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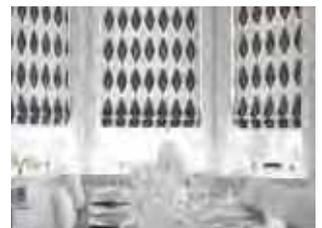
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Best Garden - Stansted
in Bloom by Mary Howes

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

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by **noon** on 11th September
for the October issue

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EDITORIAL



The Rec was originally intended to be used by mothers and pushchairs – presumably to ‘take the air’ and partake in some gentle exercise. It was lovely to see the space come to life in a similar way at the recent Bouncy Picnic on the Rec enjoyed by so many mums and their offspring together with other family members and friends, where plenty of both ‘air’ and (not necessarily gentle) exercise was indulged in, see page 11. Watching everyone having such fun playing, laughing and relaxing in the sunshine emphasises just how important green spaces are to our community. They’re well worth the effort required to preserve them.

Although pothole sightings have been absent from The Link in recent months they certainly haven’t been absent from our roads or minds. Thankfully the large one on the brow of Pines Hill, which provided an experience similar to being on the ‘Big Dipper’ roller coaster, has at last been repaired. Hopefully the two ‘fledgling’ holes close by, on the other side of the road will also be repaired before they develop into fully-grown potholes. Miracles do happen!

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Happy New Year! There are many 'new years'; the tax year starting in April, the Chinese new year, the school new year, and the Methodist new year. The latter two share the same date, the beginning of September each year. So, schools and colleges brace themselves for their new year this month, with many of our young people starting school for the first time, others moving school, and some starting their college/university courses. We wish those facing such challenges 'all the best'. But even going back to a school that is known, usually means facing challenges too.

Challenges face us all, whatever our stage in life: entering a permanent relationship; starting a family; facing employment issues; getting older; they all make for challenges. Life is largely about how we face and take advantage of those challenges. We pass through the phase of wanting to be a bit older, (*I'm 5 and a 1/4*); then to keeping our age a secret; then to boasting about how old we will be (*I will be 88 next birthday*). Life is a challenging place. Perhaps it's right that it should be, within reason anyway. How deathly life would be if everything stayed the same for ever. And a new year is a good time to take stock and decide some aims for ourselves, to challenge ourselves to take some vision of our lives and to purposefully set out to achieve at least some of that vision. God bless you, whatever the challenges are that you are facing at the moment.



Rev'd Stuart Veitch
Stansted Free Church



STANSTED FREE CHURCH

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Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Minister Rev'd David Keeble
Tel: 01799 522037
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Lettings Marion and Mike Dyer
7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG
Tel: 814059
lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Preachers for September

1st 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe
8th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble - Communion
15th 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins
22nd 10.30am Harvest Songs of Praise
29th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch and Helen Veitch

Children Unite

At our service on 29th September, Helen Veitch (daughter of Stuart and Brenda) will be talking about 'Children Unite', a charity of which she is the co-founder. The charity works to raise awareness of the international exploitation and abuse of child domestic workers. All are welcome.

The Place on the Hill

Our drop-in every Wednesday 9.30am-12.30pm is proving so popular, with new visitors arriving every week, that we are planning to also open on Fridays from September. See elsewhere in The Link for more details. All are welcome.



Shalom

Our first meeting for this term is our At Home - 8.00pm on Monday 23rd September at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

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

Confessions		
	Saturday	10.00am and by appointment

Baptisms	By appointment
-----------------	----------------



ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the bumper July draws:

£200 No 164 - Barbara Johnson
 £100 No 45 - Pauline Mantle
 £50 No 147 - Yvonne Ayres
 £25 No 39 - Daphne Francis

The draws for September will be held on Sunday 29th September in St John's Church Hall following the 9.30am service. Numbers are still available for anyone who may wish to join at a cost of £2 per month per number. Please contact me for an application form if you would like to be in with a chance of winning whilst helping to support the work of St John's Church.

Francine Cope
 Tel: 814562

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

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

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

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

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

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

Tuesday

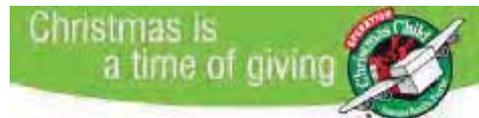
9.00am St John's Tots

Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer
 10.00am Holy Communion

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer



SHOE BOXES

It is only two months before the shoe boxes will be packed and on their way to brighten Christmas for children in the poorest countries. Please save your shoe boxes and let us have them, wrapped in Christmas paper if possible. Otherwise gifts of wrapping paper and offers to cover boxes will be very welcome. For the many knitters, please remember that we cannot include home stuffed toys, but puppets are great. We try to include a hat, scarf and mitts in every box and are often short of larger hats for the teenagers. The youngest recipients will be two years old, so we don't need very small hats, though nothing donated goes to waste, as Operation Christmas Child will find a good home. For a list of the type of things to put in the shoe boxes, and what shouldn't go in, please see the leaflets in the churches and around the village, or contact one of us.

Finally some dates for your diary – we will be packing the boxes at the Free Church Hall on Thursday 7th November 7.00pm-9.00pm. Please join us. From 10.00am-noon on Saturdays 12th and 26th October the Free Church, Chapel Hill, will be open to receive any contributions for the boxes.

Catherine Dean 813579
 Helen Baker 814865
 Eileen Quinn 812109

From the Registers

July

Funeral

26th Kevin Jinks - service at St John's,
 interment at Parndon Wood

There were no baptisms or weddings in July

WHITECHAPEL MISSION

St John's Church will be closed from 7th September for six weeks for the restoration of the flooring. If you have clothing or other items you wish to deposit, can you please do it by Monday 2nd September. The Whitechapel Mission is very grateful for your continued support, so please hold on to any items and bring them along when the Church is open once again. Thank you.

Cheryl McGreal
 Tel: 812739

Correction to the August item from Christian Aid – last year's collection amounted to £1,707 and not £17,707 – if only!



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

It is most heartening to see work done for St Mary's by young students from the Forest Hall School. On their 'Community Day' three of them spent the morning collating and filing some 33 years of the old-style Stansted Parish Magazine. There are now three boxes on the Parish Chest containing a mirror of Stansted Church life from the mid 30s to the 50s. They are a good source of family history too. We hope they will be well read; if you do make use of the files please leave a comment in the Visitors' Book. Our three young people enjoyed their morning and we are most grateful to them.



It was a great surprise and pleasure to be presented with the artwork produced by some senior members of the school, on the life and times of Sir Thomas Myddleton. A great deal of research and imagination has gone into the two big panels and a portrait of our famed Elizabethan. When the work has been mounted and framed – to make sure it is 'mouse-proof' - they will be on permanent display in St Mary's. The Friends of St Mary's and the Conservation Trust are most grateful to the teaching staff for their encouragement and enthusiasm, and look forward to sharing with them and the pupils the resources of the ancient building and its history and the part it has played in Stansted life for a thousand years.

Forthcoming Events:

Heritage Weekend – 14th and 15th September

Saturday 14th Open 10.00am-6.00pm to welcome and refresh the Bikers and Striders for the Friends of Essex Churches annual event.

Sunday 15th 3.30pm Music for the Book of Common Prayer
A presentation of Recorded Music and a Talk by Keith Turner. To quote Keith "The poetic beauty of the Book of Common Prayer survives for a few said services in our parish churches and is seldom used for the main Sunday services except at the cathedral and collegiate chapels." There will be selected music from 17th to 20th century composers, from Henry Purcell to Edward Elgar, Hubert Parry and many others. An article in the New York Times described these musical settings as the most wonderful sound in the world.

We look forward to seeing many of you on this very special afternoon. After the talk we will be pleased to provide refreshments for all our visitors. There will be no entry charge, but we will be most grateful for donations.

Saturday 14th December - Christmas Trees, Angels and Carols for All

Sunday 15th December – St Clare's Hospice 'Light up a Life' Service 11.00am.

Audrey Rodgers
 Chairman
 Tel: 812162



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

26th October – 9th November

In our District we pride ourselves on the house to house collections which raise 25% of our total. The other 75% comes from the Airport collection, shops, offices, schools, special events and the pubs. Foresthall Park is now a vast area of relatively new houses and we would like to cover this in our collection this year. Sarah Murdoch is the Stansted village co-ordinator and does a wonderful job, but to add Foresthall to her load is not practical. I hope therefore that some volunteers might come forward to organise the cover of this area. It does take a little time from early October until mid-November and, of course, all our volunteers, including myself, give of our time and energy freely. The Poppy Appeal provides over 30% of the Legion's fundraising and is directed to the welfare services. These help all injured and disabled servicemen and women returning from conflicts, their rehabilitation, including help to their families, and much help to those who are bereaved. If you can help in any way please contact me to discuss the matter further. You do not need to be ex-service personnel - most of our helpers these days are not. I look forward to hearing from you.

As for Stansted village itself, Sarah will be contacting all her regular collectors shortly. More willing help is always needed. Please phone her on 810957.

John L Segar
 Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser
 Tel: 813289



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

August started extremely well with the Mill and a big thank you goes to the Stewards involved and also to our passing friends for the extra help they kindly volunteered. Most of you will have seen that thanks to Steve, Richard and Tudor, all the shutters are now back in place and the sails have been turning majestically in the wind. As I write we still have August events to come: afternoon tea on 14th, a busy Bank Holiday Sunday 25th, followed by our Annual Fête on Bank Holiday Monday 26th. The windmill is also open from 1.30pm-5.30pm on Sunday 1st September. So in the words of Frank Sinatra "The Best is Yet to Come". See you there!

Molly Clark
 Co-Trustee
 Tel: 816768



*Stansted Windmill
Open 1.30 - 5.30 pm
Sun 1st Sep*

St Mary's Church open for teas

2-5 pm Sun 1st Sep

10 am - 6 pm

Sat 14th Sep



St Mary's Church also open daily



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Fire Fighters' Benevolent Fund

VILLAGE EVENTS

September

1	Sun	Windmill Open Church Open & Teas	1.30 - 5.30 pm St Mary's Church 2 - 5 pm Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
4	Wed	Mountfitchet Club Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm Free Church 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
4/11/18/25	Wed	The Place on the Hill	Linden House 7 am Free Church 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
6	Fri	Business Forum Breakfast	Fire Station 10 am - 4 pm
6/13/20/27	Fri	The Place on the Hill	Berden Hall 2 - 5 pm Birchwood High 10 am - 2 pm
7	Sat	Open Day Berden Fête	before 12 noon Day Centre 7.45 pm
8	Sun	Charity Netball & Fun Day	Free Church Hall 6.15 - 7.45 pm
11	Wed	Link copy due in today	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
12	Thu	WI	St Mary's Church 10 am - 6 pm 10 am - 6 pm
13/20/27	Fri	Investigators	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am St Mary's Church 3.30 pm
14/28	Sat	Skips	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
14	Sat	Church Open & Teas Ride & Stride	Sworders Field, B S 4.30 pm 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
15/22	Sun	Stansted Family Café	Old Lane Hse 10.30 am - 12.30 pm Day Centre 12.30 pm
15	Sun	Music Talk	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
19	Thu	U3A	St Mary's Church, S W 7.30 pm
21	Sat	Farmers' Market St Clare Starlight Walk	
23	Mon	Shalom At Home	
27	Fri	Macmillan Coffee Morning Fish and Chip Friday	
28	Sat	Stansted Family Café Granta Chorale	

BERDEN FÊTE & NEW HORTICULTURE SHOW

**2-5 pm Sat 7th Sept
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FUN FAMILY AFTERNOON

**Grand Draw ~ Refreshments
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Bishop's Stortford & District Netball League

**Charity Tournament & Fun Day
10 am - 2 pm Sun 8th Sept
Birchwood High Sch, B Stortford**

**Bouncy Castle ~ Raffle
BBQ ~ Licensed Bar**

In Aid of **Winston's Wish**
the charity for bereaved children

Macmillan Cancer Support

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10.30 am - 12.30 pm

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Raffle ~ Cake Stall

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Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com



STARLIGHT WALK

4.30 pm Sat 21st Sept

5 miles or 1 mile family walk
Sworders' Field, B Stortford

**Bouncy Castle ~ Face Painting
& Refreshments from 3 pm**

Call 773750 or register on-line at
www.stclarehospice.org.uk



St Mary's Church Heritage Weekend

**Sat 14th Sept 10 am - 6 pm
Church Open & Welcome to the
Ride and Striders on Essex Cycle Ride**

~~~~~  
**Sun 15th Sept 3.30 pm**

Music for the Book of Common Prayer  
Recorded Music & Talk by Keith Turner  
*Entry Free ~ Donations Welcome*



### SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE & STRIDE

**Sat 14th September  
10 am - 6 pm**

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*In aid of local churches and  
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**IN MEMORIAM**  
**DOUG BUNTING**  
20<sup>th</sup> October 1926 - 4<sup>th</sup> July 2013



I first met Doug and his wife Maisie in June 1993 when Barry and I moved in next door to them in Park Road. They had already lived in the house for 40 years, and as they were both Stansted born and bred, anything we needed to know about the village they were able to tell us. Doug had some wonderful stories to tell – some of them causing Maisie to shout “Douglas” in the way she had of gently scolding him when she felt he had said too much; and, as those of you who knew him will recall, Doug did like to talk!

After leaving school, Doug started working in 1940 at McMullens, a seed and corn merchant at Bishop’s Stortford, and four years later joined the Army as a driver. He was sent to Palestine in 1946, considering himself very lucky to be away from the front line and being paid £2 a week! He had already met the love of his life, Maisie, and their courtship was conducted by post (and apparently, when home on leave, on a tandem!). Doug was demobbed at the end of 1948 and married Maisie in 1949. They bought their first home in Bishop’s Stortford, where Geoffrey was born. By 1953 he had joined the family firm, Buntings of Lower Street greengrocer and florists, often getting up at 5.00am to drive to Spitalfields to buy produce. In September 1954 Margaret was born, by which time the family had moved to 19 Park Road, which remained the family home for over 50 years. Many people in Park Road have fond memories of him as a good caring neighbour.

Doug was a man of practical skills. He showed me some wonderful wood carvings he had done over the years, and his son Geoff recalls the toys he lovingly and painstakingly made for him and his sister. He built a wonderful dolls’ house and an exact replica of Bunting’s greengrocer’s shop, including tiny pieces of fruit and veg made from plaster. He had already retired from the shop when I first knew him. Having given up a life-time of pipe-smoking after a heart bypass operation, he walked every day to try and stay fit. However, what should have been a short walk to the paper shop invariably lasted over an hour as he stopped to chat with one of his many friends! It was a big decision for Doug to move to Cornwall in 2006 having spent virtually his entire life in the village. However, after he had gone he told me he had no regrets and he loved their new bungalow. Maisie passed away in December 2008. It was only fairly recently that Doug’s health began to fail, but despite this he remained cheerful and determined to remain independent. He went into a home for the last fortnight of his life, where he slipped away peacefully, soon after his youngest grandchild had arrived from Cape Town. Doug loved to play his electronic organ, and he also loved to sing. One of my most cherished memories of Doug is the day he was singing “*How Great Thou Art*” on his side of the fence, and I joined in on my side of the fence. I don’t think anyone else heard it, but we thought we were pretty impressive!! Afterwards he called out “Kathy – you’ve made my day”. Well, I can tell you, he made mine too. Doug was a one-off; I will miss him.

Kathy West



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**As one ends, another begins: from MMCC to Forest Hall School**

July saw the last day of term for not only the staff and students of MMCC, but also the school itself. The shelf life of this name has been quite short in educational terms, but a lot has happened in the last few years and not always for the best. With that in mind, the decision to change the name and re-launch the school was a bold step in anyone’s book, but it was a change which was needed, both for the school and the community. Having said that, what a fantastic way to end the term: significant wins in sporting events (Bishop’s Stortford Schools’ Athletics); running a whole school community day; exhibiting at the National Schools’ Art Competition; donating a portrait to St Mary’s Church; singing at the Young Concern Trust annual garden party; exhibiting at the Eastern Region Big Bang event at Duxford, to name but a few. Of course on top of this came the small matter of an OFSTED inspection, which judged the school to be good.



*New school uniform*

So what next? September sees the launch of Forest Hall School. With a new school comes a new uniform, but we have the same expectations both in terms of approach, and also aspirations. As a small school we will continue to attract students who require additional support, but we are also now attracting students who should be looking to university as the minimum. This means that our profile will change and with this comes raised attainment overall. Having said that, education remains a life-long learning journey and what we want to see is each individual working hard to ensure that they achieve their potential and not fall short of the next step or hurdle. With new facilities, further upgrades to the building itself and even more opportunities, the outlook is pretty rosy for Forest Hall School. Our Open Day/Evening is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September and we look forward to welcoming everyone to visit us and see what is happening. The summer break is certainly needed, but September will see renewed enthusiasm and energy for the next phase of the journey.

Victoria Owen  
Student and Community Administrator  
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## STANSTED SCOUTS THETFORD CAMP

On a very hot Friday afternoon 26 Scouts and six Leaders travelled up to the Scout campsite at Two Mile Bottom, by the river in Thetford Forest. The time before darkness fell was spent on the archery range, setting up the tents and lighting the campfire. We sat around the fire eating sausage rolls and soup before heading off to bed. Surprisingly, everyone settled down by midnight. Saturday was another very hot day, and after a cooked breakfast, it was time for kayaking. Some capsized (several times) but were shown how to right the kayak and get back in. What better way to spend a day when it's 29°C than splashing about on the river? Those not kayaking went orienteering, made miniature rafts or cooked hotdogs in Pringles tubes in the sun.



After our evening meal cooked over a blazing wood fire (as were all the meals), we made a small self-supporting bridge, which was quite clever and fairly quick to construct. Then we launched our miniature rafts in the river at the same time for a race (fancy pooh sticks) to the bridge 100 yards away. Popcorn freshly popped on the fire and toasted marshmallows finished the evening off. Sunday was still hot, and after breakfast it was the climbing wall. With only two climbing at any time it was a more sedate activity, with most Scouts getting to the top. Some got to 'belay' the others as part of their Climbing Badge.



After lunch came crate stacking, a new activity for most, climbing higher as you stack the crates beneath you. Some of the safety harnesses were a little 'snug', causing the odd squeal as the crates collapsed leaving them dangling. We camped under the pine trees, which gave us welcome relief from the sun, but not the mozzies. Each day we had to

look for wood for our fire, cut it and stack it. For those with energy, football and rounders were also played, along with the water bomb catapults. During the camp Hamish Arnold completed his Chief Scout's Gold Award; well done Hamish. Thank you to the Leaders for an excellent weekend of fun in the sun.

Mike Byrne  
Scout Leader  
Robert Sadler  
Assistant Scout Leader

### Scout Fishing Win

We sent some Scouts to the annual Scout fishing competition at Little Canfield and won. Starting in the warm morning at 7.00am we fished until 12 noon. By 10.00am the fish were hiding due to the heat. Our winning team of Hamish, Alfie (who caught the largest fish of the day) and Louis caught their fish early on. Well done guys.

Mike Byrne

## STANSTED GUIDING DISTRICT



### Stansted District Sleepover

Last year Stansted Guiding District held a sleepover to celebrate the Olympics, which was subsidised by a grant from the Mayor's Fund. It was so successful that we decided to have another one this year, on 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> July. One of our leaders, Lesley Ingham, had been given a Jack Petchey Leaders' Award and a grant of £200 towards the cost, so it could be subsidised again this time.

We took the Anglia Outdoor Challenge badge as our theme, and used many of the clauses for the activities, which included making kites, improvising shelters, collecting leaves and flowers to make bookmarks and decorations, making weather charts, learning about the Countryside Code, doing some simple first aid and cooking on a fire without utensils - bananas and chocolate in foil and toasting marshmallows. In the early evening we had a Wide Game, set up and run by the Guides; teams of girls had to collect different coloured flowers and leaves, do an activity challenge to get a sticker for the flower, and then, with the rest of the team, use them to make a collage of a bunch of flowers. The results were just great. The day finished with a campfire; this year it didn't rain! Everyone enjoyed singing old favourites and learning new songs, many led by the girls themselves. Then there was hot chocolate before the Brownies went to bed in the school hall and the Guides retired to their tents on the field.

On Sunday morning we woke up to sunshine again, had breakfast and tidied away the beds, ready for the morning activity - a sports competition. The Brownies were organised into mixed age teams to do some traditional races - sprint, sack, bat and ball, hurdles etc, with the Guides as the judges. Medals were awarded to the winning team. Everyone agreed that it had been another successful event. All the girls, from three different Brownie units, got on really well, the Guides were a great help, and the leaders enjoyed being able to spend time together in a relaxed atmosphere.

Glynis Prothero  
District Administrator

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## GUESS WHO I AM

The ancestors were living in Stansted in 1790.

**I was born** in North London, spending my early years within sight and sound of a great menagerie. Like so many, 1939 saw a complete change in my life, exchanging my friends and a beautiful modern Middlesex school for the then primitive Church School in Stansted and a host of aunts and uncles and a multitude of cousins – some still around today!

**My first job** was as an assistant to the Secretary at the same all-female establishment I'd spent an undistinguished six years schooling, where I stayed for four years. Then followed a total change of working life in the finance office of the United Match Industries in Bishop's Stortford.

Eight years later came marriage and two sons to rule my life, but the school experience took me back to an almost all-male school in Bishop's Stortford for the next 20-odd years. On retirement I was able to give some voluntary service to the village for which I have a deep rooted affection. I still support many aspects of life in Stansted, believing we are only stewards of our English rural way of life and must stand up and care for all we hold in trust for future generations.

**Claim To Fame:** For some years I used my calligraphy skills to help produce posters for the local football club. Guess who I am!

Answer below

## STANSTED FAMILY CAFE BOUNCY PICNIC

Once again we were blessed with dry weather and some sunshine, and lots of children spent the afternoon bouncing on castles for different age-groups and clambering over inflatable obstacle courses! Free hotdogs and drinks were enjoyed by many, and it was lovely to see lots of people sitting in groups up and down the Rec and enjoying their own picnics too.



A huge thank you is owed to our wonderful volunteers who supervised inflatables and served hotdogs all afternoon. We would also like to thank all the families who came along and gave the event such a lovely friendly atmosphere. Finally, thank you to everyone for leaving everything so tidy - we had only a tiny amount of litter to collect at the end, which was absolutely brilliant. We're already looking forward to the possibility of Bouncy Picnic 2014!

Ros Page

## NEW HEALTH CENTRE

17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 was a very important day for the community of Stansted Mountfitchet and surrounding villages - the planning application on No 2 Lower Street was approved. The approval includes our health centre, retail units and 14 dwellings. It may seem that there has been little or no progress since but that is not the case. A small team of villagers have been trying to press all the issues to achieve construction of the health centre. We've continued to have dialogue with all the bodies concerned. Our objective was to try to encourage finalisation of all issues long before the major NHS reorganisation on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013; sadly that did not happen, hence additional delays. There is now a new NHS team responsible for this project, and we are in contact with them. To try to clarify the current situation, Janet Hollis and myself attended the West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group Board meeting, held in public, on 25<sup>th</sup> July. We made a statement to Board members, of whom Ms Clare Morris is Chief Executive. Our statement included a number of photos of Redlands, which helped to emphasise its hazards and the urgency of our need. We also read out an email from the landlord of Redlands and a letter from Sir Alan Haselhurst MP. The Board fully understands Stansted's desperate need for a health centre and it has their full support. NHS Property Services Ltd is progressing all issues with the developer, our GPs, and others that include outstanding financial issues. Dr Issa Abdul-Ghani, an NHS dentist, is included in this process and plans to come to Stansted as soon as possible. We were told that the reorganisation of the NHS has resulted in delays; also, the difficult economic situation of our country requires greater scrutiny of the issues. The bottom line at this time is that no date has been mentioned when agreement will be reached and therefore we should not expect to have a new health centre before the end of 2015. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP is doing all he can to progress matters and we will continue to talk with him and other parties to help our health centre to be high on the NHS 'To Do List'.

It is important to remember that the following developments have been approved but yet to be completed, they too will place extra strain on our health services:

**Foresthall Park** – around 100 dwellings yet to be completed, implies a substantial number of additional people in our community.

**Braefield site, High Lane** - a 60 apartment residential care home for dementia sufferers.

If more dwellings are built in our village they will impact on the primary health care service we currently receive. Our health care practitioners should not be even more overloaded in the present surgery.

Ray Woodcock

## GUESS WHO I AM - ANSWER



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Audrey Rodgers

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## 494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

It has been a very busy four weeks for the cadets and staff of 494, with a whole host of presentations, commendations and a fly past thrown in for good measure! We started the month with the Squadron's first Presentation Evening on a rather hot Friday evening, held at St John's Church Hall which was attended by both Wing staff officers, local dignitaries, and also parents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and anyone else who wanted to come and support their cadet in this year's achievements. The Squadron has lots of competitions which run throughout the year, including Sports Cadet, Best NCO and the Most Promising New Recruit, but this year saw the introduction of a couple of new trophies, including the Padres Cup, which was won by Cadet Owen Edwards and the 494<sup>th</sup> Inter Flight Competition which was won by the cadets of Hercules flight. There were promotions, classification awards, as well as some presentations to staff and a good night was had by all.



The following Sunday was the Essex Wing Parade at Carver Barracks, Wimbish where all of the 27 units in Essex get together for a mass parade and march past and then a day of competitions and fun at our Wing HQ, so it was yet another early start for everyone. The day was a hot one but luckily none of our cadets or staff passed out on the first parade and the drill team were in action again, having come second in our Sector competition. We were representing the West, along with 1096 (Bishops Stortford) Squadron and we came a respectable 9<sup>th</sup> overall. Sergeant Charlie Jackson got a special mention from the judge and it was deemed to be the best IC drill team out of all 10 NCOs there, so technically the best IC Drill Team in the whole of Essex!

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July the Squadron, along with 1096 (Bishops Stortford) Squadron, Colonel Travis Willis, Air Attaché from the US Embassy, Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Kuehne, the Commander of the 351<sup>st</sup> Air Refuelling Squadron, and Stansted Airport's Managing Director, Andrew Harrison, as well as many other dignitaries and representative of local groups, all came together to remember and celebrate the 344<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of the main runway on the, at the time, George Washington Field, or Stansted Airport as we know it today. The guest of honour was Major Edward W Horn, 88, who 70 years ago flew his B-26 Marauder off the runway, and was there, alongside Colonel Willis, to plant a commemorative tree and unveil a memorial to the airmen who were stationed at Stansted. Along with a great American-themed reception, held at Inflight Jet Centre, we were also treated to a fly past by WWII P-47 Thunderbolt.

Then to finish the month off, 15 cadets took part in a St John Ambulance Young First Aid course run at the Squadron by the CO. This course was two days covering both the practical and theory of first aid and culminated in a three part assessment to ensure that they are effective, safe and prompt first aiders. The cadets had to learn how to put a casualty into the recovery position, what a dislocation will look like, how to put a sling on someone as well as learning and performing CPR and many other first aid techniques. It is a nationally recognised qualification which can be used outside of the ATC, so can go on the cadets' CVs, UCAS applications and can help them to be the difference between a life lost and a life saved. All 15 passed their assessments with flying colours!



Let's hope next month is a little quieter; I doubt it!

For information about joining the ATC, 494 as either a cadet, a member of staff or as a member of our Civilian Welfare Committee, please telephone 681559 and leave a message or email the CO on [oc.494@aircadets.org](mailto:oc.494@aircadets.org).

Flt Lt Gemma Martin RAFVR(T)  
Commanding Officer

### BRACELET FOUND

Towards the end of July, a silver charm bracelet was found at the top of Chapel Hill between the zebra crossing and the car park entrance. If you think the bracelet might be yours please contact Catriona Brickel on 814781 or email: [catrionabrickel1@btinternet.com](mailto:catrionabrickel1@btinternet.com) as she is anxious to reunite it with its owner.

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## SUMMER IN SUB-TROPICAL ESSEX

It was one of the hottest summer evenings we could remember and we had stayed outside. The bees and butterflies had gone, but tiny grasshoppers were still thrimp-thrumping in the garden and swallows were chasing the last of the sun's rays out of the sky. Twilight is one of the most tranquil times of the day but there were things to do, so we switched on the lights. Swarms of daddy-longlegs thronged through the open windows. Then came a few moths. But what was that on the wall....a mosquito? A mosquito, we thought? In Essex? Surely not. It certainly looked and acted like a mosquito. Hovering around our faces and making that horrible, dentist-drill whine, this insect sounded like a mosquito. Having lived in Brazil for four years, where the climate and our garden provided a perfect habitat for a huge colony of dengue mosquitoes, we thought we knew our tropical insects. It wouldn't bite, we thought. You wouldn't get biting mosquitoes in Essex. Would you? My husband allowed it to land on his hand. He watched, fascinated, as it pushed its proboscis through his skin, 'bit' him, then took off, job done. So, it bit you, we scoffed. It was nothing, said my husband. When a big, red, itching weal developed, we decided we'd better find out more.

'Is the mosquito menace growing in the UK?' (BBC, 23.8.11) 'Virus-carrying mosquito discovered in Kent and Essex' (BBC, 10.2.12) 'Doctors put on malaria alert' (Daily Mail, 9.8.13).

It was true! We live near a swampy nature reserve. The weather has been alternately hot, and wet. Perfect for breeding. The HPA (formerly Health Protection Agency, now Public Health England but still on [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)) has a 'mosquito-watch' website. I went to visit it. Thirty three species of mosquito have in fact been recorded in the British Isles. Three of these species have 'nuisance biting' biotypes; most common is the *Culex pipiens molestus*, but there are also salt-marsh mosquitoes and woodland mosquitoes. Do these carry disease? The HPA state that the risk of infection (malaria) or virus (dengue, West Nile) transmission 'is considered low'. They ask us all, however, to be vigilant, and to report any incidence of mosquito bites. We will be sending our report to Mosquito Watch - and keeping a close eye on my husband's health.

Emilia Pound



As The Link went to press, Investigators places were filling up fast. Please contact me for a registration form and further details if you would like your children to come along. This is a new group for children aged 7-10, with a mixture of games, bible stories, creative activities and generally lots of fun! Fridays from 13<sup>th</sup> September. For more details see posters or August Link article.

Ros Page  
Tel: 810813  
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Stansted  
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Club

After 15 weeks of the season the 1<sup>st</sup> XI stand 7th in Division 1 with five wins and two no-results. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI are 7th in Division 5 with six wins. They have also passed 200 runs in each of their last seven matches – very consistent.



The Sunday XI have had four wins, three defeats and four draws from 11 matches. In the annual match against the President's XI on 21<sup>st</sup> July, the Club won a high-scoring match by 107 runs. Many former players were amongst the opposition and the spectators on a very hot day. Recent outstanding individual batting performances have come from H Kirby (125, 72, 65), M Chambers (125), M Baldock (103 no, 50), J Monk (103), C Kirby (101 no, 97, 59), M Cope (89), B Sammons (86, 58 no, 53), J Ayres (86), B Baker (81, 80), J Baker (72 no), M Johnson (62), J Subramaniam (59), and P Devoti (52). Best bowling returns have come from S Peachey (5-18). There is one home fixture for September on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 1330 Sun XI v Thorley, and away friendlies at Stocking Pelham on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> and Takeley on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

David Hedge  
Hon Secretary  
Tel: 812509

## STOP PRESS

Following a question put to the Parish Council last Wednesday (7<sup>th</sup> August) it was confirmed that The Three Colts on Cambridge Road had been sold and that they expect the site to be developed.

Ray Woodcock  
Tel: 816468

## LEARN BRIDGE

Hatfield Heath Bridge Club  
Mondays & Tuesdays 7.30 pm  
Starting W/c 23 September 2013  
Info: Brian & Penny Hassell  
Tel: 01279 721428  
Email: [Hassells2@gmail.com](mailto:Hassells2@gmail.com)

## OUR ROAD



Loates Pasture is a cul-de-sac in a turning off Longcroft. These two roads and the houses were built in 1972 and the original sales brochure describes them as a highly attractive development enjoying a unique parkland setting on the edge of the charming old community of Stansted. All properties incorporated full oil-fired central heating with the oil being supplied from a central storage tank. Such systems were all the rage at the time but it is now long gone and most properties have changed over to gas-fired systems.



The brochure extols other advantages of the area, and also mentions that the price of a season ticket to Liverpool Street was £12 per month. The building site was an area of grazing land which was part of the Hargrave Park estate, situated to the north west of Hargrave House, and known as Loates Pasture. I do not have any information on who Loates was – it does not appear to be a local name but the old census returns show a number of families of that name in Cambridgeshire.

Hargrave House was built in 1777 which was probably when a belt of trees was planted around the pasture where it bordered Bentfield Lower Green, Pennington Lane and the land now occupied by Bentfield Primary School. The remnants of these trees are still standing in gardens backing on to Pennington Lane and in the school grounds. Old maps show ponds in the south west corner of the field fed by a stream from the spring in Pennington Lane. This spring is still flowing and the stream now runs through a culvert under our road and continues beneath Bentfield Gardens, Cannons Mead and Silver Street on its way to Stansted Brook. The ponds were probably partly ornamental and partly to water the livestock. Successive occupants of Hargrave House were keen hunting folk and no doubt their horses grazed in Loates Pasture. Sir Walter Gilbey leased the estate for a while in the 1860s/70s and he kept a noted herd of Jersey cows which would also have probably lived on the pasture which was close to the old dairy off Bentfield Road. Ponds existed in the corner of our cul-de-sac until the 1980s and some of the long-standing residents remember their children used to play round them. Those ponds were eventually filled in and houses were built over them on substantial foundations. Although ponds and stream are no longer there, we still have reminders of the soggy history of Loates Pasture after very wet spells of weather when little springs well up from driveways and ponds appear once again in gardens.

The old maps also showed several trees growing in the field, and when our houses were built in 1972 three old oak trees were still standing, but only one survives today. This is a magnificent oak tree whose main trunk is probably about 350 years old, which would indicate that this site was a wooded pasture long before Hargrave Park was established. One of the trees stood in the garden of Mrs Peggy Pinn, who is the only original resident from when the houses were built. She recalls that when the tree had to be cut down much of the timber was unusable because over the years children must have thrown stones into the hollows, and these stones became embedded in the wood. Mrs Pinn has seen her own and her neighbours' families grow up and disperse over the years and other younger families move in, and she feels that Loates Pasture has been and still is a happy and lively road. To endorse this claim I can tell you that by the time you read this we will have enjoyed a fifties style drive-in movie with full supporting programme, hot-dogs and popcorn, staged in the banjo at the end of our cul-de-sac, which is also the setting for our occasional street parties.

Tony Wellings



## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

On the eve of a new season there is an air of excitement and optimism as the management and players complete their pre-season training and friendly games. Manager Dave Roach is pleased that the nucleus of the side from last season has registered to play again this season, as this helps to maintain a high level of stability. Added to the squad are players who live locally and have seen over the past 12 months the progression the Club has made and now wish to be a part of it. Pre-season went well in terms of results with four good wins in six games played, fitness levels have improved as coach Dave Croxford has made the players work off their summer excesses. Our attention now turns to the League and Cup games, our first home game being an Essex Senior Cup tie against Ilford, details below. This season also marks a very special anniversary for the Club as it is 30 years since Stansted embarked on a FA Amateur Cup (now called FA Vase) campaign that led to ultimate victory over Stamford Town at Wembley. In honour of this achievement the Club is looking to any villagers who may have memories of that season and would be willing to share with us, as I plan to publish them in our home match day programmes throughout the season. If you have, then please contact me below or email the Club at the following address [Stanstedfc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Stanstedfc@yahoo.co.uk). Remember, entrance to all our home games is only £5 adults, £3 concessions and under 16s; your support is always valued.

### Upcoming Home Fixtures

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Sep v Ilford - Essex Senior Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Rd KO 7.45pm

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sep v Haringey Borough - League KO 3.00pm

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Oct v Takeley – League KO 7.45pm

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Oct v Clapton – League KO 3.00pm

Tom Williams  
Secretary  
Tel: 07921 403842

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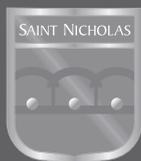
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## STANSTED WEDNESDAY LITERATURE GROUP

On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 40 people met in the Free Church Hall to celebrate 15 years of Judith Moss having been the tutor of what has become known as The Stansted Wednesday Literature Group. Those attending included past and current members of the class, as well as those who have provided support over the years, either by being an audience at play readings or providing accommodation, without which the class would not have been able to continue. The attendance of former members who had moved as far away as Suffolk and Kent demonstrated that this was, in fact, as much a group of friends as a class. The Hall displayed exhibits of visits to the homes of Keats, John Clare, Virginia Woolf and the Brontes. Videos and slide shows demonstrated other class activities. Play readings from *Our Town* and Rattigan's *Flarepath* were performed, with former members (to their surprise) reprising the roles they had performed several years ago. An extensive buffet lunch to which all members had contributed was organised by Daphne Gardner and Doreen Heals, followed by a champagne toast and the presentation to Judith of flowers and Australian dollars (for her visit to family during August).



The Group is grateful to Stansted for always making it feel welcome in its various homes: the old Primary in Lower Street, Peter Kirk or now, the Free Church Hall. We welcome new members - please ring Judith Moss on 813998.

Percy Carvello



A reminder that *The Place* will also open on Friday mornings, starting on 6<sup>th</sup> September, including Art for All (adults and children) 10.00am-noon. On 20<sup>th</sup> September there will be Story Time at 10.00am and 11.00am. *The Place* is open from 9.30am-12.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays in the foyer of the Free Church. A warm welcome awaits you and everything is free of charge.

Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059

### LAST MONTH IN THE NEWS

We read that Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July was Stansted's hottest day for seven years. Lady Madge Moseley died peacefully on 26<sup>th</sup> July, aged 90 years, at Hargrave House; Stansted Mountfitchet train station is to benefit from an electric car charge point; and 15-year old Stansted high jumper Laura Armorgie won a bronze for England in Dublin.

Source: *Herts and Essex Observer*



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

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

The Club welcomed back Mr Richard Ford who spoke about ornamental grasses. There are at least 10,000 grass species and they make up 20% of the world's vegetation. They have the ability to spread and colonize and can survive in a variety of different habitats. As all cereals are grasses, this species also helps to feed the world too. Using a series of slides showing gardens from around the UK, members were shown how grasses can be used in flower borders as a foil to perennial and annual flowers, as isolated plants eg pampas grass, or sown to resemble the Prairies. Grasses can be found in all shapes (mounds, tufted, upright) and sizes (from lawn grass to pampas) and in a number of different colours – green, blue, silver, gold, black, bronze, red, purple as well as variegated. Deciduous grasses should be trimmed before the new growth appears. 'Combing' the stems with an old dog comb is the easiest way to remove dead growth without damaging the plant. Evergreen grasses should not be cut back hard, but given a light trim to keep in shape. Care of lawn grass is the most labour intensive in the world! A question and answer session followed the talk and members were able to purchase grasses and hostas after the meeting.

### Members' Competition

The winner of The Rose Bowl was Ros Francis – congratulations! Maralyn Harris was 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jean Anderson was 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### September Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September when Mr Douglas Joyce will be speaking about 'The Diversity and Growing of Alpines'. Our meetings are held in the Day Centre, adjacent to the Library and car park in Chapel Hill. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Everyone is welcome.

Maralyn Harris  
Tel: 07919 478144



## CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS

As the summer passes and the glory of your flowers begin to fade, it's time to start the tidy up. Cut down the blooms that are finished. You can inject some fresh colour by buying seasonal plants in bloom and planting them in bare-looking spaces; plants such as Michaelmas daisies (asters) and Japanese anemones. I have bought pots of cyclamen in full flower. Leave them in their pots when you plant them out and, as the weather turns colder, lift them and enjoy them indoors. If you are planting pots of winter-flowering pansies, primroses or similar, why not underplant them with daffodils or tulips. Plant the bulbs with at least four inches of soil over them and then put the plants in. It's a good time to repair bald patches in the lawn; first loosen the soil, make it nice and fine then sow the seed. Cover small patches with a piece of clean polythene for a couple of weeks. This will keep the moisture in and the birds out.

Cyril Stoneham

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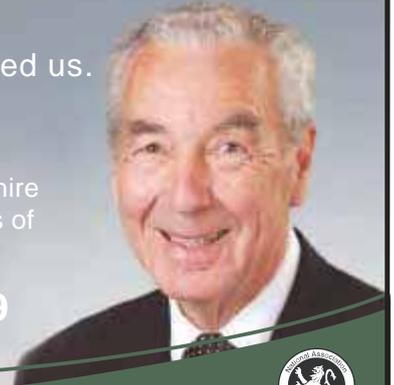
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# Stansted Network

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

\*\*\*\*\*

### LAST CHANCE TO GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK ON PARKING IN STANSTED

This is your last chance to have your say regarding the parking survey for residents and businesses in Stansted. The following link will take you to the surveys which will only take a short time to complete on-line:

[www.uttlesford.gov.uk/parkingsurvey](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/parkingsurvey)

Make sure that you complete the survey asap, as the link will close on the 7th September and the results collated will be for feedback at the Scrutiny meeting at Uttlesford District Council in October. If you have any queries or would like to give me any other feedback, relating to parking, please contact me. Cllr Iris Evans tel 815848.

### STANSTED IN BLOOM

This year we had fourteen entries and our judges, Gavin Gynn and Paul Irving, both from Gorsefield Rural Studies Centre, walked around the village on Monday 22 July and were delighted with the wide variety of flowers and colours in the various gardens and planted areas. Everyone who entered the competition had worked very hard to make this year's event a great success and we thank them all very much for their efforts in battling with first of all, the very cold and then the very hot and humid weather when summer actually arrived!



Our Prize Giving took place on Saturday 27 July in the Day Centre, where commemorative plaques and certificates were awarded and presented by Maureen Caton and Paul Irving to the following participants:

*Best Garden:* 1st Mary Howe, 2nd Cyril Stoneham, 3rd Jenny Wraith

*Best Planted Area:* 1st 'TheCock' Public House, 2nd The Youth Centre, Joint 3rd 'Yuva' Restaurant and the Tennis Club.

Highly Commended Certificates: Sandra & Gary Horwell, Sandra Burbridge, David & Chris Mallyon, Selina Rankin, Karin Szaboova, Cath Parsons and St Therese's Catholic Church.

### ELMS FARM - REVISED PLANNING APPLICATION

The Parish Council considered the revised application and has submitted the following comments:

"The Parish Council supports this development at Elms Farm subject to a legal agreement between the landowner and the Parish Council which protects Stansted Park from any further residential, commercial or industrial development and ensures its maintenance into the future. The exceptional gain of opening the park land to the public should on this site, over-ride the firm policy of maintaining the green belt". It is expected that this application will be decided by the Planning Committee at Uttlesford District Council in September.

### NEWS ON OTHER CRITICAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS

*Walpole Farm* - The decision of the Planning Committee at UDC is expected to be made on 28th August. If members are consistent then this application should be refused.

- *Bentfield Green* - One battle won but the war continues as Taylor Wimpey has lodged an appeal. As we go to print the date of the Public Hearing is to be confirmed but it is likely to take place in early November.
- *Bishop's Stortford North* - The proposal to develop 2650 dwellings on land banded by the A120 by-pass could impact significantly this community. The outline application is expected to be considered on 17th October. Comments should be sent to East Herts Council, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 5EQ.

## HEALTH CENTRE - STILL NO FIRM NEWS

With the help of some committed parishioners who attended a West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group Board meeting, the following limited information was obtained. Clare Morris, Chief Officer of the CCG is clearly aware of the urgent need for our new health centre. She confirmed that due to the major re-organisation within the NHS this has resulted in delays hence little apparent movement in recent months. She assured us that the project has been approved and that a budget for it is available. What has yet to be agreed is the rent. (Also see page 11).

## COMMUNITY ROADSHOW

At the Community Roadshow on Mountfitchet Green (free cake and soft drinks!), local residents welcomed the use of the Green and said it was good to see things happening in the village and on the Green. The attendance over the afternoon was good, with people getting their dog micro chipped for free and property marked via Neighbourhood Watch. There was plenty to do for the younger folk too: two bouncy castles (one paid for by the Parish Council), Spangles providing activities for the little ones, the Buffy Bus and basketball in the MUGA. The Fire Service display pulled in the crowds and showed the need to ensure alarms are kept in working order. On hand to talk to residents were housing officers and anti-social behaviour officers.



Local residents also used the chance to talk to Parish Councillors about ways to enhance the estate and the Green, including ideas from students on placement with Liz Lake Associates and the Parish Council. The dialogue was welcomed by local residents and will be on-going.

## STANSTED BUSINESS FORUM

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

The sixth Stansted Business Forum meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The Business Support and Networking Group continues to go from strength to strength with 45 members. New members joining this month were John Hedges Builders, Martin West Voice Coach, Richard Boyton Wedding Cars, Steve Manlow Concept Communications and last but not least Hazel Williams BSc (Ost.) D.O Cranial, Structural and Sports Injury Therapy. Attendees were given much food for thought by the two presenters on issues relating to new housing in the area and how to effectively sell and market a business. The presentations were given by David Coleby of Mark Liell & son LLP and Duncan Hall of Triumph Consultancy respectively. The Think Local Buy Local campaign was officially launched to encourage Stansted residents to use local businesses and to shop locally and the SBF hopes that residents will give their full support to the campaign. The Forum is also looking for business sponsorships for the Christmas Fayre programme, so if any local businesses are interested in advertising in the brochure which will be delivered to every home in Stansted, please contact Peter James at Murdochs Property Shop on 813318 or email:

[peter.james@murdochspropertyshop.co.uk](mailto:peter.james@murdochspropertyshop.co.uk). The booking form for businesses who would like to have a stall at the Fayre is on page 22.

If you run a business locally and are interested in finding out what the Forum is all about, please contact Peter. The breakfast meetings are held on the first Friday of the month; the next one is at 7.00am on 6<sup>th</sup> September at Linden House.

Geraldine Allars

## MAKING LIFE MORE DIFFICULT FOR BURGLARS

Police are appealing to residents of Uttlesford to be extra vigilant following a number of burglaries in the district. 24 houses were broken into between 1 and 31 July 2013 and various items were stolen, including electrical goods, jewellery and cash. In most cases entry was via forcing rear patio doors or windows, although some premises have been insecure and other methods have

included encouraging the householder outside while a second offender has entered the property. You can strengthen your defences by:

When leaving your house unoccupied, leave a light on or music playing.

Security lighting helps deter thieves.

Use a gate to cut off easy access to the side of rear of the house.

Lock away tools at the premises and shed to prevent their use to affect an entry.

Use good quality locks on doors and windows, always double lock patio doors.

Lock windows and doors.

Keep valuable items, such as I Pads, phones, laptops out of sight.

Any information should be notified to the local Uttlesford Neighbourhood Watch Policing Team or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

4 September - Open Spaces

11 September - Full Council

## CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford. Admin Assist - Anne Court

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Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10am - 1pm

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## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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## Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding 813103  
[cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk)

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## Parish Public Transport Representatives

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If YES, please state what you will be connecting to the electricity supply.

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All food items for sale must be clearly labelled with all ingredients.

All food hygiene certificates for food prepared by stallholder must be copied and attached to the booking form.

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Council Offices  
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Essex CM24 8AQ

**Confirmation of bookings will be sent by e-mail where possible**

## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

|                                            |                                                                                  |                                   |                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alzheimers Society                         | Tel: 01371 872519                                                                | Pilots (age 5-18)                 | Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433                                                                       |
| Air Training Corps<br>494 Squadron         | Tel: 681559/661929<br>Email: 494@aircadets.org                                   | Rainbow Pre-School                | Gill Pursglove (Administrator)<br>Tel: 814242 / 07966 506997<br>Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net |
| Beavers<br>Age 6-8                         | David South<br>Tel: 814371                                                       | Rainbow Tots<br>(age 1½-rising 3) | Tina South<br>Tel: 814371                                                                         |
| Bowls Club                                 | Doreen Scraggs<br>Hon Secretary Tel: 815036<br>Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net | Rainbows                          | Sue Pollard Tel: 813734                                                                           |
| Brownies/Guides                            | Glynis Prothero<br>District Administrator<br>Tel: 814145                         | Rotary Club                       | Peter Latham Tel: 507294<br>Email: yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk                                        |
| CAB                                        | Tel: 08444 775986                                                                | Royal British Legion              | John Segar Tel: 813289                                                                            |
| Corkers Netball                            | Lisa Menzella<br>Tel: 07827 988732                                               | Scouts<br>(age 10½ -14)           | Mike Byrne<br>Tel: 812780                                                                         |
| Cricket Club (adults)<br>(juniors)         | David Hedge Tel: 812509<br>Keith Ayres Tel: 814471                               | Shotokan Karate Ryu               | Donna Ring Tel: 731752<br>Email: skr@skr.org.uk                                                   |
| Cub Scouts<br>Age 8-10½                    | Roger Musgrove<br>Tel: 816172                                                    | Spangles<br>Children's Centre     | Tel: 812348                                                                                       |
| Day Centre                                 | Tel: 815091                                                                      | Stansted Family Café              | Ros Page Tel: 810813<br>Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com                                             |
| Explorer Scouts                            | Fintan Lambe<br>Tel: 817937                                                      | Stansted Football Club            | Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842                                                                    |
| Friends of St Mary's<br>Church             | Audrey Rodgers<br>Tel: 812162                                                    | Stansted Sparks Netball           | Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242<br>Email: gemmasnelling@me.com                                   |
| Garden Club                                | Maralyn Harris<br>Chairman Tel: 07919 478144                                     | Stansted Supers<br>Handball Club  | Olly Pocknell<br>Tel: 07875 391701                                                                |
| Grove Cottage                              | David Scott Tel: 656085                                                          | Tennis Club                       | Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574<br>Email: drlunnon@gmail.com                                            |
| Helpline                                   | Tel: 07704 553727                                                                | Thornbury<br>Badminton Club       | Marion or Shirley<br>Tel: 869896 or 815871                                                        |
| History Society                            | Peter Brown<br>Chairman Tel: 812816                                              | U3A                               | Christine<br>Chair Tel: 817587                                                                    |
| Huw Johnson Club                           | Katharine Collis Tel: 461270<br>Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com                    | Women's Institute<br>(Stansted)   | Judy Colliver<br>President Tel: 812470                                                            |
| Inner Wheel Club                           | Lynn Rutt, President Tel: 654537                                                 | Women's Institute<br>(Ugley)      | Dorothy Wallace<br>President Tel: 850215                                                          |
| Little Scrummers                           | Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232                                                  | Whoosh Explore<br>Canoe Club      | Helen and Peter Nash<br>Tel: 817453                                                               |
| Millers (Windmill)                         | Derek Honour Tel: 647213                                                         | Youth Centre                      | Linda Barnes<br>Tel: 01371 873156/<br>07920 466923                                                |
| Mountfitchet Club                          | John Robinson Tel: 812755                                                        |                                   |                                                                                                   |
| Music Club                                 | Sonia Levy Tel: 815282<br>Email: info@musicatstansted.com                        |                                   |                                                                                                   |
| NCT                                        | Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257                                                        |                                   |                                                                                                   |
| Neighbourhood Watch                        | Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433                                                      |                                   |                                                                                                   |
| Parkinson's UK<br>Uttlesford Support Group | Contact: Kathy West Tel: 816293<br>Email: kewest@btinternet.com                  |                                   |                                                                                                   |

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

### BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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



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## THE CRAFTON ROOM

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When I last wrote, preparations were well under way for a weekend of celebration, and I am very happy to report back that the 30 year Anniversary weekend was a huge success. On the Friday, 48 customers joined us for a roast beef dinner accompanied by complimentary wine and a raffle; Saturday was the summer fayre: the sun shone on us, cream teas were enjoyed, and we saw many people visiting the Centre for the first time, surprised at the wonderful facility we have here. The fayre raised just over £280, and rounding off the weekend, volunteers old and new joined together for a delicious buffet lunch. A toast was said, and a wonderful cake made by Catherine Dean and beautifully iced by her daughter was cut by Jane Sell, our longest serving volunteer and in recent years a regular customer. Thank you to Jo our cook, hard-working volunteers, village organisations and customers who made this such a memorable occasion.



Don't forget that if you would like to join us we are open for lunch every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. 27<sup>th</sup> September is the next Fish and Chip lunch; just call to book your place. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Julie Beck  
Centre Manager  
Tel: 815091



## HATFIELD FOREST SNIPPETS

The Forest has been really busy during the Summer holidays and we have seen many visitors having an enjoyable time. Here are some things to do in September and October:

- Hire a boat until 29<sup>th</sup> September Wed-Sun
- Hire a bike (children and adults) Wed-Sun
- 50 things to do before you're 11¾
- Join us at Woodfest 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September (see below)

### Woodfest

Come down for music, entertainment, stalls and interactive demonstrations (normal admission charges apply):  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 6.00pm-11.00pm  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 9.00am-11.00pm  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 9.00am-5.00pm

We look forward to seeing you!

Hannah Morrice  
Visitor Experience Team Leader  
Tel: 870678 Mobile: 07825 861560



## BRITISH BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

Sadly, the honey season is coming to an end, and it is time to get the bee colonies ready for winter. The number of eggs the queen is laying is steadily declining, and numbers in the hive will reduce from 60,000 to around 2,500, these remaining bees surviving until next spring. Within the 60,000, there are about 500 drones (males) and they have done nothing during the summer, apart from being available to fertilise passing queens (of which there aren't many!). The workers (all female) suddenly realise that if the drones remain for the winter, they will need to be fed – so they decide to turf them out of the hive to take their chances. Part of the fascination of observing the hive in autumn is to see the females ejecting the drones, and a little pile of dead drones developing at the entrance to the hive. Women have always been practical but cruel! The beekeeper will need to feed the colony with a weak sugar solution to ensure the bees have enough food for the winter. This is the art of the beekeeper to balance the honey taken during the summer with the food given in the autumn and one of the most common reasons for dead colonies over winter is starvation through poor husbandry. The beekeeper will also have to fit 'mouse guards' to narrow the entrance so mice do not seek the warmth of the hive, and also chicken wire to stop woodpeckers making holes in the hive and eating the larvae.

But the most important action is to treat the hive for the varroa mite. For those who watched Bill Turnbull's Horizon programme 'What is killing our Bees?' you will know this is a certain killer of bees, and beekeepers need to treat their colonies with one of two pesticides available to rid them of this mite. The problem is the growing resistance of the mite to these treatments. In the programme you would have seen scientists from the Agricultural Research Centre at Rothamsted, and we were privileged to have two of them speak at the Bishop's Stortford British Beekeeping Association. Not only that, our Association agreed to help with the research this autumn by sending samples of members' hive floor debris (which contains the dead mites) for analysis by the Centre to establish the current resistance of the varroa mite. There is evidence to suggest that by rotating the treatment year over year between the two available pesticides the mites' resistance can be overcome, but this needs to be tested.

So, Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers continue to be at the forefront of encouraging beekeeping, training and research – come and join us!

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

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## 'REGAL' STANSTED PARK

The wonderful view of Stansted Park from Chapel Hill is a timeless one that deserves to be preserved. But Stansted Park is more than just a fantastic vista; it's also of great historic interest. The first mention of a Park in Stansted is in 1185 but the landscape we see today was largely created and developed between 1750 and 1900. The well-known landscape designer, Humphry Repton, produced one of his famous 'red books' of designs for Stansted in 1791. The parkland then covered 146 acres, including a rectangular pond with a curved extension, and would have provided a spectacular panorama for the owners from their home, Stansted Hall. Many different families, some of them with important royal connections, have owned Stansted Hall and its estate, which included Stansted Park. One of the Barons involved in the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215, Richard de Montfichet, owned the land at Runnymede and lived at Stansted Castle. The first ever Stansted Hall was probably built from the stones of the Castle destroyed by King John. Richard de Montfichet is also thought to have built the original St Mary's Church.

Another owner with somewhat unfortunate royal connections was Elizabeth de Vere who inherited the Stansted Hall, estate in 1438. Her husband and son, arrested in 1461 for plotting to kill the King, were both beheaded. Sadly for Elizabeth de Vere, all their lands, including Stansted Hall were confiscated, and the estate became the property of the Duke of Norfolk for 23 years. In 1485, King Henry VII conferred the land and estates of Stansted upon his mother-in-law, the Dowager Queen Elizabeth, widow of King Edward IV and the mother of the two Princes reputedly murdered by their infamous uncle, Richard III, in the Tower of London. The next owner of some importance was Sir Thomas Myddleton who came to the estate in 1615. A Member of Parliament, former Lord Mayor of London and a wealthy merchant, he died at the great age of 81, having been married four times! It was the Fuller Maitland family, owners of the estate from 1781 to 1921, who commissioned Robert Armstrong, to design a Neo Jacobean Mansion, the Stansted Hall of today. William Fuller Maitland took a great interest in the village and many organisations benefited from his generosity. In 1887 the grounds were the venue for a grand event to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee where sports competitions and a band were among the attractions.

During the Second World War Stansted Hall was loaned to the Ministry of Defence for the Red Cross to use as a convalescent hospital, pageants were staged in the grounds to celebrate the Festival of Britain in 1951 and the Coronation in 1953. In the 1960s Stansted Hall became the Arthur Findlay College and since then the house and outbuildings have been renovated, improved and expanded. Stansted too has grown over the years and will undoubtedly continue to expand yet more in the future. New housing estates have been built in the vicinity of Stansted Park, but the lovely views have thankfully been retained. Let's hope this will continue to be the case.



Yvonne Ayres



## ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

Through the year we have had a number of notable speakers addressing issues of worldwide relevance, such as a talk from the Chinese Embassy on their attitude to climate change, to pressing local issues like the changing face of poverty; we have also involved ourselves in the usual range of community service as well as recent emerged issues such as the Food Bank. For our final meeting before the break we were honoured to welcome our new District Governor who updated us on plans for the wider Rotary community and particularly plans for the new Rotary year in our District.



In August we organised a few social events, starting with a very pleasant stroll on an idyllic evening around the countryside of Little Hadham, finishing up at the Nags Head for a very good pub dinner. Derek Crowther, who led the walk, is to the left of the picture, and no, the group did not ride the course but happened upon the line of tethered horses on the way. Also laid on were a barbecue at a member's house and garden and a soiree with Sawbridgeworth Rotary Club, which included a short concert by talented local musicians.

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

Peter Latham  
Tel: 507294

## GRANTA CHORALE

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden**

Granta Chorale is performing *Cantate Domino* which combines choral music from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries with modern music. Tickets £10 (under 18s £2) from 01223 892001, Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre, email: [tickets@grantachorale.org](mailto:tickets@grantachorale.org) and [www.grantachorale.org.uk](http://www.grantachorale.org.uk).

Sue Sylvester-Bradley

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## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

The September meeting will be on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> in St John's Church Hall at 2.00pm. The speaker is Tim Sheppard talking about the RNLI Lifeboats. Cherry welcomed your comments from the last meeting and she will give some feedback over the next few weeks; many thanks for your input.

### Trips

Another long weekend away for the members, this time to Paris, saw the hottest weekend of the year. The Palace of Versailles with its ornate rooms, beautiful gardens and historical interest proved to be a welcome distraction from the



soaring temperatures. A tour around the various city sights left time enough to sit on the banks of the River Seine or the Champs Elysees to eat ice cream and to people watch. As the Eiffel Tower was unavailable for groups, the group was taken up the Montparnasse Tower instead. This is a newer and taller one and gave the opportunity to provide a superb view of the Eiffel Tower from several different angles. Add in an excellent lunch with champagne on the expensive Champs Elysees and a boat trip on the Seine, the whole trip offered great value for money and great fun, thanks, once again, to Maggie and Jan.



**The Phantom of the Opera theatre trip** has been arranged for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. This show continues to entrance audiences with Andrew Lloyd Webber's mesmerising and unforgettable score, the jaw-dropping scenery and breathtaking special effects bring to life the legendary love story. The coach will be picking up members at the Rugby Club in Bishop's Stortford at 9.30am or Barclays Bank at 9.45am allowing time for lunch or sightseeing before the matinee performance. The cost of the trip is £38. Please contact Maggie on 503848 or Jan on 812481 to book a place.

### Groups

Last month the Stansted U3A Singers, accompanied by Marion Dyer, entertained over 100 people at a Tea Party organised by Daniel Robinson and Sons at the Rhodes Centre. A short concert was followed by a lovely tea and then the Singers took to the stage again to lead a sing-along of old favourites. Both the audience and the Singers had a wonderful afternoon. The Natural History Group recently enjoyed a stroll along the River Stort to look at the riverside flowers, caterpillars, the young moorhens, coots and ducklings, a giant woodpecker, the dragonflies and, of course, the fish, being observed from afar by a cormorant on the top of its tree. The Cycling Group had a rather wet outing to Clavering Lakes but recovered over coffee and a bacon sandwich! The Walking Group had a very enjoyable day in Canterbury; many expressed a view to return to such an interesting city.

There are all sorts of activities going on in your local U3A - something for everyone. Visit our website for full details [www.stanstedu3a.org](http://www.stanstedu3a.org). For further information please contact Chris (Chair) 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) 814304.



Caroline Bore



Saffron Walden Choral Society has an exciting season of music ahead. The bicentenary celebrations for Giuseppe Verdi's birth in 1813 come to Saffron Walden with the composer's Requiem at 7.30pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November. SWCS is privileged to perform Verdi's dramatic, large-scale work in Saffron Walden's wonderful new auditorium in this countdown event to the official opening of Saffron Hall at the end of November. The choir will be joined by Chameleon Arts Orchestra with Ann-Helen Moen, soprano, Gaynor Keeble, mezzo-soprano, Ben Thapa, tenor and James Oldfield, bass, with Janet Wheeler conducting. The season will also include the traditional 'Spirit of Christmas' concerts on 7<sup>th</sup> December in St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden. In 2014 there is a singing day on 1<sup>st</sup> February, which is open to all singers. The spring concert on 15<sup>th</sup> March will be Bach's Magnificat in D major and Handel's Dixit Dominus. To round off the season the Choral Society will be performing Will Todd's 'Mass in Blue', and Janet Wheeler's 'On the Breath of the Sky'. The Will Todd Trio also perform a Jazz Set. The Saffron Walden Youth Choir, SinguptoSing, will be joining the Choral Society for this concert.

Rehearsals for the November concert begin on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The choir includes many experienced singers but also those with less experience. For more details on how to join, contact membership secretary Carol Hunt on 813392, email: [membership@swchoral.co.uk](mailto:membership@swchoral.co.uk). Tickets for the concert on 9<sup>th</sup> November at Saffron Hall are £20, £18 concessions, £10 students, accompanied under 18s £2, and are available from SWCS Box Office Tel: 01799 531127, email: [tickets@swchoral.org.uk](mailto:tickets@swchoral.org.uk), from Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre and from SWCS members. The Society's brochure giving details of the whole season is available from the Tourist Information Centre. Details are also on the website [www.swchoral.co.uk](http://www.swchoral.co.uk).

Liz Jennings  
Press Officer  
Tel: 07720 567922  
Email: [elizabeth\\_jennings@o2.co.uk](mailto:elizabeth_jennings@o2.co.uk)

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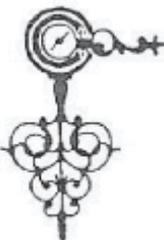
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## STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Our July meeting brought summer weather, so that we were able to appreciate the lovely new garden in the Day Centre, and also a visitor, Marion Dyer, who played the piano for us to sing 'Jerusalem', so we indulged in two verses instead of our usual one! Our speaker was our Secretary, Jenny Wraith, who told us of her visit to Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon. Having little knowledge of it beforehand she was enthralled by the place. Sri Lanka is 500 miles north of the equator on the SE shores of India on the Indian Ocean; it sounds and looks romantic. The average temperature is 27C, cooler in the central hills. Using slides, assisted by Marion, she showed us landscapes varying from mountains, beaches, forests and tea plantations. Booked on a seven-day tour with a friend, they found, to their delight, that they had the services of a personal driver, guide and companion, who spoke English perfectly. His knowledge of history, animals and birds added to the whole experience. One of their favourite places was the elephant orphanage, home for families of some of the original orphans and has become a real tourist attraction. The elephants love being fed milk by the bottle even though far too big for this. An interesting by-product of this place is paper made from elephant droppings, which is very fibrous! Of course buddhas were much in evidence everywhere and Jenny said that they have a very calming effect; but you must not turn your back on a buddha. The last three days were spent in a beach hotel that looked like a prison, not sun loungers and a sandy beach, more fishing boats and wild dogs; but all good experience! Another place I must visit before I get too old! Amazingly we had a good selection of entries in our competition for a buddha. We took part in the Day Centre celebrations, running a tombola stall for their and our funds, outside in the glorious weather. Now we look forward to doing the teas at the Windmill Fete, hoping for more sunshine.



Eighteen of us had a lovely trip to 1 Myddylton Place, Saffron Walden, the Grade 1 listed house dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. We were shown round by the present owner, Mrs Chapman, and saw the improvements already made in the 18 months they have lived there. Latterly used as a youth hostel it had become very run down. The first floor of the Maltings is beautiful and has a wonderful view over old roofs of the town. It is lovely to see it restored, especially the garden at the back where some of us partook of the lovely tea provided as part of the tour.



Judy Colliver

Entitled 'I Had a Dream', our talk at the August meeting was by Lyn Croot. As a child growing up and learning to swim in local swimming baths, Lyn read exciting tales of underwater adventure, and had a dream of one day exploring such a magical world. On a cruise in the Caribbean to celebrate her Silver Wedding, Lyn took the opportunity to go scuba diving and feed the fish in a warm lagoon, and the dream was a step nearer. After another holiday, this time to scuba dive in the waters around Tobago, Lyn was hooked and the dream a reality.

Scuba diving lessons in Saffron Walden gave Lyn the qualifications needed to explore her underwater world to the full; diving in many places from the cold waters off Cornwall to the warm waters of the Canary Islands, but the waters of Tobago keep drawing Lyn back. She has returned there to dive around 37 times now, becoming firm friends with the operators of the local diving school and diving community. Marine conservation of the local waters around Tobago is important, and giving talks enables Lyn to raise funds to assist in such conservation. Photographs showing a magical world of marine wrecks, coral reefs, and fish of every hue and colour illustrated the talk. A description of watching baby turtles hatch and then helping them to their first swim had the audience captivated.

Our next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7.45pm at the Day Centre. It is Members' Evening and is arranged by the members instead of the Committee. We all look forward to an entertaining evening. Guests are always welcome to our meetings; please come and join us.

Christine Morris



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our recent meeting was the very entertaining Brian Curtois, the well-known former BBC political commentator. He learned the basics of journalism on the Ilford Recorder and then progressed to the Press Association in London - covering the sentencing of the Great Train robbers. On a lighter note he told us of his coverage of the wedding of Britt Eckland and Peter Sellers. Responding to an advert for news reporters for the BBC, he was sent to the Middle East and Northern Ireland, but back in Britain he worked with Mohammed Ali, Terry Wogan and Jimmy Young. His biggest break came as a political commentator with the televising of Parliament when he came into contact with Ted Heath, Ken Clarke and John Cole and Peter Mandelson. He had three encounters with the late Margaret Thatcher, the first in the 1960s when she was the spokesperson for education, the second when she became leader of the Conservative party and the third during her reign as Prime Minister - an encounter that he didn't particularly enjoy ...! Thankfully he enjoyed his encounter (including afternoon tea) with the ladies of Ugley and neighbouring WIs who came to join us. As someone said "The WI and the BBC go together like a tea cup and saucer". If this sounds like your cup of tea why not come and join us? We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922

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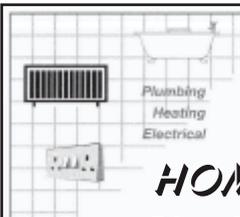
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## STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

**Herts & Essex Senior League:** Enjoying all fixtures.

**Ladies' Friendlies:** Lots of competitive bowling.

**Men's North West Essex League:** 'A' and 'B' teams continuing to flourish.

**Weekend Friendlies:** Good support from all members.

**Cowan Cup:** On our visit to St Chad's this year we were victorious and won the Cowan Cup; well done to everyone.

As this goes to press we have Finals Day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August followed by the Cooper Cup on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August. President's Day is on 25<sup>th</sup> August - will report on all these in next issue.



Still lots of hard work continuing on the car park, so a big thank you to all those members who give so much of their time; it is greatly appreciated.

Doreen Scraggs  
Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178

Email: [doreenscraggs@talktalk.net](mailto:doreenscraggs@talktalk.net)

## STANSTED HALL CRICKET CLUB

The Club has secured funding of £31,000 for new cricket nets. We are delighted to have received funding from Viridor Credits, The English & Welsh Cricket Board, Lord's Taverners and the Big Society. Our qualified coaches will benefit from these new facilities but the big winners will be the young cricketers, both girls and boys. Coaching standards are very high at the Club and any youngster in the area who wants to enjoy cricket will be welcome to come and see these facilities. We would like to thank the Stansted and Elsenham Parish Councils who supported the project.

As well as this funding the Club has had two 'firsts' in July. The girls played their first competitive match. The U15 team played against North London CC in the Lady Taverners 20/20 competition but were beaten. The Club invited a disabled group from St Elizabeth's at Perry Green to a coaching morning. This was held in conjunction with the Essex County Cricket Board and was so successful that the group will be returning in September. Busy days – plenty of cricket – may the sun keep shining.

David Brown  
Chairman  
Tel: 831011

## ST CLARE HOSPICE

We are delighted to report that the Family Fun Day at the end of June raised an amazing £13,700 so thank you so much to everyone who was involved with the event and to those who went along to support it. Look out for it again around the same time next year! Please don't forget that DC Poulton funeral directors on the corner of Lower Street and Chapel Hill is the drop-off point in the village for our new recycling campaign and they have one of our big, orange boxes in their window – you can't miss it! We would love you to have a rummage around at home and to donate any old, foreign coins or banknotes, any broken watches, clocks or jewellery and any stamps. Simply pop into Poultons and drop your items into the box and they will be recycled to raise valuable cash for the Hospice. And please remember that if you have any fundraising ideas for supporting the Hospice – do get in touch with me! I can help get your idea off the ground and supply you with promotional and marketing materials if necessary. Also, if your club or group would like a speaker, I am available to talk about the work that the Hospice does in our area – all free of charge. Many thanks go to all the staff at The Dog and Duck for their continued support of the Hospice. At their August Quiz Night, the winners of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places all donated their winnings to the Hospice so thanks also go to the clientele.

Registrations are coming in for our 'new look' Starlight Walk in Bishop's Stortford so do sign up to join us! The event will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September and will start from Sworders Field at 4.30pm but the family fun, including bouncy castle, face painting and refreshments will start at 3.00pm. This year there will be a new one mile family walk as well as the five mile walk through the town. We are keeping our fingers crossed for fine weather and a really fun family event, raising as much as we can for St Clare Hospice – come along and be a 'Stortford Star' for the evening!

Finally, a message from Caroline Bore of the St Clare Friends Group in Stansted: "The Kings Arms, in Stansted, has been brilliant in its fundraising for St Clare Hospice over the past several years. They are continuing to support the Hospice with the funds raised from their quiz raffles on the last Tuesday of every month; please come along for a fun evening. However, the Kings Arms are very keen to fundraise in order to buy a defibrillator, to be held in the pub, for emergency use for those in the village. The defibrillator is a life-saving machine that gives an electric shock in cases of cardiac arrest. The Kings Arms' staff will be trained to use the equipment correctly. As a huge thank you to them, the St Clare Friends Group is organising a Quiz Night on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm at the Day Centre to reciprocate their support of the Hospice and to help them raise enough funds to buy a defibrillator. We feel this would be a great asset to the people of the village and we sincerely hope you will support the quiz. Please contact Caroline on 813938 or Gill on 815486 to book a table of six. Places are limited so don't leave it too late to book. Watch out for further details in the next edition of The Link."



Sarah Calder  
Community Fundraiser  
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Email: [sarah.calder@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:sarah.calder@stclarehospice.org.uk)



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Foresthall Park  
Residents' Association

Some of the maintenance items logged with the Parish Council have been dealt with such as the Church Road bollards and the cutting back of foliage along the path that borders the western perimeter of the development (FP24 – 'Grippers Path'). There are still some areas that require attention though - notably the overgrowing bushes and brambles up Church Road. The broken noticeboard in the bus stop on Walson Way (by Palmer Close) has also been replaced (albeit with a much smaller one). I have also received some correspondence regarding play areas within the Croudace side of the development either being locked or not actually having been developed as expected. I am trying to establish what the situation is and I will report back. By the time you read this article, I would expect that the urban square will be fully turfed. This area of green space that will be known as Rochford Square is a very welcome addition to Foresthall Park. Plans are afoot to have an opening event for the urban square so please keep an eye on our website for details.

St Mary's School had its summer fayre on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The sun shone and it was nice to see a number of residents, not necessarily connected to the school, supporting the event. I look forward to this becoming a fixture in the calendar for the residents and I will be practising my 'welly wanging' for next year!

Stephen Berry  
Chairman  
Tel: 647652  
Email: s.berry@mac.com

## RIDELONDON 100 IN AID OF GUIDE DOGS

I am pleased to report that I completed the inaugural RideLondon 100 cycling event on 4<sup>th</sup> August, taking just over 6 hours 30 minutes cycling time. A puncture and a couple of



food stops added another hour to this for my official time. This closed road event largely followed the 2012 London Olympics Road Race route and started at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford. It crossed London, took in three stiff climbs in Surrey, including Leith Hill and Box Hill and finished on The Mall. The race attracted over 16,500 riders on the day including the London Mayor, Boris Johnson. Riding such a

course, past so many famous sites whilst not having to worry about a single red light made it a very memorable experience indeed.

I would like to thank your publication for promoting the event, all helpers, and everyone who attended the Quiz Night in June, for their generous support. Over £1,100 was raised for Guide Dogs.

Philip Chaplin



Recent proposals from the Manchester Airport Group (MAG) to develop Stansted into a two, or even four-runway airport are opportunistic, irresponsible and pointless. It is of little consolation that MAG has framed its proposals in an unenthusiastic, half-hearted way which grudgingly admits that it would be 'willing' to add an extra runway or runways at Stansted, in about 15 years, if that's what the Airports Commission and the Government decide. This will be seen by many as an attempt to avoid taking responsibility for any decision to expand the airport. The MAG proposals resurrect the expansion options for Stansted put forward by the Government in July 2002. These all came to nothing but it took an eight-year battle before BAA, former owner of the airport, conceded defeat and withdrew its plans for a second runway. From 2002 to 2010, needless stress and anxiety was caused to those whose homes were threatened by the bulldozer and over a £1 billion was wiped off local house prices - all for nothing. Three years later, there is the prospect of another prolonged battle over the same issue.

We will be doing everything possible to convince the Airports' Commission to reject the idea of any new runways at Stansted. With the airport currently operating at only half its permitted capacity a second runway – never mind a four-runway hub double the size of Heathrow today – is completely unnecessary on business grounds and it would be completely unacceptable on environmental grounds. Even looking 15 years down the line and beyond, there is no case for Stansted to be one of the short-listed options. This will once again create widespread blight and uncertainty in the local community. As in the past, any proposals for an extra runway or runways at Stansted will be met with fierce local opposition, will be fought tooth and nail, and will ultimately be defeated.

Peter Sanders  
Chairman  
Tel: 01799 520411 Mobile: 07814 581463  
Email: [petersanders77@talktalk.net](mailto:petersanders77@talktalk.net)



**Huw Johnson  
Club**

The Huw Johnson Club has been on its summer break for the last few weeks but will be re-starting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm at St John's Church Hall. If you would like to come along, or help out, please contact me.

Katharine Collis  
Tel: 461270

## MANUDEN MUSIC FESTIVAL

[www.manuden-musicfestival.co.uk](http://www.manuden-musicfestival.co.uk)

A musical fund-raiser in aid of ADAS, a West Essex-based charity dealing with substance misuse, 11.30am-8.30pm Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August at Manuden playing fields. Many local and not-so-local acts performing across two stages throughout the day. Tickets £15/£3 children from [www.wegotickets.com/event/228467](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/228467).

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## Stansted Tennis Club



### Stansted in Bloom Competition

We were thrilled to be awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place and our trophy and certificate are now proudly exhibited in the Clubhouse.

### Dates for your diary

**Ladies' Night** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September from 7.00pm.

**Club Finals Day** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September (all day). Please come along and watch. **Hospital Cup Finals** 21<sup>st</sup> September at Grove Tennis Club, Saffron Walden. The Club is planning to donate an Andy Murray Scottish themed hamper for the raffle, so if any members would like to donate a gift towards this, please contact Daphne Lunnon. **Wilby Adult Doubles Tournament** 29<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm.

### Coaching

Please contact me or Martyn Taplin on 816386.

**Used tennis balls** £1 per tube of four from Jan Hollis 812073.

### Club Playing Sessions

Wednesday from 9.00am and 6.00pm

Friday from 9.30am. Sunday from 10.00am

### Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574, Catherine Hodgen (Membership Secretary) 656151. Website: [www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk)

Chris Hollis  
Tel: 319155



### Nature Notes

As Felix reported in the previous issue, this year is proving to be a disappointing one for birds, and for that matter amphibians and hedgehogs as well. The principle culprit is likely to be climate change which has only just started to affect all our lives. Native and several adopted trees are also facing the unknown as a result of influences from mainland Europe and over the pond. A virulent strain of elm disease came from America in the 60s and, after a brief respite, we have in the last 10 or so years had to contend with acute oak decline, oak processionary moth, leaf miner and fungal infection in horse chestnuts, new (to us) forms of the phytopthera bacterium in various shrubs and trees, including larch, and recently a fungal die-back (challorra) in ash, with the prospect of further arrows of outrageous fortune striking other species in the foreseeable future. Despite this litany of woe we can take comfort from the knowledge that there has always been change, evolutionary or otherwise, and that Nature will eventually adjust and triumph. The difference for us is that it is happening at a faster rate than ever before, so adaptation may have to be a key word in tomorrow's vocabulary. In a more contemporary vein, have you noticed that a variety of bumble bees have come to the rescue by taking over the vital pollinating role from scarce honey and solitary bees? We should also be grateful that recent warm weather has led to more flies assisting with pollination. It's also encouraging that John Dockerill is popularising bee-keeping which is now becoming so important to our future.

Derek Honour

## BROOME END GRAND OPENING DAY

A giant game of chess, a bouncy castle, an authentic Indian barbecue and a musical ensemble playing songs from the West End shows were just some of the activities enjoyed by residents, guests and staff at the Broome End Care Home.



The Grand Opening, organised by owner Avi Gidar, took place on a sunny Sunday afternoon at the end of July on the lawns in front of the 19<sup>th</sup> century house in Pines Hill.

The aim was to show the parts of Broome End that have been refurbished in an on-going project that Avi Gidar expects will be completed by February 2014. Broome End is now an independent care home, formerly part of the Gold Care Homes group of 23 residences, owned by the Gidar family. It offers specialist services for those with dementia, as well as residential care for residents with varying needs, from requiring specialist nursing support to general help with everyday living. For further information ring 816455.



## GROVE COTTAGE NURSERY

At the time of writing we have lots of holiday club days out to places such as Willow Farm and Paradise Wildlife Park. One brand new group, which I will be starting from September, is a **playgroup** for families with pre-school babies and children with special needs and their siblings. The group will run on Friday mornings 10.00am-11.30am starting on 27<sup>th</sup> September, and gives families and children in similar situations a great opportunity to meet up and unwind in a supportive environment. There will be fun activities, messy play, singing, signing, snacks and our wonderful sensory room and garden to enjoy, plus tea and biscuits for the parents. From time to time we will also have various professionals visit us to provide valuable advice. If you think you would benefit from joining us or know someone who might, please do get in touch. A big thank you to Caroline McIntyre (my sister!) who has just completed her first of two summit hikes. She successfully scaled Mount Kilimanjaro and has so far raised well over £2000 for our nursery. Next stop Everest base camp! Our next big fundraising event is our annual Ball on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November at Down Hall from 7.00pm, and this year's theme is 'Winter Wonderland'. Tickets cost £70 and include a three course meal with wine. For tickets, both individual or group (tables can accommodate up to 10 guests), please email Phil Morgan at [Philip@hardsoft.co.uk](mailto:Philip@hardsoft.co.uk).

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### St John's 'En Fête' for Summer Soirée

The grounds of St John's Church became a mini-Glyndebourne for the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> July when *music@stansted* put on its biennial young musicians' concert. The local rising stars who performed on the evening included brother and sister Stephen and Rosie Smithers on piano and cello respectively, harpist Bella Chipperfield, clarinettist Aphra Bruce Jones, flautist Marcus Dawe, cellist Christopher Wilkin and pianist Gopal Singh Kambo, nearly all of whom had carried off prizes in Harlow Rotary's Young Musician of the Year competition earlier this year. The audience was thrilled by highly polished performances of music of varying styles from Bach to Gershwin, as well as being treated to a picnic supper during the interval. As they relaxed in the evening sunshine they were entertained in a more light-hearted vein by Stortford-based young folk group '27 Strings', whose infectious energy brought enthusiastic applause.



It is always such a pleasure to be able to give these talented young people a chance to show what they can do, and to encourage them on their way to a rewarding future whether as professional or amateur musicians. And this year's Soirée was particularly successful, with our audience enjoying both a first-rate concert and a memorable social event!



Richard Allaway

The first concert to open our new season will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in St John's, when The Alberni String Quartet, who played at the Club's inaugural concert in 1996, will be making a welcome return. Their programme will feature three great works of the quartet repertoire; Beethoven's Quartet opus 135, Janacek's *Intimate letters* and Borodin's second quartet from which some of the luscious melodies in the musical *Kismet* were taken.

Tickets £15 from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds Solicitors; Sonia Levy tel 815282; or at the door. In a change of admission policy children and students under 18 are free.

### Future concerts

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, Cambridge Chorale

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January, Louise Alder (soprano) and John Paul Ekins (piano)

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Kammerphilharmonie Europa.

Door prices for all four concerts total £59, but membership, giving admission to all the concerts, is available for £38 (concessions £36). To join or re-join, please send a cheque payable to Music at Stansted, with your name(s), address, telephone number and email address (this really helps us to keep you informed throughout the season) and a stamped addressed envelope for your membership card, to: The Membership Secretary, c/o 25 Chantry Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2SD. Check out our website for general information: [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com) or if you have a specific enquiry please email us: [info@musicatstansted.com](mailto:info@musicatstansted.com).

Alan Corbishley

### SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



Having been asked to be a man of mystery last month also gave me a month off for the latest Skywatch, though everyone who spoke to me said they knew it was me anyway. But it was good fun, though more people were more interested in my under the underground days. What has really surprised me and many others is that the Moon really does have an effect on some people, mainly in their sleep patterns rather than their behaviour. It was found that some people had variations in their sleep patterns during a period of 28 days; well nights actually. Most of this related to the length of deep sleep. Volunteers were told that they were taking part in a series of experiments on other functions of the human body during sleep to put them off the real reason. So it seems that there are no loonys after all, which might be a shame. These developments though are still in their infancy, but if these early revelations widen we may be looking further and further back to our ancient origins, which neatly elides in to some new evidence of the effects of long past collisions of vast rocks hitting the Earth. The Earth still has many points around the globe where there is evidence of massive collisions with very large and very fast rocks slamming in to the Earth: some powerful enough to make the whole planet shudder. We are talking now of the era of dinosaurs and how or why they died out. We know that they died out because of impacts from a much younger Earth, but it is geologists that are leading thoughts as to the huge dents still visible on the Earth, though they can be difficult to see because of the erosion of the ground over millions of years. The interesting thing is that many collisions seem to have had much greater impact by having two, much smaller, close impacts. It now appears that many of the lumps orbiting the Earth are doubles, not just 'running' together but orbiting around each other. How they came to become these individual pairs of orbiting rocks is hard to understand. Perhaps the best thing to do is always look both ways, just like crossing the road.

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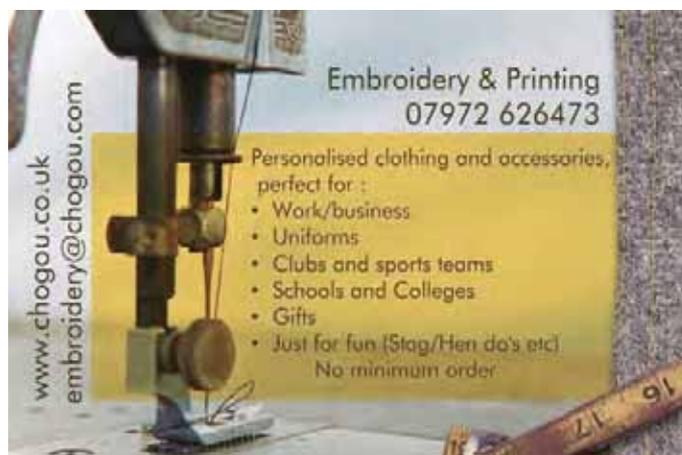
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