old lady with very thick glasses on smiling hopefully. The nurse and I looked at each other and in that split second knew exactly what the other was thinking; to say no, would mean we might have to say what was really in the black bag, so we looked at her and in unison said "yes". "Oh good" she said, "I'll just go and get mine". So about five minutes later there we were driving off in the ambulance with three black bags in the back, two of which contained jumble!

We carried out a small waiting room survey a few weeks ago, asking people what products they would like us to have on sale in the waiting room and have just collated the results. Our waiting room at Stansted isn't that big but we do have food, treats, toys, leads, nail clippers, grooming equipment, dental care products and a whole range of things for rabbits for sale! Popular items that were requested were extendable leads, disinfectants safe for pets and products for chickens. So in the coming few weeks various new things will be appearing in the waiting room for you to try. We also found a brilliant small first aid kit for animals that's ideal for carrying on walks; sounds like an ideal Christmas present to me. Oops, mentioned that word, now I'll have to start looking at the Christmas toy catalogues!

Blaise also asked me to mention the free urine tests she is organising in November for any dog over eight years and any cat over ten. If you ring the surgery or pop in they can give you a free test kit and once you've got your sample, (or rather your pet's!) bring it in and we'll test it free of charge. Urine tests are a good way of picking up the early signs of diabetes or kidney problems as well as other medical problems. I'm sure Blaise would only be too happy to give you advice on getting your cat to wee on demand!

Ilse Pedler
Mercer & Hughes Veterinary Surgeons

THORLEY AUTUMN CRAFT FAYRE

Friends of St James the Great in Thorley are holding an Autumn Craft Fair on Saturday 2nd November 11.00am-3.30pm at the St Barnabas Centre.

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.stanstedu3a.org

The U3A meetings are open to those who are retired or semi-retired, looking to further their interests and learning. Once a member, you can join in with the group activities and outings. Come along to see what is on offer for you to get involved with. The November meeting is on Thursday 21st in St John's Church Hall at 2.00pm. The speaker is Keith Baldwin, giving a talk entitled 'A Notebook, a Whistle and a Truncheon'.

Trips

A five-day break has been organised for April 2014 to go to Loch Awe Ceilidh, pronounced 'kay lee'. There are several places still remaining. The 3-Star hotel is on the banks of Loch Awe featuring a Scottish evening with a traditional Burns style supper and entertainment, music, pipers and highland dancers, so kilts and tartans at the ready! The trip will also include a cruise on Loch Lomond, an opportunity to explore Inverary and Fort William and a journey along Loch Linnhe within the shadows of Ben Nevis. Once again, at £210 per person, this will be great value for money. Please contact Maggie on 503848 or Jan on 812481 to book.

Many members enjoyed a long weekend on the Isle of Wight, staying in Sandown. The day after our arrival we travelled from east to west on the island taking in the many quaint villages and places of interest. Alum Bay, home to 22 different colour sands, and The Needles were part of the itinerary and Yarmouth provided several pubs to choose from for lunch. Dinner was followed by a singer who rocked and provided everyone with a chance to let their hair down and to take to the dance floor. The following day everyone was transported to Osbourne House, a holiday home enjoyed by Queen Victoria, Albert and her nine children.



The lovely gardens lead to Victoria's own private beach where many took tea and some homemade cake whilst overlooking the Solent towards Portsmouth. Later, after another tasty meal all were treated to a night with 'Elvis'. Julie claims to have found his wig later nestling in a tree! En route home, in Portsmouth, we had free time to either wander around Nelson's ship, the Victory, while others went shopping at Gunwharf Quays. We knew we were back home when the coach was caught up in the chaos of an M11 incident with traffic exiting the motorway the wrong way up the slip road; still, a great time had been had by all.

U3A Singers' Concert 5th October

Nearly 100 people enjoyed the performance in the Free Church of the Stansted U3A Singers at their annual concert, accompanied by Marion Dyer and led by Musical Director Isobel Bradshaw. Music ranged from opera to show songs and classical pop, so something to be enjoyed by everyone.



Happy Days Dance

A few tickets are still left for the 50s and 60s dance on 9th November. £12.50 includes a fish or chicken supper. Contact Jan or Maggie.

Groups

Two new Yoga groups are up and running. There are still places in the Yoga 2 group – please contact Maggie. For further information about us please contact Chris (Chair) 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) 814304 or visit our website.



Caroline Bore



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Oven gloves made out of string, a silk banner hailing from Macedonia and christening gowns and a lovely bonnet dating from the 1860s were just a few of Sarah Shehadeh's favourite things that she shared with us at our recent meeting. In the space of 45 minutes which flew by, she entertained us with the history of Berlin Wool work - very popular in Victorian times, and the unusually named stump work. She surprised us by informing us that the first electric sewing machine, far from being a modern invention, appeared on the scene as far back as 1889! She also brought along just part of her large collection of pattern books dating from Victorian times; one included a pattern for making a baby's garment from two very large handkerchiefs! Moving on to more recent times she proudly displayed dresses that she made in the 1970s for her two daughters, using not her husband's large handkerchiefs, but her recycled 'going away' outfit! The entertaining afternoon ended with our usual good tea and social time. Other highlights on the horizon for this year include entertainment by Woodwind of Bishop's Stortford in November and the appearance of a magician in December! Why not come and join us? You would be most welcome. We meet at 2.15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in Ugley Village Hall.

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STANSTED NCT

If you are reading this and pregnant or have recently had a baby, we would love to invite you to our regular coffee mornings held in the village every week. They will give you a perfect opportunity to meet other new mums and their babies in Stansted and create a network of friends and support which is invaluable at this precious time. Please email me to find the details of our next coffee morning. Our October photo shoot with family portrait photographer Yvonne Lorraine was once again a great success, with nine families receiving a free family sitting ready for Christmas. At the time of writing our October Nearly New Sale and Halloween activities have not happened, so I will write about those next month.

November brings with it our ever popular Christmas Make and Do, which gives pre-schoolers the opportunities to hand make Christmas presents for friends and families, individually crafting a range of gifts from photo frames, place mats and calendars through to mouse mats, coasters and chopping boards. All items are individually priced but will start from as little as £1.50 each. Phoenix Cards and Usbourne books will also be there. Crazy Ceramics will also be there creating memories, your child's hand or foot prints on ceramic mugs, plates etc. There will also be a range of decorations for the Christmas Tree that children can hand paint. Please remember all our events are for members and non-members, so join us for some crafting fun, tea, cake and Christmas shopping all rolled into one and make this event a bigger success than last year. Other activities being held this month are detailed below. Have you liked our Facebook page? All our events are updated on this site for our members with information about local events or classes relevant for Mums to be, babies and pre-schoolers.

Monday 4th November 1.30pm For all pre-schoolers
Soft play at Tumble Downs Saffron Walden

Friday 8th November 10.00am-11.30am For all ages
Christmas Make and Do at St John's Church Hall

Thursday 14th November from 8.00pm For all parents and carers – Social Branch Meeting. Call me for details

Saturday 16th November from 10.00am For all ages – Bowling at Braintree

Anna Sedgbeer
Tel: 812257

Email: annasedgbeer@yahoo.co.uk

FARNHAM SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Farnham Primary School would like to invite you to their Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 16th November, 11.30am-2.30pm. Parents and friends of Farnham School will be providing a range of seasonal stalls, a barbecue and mulled wine stall, and activities for all age groups. Farnham School is small, with a big welcome. They know all of their children particularly well, and as a result, can support the individual needs of each one. Come to see us at our Bazaar, and be a part of this warm community event. For further information on this event, or for updates about our school, please follow our Friends of Farnham page on Facebook.



Rachel Pocknell
Tel: 816215 Mob: 07818 213723



The Blitz Spirit by Brian Williams

Our September meeting was another informative and enjoyable talk to a well-attended meeting. For the notes this month I will focus on some of the interesting facts that came out of Brian's presentation. In 1938 on the significant day of Anschluss (union between Austria and Nazi Germany) the British public showed alarming indifference. For example the newspaper that day was 'The big fight special' between Max Baer and the Welshman Tommy Farr. The first war time bomb on London was planted by the IRA. The Blitz began at 4.38pm on 7th September 1940, and by May 1941 over 20,000 had died, over 300,000 buildings had been destroyed and 1.4 million people had been displaced. Ice cream vans were requisitioned to transport blood supplies, and in the first few days of the war an estimated 400,000 cats and dogs were destroyed, resulting in a wave of rats and mice infestations. London Zoo's poisonous animals were administered chloroform and the 200,000 gallon aquarium was drained. After the evacuation, most of the children returned but without their teachers, who stayed and caused a huge problem. At one time, only 15 out of 900 schools could open. Post boxes were painted bilious yellow and would change colour in a gas attack. During the main bombing raid which lasted twelve hours, 1,500 fires were burning which could be seen 160 miles away and blistered paint three miles away. It was reported that in the dock area flames were seen 200 feet in height.

Please be aware to a change in our diary; unfortunately Wally Wright is unable to attend next month's meeting, so on 7th November we have Mr Lockwood who will be giving us a presentation 'Grave concerns' at the usual time of 8.00pm in the Day Centre off Chapel Hill. All welcome.

Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

Email: stephenleaney@gmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Our last opening for the 2013 Mill's season on 6th October transpired to be very busy. Our Co-Chairman, Ted Pretty, gave advice and instruction to several people volunteering to become Stewards. Ted has had a busy season giving talks and showing groups of schoolchildren and adults around the Mill. One of the visiting groups was from Aythorpe Roding and some of us from Stansted recently had a return visit to their lovely well-kept Post Mill. It turned out to be a very sociable afternoon, which was made possible through Ted's contacts - thanks Ted. I hope you will all come and support us at our Coffee Morning at the Day Centre on Wednesday 13th November 10.00am-12 noon. Admission £1.50 which includes coffee, mince pies, etc. There will be a raffle, cake stall, Mill goods and souvenirs (ideal for stocking fillers). Proceeds for the upkeep of your Windmill. Stansted Millers will also have a stall at the Stansted Christmas Fayre on Saturday 7th December and we hope to see you there. Anyone wishing to purchase souvenirs can always ring me.

Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
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GUESS WHO I AM

I was born in Bexley after the war, and I went to Dartford Grammar School. My career could have all gone downhill from there as I got a rubbish degree in chemistry, but I managed to make my mark as a senior manager in the dairy industry, and then as the MD of an exhibition company.

I moved to Stansted in 1979, just before the birth of our first (of three) daughters. We bought a house that was an antique shop, and still bears the name of that shop to this day. Our eldest daughter was christened in St Mary's church, the other two in St John's. Our two elder daughters also married there.

My wife and I love canal boating, and we have had many great family holidays on our boat, Sarah Grace, named after my two grandmothers. Some people may have seen our pets flying round the village, and enjoyed the fruits of their labours.

Claim To Fame? Not only did I go to the same school at the same time as Sir Mick Jagger - I am on the same school photo!
Guess Who I Am!

SAVE STANSTED VILLAGE (SSV)

There have been three recent planning decisions relating to our village. The first two have led to the approval of **213 houses** and the third one, for **140 houses**, is on-going:

1. Bloor Homes and Martin Grant Homes (Walpole Farm)
160 houses were approved, despite opposition from over 600 residents and Stansted and Ugley Parish Councils.

2. Knight Developments (Elms Farm)
53 houses were approved. The Parish Council supported this scheme and there were fewer resident objections, although many residents raised legitimate concerns including flooding, Green Belt and highways/access issues.

3. Taylor Wimpey (Bentfield Green)
Taylor Wimpey have appealed to the national Planning Inspectorate and an inquiry will be heard at the UDC Offices on 5th-7th November. Their proposal, which was overwhelmingly rejected, is for 140 houses. SSV and the Parish Council will be participants in the inquiry as a joint third party under Rule 6 status, to add our evidence alongside that of Taylor Wimpey and UDC. **We urge as many local residents as possible to attend the inquiry as observers to show the strength of community feeling against this development.**

Donations of any amount, large or small, are vital to cover the costs of our campaign to protect our village from inappropriate, unsustainable large scale housing developments. Cheques to 'Save Stansted Village' can be sent to the Parish Council or to 20 Bentfield Green. Thank you once again for all your support, moral and financial.

Email: bentfieldgreen@hotmail.com

Post: SSV, Council Offices, Chapel Hill, Stansted, CM2

Tel: 813214

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Simon Thompson



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

October Meeting

Guest speaker, botanist Mrs Sue Buckingham, told us all about her visit to Costa Rica, which, due to its unique geography, offered a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Costa Rica, in geological terms, is a 'young' country - one of the countries formed when land rose from the seabed about three million years ago making a land bridge between the North and South American continents. It borders Nicaragua and Panama and running down the centre of the country, like a spine, is a mountain range with many active and extinct volcanoes. Only about 70m wide at its widest point, from some places in the mountains it is possible to see both the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. There are 26 National Parks, which cover approximately 25% of the country. Eco-tourism is growing, however many areas are farmed intensively - coffee, bananas, pineapples, palm oil etc. Mrs Buckingham explained that the country has many micro-climates depending on elevation, rainfall, and topography of each region. At sea level it is hot and humid and ascending the mountains you pass through tropical dry forests, rain-forests, and cool cloud forests to areas where it is cold and frosty. The three Forest Regions are considered to be nature lovers' paradises and are the best wildlife sanctuaries in the New World Tropics. The National Parks have trails for hiking and exploring but they are not for the faint-hearted. The many rivers are crossed by rope bridges (which are often washed away in the rainy season) and as the forest floors are dark, visitors use skywalks high in the canopy to enjoy a bird's eye view of the forest and all its fascinating flora and fauna. Using a series of slides, members were shown some of the flowers, birds and animals found in each region. From a gardener's point of view, one slide stood out - an Aristolochia Grandiflora (Dutchman's Pipe family) - the mouth of the flower over a metre wide! Luckily for intrepid explorers it is not carnivorous and only traps flies and insects for one day to aid its reproduction!! These plants grow in the wet environment along the edges of the forest on both the Pacific and Caribbean slopes. For orchid lovers, the country has more than 1300 species with more being discovered in remote districts. The large, purple orchid Guarua Morada has been chosen as the country's national flower. Mrs Buckingham said if anyone was looking for a 'holiday with a difference' Costa Rica would tick the boxes!

November Meeting

On 6th November at The Day Centre Mr Peter Jackson of Scotsdales Nursery will be talking about 'The World of the Houseplant'. Doors open at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start with refreshments prior to the meeting. Visitors welcome - entry £2.50.

Maralyn Harris
Tel: 07919 478144
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GUESS WHO I AM - ANSWER



John Dockerill of beekeeping fame,
who is 'resting' this month!

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This month, I have included a message from our chairman, David McConnell. I wanted to share these words with people local to Stansted, who should be so very proud of all the support you have given us. Thank you ... "Today is the first day of Grove Cottage's official year. Last year was quite a year. Out of considerable financial turmoil we have emerged a much stronger organisation. When times get tough what made the difference were people. People who tore up tree stumps to raise money. People who kept going every day for the sake of our members, despite uncertainty around them. And people who simply never gave up, determined to find a way through. We now have a much more robust Grove Cottage. This coming year, I'm sure will throw out its fair share of challenges, but I'm equally sure that Grove Cottage will be even better this time next year. A huge thank you to all those people that made a difference." Our new playgroup meets every Friday (term time) 10.00am-11.30am at Grove Cottage and already has five regular families. We are a very friendly group of parents with pre-school children with additional needs (siblings are also very welcome). On Saturday 16th November at 7.00pm in Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church, there is a Zimbe! African Music Concert in aid of Grove Cottage performed by Amici Cantate. Tickets from 506773 or email tickets@amicicantate.org.uk: adults £10 advance, £12 on door, children £5, family (advance only) £25 (two adults and two children, additional child £2.50).

Claire Cook
Trustee
Tel: 814782 or 07947 319471



We have had an excellent start to the school year here at Bentfield. I am very pleased that the pupils are looking smart and that they are enthusiastic and eager to learn. All the children will have started their new classes and we say a warm welcome to our new nursery cohorts. We have a variety of topics being taught throughout school. Nursery are learning about colour and shape, Reception are looking at the people who help us, Class 1 are learning about ourselves, Class 2 are studying the healthy food we eat, Classes 3 and 4 have started their topic on Romans, Class 5 are learning about rivers and Class 6 are completing work on the Victorians.

In other news I had the pleasure of attending the recent production of Annie at the Rhodes Centre. It was a fantastic show made even more special in the fact that Annie was played by one of our year 6 pupils, Alice Shepherd. I'd like to publicly say a huge well done to Alice for this tremendous achievement and congratulate all who performed or put the show together. It was also wonderful to see so many parents, relatives and people from the local community turn out to support Alice and the production.

Please support our Christmas Shopping evening on Sunday 17th November 12 noon-4.00pm and our Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November 2.00pm-5.00pm. Details on page 5.

David Rogers
Acting Headteacher
Tel: 813626

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

By chance, John and I recently had lunch at an excellent pub in a tiny, remote and beautiful hamlet, complete with a 900-year-old church in mid-Sussex. It was in a conservation area and because of its beauty, even the telephone cables were buried underground! Imagine our surprise when we found, in the pub, their Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Update, which will be put to a referendum of everyone in the Parish. Like us, they are under constant pressure for more building, but the Plan is designed to give local people as much control as possible over future development in their area, putting the parish and, importantly, the community, in control, providing what the community wants, where they want it and giving profits and benefits back to the community. It also defends the parish against 'unwanted' development! Hollow words to us in Stansted! It is very cold comfort to realise that like Stansted, every single hamlet, village, town and city is under this insane threat of overwhelming, rapid and largely unwelcomed development. I am fully aware that housing, particularly, affordable housing, is needed. What is so wrong is that it is not necessarily for local people. We must face the fact that this beautiful island is grossly overcrowded. But the authorities, by panicking in their attempts to provide housing, seem to be entirely ignoring the infrastructure, which as we all know is often grossly inadequate.

The threat of further development at Stansted Airport is rearing its head again. We are extremely lucky to have Peter Sanders and his team from Stop Stansted Expansion to defend us against this threat. Stansted has also recently suffered an unprecedented spate of crime, mainly perpetrated by one criminal who had moved into the village, causing immense harm and fear to an extremely large number of people, who now live in fear of repetition. We were burgled twice so we know how it feels. The Essex Police have been absolutely wonderful and for that we are so grateful. By chance, John and I moved to Stansted in 1960 and have watched it grow, organically, in an acceptable way. We have been extremely happy and have enjoyed the wonderful community life and the friends we have made. I have always defended Stansted, but can no longer defend what is happening to our whole way of life. It is not too dramatic to say that we can all say, "Goodbye" to the village (never a town!) that we have all known and loved.

Janet Hollis

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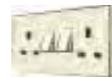
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OUR ROAD

CHURCH ROAD

Almost everyone in Stansted Mountfitchet will know where our road is but it's surprising just how many don't know that it's called Church Road! So, just in case you are not sure, Church Road runs from the junction of Lower Street and Station Road, over the railway bridge, past Forest Hall School, crosses the M11 motorway until it meets Bury Lodge Lane. It's so named because it leads to the original parish church, St Mary's, which is on the edge of the village surrounded by fields. The houses are a mix, with some dating from Victorian and Edwardian times, through the 1920s and 1930s, and others more modern, built in the last 30 years. Some are set well back from the road and barely visible. The half-timbered Bridge Cottage is by far the oldest.

Of particular note are the Fullers Houses that were completed by the Fuller-Maitland family in 1883 replacing older property in Hoxton. They were owned by the Fullers Almshouses Trust that had been formed in 1803 following a bequest by Mr William Fuller, who had been a successful and wealthy banker in the City of London, and they were originally intended for 'poor old women of sober lives and conversations'. Original records of the Almshouses Trust are now in possession of the Stansted History Society and give a fascinating insight into the problems of managing the property and its 'inmates' as the residents were called! The building was later taken over by a housing association who sold it a couple of years ago and there was local concern for its future but fortunately the new owners have carried out a complete modernisation and given this landmark a new lease of life, and it now looks very smart.



On the east side of the road is Stansted Park that now forms part of Elms Farm. The park was originally laid out by Repton and had, as its centrepiece Stansted Hall, the home of the Fuller-Maitland family, who were the local squires of Stansted and large landowners. A view of the park is easily visible from Chapel Hill and the vista is one of the defining landmarks for our village. Stansted Hall was built in the 19th century to house their valuable art collection but is now quite close to the M11 motorway. After WW1 the Fuller-Maitlands moved away and the estate was owned by the Findlay family who left the Hall to the Spiritualist Union. Opposite the Fullers Houses is a pretty cottage called The Gatehouse built to include an arch which formed the original driveway entrance to the Hall. Nestling in the adjacent copse of trees is a WW2 gun emplacement. Nearby is Churchfields, a small cul-de-sac built in the 1980s. This replaced a collection of wartime huts known as the Hostel

Bungalows that were built of breeze blocks with corrugated roofs and were kept in housing use long after the war ended. Some residents had made them very comfortable and were reluctant to move to more modern homes when the time came to redevelop the old huts.

Most residents will know that the railway bridge is very narrow and two large vehicles can't pass at the same time. It has developed a bit of a local reputation because of the number of scrapes and near misses and is known by some as 'wing mirror bridge'. We now have a roundabout at the junction of Walson Way and traffic calming measures have been introduced. The road can be pretty busy at times and some drivers go too fast, but at other times of the day it almost returns to the quiet country road that we knew when we moved here in the 1970s. The road is used by many young riders from the livery stables at Elms Farm which adds to the rural character. An unexpected bonus of the traffic calming has been to open up some nice views across Stansted Park towards St Mary's church.



We next get to Church Hill Corner [or is it Churchill Corner?] and recently renamed Forest Hall School, our local secondary school. Further on is Tall Trees Caravan site, built on land that followed the original line of Bury Lodge Lane before the motorway was built. You can't miss St Mary's Church, a much loved place surrounded by its churchyard. It's now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, supported by the Friends of St Mary's and is open daily for visitors – if you haven't been inside, it's well worth a visit. Crossing the motorway you get a good view of the airport but, like much of our village, we rarely hear the planes!

Bill Stiles

LAST MONTH IN THE NEWS

We read that Stansted homes, schools, shops, and businesses including the Airport were hit by an unplanned and widespread power cut on 10th October. UK Power Networks put the six-plus hour-long cut down to a 'high voltage fault' in an overhead cable. Archie Rutt, aged seven, from Stansted, was one of eight winners of CITV's *Share a Story* competition, which had more than 7000 entrants and the Arriva SX Connect Stansted – Harlow service (510) is to be improved with additional, more frequent and direct services connecting the airport with Forest Hall Park.

Source: Herts and Essex Observer



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I have just read an article by a wildlife expert from the BBC's Autumnwatch nature programme in which he encourages the feeding of urban foxes and says that reports of these animals entering houses and going upstairs are improbable. Maybe so, but he goes on to say that an urban fox may be the only British wild mammal that young people will ever see. Well, I suppose if eyes are never raised from mobile phone or screen when walking or travelling about, then that statement may also be true. However, it does seem improbable that young people could go through life without seeing a wild rabbit, or hedgehog, or even a rat if food is put out for the foxes.



The other day in the centre of Stansted, which is presumably an urban area because we have urban foxes, I stopped to admire a circle of large horse mushrooms growing on the old St Mary's School playing field. I was joined by a local resident who reported that a family of

buzzards was sometimes heard mewling and then seen circling overhead. A couple of days later by the same field a sparrowhawk was seen carrying off a little bird up into the Scots pine tree across the road. It would have perched up there to pluck and then eat its prey, but it was set upon by one of the local crows and flew off to a quieter spot to have its lunch. There is lots of wildlife all around us in the real world, urban or otherwise, but one has to look and listen.

Felix



Huw Johnson Club

We started the autumn term with a games evening, playing everything from dominoes to Connect Four, and then had a fun night at the Chequers Pub in Ugley, sharing a drink or two over sandwiches and chips. Thanks as always to the wonderful staff at the pub who are always so welcoming. Ex-Stansted resident and volunteer Ellen Brooks treated us to a dance class along with PJ from Ceroc Metro, a local dance group. As well as performing, they also taught us a series of dance moves. By the end of the evening we were all jiving in a way that would make any Strictly contestant jealous!! Despite missing out on our trip to the bowling alley because of refurbishments, we had our own version at the Church Hall, with fierce competition to win the coveted prize (a chocolate bar!). Coming up, we have a bingo evening, a performance by a local Ukulele group and a Halloween Party, complete with fancy dress! We are very grateful for the support we receive from villagers towards the Club. We are looking for more drivers to take members to and from Saffron Walden once a month, so if you would like to help, please get in touch. We are organising a Wine Tasting on Saturday 16th November at St John's Church Hall, 7.30pm to raise money for the Club. Tickets £12.50 including ploughman's. It promises to be a great evening! Please contact Sandra on 812627 or myself for tickets.

We have achieved a huge amount this season - not least the completion of our new archive building. The Italian Garden has looked magnificent throughout the season with the gravel setting off the planting beautifully. We have lots of very successful group visits and will be continuing with this next year. If you belong to a group that might like a private visit to the gardens to include a tour and very tasty home-made refreshments then do get in touch and we will make sure you have a lovely time with us. Our most popular open day apart from snowdrops was the World War II themed day in July and we are planning an even bigger and better event in June 2014 to tie in with the 70th anniversary of D-Day. We will have lots going on at all the open days so keep an eye on the website www.eastonlodge.co.uk for more details of events as they are added. The gardens are closed until Snowdrop Sundays, 23rd February and 2nd March. However, gardening is going on right through the year (weather permitting) and we always need new volunteers - not just for gardening - whatever the season, so why not contact me if you are interested? Our beautiful 2014 calendars are on sale at the bargain price of £5, featuring stunning images of the gardens, including the 2013 photography competition winning entry, available from: Malcolm Danford Estate Agents in Great Dunmow, who have once again sponsored this year's calendar; the gardens on Thursdays by prior arrangement; by post - visit the website for an order form; or by phone.

Helen Carter

Tel: 01371 876979

Email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk

SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



We look at three stars this month which together are known as the Summer Triangle because the triangle spans the North Pole in June. But at that time the long days mean that you have to stay up late. Now, in October/November, the triangle is quite easy to see around 9.00pm. The three stars have names from ancient history: Vega, Altair and Deneb and form an almost precise isosceles triangle (an isosceles triangle has two sides of equal length and one shorter to complete the triangle, in case you had forgotten your school maths). Each of the three stars also has a similar brightness and all are notably brighter than the stars around, so you shouldn't have much bother finding them; but now it is time to settle in the Stansted, faster than light, spaceship, luxury, first class. Here we go and we are soon travelling at several times the speed of light because we want to look at the three stars from different angles. We will start with the closest of the three, which is Altair at a leisurely 16.73 light years from Earth - something the equivalent of a good walk. We start off again to Vega at 25 and-a-bit light years, but the greatest journey goes to Deneb at 1,425 light years. Just do the sums; there are six million, million miles which multiplied by these numbers, seems startling. Yet all of this is in our particular galaxy, and there are millions and millions of galaxies. Our telescopes get better almost every day and with them come further discoveries. But we still ask the questions: Where did it start, when will it end, who are we? But I still love it.

Martin West

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The 2014 edition of the Stop Stansted Expansion's Community Calendar is now on sale across the region, featuring beautiful views of homes and heritage in the shadow of Stansted Airport. The A3 format calendars are still priced at just £6 and will be on sale at 30 shops across the area, and from a sales team of SSE members. The campaign office (870558) can also arrange gift mailing at a small extra charge. Further details together with a list of stockists can be found on the website at

<http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/calendar.html>.

All proceeds from sales of the calendar, the twelfth to be produced, will be used in the continuing campaign to fight off the threat of an extra runway at Stansted Airport.

The Airports Commission has received about 50 proposals for extra runway capacity. The owners of Stansted Airport, Manchester Airports Group (MAG) have put forward three proposals for Stansted: an extra runway to the east, extra runway to the north-west, and a four-runway airport to replace Heathrow as London's hub airport. We argue that these proposals make no economic sense and would be disastrous environmentally. Mr Geoff Muirhead, the former chief executive of MAG has long been a keen advocate of airport expansion. As he resigned from the Airports Commission less than three weeks ago when the issue of apparent bias was raised, we have no confidence that the work of the Commission to date has been impartial. On this basis we will be legally challenging the selection criteria the Commission will be using if and when it considers the comparative merits of different options for expansion.

Ryanair Deal at Stansted

Michael O'Leary's claim that an extra 7,000 jobs will be created by its latest deal with MAG could raise false hopes and be seized upon by developers to justify the need for ever more local house building. The reality is that this Ryanair deal for the next ten years will do little more than return Stansted to its 2007/08 peak, at which time the airport employed about 2,000 more people than today. When MAG bought Stansted it said that it wanted to make the airport more broadly based, with more airlines and destinations. Ryanair already accounts for three quarters of all Stansted's passengers, and this deal together with a similar one recently made with easyJet only reinforces the airport's reputation as a mecca for cheap leisure flights. However, as Stansted ran up losses of £206m in its past three financial years, handling its lowest number of flights for 14 years last year, this latest commercial decision by MAG is understandable.

Peter Sanders
Tel: 01799 520411

Email: petersanders77@talktalk.net

Brian Ross

Tel: 814961/ Mobile: 07850 937143

Email: brian.ross@lineone.net

info@stopstanstedexpansion.com

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Brian Ross to Address Parish Council Meeting

SSE's Economics Advisor and leading member, Brian Ross will address the Parish Council meeting at 7.45pm on 13th

November, in the Parish Council offices. He will give the community an update and his thoughts about MAG's submission to the Government-appointed Sir Howard Davies to the Airports Commission. Needless to say, expansion of Stansted airport is by far the biggest threat our community faces even if one more runway is approved. Please attend this key meeting.

Ray Woodcock

Tel: 816468

Email: raymond.woodcock@btopenworld.com



ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

We are delighted to welcome Irene Hinshelwood as the latest new member of our blossoming Club. Irene has several years' experience as a County Councillor and has been a member of the Regional Health Authority. She has lived in a number of countries and so brings international experience as well as knowledge of local and social issues. Rotary has recently introduced Associate as a new stage of membership and our Club has taken advantage of this to invite four people to join us; Susan Haddock, Freda Thomson, Janet Durkin and Dottie Scott all have great experience of education and extensive connections with other countries. The Club has also invited Martin Mugele and Nico Kooy to become Honorary Members. Martin retired from the Club after 30 years' service but continues to attend occasional meetings and gives valuable support with our Christmas collections. Nico has moved to South Africa but spends part of his summers in Bishop's Stortford. With over 20 members, most of whom are new to Rotary, the Club has a fresh lively approach and a new enthusiasm for community projects. Our new member and three associates took part in a lively business meeting chaired by President Colin George, which covered a wide range of projects, notably including the Food Bank, Introducing the Life Education Caravan to local primary schools, the primary school reading programme and the introduction of state-of-the-art signage to Birchanger Wood – all subjects referred to in previous editions of The Link. We also started preparations for Santa's visit in December.

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

Peter Latham

Tel: 507294

Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net

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	Rainbow Pre-School	16		Shutes Painting & Decorating	24	
	Monique's Childminding	8	T F Plastering	32		
	St Nicholas School	16	Beauty Barn	10		
Electrical	Tuition	12	Printing	Cambridge Weight Plan	8	
	Albury Electrical Services	34		Essential Gem	10	
	Ethical Electrical	34		R Handford (Chiropody)	10	
Financial & Legal	Stansted Electric	34	Property Services	Julie Golden (Chiropody)	8	
	Greenways Financial Planning	18		Lower Street Clinic	6	
	Lever & Co Solicitors	18		Stansted Chiropactic	6	
Food & Lodging	Mansell & Co Accountants	IBC	Retailers	Stansted Psychotherapy	10	
	Tees Financial	18		Tracey's Beauty & Holistic	8	
	Chimneys Guest House	26		Williams (Osteopath)	6	
	China Garden and Ho Fish & Chips	IBC	Back to Basics (Pilates)	6		
	Gianni's Pizzas	12	Tone Pilates	6		
Funeral Services	Pocknell Food Co	12	Photography	Photosound	28	
	33 Harrisons B & B	12		Copyzone	8	
	Daniel Robinson & Sons	18		Bareham Overy (Architects)	36	
	J Day & Son	36	Clifford Buildng Services	36		
	D C Poulton & Sons	18	Garden & Property Maintenance	36		
Garden Supplies, Services & Floral	N W Brown (Landscapes)	38	Printing	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	36	
	Crystal Clear Ponds	24		Property Services	David Fortune (Builder)	26
	GWB Horticulture	FC			Rodings Drainage	36
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC	Stansted Property Maintenance		36	
	H2O Plants	OBC	Todd Welding & Fabrication	38		
	Steve Hall Garden Services	38	Unique Construction	36		
	Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts)	FC	Woodside Builders	36		
	Mayfair Ponds	FC	A C Wright Building Contractors	36		
	Mowtivated	38	Family News (Londis)	8		
	Gill Owen (Gardening Services)	38	John Wilson Jeweller	30		
Stadium Turf Supply	38	Sport	Elsenham Golf Club	28		
The Secret Gardener	38		Travel	Absolute Travel	IBC	
Uppercut Trees	38			Herts & Essex Wills	12	
Hairdressing	Barnet Fayre	10		Will Writing	The Will Practice	IBC
	Lino Thomas	OBC				
	Nicky & Co	OBC				
Hypnotherapy	Glynis Cheers	10				
	Helen Bartram	10				

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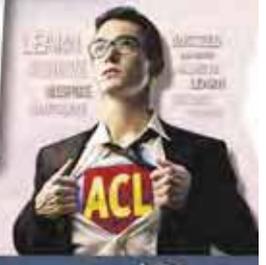
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