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Cover photo: *We have no record of who submitted this. If you took this lovely photo, please contact the Editor so that we can include an accreditation next month.*

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by email (*preferred*), up to 300 words in a Word document, please, to:

editor@stanstedlink.org.uk
by **noon** on **11th November** for the December/January issue

or by hand to:

7 Blythwood Gardens,
Stansted CM24 8HG
by **noon** on **8th November** for the December/January issue

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EDITORIAL



Yes it's that time of year again; but before the pre-Christmas panic-stricken rush to get everything prepared sets in, consider helping those struggling just to survive. It could be as easy as giving a little time, money or suitable items for the children's Shoe Box Appeal on page 9, or donating clothing, toiletries or bedding to the Whitechapel Mission for the homeless (page 11). Offering to help with the current refugee crisis is more of a commitment but a worthwhile one, see page 20. On the other hand there are some individuals who like to help themselves - to other people's possessions! Properties in nearby villages including Newport have recently been burgled and as the festive season approaches we all need to be extra vigilant and security conscious - unfortunately burglars don't stop just because it's Christmas. Bonfires and fireworks can be hazardous and scary to some including most pets, so enjoy 5th November (or the 7th at Elms Farm) but please be careful and considerate.

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Stansted Network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

At this point in the calendar our thoughts traditionally turn to Harvest Festival - giving thanks to God for His provision during the year. Throughout North America, Thanksgiving (November in the USA and October in Canada) has become a more formalised holiday but the idea of celebrating or giving thanks for what we have remains a constant theme. Often in life we become so fixated with what we don't have and what we want, that we forget to take time to appreciate the many good things that are already ours. I was recently reminded of the following statement:

If you have food in your fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of the world. If you have money in the bank, your wallet, and some spare change you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness you are more blessed than the million people who will not survive this week. If you can attend any meeting you want—political, religious, social ... then you are luckier than three billion people in the world. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the agony of imprisonment or torture, or the horrible pangs of starvation you are luckier than 500 million people alive and suffering today. If you can read this message you are more fortunate than three billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

In the New Living Translation of the Bible, 1 Timothy 6:17 says: 'Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.' Let us remember this year to be thankful for what we have.



Howard Page
Stansted Family Church



STANSTED FREE CHURCH
Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AG
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Minister Rev'd Roy Fowler
Tel: 814809
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Lettings Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059
lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Preachers for November

1st 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
8th 10.50am Remembrance Service at St John's
15th 10.30am Maureen Kendall
22nd 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion
29th 10.30am Mike Render

Messy Church

We were very pleased to be part of Stansted's first Messy Church which was so successful (see article on page 9).

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

Our free Wednesday and Friday drop-in, with Art for All on the first Friday, and storytime on the third Friday of each month. Free refreshments and internet, good company, space for the children to run around, plus a quiet area with comfy seating. Come and join us – all ages are welcome. For more information or if you need transport to get to The Place, please contact us.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059
Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ
www.sttheresastansted.org

Priest Father John Garrett

Office Tel: 816889
Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Masses Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 10.00am
Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 7.30pm
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9.30am

Confessions

Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AE

Clerk Jane Mitchell
Tel: 503024
Email: sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com

Lettings Richenda Whitehead
Tel: 07773 603618
Email: richendajw@live.com

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

Light Group 10.30am-11.15am
Saturday 14th November



www.stanstedfamilychurch.com

Contact: Howard and Ros Page
Tel: 810813

Email: contactstanstedfam@yahoo.com

Our Christian beliefs are conventional, we are just doing church differently.

This month's @27 meeting (contemporary worship and a Bible-based talk with discussion) will be on Wednesday 18th November at 7.30pm. For topic and venue, please contact us using the details above. We were delighted with the enthusiastic response to Stansted's first **Messy Church** (see page 9) and look forward to the next one on Sunday 6th December. For information about activities and events, including Frequently Asked Questions, see our website.



www.stanstedchurches.com

Food Bank

A huge thank you to everyone who donated food at various Harvest Festivals for the benefit of Stansted Food Bank. The stocks are now looking very healthy and will be used to provide food parcels for those in serious need in the village.

Francine Cope

Carol Singing

This year's village carol singing is on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd December (venues to be confirmed) at 6.30pm – we are hoping that the earlier start time will encourage more people, particularly children, to join us. In addition, we have been invited to sing at the Christmas Market on Saturday 5th December at 6.30pm.

Celebration of Christmas

Saturday 19th December 3.00pm St Therese's Church

This year we have a different venue for this popular family event. There will be a choir leading the singing, conducted by Mark Sullivan, and anyone is welcome to join. There will be rehearsals on Thursdays 3rd and 10th December at 7.30pm in St Therese's Church.

More details of both events in next month's Link.

Helen Baker
Tel: 814865



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Parade starting from Crafton Green 10.30am
Service around the War Memorial 10.50am

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the September draws:

£100 No 57 - Mrs J Everett
£ 50 No 193 - Mr D Salisbury
£ 25 No 130 - Katy Dockerill

The draws for November will be held on Sunday 29th November in St John's Church following the 9.30am service.

Francine Cope, Tel: 814562



All enquiries The Church Office, St John's Hall,
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
Tel: 815243
Office hours: Mon 9.00am-12 noon Mon,
Wed, Fri
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com
Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btik.com

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

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

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

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday

9.00am St John's Tots

Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

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

From the Registers September

Baptisms

27th James Robert Bell
Layla Summer Turner

Funeral

22nd Barbara Lilian Hoffman, age 98
Service at St John's followed by burial at St Mary's

All Souls (Memorial Service) Sunday 8th November

5.00pm in St John's. A service for all who have lost loved ones, to give thanks for them, and remember them before God. If you wish to add a name to be read out at the service, please contact the Church Office on 815243.

Christmas Market Saturday 21st November 12.00-3.00pm in St John's Church

There will be the normal well-laden stalls - gifts, crafts, toiletries, candles, cakes, toys and games, books, bric-à-brac, tombolas and grand raffle etc, plus tempting refreshments to enjoy whilst savouring the festive ambience. 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. See you there!



Richard Lenton Tel: 813208
Ray Smith Tel: 813270



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Our new full colour Christmas cards picturing the east window and sanctuary of our beautiful and ancient church are selling very well, and in view of this we have placed a follow-up order. Prices are from £4.25 per pack of five cards (there is no charge for delivery within Stansted, 75p postage if outside Stansted); order forms from Carol Clements on 814568 or Stella Rodgers on 814814. Please order by Monday 23rd November at the latest and help us to keep our church open daily to the public by purchasing some cards.

December Events

Saturday 5th we have a stall at the Christmas Market in the Day Centre selling 'Surprise Christmas Boxes'. It makes a change from the usual tombola!

Wednesday 9th Forest Hall School Carol Service 6.00pm. As parents will be invited to this service, there may be too many attending to allow for other visitors.

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th St Mary's Church Annual Festival of Angels and Christmas Trees. We hope our village organisations will delight us once more with their shows of imagination and artistic talent – it gives much pleasure to our visitors during the weekend. We have plenty of space in St Mary's for angels and trees, whatever the shape or size, even if we have a full house for our 'Carols For All' on Saturday afternoon at 3.30pm. Keith Turner and Anne Brooks are arranging choirs and musicians for this much loved joyful event. It goes without saying that Christmas fare will be available throughout the weekend. So come and sing with us and share in our mulled wine and mince pies.

Sunday 13th 'Light up a Life' service for St Clare Hospice at 10.00am. All are welcome to join us.

Audrey Rodgers
Tel: 812162



On Monday 9th November 8.00pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens, Ros and Howard Page from the Family Church are leading a talk and discussion entitled *Your Kingdom come* (from the Lord's prayer). The venue for our 'At Home' at 8.00pm on Monday 23rd November is 49 Recreation Ground. All are welcome to both meetings.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

THE LINK AGM

The AGM of Stansted Link Magazine CIC is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd 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.

Malcolm Lloyd
Chairman
Tel: 812235

STANSTED GP SURGERY

www.thestanstedsurgey.nhs.uk



Care Quality Commission Report: We expect the report, out soon and based upon the April 2015 inspection, to say that improvements need to be made across the board. Since April, our PPG is being re-established and our staffing numbers are increasing to full capacity. We can show that we have procedures for identifying and learning from incidents and complaints, and hope that additional phone lines and staffing will start to improve access. We are grateful for patients' views expressed to the CQC and their patience during what has been a challenging time for all. The key issue of premises will be resolved when we move to the new surgery in 2016 and the building is progressing well.

Patient Participation Group (PPG): A Facebook group that people can request to join (Stansted Surgery Patient Participation Group) is now set up. Our next open meeting to which anyone registered with the practice is welcome, is on Thursday 12th November, 7.30pm for 7.45pm until 9.15pm in the Foyer (not the hall) of Stansted Free Church.

Patient Appointments: Can be booked and cancelled online at www.thestanstedsurgey.nhs.uk (internet registration forms are available from the practice), by telephone 8.30am-1.00pm and 1.45pm-6.30pm, or in person at the surgery 8.30am-6.30pm. Telephone lines are less busy after 11.00am, so this is a good time to call if you do not need an on the day appointment.

Flu Vaccinations: Appointments are bookable for Wednesday 16th November and the children's clinic on Saturday 7th November. ***We are only permitted to treat those who are eligible:***

- Pregnant women
- Children aged two, three and four years on 31st August 2015
- All those aged 65 and over
- Those aged 6 months to 65 years in 'at risk' groups:
 - COPD or asthma
 - Chronic heart, kidney or liver disease
 - Stroke or TIA's
 - Diabetes
 - Immunosuppression
 - Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen

Barry Chandler
Practice Manager

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 - see index on page 40

There are a few black and white (with spot colour) ads on the inside pages

Prices start from £200 for the whole year!

See www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising for a price list and booking form or if you do not have internet access call Marion on 814059

We look forward to hearing from you!

St James Church, Thorley

11 am - 3.30 pm
Sat 7th Nov

Autumn Craft Fair

Christmas Gifts & Cards
Jewellery ~ Ceramics
Produce ~ Paintings

All welcome ~ Refreshments

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7.30 pm
Sat 7th Nov



3 pm
Sun 29th Nov

Both concerts are at
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Tickets: S W Tourist 01799 524002
www.saffronhall.com or on the door

Shoe Box Packing for Operation Christmas Child

All welcome

7 pm onwards Thu 12th Nov
Free Church Hall

Items for the boxes can also be
brought to the Free Church Foyer on
Sat 7th Nov 10 am - noon



More info tel 813579, 814865,
812109 or see Link article

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

3	Tue	Link AGM Stansted is Well Read	Parish Council Offices 7.30 pm Dog & Duck 8 pm
4	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
5	Thu	Stansted History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Fri	Stansted Business Forum	Linden House 7 for 7.30 am
7	Sat	Shoe Box Collection Morning Village Fireworks & Bonfire S Walden Choral Soc	Free Church Foyer 10 am - noon Elms Farm, Church Rd 6.30 pm Saffron Hall 7.30 pm
8	Sun	Remembrance Sunday Parade	Crafton Green 10.30 am
8 & 22	Sun	Skips	Lower Street Car Park 9 am - 1 pm
9	Mon	Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
10	Tue	Dementia Café	Quaker Meeting House 10 am - noon
11	Wed	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
12	Thu	Shoe Box Packing Patient Participation Group WI	Free Church Hall 7 pm Free Church Foyer 7.45 pm Day Centre 7.45 pm
15	Sun & 28	Sat Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
18	Wed	Ugley WI	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
19	Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
20	Fri	Magic Night	Forest Hall School 7.30 for 8 pm
21	Sat	Windmill Coffee Morning Christmas Market	Day Centre 10 am - noon St John's Church noon - 3 pm
22	Sun	Music@stansted	St John's Church 3 pm
23	Mon	Shalom At Home	49 Recreation Ground 8 pm
29	Sun	S Walden Symphony Orch	Saffron Hall 3 pm



QUIZ EVENING

8 pm Saturday 7th Nov

Birchanger Sports
and Social Club

£10 (incl sausage & chip supper)
from Jen on 810800
Maximum 8 per team

Henham Christmas Market

1 - 9 pm Fri 13th Nov
Henham Village Hall

Candles ~ Chocolates ~ Jewellery
Cards ~ Soaps ~ Bath Bombs
Books ~ Jams & Chutneys
Refreshments ~ Raffle



In aid of Gt Ormond St
Entry 50p ~ All Welcome

St John's Church Christmas Market

12 - 3 pm
Sat 21st November

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

Admission Free ~ Refreshments



3 pm Sun 22nd Nov
St John's Church

Sean Shibe ~ Guitar

Includes music by
Dowland ~ Bach ~ Ginastera ~ Rodrigo

Tickets adults £15, under 18s free
from Absolute Travel, Chapel Hill;
Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;
Sonia Levy 815282; or at the door



Farnham Primary
School

Christmas Bazaar

11 am - 1.30 pm
Sat 14th Nov

Seasonal Stalls
Mulled Wine ~ Barbecue
Tombola and more...

All Welcome



Stansted Millers

Coffee Morning

10 am - noon Sat 21st Nov

Day Centre

Mill Goods & Souvenirs
Cake Stall ~ Raffle

Entry £2
(incl tea/coffee & mince pie)

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

10 am - noon Sat 21st Nov
Ugley Village Hall

Meat ~ Poultry ~ Fish ~ Eggs ~ Oils
Vinegars ~ Fruit & Veg ~ Bread
Home Baking ~ Skincare ~ Ceramics
Knitting & Needlework ~ Cards

Refreshments with cake and bacon rolls
Free Parking ~ All Welcome

Forest Hall School



MAGIC NIGHT

Friday 20th November
7.30 for 8 pm

Adults £10 Children £6 (16 and under)

Tel Elaine on 07962 586825 or
Sam on 07711 443259

Bring your own drinks, glasses and snacks

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osteopathy@hazel-williams.co.uk
www.hazel-williams.co.uk

*Hazel Williams reserves the right to remove or change this offer at any time without prior notification.

0
the osteopath

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Mark Gurden MSc (Chiro), DC, PhD
Marcel Morelli MSc (Chiro), DC.
And Associates

Registered Doctors of Chiropractic

MAGNA CARTA QUIZ ANSWERS



- 1 The Willows
- 2 29th July 1845
- 3 Enterprise 5th June 1983
- 4 Joseph Linsell 1787
- 5 Hester Salusbury
- 6 Sir Thomas Myddleton
- 7 Stansted Hall
- 8 The Fountain at Chapel Hill
- 9 Galloping Villas, now the Co-op
- 10 Gall End
- 11 Galloping Villas
- 12 Braefields, Walpole Farm, Bentfield Bower, Burton End
- 13 Ludgate Hill, London
- 14 Top of Chapel Hill
- 15 Humphrey Repton
- 16 1984
- 17 1889
- 18 Braefields, Coltsfield
- 19 The Old Courthouse
- 20 1744
- 21 The Tudor House, Lower Street
- 22 Sir Norman Foster
- 23 Bentfield Hucks
- 24 John Wilkins
- 25 William Fuller Maitland Esq
- 26 Corner Shop, West Road, Stoney Common
- 27 West Road, Stoney Common
- 28 The Liberal Club
- 29 Father, Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamen's tomb, son Harry designed sign
- 30 Diamond Jubilee Clock Gable end of Green's building
- 31 Miss Kitson ran the Telephone Exchange and wool shop
- 32 Wm de Montfichet owned the land of Stratford where the games took place.
- 33 Forest Hall streets named after Rochford's employees
- 34 1987
- 35 15th March 1991
- 36 Eustace de Vesci of Alnwick
- 37 Richard I, The Lionheart
- 38 The Latin Name for Broom, Planta Genista
- 39 Eleanor of Aquitaine
- 40 Dysentery
- 41 1216
- 42 Stansted Hall Park
- 43 Stanesteda
- 44 Mountfitchet Castle
- 45 Area for hunting, particularly deer
- 46 William de Huntingfield, Huntingfield, Suffolk
- 47 Houblon
- 48 Portingbury Hills
- 49 To conceal munitions
- 50 Korean cargo plane crashed in the forest
- 51 Josiah Redford
- 52 Josias Torriano
- 53 Harford Green
- 54 William Fuller Maitland
- 55 John Wilkinson
- 56 Royal Commission on Tuberculosis

There were no fully completed entries. Thanks to all for taking part.

MAGNA CARTA

Our year of celebrations began on 14th June with the Magna Carta Service at St John's Church, where the embroidery had its debut. It was then officially unveiled by Lord Lieutenant, Lord Petre on the 23rd at Forest Hall School. The unveiling cloth was created by members of the Huw Johnson Club. The embroidery was then shown at the Fayre, and in St Mary's Church for the month of July. At the invitation of the Duchess of Gloucester the embroidery was taken by a few stitchers to Kensington Palace where HRH, herself an embroideress, expressed her appreciation for the piece. The embroidery is on show until the end of the year at the Chelmsford Library. We have had a number of enjoyable events to mark this special year. Firstly the Medieval Fayre was held in the stunning grounds of Stansted Hall and blessed by glorious weather; then in July there was the Photographic Exhibition put on by Paul Embleton, Ralph Phillips, Roy Smith, Peter Brown and Alan Bowles. Other highlights included a reception at the Mansion House on 12th May at the invitation of Nigel Collingwood and the Magna Carta Barons Association. He also organised for a few to attend the celebrations at Runnymede on 15th June. Songs of Praise with Churches Together in Stansted was held in the gardens of St John's Church in September sunshine.



Thereafter three most memorable evenings: at St Theresa's Parish Centre, Trouvere performing Medieval Music followed by the historic lecture by Peter Sanders; and finally Celebration of Liberty in St Mary's Church with David Morson and the Stansted Players, the U3A Choir as Suffragettes, the Manuden Singers, and soloists Emily Yarrow and



James Priest. Thank you to the many people who have helped make this a very special year.

Leila Riddell
Email: leilariddell@gmail.com

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Walks for November/December: Please note amendments to details for the November walks:

1st November 5-6 miles 10.00am Feathers Inn Wadesmill.
Grid Ref: TL359175. SatNav: SG12 OTN

15th November 5-6 miles 10.00am 3 Horseshoes Spellbrook.
Grid Ref: TL487175. SatNav: CM22 7SE

29th November 5-6 miles 10.00am Little Hallingbury Car Park.
Grid Ref: TL503174. SatNav: CM22 7RD

13th December 5/6 miles 10.00am St Mary's Church Standon.
Grid Ref: TL396222. SatNav: SG11 1LA

Just a reminder, weather can be unpredictable and mud can be a feature so please check up on the forecast before leaving and come prepared - particularly if it has rained overnight as the ground is still likely to be wet, and the grass likewise. Boots are best for this month and instead of water, maybe think of bringing a hot tea or coffee to drink along the way. However, November is also not always gloomy and there will be stunning arrays of colours too, also, low level sunshine and mist is often very picturesque. Many of the deciduous trees and bushes, having lost a good number of their leaves, will make it easier to spot birds and animals.

Two public footpath issues: we have no update from Network Rail regarding the possible closure of the Twyford Road railway crossing (Bishop's Stortford) to walkers and cyclists, or the proposed alternative diversion; and there is no date for the repair of the burnt bridge at Thorley. The foundations have been undermined, but Herts County Council advise that the appropriate designs, quotation, funding, and drawings have been sent to The Environment Agency for consent, and when received, everything is in place for a speedy replacement. Have you 'walked' today?



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Publicity Officer

Email: secretary@walksaroundstortford.org.uk



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoe boxes

Suitable: school items, hygiene items, small toys, wind up torches, harmonicas, yo-yos, skipping ropes, jewellery sets, hair bands and combs/brushes, wrapped sweets, small soft toys, hats, scarves and gloves. **Not permitted:** used or damaged items, anything war related, chocolate, lotions, glass, knitted stuffed toys, marbles, mirrors or fragile items. Boxes will be packed at the Free Church Hall at 7.00pm on **Thursday 12th November**. Items for the boxes can be brought to the foyer of the Free Church on **Saturday 7th November 10.00am-noon**, or to the packing evening, or we will collect. Donations of money are also very welcome, as it costs £3 to ship each box. Thank you.

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

STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch



A school hall is usually very quiet and empty on a Sunday afternoon – but not on 4th October. Instead, the hall at St Mary's School was full of life, music and laughter when Churches Together in Stansted held their first Messy Church event and nearly 90 people came to take part in the games and different activities. With children between 11 months and 12 years old, families and friends of all ages played together, sang together and finally had tea together.



The craft activities included making fresh salads, jigsaws and decorating flags; painting a banner and creating model people. The activities all fed into the theme for the day that was God Welcomes Everyone. For example, by weaving one large piece of material with a mixture of wool and fabric, each person's contribution, whatever their age, whatever their ability, were all added together to make one whole. The theme was explored in the celebration when everyone could see what had been made during the activities. The children enjoyed some singing and dancing too.



As well as a core of people from four of the churches in Stansted who planned the event, many others contributed food for the tea - all helping to make this a free event for the families in Stansted. We were thrilled by the number of people who joined us and the enthusiasm of all who came. Our sincere thanks to St Mary's School for supporting the event. The next Messy Church is on Sunday 6th December 3.30pm-5.00pm. For more information, please visit our website or contact us.



Marion Dyer Tel: 814059
Richenda Whitehead Tel: 813875
Email: messychurch@stanstedchurches.com
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We welcome the recently announced consultation on the results of improved track keeping trials within two existing departure routes from Stansted Airport. These routes, known as Noise Preferential Routes, are the departure routes 22 Clacton and 04 Detling (previously called 04 Dover). The trials undertaken with a number of participating aircraft have demonstrated that aircraft can consistently follow a more precise course. Stansted Airport says that by following the more precise flight paths on the 22 Clacton and 04 Detling routes, the participating aircraft directly overflew 85% fewer people compared to existing departure procedures. The consultation, which closes on Friday 27th November is seeking views from the local community on the impact of these trials with the view to permanently adopting the trial procedures, subject to the approval of the Civil Aviation Authority. Our position on any proposed change to flight paths is that there must be clear and compelling overall benefits for local residents before any changes are implemented. We recognise that when flight paths are changed there will inevitably be winners and losers, but support efforts to reduce the number of residents suffering from aircraft noise annoyance, provided this does not give rise to a disproportionate and unbearable noise impact upon the minority of 'losers'. The Government's environmental guidance for airspace up to 4,000ft is to minimise the noise impact of aircraft and the number of people significantly affected by it. The introduction of satellite-based precision navigational aids enable more efficient flight operations with associated benefits to communities living around airports and under flight paths. These trials have shown that it is possible to tailor flight paths to reduce the numbers of people currently overflown.

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

WHITECHAPEL MISSION

The Whitechapel Mission is one of the oldest charities supporting homeless men and women in London. It is based in the Mile End Road, Whitechapel just opposite the Blind Beggar pub. Each day they provide some 250 hearty cooked breakfasts and give homeless people the chance to have a shave and shower and a change of clothing. All the clothing is provided free and they have a continual need for fresh supplies. Winter is approaching and more blankets, duvets, warm clothing for both men and women together with soap and toiletries are urgently needed and would be much appreciated. All contributions can be left in St Johns Church, St John's Road at the back corner near the font, from where they will be taken down to the mission for them to distribute. Now is a good time to sort out your wardrobe and drawers! **Please note:** it is really helpful if pairs of shoes are packed in individual bags for ease of sorting, and black sacks are not too full and heavy as they split so easily. Thank you for your help.

Christine and Bill Stiles
Tel: 813172

STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



I remember reading the poem 'The Golden Road to Samarkand' at school, being enchanted by it and dreaming of going there one day. I haven't, but last month we met someone who has. Margaret Rogers came to give us her talk and show slides taken on her travels with her husband along part of the Silk Road which connects the East-West of Asia and is about 4,000 miles long. It was used over the centuries by merchants, pilgrims, monks, nomads and soldiers. It can take a camel train two years to get from one end to the other. They restricted their travels to part of the road in Uzbekistan and showed the most lovely pictures of the buildings there – minarets beautifully decorated with coloured tiles, a mausoleum in Bukhara dating back to 909, which somehow survived the time when Genghis Khan razed so many. Samarkand is now independent but farms are still controlled and farmers have to give the government some of their crops. They grow mulberries and silk. Sadly girls still lack education which is reserved for boys. In Samarkand there is a street of decorated mausoleums dating from 1300-600; it looked so wonderful I really will have to go one day!



Thank you to everyone who came to our Cream Tea on 30th September, which we held as part of the 100th Anniversary celebrations for the WI and the money we raised, which totalled £306, is for the refurbishment of the Day Centre. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and the room soon filled up with visitors from nearby villages as well as our own. We enjoyed doing it and everyone said they loved having the opportunity to sit and chat, drink tea and eat homemade scones and cake! In November we have a Craft Evening when our members will demonstrate various skills connected with Christmas festivities. Visitors welcome, Thursday 12th November at 7.45pm in the Day Centre.



Judy Colliver
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BIRCHANGER WOOD

www.birchangerwoodtrust.org

This month the climate, together with increased insect habitat and fungi exploitation will speed decomposition of the fallen trees and leaves. The latter will naturally decompose turning into useful compost to improve the ground for next year's growth of trees and shrubs.

November is also a beautiful month; leaves remaining on the trees glow incredible reds, oranges and yellows in the sun. Broad-leaf deciduous trees are preparing for winter's onslaught. Their first job is to withdraw nitrogen and phosphorous from their leaves, to be stored in the roots until the following spring. This stops the production of chlorophyll that makes food for the tree from sunlight and in turn their green colouring fades and other pigments are revealed. Anthocyanins create the pinks, purples and reds of species such as dogwood; carotenoids the oranges and yellows of birch and ash; and tannins the browns and, when mixed with carotenoids, the golden yellows found in English oak and beech leaves. Other trees to look out for include field maple that becomes a buttery yellow, alders are also yellow and last to lose their leaves, rowans are orange-red.

Hedgehogs will enter full hibernation this month as temperatures drop and food becomes scarce, *except* for some that have not reached a minimum weight, or are disabled, which have been brought to the Trust from the local hedgehog sanctuary to over-winter safe in our shedded enclosure. These hedgehogs will be fed each day by our Warden, Pat Forrest and the Trust wants to thank him for taking on this onerous task, and all the local people who have so kindly provided donations of dog food to feed these endangered animals so they 'make it through' the winter. Buy your firewood from the Compound - Saturdays between 9.00am-10.00am and 2.00pm-3.00pm. The cut wood costs £10 per wheelbarrow load, or £70 per cubic metre.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Email: secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

The 2015 season ended on a very positive note. The U15s defeated Dunmow to win the Hugh Craig Cup. In this competition the side remained unbeaten all season which is a credit to the players and the manager Robert Patmore. Next season this team will play in the Essex Matchplay competition which will be a major step up in class so the Club is looking to strengthen the side. If any young cricketers want to play against the best in Essex in 2016 please contact the Club. Two young members received recognition in the Herts & Essex Cricket League. In Division 3 Charlie Turner was named U18 'Player of the Year' and in Division 6 Andrew Wood took the most league wickets. The Club will be busy over the coming months with the AGM, Music Quiz, Golf Day, Presentation Evening, and General Knowledge Quiz. The Club collected The Jack Petchey Crystal Award at City Hall, London on 2nd October which marked the 15th anniversary of the Foundation and the milestone of having given £100 million to youth projects in London and Essex. To mark this occasion the Club was given £1,500 in recognition of their amazing work in Uttlesford with young people.



David Brown
Tel: 831011



www.farnham-school.org

The children are having a busy term as it turns colder. Years 3 and 4 recently joined several other schools in the area for a trip to Saffron Walden County High School to meet Cressida Cowell, author of the wonderful 'How to Train Your Dragon' series. Matilda in Y4 had taken along a picture and was thrilled when Cressida promised to put it up in her studio.



Horse Chestnut Class enjoyed an exciting day out at Colchester Museum learning all about the Romans in East Anglia. Our younger children in Willow Class have been learning about labels in literacy and how to tell the time. They have been looking at Vincent Van Gogh in art, producing their own beautiful sunflower pictures to take home. We are very pleased to welcome new teacher Blair McWhirter who will be teaching Horse Chestnut Class; he comes all the way from New Zealand and the children have enjoyed asking him lots of questions about life on the other side of the world.

Our Christmas bazaar will take place on Saturday 14th November 11.00am-1.30pm. Come along to see Father Christmas, drink some delicious mulled wine, try our wonderful winter barbecue, win a Christmas cake, buy some Christmas presents, have a go at the tombola and much, much more. Farnham is a small school achieving excellent results which is open to children resident in Essex and Hertfordshire. Several families in Stansted send their children to Farnham School and are available to discuss the advantages. Call school reception on 771339 for more information or see our website.

Katherine Aiken
Friends of Farnham

STANSTED IS WELL READ



The next meeting of our book group will be on Tuesday 3rd November 8.00pm at the Dog and Duck in Lower Street, where we will be discussing *Honour* by Elif Shafak. Email if you would like to join us, or just come along on 3rd November - you will be very welcome.

Anne Watson
Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com

BARKERS!

A certain West Highland White Terrier, let's call him Hamish to avoid embarrassment, barks nearly all the time he is at the surgery and his owner has asked me to write about the problem. Barking is a dog's way of communicating eg fear, excitement, dominance or to communicate a need. Certain breeds bark more than others; German Shepherd dogs for example. A few guidelines for reducing problem barking:

1. Do not shout at your dog, smack it on the nose, squirt it with water, or throw your keys on the floor near it; you will just end up with a confused or nervous dog
2. Be consistent; everyone in the house should be on board with the training programme
3. Remove the motivation; if a dog is barking because it sees people going past the front window, put it in a room where it doesn't see people walking past
4. Ignore your dog's barking, giving him no attention at all while he is barking. Attention rewards him for being noisy, so do not talk, touch or even look at him. When he stops, even to take a breath, reward him with a treat
5. Desensitise your dog to the stimulus (the thing that makes him bark). Start with the stimulus far enough away that he doesn't bark when he sees it. Feed him lots of good treats. Move the stimulus a little closer (a few inches or feet to start) and feed treats. If the stimulus moves out of sight, stop giving treats, so your dog learns that the appearance of the stimulus leads to good things
6. Teach your dog the quiet command, by first teaching your dog to bark on command. Then in a calm environment with no distractions, tell him to 'speak'. When he barks, say "quiet" and put a treat in front of his nose. Praise him for being quiet and give him the treat
7. When your dog starts barking, ask him to do something that is incompatible with barking, eg lying in his bed.



Training takes time, patience and consistency, but eventually it will work. The Dog's Trust has a good fact sheet on barking. So Hamish, have you been reading this? Next time I see you at the surgery, I shall expect a changed dog!



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



www.swchoral.org.uk

Vaughan Williams: A Sea Symphony

Peter Cole and Anne Conlon: Ocean World

Saturday 7th November 7.30pm at Saffron Hall conducted by Janet Wheeler. *A Sea Symphony* with Saffron Walden Choral Society and the Chameleon Arts Orchestra; *Ocean World* with SignuptoSing. Tickets from the Buy Tickets link on our website; from Saffron Hall Box Office on 0845 548 7650; or Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre on 01799 524002.

Helen Sterling



WEST UTTLESFORD GUIDING DISTRICT

Girlguiding needs you!

Over the summer Stansted District amalgamated with Takeley and Newport Districts and two guiders were appointed joint District Commissioners. The new guiding District now consists of 16 units from Rainbows through to Senior Section but could desperately do with at least one more Rainbow unit in Stansted. Although other villages may be an option subject to any volunteer enquiries, but to allow this to happen what we really need is **more adult volunteers!** People who want to give something back to the community and who, by doing so, would benefit so much. They do not need to have been involved as a child or know how to tie a dozen different knots! What we are looking for are team players ready to take on a challenging but rewarding commitment to work with us to maintain our villages' units for the future. Whilst there is no monetary gain we can offer limitless opportunities for personal growth, friendships and fun for life if you play your cards right. We need people to get involved on all levels; even if you cannot help all the time, you can still be a valuable team member.

Rainbows 5-7 years, **Brownies** 7-10 years, **Guides** 11 years upwards, **Senior Section** 14 years upwards. If you feel you could give some of your time to starting a new unit or helping at an established one and would like to see not just what you can do for Girlguiding but what Girlguiding has to offer you, then please contact me. If you have a daughter who would like to join or you want their name on the waiting list, again please contact me. Thank you.

Jennifer Jarvis
District Commissioner
Tel: 814434
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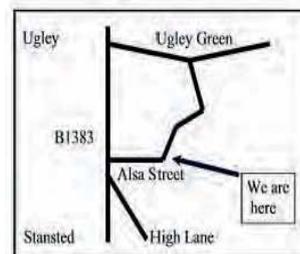
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Investigators is a group for children running most Fridays 6.15pm-7.45pm at the Free Church Hall. Sessions include a regular mix of games, Bible stories, creative activities and fun challenges. Recent activities have included the big bubble challenge, interviewing a first responder, suggesting our



own 10 commandments for the world, and devising moves for a song, as well as new games such as Musical Islands (including sharks!). Following last term's Joseph story (in many episodes), we

have recently followed the story of what happened to the Israelites after they left Egypt with Moses. The group is for primary school children 7-11 year olds but there is some flexibility over the age-range, particularly for younger siblings, as long as they are of school age and confident enough to mix with a group which is predominantly 7-11 years old. All sessions are free of charge and children are welcome to try a session any Friday when we are running (term-time only). For dates see www.stanstedfamilychurch.com/whats-on.



Ros Page
Tel: 813810

Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com



During the summer, 35 of us went on a day trip to London. Despite rain on the bus journey, by the time we reached the capital, the sun was shining and we all had a great time on the London Eye. We got to see all the sights of London, had our photos taken, and had a picnic lunch and ice creams before we came home. It was a great day - thanks to all our generous donors who helped fund the trip and make it such a success. We began this term with a games and activity evening, where we shared our holiday photos, and have also had a curling competition, which Annabel eventually won after a closely fought battle. By the time you read this, we will have learnt about essential First Aid techniques, practising our newly learnt skills on each other - thanks in advance to Brian for giving up his evening and agreeing to teach us. We are also having a fish and chip supper at the Chequers in Ugley, and with Halloween and Fireworks Night coming up, we are going to be very busy in the run up to Christmas! As always, we are looking for more drivers, mini-bus escorts or helpers. Please contact either Sandra Embleton on 812627 or myself for more information.



Katharine Collis
Tel: 461270



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

October Meeting

Garden Historian and authoress, Dr Twigs Way's talk was entitled *Dig for Victory*. Remembering the shortages and starvation during WWI, at the outbreak of WW2 the Government introduced a programme to encourage everyone to grow their own food. The original campaign named *Grow More* produced a 30-page booklet to help 'new' gardeners. The purely factual booklet did not fire peoples' enthusiasm. A newspaper's headline *Dig for Victory* was the catch phrase the Government finally used together with the spade with a foot on it motif. Gardens, public and royal parks, school fields and commons were converted to allotments. House building in suburbia was halted and the land used for crops. Every spare piece of land was converted to crop growing - even the bombsites caused by the Blitz, with some secure areas being tended by prison inmates. Onions and potatoes were the most popular crops, with onions being the most pilfered!! The Ministry of Agriculture published a series of 20 booklets and fact sheet posters, each one on a different subject, encouraging year round production, along with introducing people to hen, rabbit, goat and pig rearing. The BBC broadcast regular gardening programmes; newspapers had gardening columns; and books on self-sufficiency were published. Official photographs showed prominent London locations, such as the Tower of London and the Albert Memorial under cultivation, with the more down to earth Acton Allotments to boost morale and give encouragement. Many of the Government photographs were of a propaganda nature - even in the 1940s gardening in a fur-collared coat with high heels and stockings was not an everyday sight! Newspapers and personal photographs showed more down to earth images of people in everyday clothes digging and harvesting. After the war, many suburban gardens returned to grass and flowers, but the 1970s TV series *The Good Life* set in Surbiton brought back many memories to the older generation of Digging for Victory.

Next Meeting Wednesday 4th November

We welcome back Barry Kaufmann-Wright with 'Wildlife in Britain'. Everyone is welcome to our meetings; membership is £12 single, £20 double, or come as a day visitor at £2.50. Refreshments are available prior to the meeting. Doors open at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start.

Maralyn Harris, Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144

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The new Explorers group have settled well and are now getting used to the routine at Rainbow. The Adventurers group has welcomed Nicki, a new key person; and Olivia, a violinist doing her PhD, has joined us to work with the Adventurers on rhythms using hands and feet. The children enjoyed the Harvest Festival at St John's Church and treated us to some lovely singing. They also delivered the Harvest baskets to the residents of Normans Court. They have been busy creating a Birthday Balloon wall and are very keen to earn a leaf to go on the new Friendship Tree.

Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place. Contact Gill Pursglove the Pre-School Administrator on 814242 or email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net .

Clair Rava
Parent/Committee Member



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

The last month has, as we hoped for, seen a much improved return to form as players start to regain their match fitness and work off some of the summer excesses. We have now had a run of victories in both league games and cup competitions which has moved the team into the top half of the table. One of those victories was a hard-fought 4-3 away game over local neighbours Takeley who were obviously looking for revenge for the earlier FA Cup defeat; however the desire of our team, which played despite starting the game with four regular players injured, showed to the Management how strong our squad is and how united the players are. The Club Committee would like to thank our close neighbours to the ground who, when footballs inevitably end up on their property, are quick to return them. Our match balls are very important to us, as this season we have had instruction from our League to use a certain make of ball which has doubled our costs. If for any reason you have difficulty in returning them, please contact me and we will collect them. Our November fixtures are below - the players do appreciate all the support they get:

7th 3.00pm v Tower Hamlets: ESL Premier Division
21st 3.00pm v Burnham Ramblers: ESL Premier Division
24th 7.45pm v Bowers & Pitsea: ESL Premier Division



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842



Stansted Cricket Club

The Club have entered the 6-aside HECC Sport Indoor Cricket League this winter. Matches take place at the HECC Sport Centre at Tharbies Farm, Sawbridgeworth. So far we have played two matches, losing the first and winning the second. Committee members are currently obtaining quotes for renewing or replacing a number of key equipment items. One mower needs a complete overhaul, the static nets needs refurbishment, and a new wicket cover and bowling machine are required. We wait to hear whether any of our members won individual awards in the summer league. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring next season on a regular basis to contact me. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



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



Finals Day Good weather and lots of spectators, well done to all those who took part. Results to follow in December issue of The Link following the Presentation Evening.

Last Bowl Enjoyable day with plenty of banter trying to reach a 'roving' jack. Congratulations to Alan Bore our winner this year. Thanks also to Margaret and Dave for organising the fish and chip supper following this event.

Green to Bed Many thanks to all those members who have turned out to help with this task, and undertaken various other jobs around the green and Clubhouse. Your support is invaluable.

Diary dates

21st November 7.00pm for 7.30pm Presentation Dinner
27th November 7.45pm Club AGM

For further information please contact me.

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



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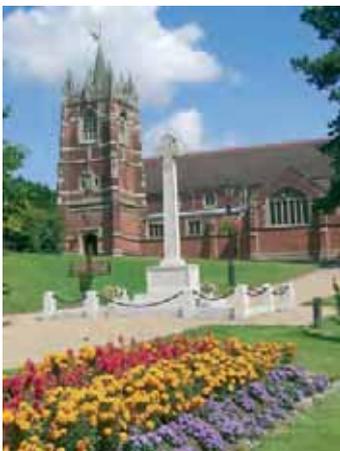
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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The traditional Remembrance Day parade and service will be held on Sunday 8 November. We hope as many of you as possible will join us at the War Memorial at 10.50am to honour those who gave their lives for us. We shall follow the same format as last year with all the commemoration taking place in the Memorial Garden. The Parade will leave Crafton Green car park just after 10.30am.



NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE DEDICATED WEBSITE

On 17th September Uttlesford District Council approved Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council's application to set up a Neighbourhood Development Plan. As was seen in previous issues of this magazine, it offers an opportunity for the Stansted community to have more influence, *backed by law*, in how and where the village should evolve and grow into the future. But, as stated before, the formation of this plan will take up to two years to complete.

To help with the process of consultation and data gathering, we are setting up a website which we hope will go live during November, to inform and engage residents, encouraging them to take a proactive role in the shaping of the areas in which they live. For those with busy lifestyles the website will be mobile-friendly to reach out to as many as possible to obtain their views. The website will inform residents of when and where open forums will be held and the progress of the Plan. It will also contain links to sources of information to help residents come to decisions based on fact, giving them every opportunity to make a considered choice in the final vote. Most importantly, as the Neighbourhood Plan evolves, so will the website, keeping everybody up to date with progress, so that views can be obtained in respect of published data. We hope you will visit the website, and the various links from it, as the views of every resident are essential to a successful outcome.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

As part of the Landscape Character theme, a review of our Public Rights of Way has been started and we have received valuable input from the Bishop's Stortford and District Footpaths Association to whom we are most grateful. We have a list of proposals on action required – much of this is maintenance and we need to try to persuade those responsible to keep paths clear, safe and walkable. However, we also have some suggestions for new paths. If you would like to make any comment relating specifically to Public Rights of Way, please e-mail parishcouncil@stansted.net with PROW in the subject line. Don't forget that we have a map of the village which shows all of the Public Rights of Way, and a wonderful booklet entitled "Saunters Round Stansted" which details eleven walks around the village with maps and clear instructions! Both publications are available free of charge from the Council Offices.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Geoffrey Sell writes:

I would like to thank residents of the Stansted North ward for electing me to the District Council. In political terms, I am what is known as a "retread", having previously served on the council. During my four year absence much has changed. Many long serving councillors and officers are no longer there. The old committee system where major policy decisions were made has been replaced by a Cabinet. Whether this is progress I leave it for others to judge; yet not all has changed - planning still dominates the work of the Council.

The Local Plan

The West Essex and East Hertfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) has been produced by independent consultants on behalf of East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford District councils. It suggests a total of 46,100 homes are needed across the four areas between 2011 and 2033, of which Uttlesford's share is 12,500 over that period - or 568 per year.

About 1,900 homes have already been built since the start of the Local Plan cycle in 2011, and there is currently planning permission for 5,000 homes. The identification of the assessed housing needs is not a housing target for the District but will form a key part of the evidence base for the emerging draft Uttlesford Local Plan which is currently being worked on.

The Council now needs to start considering where the most suitable development locations will be. A number of areas of search have been identified where the Council is proposing to test for the potential for a new settlement.

Nine areas have been identified, which include :

- A Elsenham area - mainly includes land to the north and east of Elsenham as far as Henham with its Conservation Area.
- B M11 Junction 8 - north-west. This area of search surrounds Birchanger and is bounded by the A120 at Bishop's Stortford to the south-west and the M11 to the east.

The public consultation will start on Thursday 22 October and end on Friday 4 December. It will include three public meetings at which residents and others are invited to put their questions to councillors and council officers working on the Local Plan.

Christmas car parking

It has been agreed:

- To introduce 'free after 3pm' on all council-managed car parks EXCEPT Fairycroft/Waitrose from Saturday 7 November 2015 to 23 December 2015 inclusive.

- To introduce free parking on all council-managed car parks EXCEPT Fairycroft/Waitrose from 24 December 2015 to Sunday 4 January 2015 inclusive.

Refugee Crisis

The crisis, the worst since the end of the Second World War, was debated at an extraordinary council meeting in September. An all-party motion was agreed unanimously. We expressed our "great sympathy for refugees from the conflicts in Syria and elsewhere and will co-operate with Government initiatives to accommodate and support refugees who come to this country." The Council will start and maintain a database of organisations and individuals who are able to offer accommodation or make other contributions to the welfare of refugees in the Uttlesford area. A Refugee Working Group of the Council has been established which will look at the issue in more depth.

ESSEX POLICE

Sargeant Chris Sharpe and PC Martin Richards attended the Full Council Meeting on Wednesday 7 October. The changes Essex Police are making to the way services will be delivered in the future have been covered extensively in the local media. The changes are partly a response to cuts in funding but also reflect the need to respond to the changing patterns of crime and how the public use information technology to communicate. Councillors were keen to ensure the concerns local residents have raised were passed onto the Chief Inspector. These mainly focused on response times and the sense of security they lose as visible policing is reduced. PC Richards reassured Councillors that The Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner are determined that Essex Police will continue to keep our county safe both now and for the future.

They have now started a public consultation process which lasts until mid-November and if you want to voice your opinions you can do so via the Essex Police website. There is also a link on our Parish Council website.

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DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

November

4th Finance and General Purposes
11th Open Spaces
25th Full Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Maureen Caton 813914
(Chairman) m.caton@hotmail.co.uk
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PARISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Valerie Trundle 813433
Joy Thomas 813871

POND WORKING GROUP

We were fortunate to have a fantastic Autumn day for our October clean up and there was a good turnout of volunteers who gave up their Sunday morning to clear weeds, brambles and other assorted vegetation that were overtaking the pond. By the time they had finished there was a good stretch of open water which we hope will encourage wildlife and make the pond a more attractive village feature.

Many thanks to all the hardworking volunteers.

We were asked to give plenty of notice of the next working party so if you have already purchased your 2016 diary or calendar, pencil in Sunday 1 May and celebrate International Labour day with some hard graft at the pond!



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CHRISTMAS MARKET



Saturday 5 December
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We have a number of stalls selling hot food and drinks

Refreshments will also be available in the Day Centre which will house the charity stalls

There will be a good selection of Christmas trees on sale on the day but we recommend you get there early to get the best trees

Some of the U3A Singers and Village Carol Singers organised by Churches Together in Stansted will sing carols at 6.30 pm while you sip your Gluhwein! Our old faithfuls the Steam Engine and Organ will be there along with fairground rides

You could also be the lucky winner of our £100 raffle prize



Father Christmas will be arriving around 4.30 pm

Anyone wanting to book a stall at the market should contact the Council Offices as soon possible so that we can finalise the layout for the day

**There will be free car parking all day in the
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DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

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Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Vivian Falk, Chairman Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs, Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net
Brownies/Guides/ Rainbows	Jennifer Jarvis District Commissioner Tel: 814434	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
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Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	U3A	Helen, Chair Tel: 812945
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver, President Tel: 812470
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Inner Wheel Club	June Milne, President Tel: 01371 875370 Email: june.milne@ymail.com	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232		
Magna Carta 800th Celebrations	Nigel Collingwood Tel: 813428		
Millers (Windmill) Mountfitchet Club	Derek Honour Tel: 647213 John Robinson Tel: 812755		
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk		

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 8th of the month for publication the following month.

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Our area is one of the driest in England, with low rainfall and no major lakes or rivers, although there are small rivers whose valleys contribute to the beauty of our countryside. Three have their source in the Henham and Debden area near the centre of the Hundred Parishes: the Chelmer eventually flows into the Blackwater and reaches the sea at Maldon; the Roding flows into the Thames; and the Cam flows north to join the Ouse and discharge at the Wash. The absence of water has been a key factor in allowing this area to remain relatively unspoilt, with insufficient natural water supply to service major industrial or residential developments. However, man's ingenuity has enabled a growing population to survive, with a variety of manmade devices to supplement natural water sources. Water is pumped from rivers or from deep artesian wells; farms have invested in reservoirs; and our waste water is recycled.

One of the most remarkable man-made devices for increasing water supply is the New River, which passes through the far southwest corner of the Hundred Parishes at Great Amwell. Water is pumped from the River Lea near Ware into this aqueduct and it flows south for nearly 30 miles, through London's northern suburbs to Hackney. What is perhaps most surprising about the New River is that it was constructed over 400 years ago when it took desperately-needed clean water into the heart of London. Our selection of walks from railway stations includes number 19 whose four miles from St Margaret's Station to Ware station includes a stretch of the New River. The route can be downloaded from our website.

Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226



RHODES THEATRE

www.rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk

Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime for all the Family!

Christmas just would not be Christmas without a family trip to your local theatre, and nobody does traditional pantomime better than Rhodes! The team that have brought you critically acclaimed productions of all the great festive tales will take you to new heights with the story of the young boy who swapped his cow for a bag of magic beans and ended up with a whole lot more than he bargained for! Join us as the darling Jack has to face his fears and confront the biggest baddie in pantomime history to rescue his beloved Jill and save the day! With slapstick fun from the comics, great songs and breath-taking special effects you'll find out why the critics think so highly of the Rhodes annual pantomime. The musical set pieces are quite brilliantly staged, alive with clever parodies and some truly splendid original songs. A highly entertaining take on a classic tale runs from 12th December to 2nd January, with school performances from 9th-17th December. Tickets £12-£19 via our website or call 710200.



Jennifer Austin



SAFFRON HALL NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

www.saffronhall.com

Paddington Bear's First Concert

Sunday 1st November at 1.30pm and 4.00pm



Simon Callow narrator, accompanied by City of London Sinfonia. An extended version of the Michael Bond story, it introduces children to the world's most well-known classical music, including Rossini's *William Tell* Overture, Piazzolla's *Libertango* and Schubert's '*Unfinished*' Symphony. Includes pre-concert music making and craft activities an hour before each show. Suitable for ages 4-9 years.

Musical Rumpus 8th November at 11.00am and 2.00pm

Spitalfields Music's award-winning interactive concert for 0-2½ year-olds which invites babies and parents to explore sounds, textures and instruments all the way through the performance. A specially-designed free-play session follows.

James Farm 14th November at 7.30pm

Saxophonist Joshua Redman, pianist Aaron Parks, drummer Eric Harland and bassist Matt Penman perform works from their recent album *City Folk*.

Britten Sinfonia 21st November at 7.30pm

Legendary Puerto Rican bassist Eddie Gomez joins Britten Sinfonia to walk the fascinating line between classical and jazz, including New York jazz, Tango and Ragtime by Milhaud and Stravinsky, Frank Zappa's *Igor's Boogie*, and with pianist Steven Osborne performs the music of the late Bill Evans.

Young Artist Coffee Concert 22nd November at 11.00am

Bulgarian cellist Michael Petrov and pianist Alexander Ullman perform Bach's Gamba Sonata in G major and Rachmaninov's Cello Sonata in G minor at an informal, family-friendly hour-long performance. All ages are welcome and children's tickets are free. Recital is followed by the opportunity to meet the artists and enjoy a complimentary coffee, sherry or squash in the foyer.

Benjamin Grosvenor and Escher Quartet

27th November at 7.30pm

Fresh from his acclaimed Last Night of the Proms appearance, Essex-born pianist Benjamin Grosvenor is joined by the dynamic young American string ensemble, the Escher Quartet to perform Dvořák's Piano Quintet in A major and Brahms' Piano Quintet in F.

Saffron Symphony Orchestra 29th November at 3.00pm

Conductor Richard Hull, Soloist Sam Heywood. Borodin Polovtsian Dances, Rachmaninov Piano Concert no 2, Tchaikovsky Symphony no 6 in B minor (Pathétique). Tickets: adults £12, concessions £10, under 16s free (ticket required).

For tickets please visit our website or call the box office on 0845 548 7650.

Samantha Walker
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Our meeting on 16th September was a very special one for two reasons: it was the 100th anniversary of the founding of the WI, and Ugley's 95th. To celebrate we had a special lunch instead of the usual meeting, held in the lovely surroundings of our President's home, decorated with commemorative bunting made by Betty Francis. Thirty-seven of us, including guests from Elsenham, Manuden and Stansted WIs sat down to a splendid three course lunch, followed by a piece of delicious anniversary cake made by Mary McKean. The first cut was made by our two eldest members, Phyllis Harrison (whose parents would have celebrated their 100th wedding anniversary that day) and Elsie Bunting. Pat Prattley, Federation chairman and member of Manuden WI made a short speech, after which we toasted the future of the organisation with a glass of champagne. So ended another very special, entertaining afternoon. The remaining events in this year's calendar include a virtual guided tour of the landscape and wildlife of Scotland on 18th November in Ugley Village Hall, and our festive finale which will be held in our President's home, Bycullah, Old Mead Lane, Henham CM22 6JH on 2nd December. Both meetings are at 2.15pm, and if they appeal to you, why not come and join us? You will be made very welcome!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



BEEKEEPING

Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association's main aim is the promotion of beekeeping in order to reverse the decline in bee colonies which are so important to pollination. It was with considerable interest, therefore, that I read the recent report on the state of bee losses across Europe. The study involved nearly half a million bee colonies, managed by 23,000 bee keepers. The mortality rate varies broadly across Europe ranging from 5% in Norway to 25% in Austria. In the UK the losses were 11% in England, 8% in Scotland, 8% in Wales and Northern Ireland 13%. The average loss across Europe was 17%. These are down from figures nearer 30% a couple of years ago. Interestingly, the losses are not mirrored by the occurrence of the varoa mite. Perhaps we are better because of the campaigns of local associations like BSBKA – let us hope so; but these are still losses and so I went in search of more positive news. I found it under the guise of the short haired bumble bee, last seen in Dungeness in 1988, and since declared extinct. However, a dedicated group of people (isn't it wonderful to hear of such people?) asked the Swedish government (where the bumble bee is not extinct) if they could import 100 queens a year. The Swedish agreed and, after two months in quarantine, the bees were gradually re-introduced in Dungeness in 2012. In support of the bees, the group persuaded 25 land-owners and 70 farmers to plant over 1,200 hectares of bee-friendly plants over the Romney Marsh area. They are now pleased to report that worker bees are now re-inhabiting the area and going from strength to strength. What a great story!



John Dockerill
Chairman Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association
Email: training@stortfordbees.org.uk

After a busy start to the school year investigating traditional tales, we spent some time during Harvest Festival Week exploring a story that was new to many children called *The Little Red Hen*. The children quickly picked up the repeated refrain in the book and learnt about the grain growing into stalks of wheat, and about harvesting these to make flour. They each had fun measuring flour to make their own delicious bread at the nursery so we may have some young contenders for next year's Bake Off! During the week we collected goods for the Uttlesford Food Bank and whilst our little Butterflies like Freya (pictured) may not have fully understood the cause, they did feel proud and happy to donate and our families were very generous. In the new half term we begin looking into different festivals, celebrations and cultural events. Children will learn about Guy Fawkes Night, Remembrance Day, St Andrew's Day and of course Christmas, and will also discover more about Hanukah and Diwali. There will be glitter galore as we embark on lots of exciting craft activities throughout!



We have our annual Quiz Night at 8.00pm on 7th November at Birchanger Sports and Social Club, with all proceeds going directly into the nursery to improve facilities and equipment for the children. Tickets £10 (including sausage and chip supper from Churchills) from Jen on 810800. This was an excellent evening last year and we would love more locals to come (maximum eight per team). Birchanger Nursery is a highly respected local preschool facility in the grounds of, but separate from, Birchanger Primary School. In our beautiful rural setting and well-equipped building we provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2½ to 5. To arrange a visit telephone our administrator Jen Munton on 810800, email: admin@birchangernursery.org or see our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery.

Nadine Lloyd
Birchanger Nursery Committee

HENHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET

Friday 13th November 1.00pm- 9.00pm Henham Village Hall in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Christmas Decorations, food, candles, jewellery, refreshments and raffle. Entrance only 50p – everyone welcome.



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INCORPORATING COPYZONE & COPYZONE ARCHIVING

You should have received your copy by now of our latest Stansted Business Forum Directory which gives you a chance to see what our local businesses do. It has been an incredibly busy time getting the directory together to distribute throughout Stansted and the surrounding areas.

We want to say a big thank you to Barney Miller of the Design Mill who organises and prints our directory. The quality of the work that he does is really excellent and you will see that when you look through the Directory. Take advantage of the special offers and remember to come to us first. We are also really pleased with our new website which Fintan Lambe of Popcorn Website Design Ltd has upgraded. Fintan is based at the Riverside Business Park and has a really experienced and talented team. They create and maintain websites and have an excellent graphic design service which includes logo design, branding, advertising and creating brochures.



We had a very lively meeting at Linden House in October with our two guest speakers. James Garrett gave us an update on the local housing plan and how this is progressing. He said how important it was for local businesses to also have their say in how they would like to see Stansted develop in the future. Robert Lee gave us information on meeting the buyers at Inflight and details of how to be more involved in business events taking place at Stansted Airport. If you are a local business and would like to know more about the Stansted Business Forum then come along to our next meeting at Linden House, Silver Street on Friday 6th November at 7.00am for 7.30am start. We look forward to seeing you there.



Iris Evans
Treasurer
Stansted Business Forum

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY

Autumn Craft Fair

Saturday 7th November 11.00am-3.30pm at the St Barnabas Centre, Church Lane, Thorley CM23 4BE. Christmas gifts and cards, knitted and stitched goods, jewellery, ceramics, wooden crafts, paintings, prints, food and produce for sale, a win a Christmas cake competition and lots more. Refreshments available with home-made soup and bread and cheese lunches from noon.

Sandra Ayres
Tel: 814471

GARDENING TIPS

Late October and November is the peak period for leaves to build up on the lawn. They should be cleaned off as soon as possible. If it is dry and dew free, then a mower set high can lift most of them. Failure to clean off leaves will quickly kill off the grass beneath them. It is a good time of year for tidying borders by clearing away old stems and dead foliage, as well as forking over the ground around plants. However, some plants benefit from allowing their old stems and foliage to remain in place over the winter; some for aesthetic reasons, and some as a degree of protection from frosts and snow. Miscanthus, carex and most other grasses should not be trimmed until the spring, and winter frost on these plants appears particularly spectacular at times. Penstemons, hydrangeas, etc benefit from the extra protection their old foliage and flower heads give them through the winter. One plant to invest in for winter colour and, as a bonus fragrance, is viburnum bodnantense 'Dawn' which flowers consistently through the winter even through cold periods. Now is the time for planting new trees, shrubs and roses, or for transplanting them from one spot to another within the garden. The soil, believe it or not, is still relatively warm and will encourage establishment before next year's growing season. Mulch new and moved plants with plenty of well-rotted manure to optimise establishment. You can still plant daffodils; it is a good time for planting tulips from now into December, and you can still put in garlic to crop next year. Never walk on your lawn in frosty weather, as you will effectively be shattering the living cells in the grass leaf as they are not flexible when frosted.



Paul the Gardener

WORST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER?

The tickets had been paid for a year ago, early Christmas presents, and after months of eager anticipation the big day drew ever closer; the last few weeks spent in a flurry of emails and texts arranging travel and accommodation. At last the great day dawned in a burst of golden October sunshine. Miraculously the M25 was incident free, the trains were on time and we all rendezvoused at the appointed hour. The Gods were on our side.

Clutching our precious tickets we climbed up to our seats; way up at the top of the vast stadium. The sun had set and the lights dazzled as the two teams entered to a cacophony of sound. We stood for the national anthems and the match finally kicked off. Excitement built as we sang and chanted 'til our throats were sore. The atmosphere was electric as the players were in turn encouraged, chastised and cheered. All too soon the 80 minutes of play came to an end. England 13 - Australia 33. The Gods had deserted us; we'd lost and England, the hosts, were out of the Rugby World Cup. But were we downhearted? Yes we were! My first visit to Twickenham had ended in disappointment. However after a drink (or two) back at the hotel we eventually agreed that despite the defeat it had been a memorable experience – but possibly not the best Christmas present we'd ever had!



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Bus Pass Group

Nine members of the Bus Pass group visited Maldon in September. It was breezy but dry and we saw some sun. As this was not our first visit, our objectives were somewhat different; firstly a coffee, followed by a visit to the Battle of Maldon Millennium embroidery in St Peter's Church. We saw a very interesting video narrated by the embroidery designer Humphrey Spender about his inspiration and the logistics of the work involved. Next a visit to the old church of St Mary's, known as The Fisherman's Church, to see the stained glass window installed to mark the battle's anniversary. We retired to the Queen's Head for fish and chips before walking along the quayside to the bronze statue of Byrhtnoth, the leader of the men who fought the battle against the Vikings and who was sadly killed. The last trip this year is on Wednesday 11th November to



Chelmsford Market.

Ukelele group

Under the guidance of Annie Compton and Keef Jackman our new Ukelele group learned their first three chords and made a very impressive sound. The group will meet fortnightly in St John's Hall from 12th October 1.15pm-3.00pm; we will see if we can tackle Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata by Christmas!



Christmas Lunch Thursday 17th December at Bury Lodge Hotel. Cost £20 per head for two courses. Final bookings being taken at the November monthly meeting.

Next meeting

Thursday 19th. November 1.30pm in St John's Hall, speaker Andy Thomas 'A Celebratory History of Christmas'.

Contact details Stansted Mountfitchet U3A, c/o Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AG
Email: stanstedu3a@live.co.uk

Telephone: Helen (Chair) 812945; Liz (Secretary) 813270.



Suzanne Parra

RITA MORSON'S BOOK

Rita Morson's Book *Who Says?* about her accident, time in hospital and recovery is available from Millway; Elsenham Post Office; Henham Shop or me at £7.50. Rita would like to thank everyone involved for their kind help and support.

David Morson
Tel: 850209

Email: davidmorson20@gmail.com

Big Changes To Consumer Law – What this means for you

A new Consumer Rights Act became law on 1st October, billed as the biggest shake-up in consumer rights law in a generation, bringing together several pieces of legislation into one. Some of the main changes are:

Digital rights

A big hole in the old laws was that it did not deal with digital content eg music downloads or anything else supplied in digital form. The new law says that such content must be:

- Of satisfactory quality
- Fit for a particular purpose
- As described by the seller.

If digital content does not meet these standards the consumer has the right to a repair or replacement; if this does not fix the problem, the customer can ask for a price reduction. Retailers will have to provide compensation if any device, or other digital content, owned by the consumer is damaged because of the digital content downloaded.

30-day Right to Reject

There is now a specific timeframe in which you can reject a faulty item and get a full refund - 30 days from the date you purchase the product. Previously this was described as a 'reasonable time' (this does not apply to digital content).

A Tiered Remedy System

This system is now in place for faulty goods, digital content and services, which means your rights to a refund are now more clearly set out. Whether you are entitled to a refund depends on how long you have owned the product:

- **Failed repairs** After one failed attempt by the retailer to repair or replace faulty goods, you are entitled to ask for a refund or price reduction
- **A second repair or replacement** If you do not want a refund or price reduction, you have the right to request another repair or replacement at no cost.
- **Deductions from refunds** No deduction can be made from a refund in the first six months after purchase. The only exception to this is motor vehicles, where a reasonable reduction may be made for the use you have had of the vehicle.

Letting Agents

Lettings agents must clearly publicise a full tariff of their fees both on their websites and prominently in their offices.

Secondary Ticket Sales

Websites like *Seatwave* and *Get Me In* must state the face value of tickets being resold - often for a much higher price. Companies will need to make it clear if there are any problems with sight-lines and if seats listed together are actually next to each other. Importantly, these secondary ticket websites will have to carry an email address for buyers in case problems arise with the tickets. Visit the Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk to see how the new legislation will work in practice or for advice on what to do if you have a problem.

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St John's Church is the venue for this season's second concert at 3.00pm on **Sunday 22nd November** when guitarist, **Sean Shibe** will be giving a recital. Sean will take us on a journey from the music of the celebrated 16th-century lutenist John Dowland to the fiery 20th-century Spanish guitar music of Ginastera and Rodrigo (composer of the ever-popular *Concierto de Aranjuez*). Music by Bach, and Britten in homage to Dowland, will complete his recital. The multi-award winning young Scot is the only guitarist ever to have been admitted to the BBC's prestigious New Generation Artists scheme, and was one of only three musicians out of 120 applicants to be admitted to the Young Classical Artist Trust (YCAT) in May 2015.



Future concerts: **Sunday 24th January** 3.00pm a recital by the viola player, **Ugne Tiskute** with pianist **Alexandra Vaduva**. **Saturday 5th March** 6.00pm **Wells Virtuosi** - outstanding players from Wells Cathedral School. Tickets for all concerts are £15 adults, children under 18 free, available from Absolute Travel; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy tel 815282; or at the door. Check out our website for general information, or if you have a specific enquiry please email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk.

Alan Corbishley



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Light up a life

Full of the warmth and love that St Clare has been bringing to local people's lives for 25 years, Light up a Life is a special annual event offering precious time to pause and remember those close to our hearts, in the company of others who understand. The event gives everyone, whether they have a personal connection with St Clare or not, a very special way



to remember those we will be missing over the festive period and honour their memory in a very personal way. St Clare supporter Sue Chambers, whose husband Brian was cared for by the Hospice, says she knows St Clare is always there for her; a special place, where everyone is on her side and holding her hand, and Light up a Life is an extension of this. Our Stansted service is in St Mary's Church on Sunday

13th December at 10.00am. For further details please contact Audrey Rodgers on 812162. For more information about our Light up a Life services, volunteering opportunities at St Clare, or to discover the difference your support makes to your local Hospice, visit our website or contact me.

Sue Fishpool
Community Fundraiser
Tel 773751 Sue Fishpool
Email: sue.fishpool@stclarehospice.org.uk

September Meeting

Jeremy Collingwood gave a fascinating, informative and well-illustrated talk on the life and times of 'Mr Saffron Walden' George Stacey Gibson (1818-1883). Born in what is now No 4 and No 6 High Street, Saffron Walden, his great grandfather, also named George, and a miller came to Saffron Walden in 1763. His eldest son, Atkinson Francis Gibson, was involved in brewing as was his eldest son, Wyatt George Gibson. Under George Stacey Gibson, Wyatt's son, the family business grew to considerable wealth and influence. George married Elizabeth Tuke, but tragedy struck during the pregnancy of their long awaited first child. A burglar broke into their house whilst Gibson was away, which had a traumatic effect on Elizabeth. She lost the child, a boy, causing much distress to the family and the community. They did subsequently have a daughter, a sickly child, but no further children. George Gibson had a Quaker family background. He was a distinguished botanist and very philanthropic. He was councillor, alderman and twice Mayor of Saffron Walden. His influence brought the railway and bank to the town, the construction of Town Hall, and the spike or workhouse building, now a modern apartment building. These along with schools and other significant buildings in the town all have considerable Gibson family influence. Jeremy has written a book entitled 'Mr Saffron Walden' which is available locally for those who want to know more.

October Meeting

Tony Kirby - The Railways of Essex.

'What if...?' is a favourite question of historians, in their occasional lighter moments. What would have happened if (say) Charles I had been a little more flexible and compromised with Parliament in 1641-42; if Napoleon had invaded England in 1805; or Hitler in 1940? Even economic historians (an unimaginative breed) sometimes do it: what would have happened if the railways had never been built?

This was the sub-text to Tony Kirby's talk. What did the railways do to create modern Essex? Did they fundamentally change the economy and the landscape of the county, or simply accelerate trends that were already in train? Starting from Liverpool Street station - where John Betjeman once said you could already sense East Anglia in the sky beyond the train shed (those were the days!) - he explored the rail network that developed between the 1840s and the early 20th century. He looked at its impact on the landscape in terms of civil engineering works and stations, its role in encouraging agriculture and industry, its influence on other forms of transport and in transforming the shape and character of towns and villages. So if you wondered why in 'flat' Essex there are two tunnels between Audley End and Great Chesterford, what was at Stratford before the Olympics, or if you simply wanted a reminder of very recent railway history from the loco yard at Bishop's Stortford to Class 37s on Cambridge trains, Tony supplied the answers.

Next meeting: Victorian Murders by Martyn Lockwood. Thursday 5th November at 8.00pm in the Day Centre.



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Nature Notes

The wildlife on this planet is made up of ecosystems ranging in size from the mighty rainforests and oceans down to smaller ones which include the compost bin in my garden. When we started using a plastic compost bin, the open base stood on the bare ground and because it contained kitchen waste as well as garden refuse, a rat soon took up residence. I chased him off and put wire mesh under the bin and have not seen him since. The next to move in was a family of mice. I wouldn't say that they were tame, but there was often a few seconds of eye contact and whisker twitching before disappearing. On one occasion the mother mouse scurried away with two or more suckling babies in tow. They were around for a couple of years before moving out. Another time I put a small dead bird in the bin and when I next lifted the lid it was gone so possibly a grass snake was visiting. Most of you with compost bins will have had similar experiences and no doubt have been impressed by the numbers of red worms doing their good work in the compost, and which under certain weather conditions will crawl to the surface and up the sides of the bin. If the lid is close-fitting, one has to remove handfuls of worms to avoid squashing them.

Every now and then a red bloom appears around the top of the bin. I assumed that this was a kind of mould until I looked closely and found that it was a mass of minute creatures, each about a quarter of a millimetre long. These are springtails which in their various forms are one of the most numerous species on earth. They have six legs but are not true insects. Under the microscope they look similar to the silver fish which we see in the damp corners of our houses and to which they are related. They are called springtails because they have a sort of tail which is folded back and clipped under their body. If alarmed, this tail is released and springs open to propel the creature a short distance through the air. The action is so quick that if you watch them under a magnifying glass they just seem to disappear. Their contribution to the composting process is to break down organic matter which makes it easier for the even smaller bacteria to complete the job.



Felix

DID YOU KNOW?

A contemporary broadsheet purporting to relate, 'The whole Account of the most horrid and barbarous MURDER Committed by W Savill on the body of Thomas Bray', referred to The White Hart, Stansted. The only locally known White Hart Public House was in Ugley; it would have been the White Bear, Stansted that was involved in the murder that must have been a national scandal at the time. The story goes that on Sunday 25th October 1789 two young lads walked over from Manuden to drink in Stansted. They partook too deeply of the cup, and when returning, Richard Savill intending only to rob Thomas, murdered Bray for his possessions. In the Manuden burial register it is recorded that 'Thos Bray was buried on the 27th October 1789, murdered by Richard Savill'.

Savill fled to Chatham, under an assumed name, and there joined a newly raised regiment about to embark overseas. He was recognised, and after the trial at Chelmsford, at which he confessed to the crime, pleading that he only attempted to rob Bray, he was sentenced to death; a fine



young man not 20 years of age. Tradition demanded that he be brought back to his place of residence, Manuden, where he hung for five days from one of a group of beech trees on the Downs; the last execution to be held within this area. In a grim touch, his mother who lived at Walnut Tree Cottage, Manuden, on the opposite side of the Stortford Road, could from her bedroom overlook her son's slow grisly death.

Maybe Savill didn't have very good friends in Manuden, as often in these circumstances a friend would have visited the scene after dark and jumped onto the convicted man's body hastening the suffering death. Hence the phrase, "you're pulling my leg", entered into the English language.

Source: Manuden (Essex) Annuals of the Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin since 1143. H.L. Verry. 1978.

Ralph Phillips



INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD

At the September meeting we welcomed Alistair and Lesley Johnstone, co-founders of the popular annual Cazfest festival, and also of the charity of the same name. Most of us had heard about Cazfest or seen the familiar pink/white winged-heart logo, particularly if we have young people, but most of us were unaware of the background to this charity. Cazfest was established in memory of Alistair and Lesley's daughter Caroline (Caz) - a healthy young 17-year old, who in 2008, whilst out enjoying herself with a group of friends, collapsed from an undiagnosed heart condition, and despite prompt medical attention, sadly died a few days later. Tragedies like this can be prevented through ECG screenings, and the purpose of Cazfest is to generate awareness of sudden cardiac deaths in young people. The festival idea gained momentum through Caroline's friends who wanted to do something in her memory, and the first Cazfest Music Festival was held in 2009. This year's festival brought in an audience of over 2,000 people - and with many international as well as local performers, the festival has grown in popularity year on year. Through the festival and other fundraising events, money is raised for screening young people in our schools, and over 1,000 young people have now been screened locally. Cazfest was chosen by Inner Wheel President June Milne as one of our charities for this year. Inner Wheel meets on the fourth Tuesday evening each month at the Stansted Day Centre. New members warmly welcomed - details from me or President June Milne on 01371 875370.



Brenda Cox
Tel: 812191

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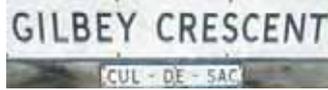


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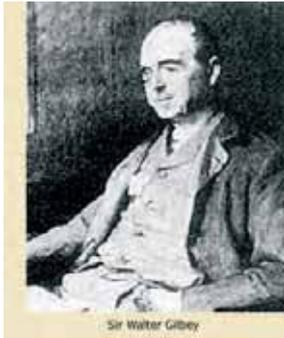
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FAMILY BEHIND THE NAME



Situated on the Hargrave Park Estate off Cambridge Road, Gilbey Crescent is named after Sir Walter Gilbey (1831-1914) of 'Gilbey's Gin' fame. He was born and bred in Bishop's Stortford. His father, although from Essex farming stock, was landlord of The Bell Inn in Stansted before running a successful passenger stagecoach service between Bishop's Stortford and London. With the arrival of the railway, that business foundered and he returned to his former trade as landlord of the Red Lion Inn at Hockerill. Like his father, Walter drove a coach at the start of his working life,



Sir Walter Gilbey

combining this with a job as an apprentice to a land surveyor, before working in a parliamentary agent's office at Westminster. Both Walter and his brother Arthur volunteered for service as civilian clerks in the Crimean War, Walter mainly working at a convalescent hospital on the shores of the Dardanelles. Both brothers returned safely in 1857 and with

money borrowed from their elder brother Henry, a prosperous wine merchant, set up their own retail establishment, 'W & A Gilbey' in Oxford Street, London selling wine by the bottle to the general public.

In 1858 Walter married Ellen Parish, daughter of the landlord of the White Horse Inn in North Street, Bishop's Stortford and they lived in London close to the business. By the end of 1860 the Gilbey brothers were selling their wines through various 'off-licences' including grocers' shops and chemists all over the country and were the third largest importers of wine in Britain. The business grew, taking over two distilleries in Scotland, and in 1895 they marketed their own gin. Their wine and spirits company eventually became the largest in the world. Walter and Ellen raised eight children, moving to Hargrave House in 1865. When the lease expired in 1874 they moved to Brighton but returned a few years later to Elsenham Hall. Walter Gilbey was passionate about the rural world and horses. Well known as an agriculturalist and horse-breeder serving as President of both the Royal Agricultural Society and The Shire Horse Society, Walter wrote many books on the subject of horses. He founded the Elsenham Jam Factory using the produce from his own orchards in the village, and found the time to serve as a JP and Deputy Lieutenant of Essex. He was also a generous philanthropist, donating land in Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford for the town's first hospital to be built, and paying for the construction of the Alms Houses in Stortford, King's Cottages. Both Walter and Ellen are buried in the New Cemetery, Apton Road, Bishop's Stortford.

Although more than one hundred members of the family currently survive, the Gilbeys now have no associations with the drinks industry or the jam making business at Elsenham; but their famous name lives on in Gilbey Crescent.

Yvonne Ayres



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Cake stall, Raffle, Bric-à-Brac, Mill goods. In the words of the song 'We saved the best for last', our last opening of the season on Sunday 4th October transpired to be a wonderful



sunny day. Just after 1.00pm a queue of youngsters hugging teddies and other soft toys began to form a queue, and they waited in anticipation of the fun that was to come. Whilst Teddy was very sad that the weather put a stop to his annual parachute jump from the windmill on Fête day, he was delighted to put on a show for his young friends, for the teddies were once again going to be parachuting from the top of the Windmill! With help from

Sheila Clark and her daughter Sarah we were able to use for the first time the ingenious apparatus made by Sheila's late husband Terry, to convey the teddies up to the top of the Mill. It was certainly put to good use and enjoyed by all the children and their parents. We had a good number of visitors enjoying the tour of the Mill and purchasing souvenirs. I would like to thank the Stewards who came along at short notice to look after our visitors, and John Salmon for supplying us with plants to sell which helped to swell our funds for Mill maintenance.

Please support our **Windmill Coffee Morning** at the Day Centre on **Saturday 21st November** 10.00am-noon, entrance £2 for coffee/tea plus mince pie/biscuits. Also look out for us at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5th December, when we will be in the Day Centre.



Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768

FOREST HALL SCHOOL



Magic Night

Forest Hall School is holding an evening of magical entertainment for all the family on Friday 20th November 7.30pm for 8.00pm. You will be amazed and delighted by Martin Cox, a comedy magician who has performed in local establishments as well as The Magic Circle and the London Palladium and is hilarious as well as being amazing at magic. This will be a thoroughly entertaining evening for the whole family, so be sure not to miss it. Experience close up magic, comedy magic and amazing and perplexing illusions that will leave you baffled. Martin will be performing for two hours, with an interval to give him a rest and for you to discuss with your friends and family, just how it's done! Tickets £10 adults, £6 children aged 16 and under from myself or Sam Fairweather on 07711 443529. Spaces are limited and tickets are selling **fast!!** We really look forward to welcoming you.

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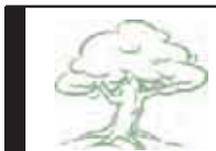
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Club Finals' Day 13th September

Ladies' Singles: Ruby Hollis retained her title, beating Lisa King 7-5 7-6 (7-3) in two gruelling sets lasting 2 hours 15 minutes. Men's Singles: Matt Hollis showed little mercy in defeating dad, Chris 6-0 6-0. Matt teamed up with Ross Armorgie to win the Men's Doubles, beating Howard Buckley and Matthieu Glasson 6-1 6-1. Ladies' Doubles: Ruby Hollis and Daphne Lunnon beat Lisa King and Fiona Pye 6-0 7-6 (7-4). Ruby rounded off a successful day by teaming up with Ross Armorgie to win the Mixed Doubles trophy. In the only three setter of the day, they beat Simon Fox and Lisa King 4-6 6-3 6-2. The Roger Loveday Trophy for the most improved player of the year was won by Jon Budd.

Ladies' Night Monday 9th November 7.00pm

All lady members (especially new ones) are welcome.

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

Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574. For more information see our website.



Chris Hollis

Hospital Cup Finals 26th September



Nine local clubs from Uttlesford took part in six months of competition. Four of those clubs were represented in the finals, which were played at Stansted. Many thanks to all who helped in the planning and on the day to make this event such a success. Stansted were represented in three finals. Unfortunately, Chris Hollis could not manage to win the Men's Singles, finishing as runner up to Joe Lampon from The Grove; however, many congratulations to Ruby Hollis and Daphne Lunnon who won the Ladies' Doubles and to Ruby and Simon Playfair who won the Mixed Doubles. The opponents in both finals were also from The Grove. The Hospital Cup tennis tournament is a charity event, dating from the 1940s, to raise funds for the League of Friends of Saffron Walden Community Hospital. Money is raised through entry fees and the raffle. Jan Hollis, Chairman of the Hospital Cup Committee, presented a cheque for £1,200 to Jane Jennings, representative of the League of Friends and now converted tennis fan.

Daphne Lunnon
Tournament Organiser 2015
Email: drlunnon@gmail.com

MEMORY TEASER – THE ANSWER

Thank you to Mr Childs who provided the following information regarding the photo of a band marching along the Cambridge Road in last month's Link.



'I believe this to be the Regimental Band of the 1st Battalion East Anglia Regiment, an amalgamation of the Suffolk & Royal Norfolk Regiments leading the carnival procession from Mountfitchet Green to Hargrave Park in the early 1960s. I served with the Suffolks in Cyprus during the Eoka conflict 1955-60, and identified the cap badge as that of the Suffolks and also spotted the Cyprus badge being worn by one of the bandsmen in the photo.'

Excellent detective work Mr Childs! Ed

CHRISTMAS IS STILL COMING! Latest Recommended Posting Dates

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Tuesday 17th November Western Europe

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