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**EDITORIAL**



The start of a new academic year seems a good time to stop, take stock, and look to the future. We have a chance to influence the development of Stansted in years to come, by putting our views forward regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. For more information on this important opportunity see page 17. The latest news concerning our new Health Centre is a little worrying. It seems that the original site, and fall back option, in Foresthall Park is now deemed to be too small. So let's hope the traffic concerns surrounding the Castle Lotus site can be sorted to everyone's satisfaction, enabling building work to begin in the next few months - rather than years.

Following on from the advice given by Essex Police in last month's 'Link' regarding shed security, the recent theft of lead from the roof of St John's Church emphasises the need for everyone to be vigilant outside the home too. Reporting any suspicious behaviour to the police will help protect and preserve the many lovely old buildings and open spaces we are fortunate to have in Stansted for future generations to enjoy.

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**CIRCULATION:**

The Link is delivered free to over 3000 homes and businesses in Stansted Mountfitchet. Further copies may be purchased for 50p each or £5.00 for the year.

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

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

Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

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

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The media has been full of pictures of burning buildings, cars on fire and widespread looting. If we didn't know differently we might have thought the images were being beamed in from the Middle East at the height of the Arab Spring Uprising. But no, this has been happening in our own country, much of it in our own backyard in London. Police presence has been massively increased and there have been calls from the public for the Army to be used, water cannon to be deployed and rubber bullets to be available.

Thankfully at the time of writing this article it has been a lot quieter, but the tensions and troubles are bubbling just under the surface. Reading the comments of some of the rioters and looters, they feel they have been forgotten, ignored, they can't get jobs and no-one responds to their job applications when they try to find work; no one is listening. Shopkeepers and home owners in some of the localities badly hit by rioting and looting also say no-one has been listening to their fears and concerns and for a while there was no protection for them.

In the book of James, in the Bible, we read this. *'Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.'* James 1:19. All of us need to take time out to listen to the heart beat of our community, not least because nowhere is immune from unrest and the sort of behaviour we witnessed at the heights of the rioting and looting. There are no simple fixes, but in a cash strapped and time strapped society perhaps we need to stand back, stop judging others, listen to each other and most importantly listen to God.

Rev'd David Keeble  
Stansted Free Church



## STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC  
Chapel Hill

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

**Minister** Rev'd David Keeble  
Tel: 01799 522037  
Email: [minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

**Lettings** Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059  
Email: [lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Preachers for September

4th 10.30am Andrew Brown  
11th **3.30pm** Rev'd David Simpson -  
Church Anniversary  
18th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Holy Communion  
25th 10.30am Denis Walker - Harvest Festival

### 5th Church Anniversary

Our **afternoon** service on 11th September is to celebrate five years of being a joint church, and we are delighted to welcome back Rev'd David Simpson to lead our worship on that day. David was the URC minister when the Local Ecumenical Partnership was formed, and he has since retired to Buckinghamshire. We are very much looking forward to meeting up with him again. The service will be followed by tea and all are welcome.

### Harvest Festival

During our service on 25th September we shall be collecting goods for Whitechapel Mission – breakfast cereals, tinned beans and tomatoes, tea, coffee, sugar, marmalade, toiletries, scarves, gloves etc. St John's Church, which is open daily, also has a collection point at the rear of the church to receive items of clothing for the mission.

Rev'd Allen Morton (our URC minister) is currently on long term sick leave, so all enquiries to Rev'd David Keeble.

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux  
High Lane

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

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

Confessions Saturday 10.00am  
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



# Shalom

We begin this term with our At Home at 8.00pm on Monday 26th September at the White House, Ugley Green. All are welcome.

Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059



**All enquiries:** The Church Office, St John's Hall,  
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP  
Tel: 815243  
Email: stjohns.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:** Lorraine Everett  
Email: lorraine@everett.info

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

**St John's Diary**

**Sunday**

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

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday**

8.30am Morning Prayer There are services of  
Holy Communion on  
the first Tuesdays and  
Wednesdays of the  
month in Norman  
**Tuesday** Court, Hargrave House  
9.00am St John's Tots and Broome End  
**Wednesday** Nursing Homes.  
9.00am Morning Prayer  
10.00am Holy Communion

**Monday-Thursday and Saturday**

5.00pm Evening Prayer

**From the Registers**

**July**

**Baptisms**

3rd Henry McBride, Florence McBride,  
Harriet Daisy Stevens  
10th Aaliyah Tine Ali  
17th Robbie James Jeffery Ramshaw  
24th Lacymae Bull, Trinity Lam Highton,  
Oscar Laurance Lam Highton,  
Ciara Kitty Joan Prenderville  
31st Ben Willian James Kirk

**Funerals**

14th Robert Ganderton, age 89 - at St Mary's  
18th Nicholas Crocker, age 57 - at Parndon Wood

**ST JOHN'S FLOWER FESTIVAL  
2012**

**'60 Glorious Years'**

The flower festival is for all the village, and the theme is '60 Glorious Years' of Her Majesty's reign. It will be held on Saturday - Monday 2nd, 3rd and 4th June with a celebration service on Sunday 3rd. We propose to hold a family event on the Monday to include sideshows and entertainment. Anyone willing to help with flowers, cakes, stewarding, ideas, organisation, sideshows and entertainment please contact me.



Pauline Mantle  
Tel: 815243 (Church Office)  
Email: paulinedmantle@tiscali.co.uk

**ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB**

Many congratulations to the winners of the July draws, including the extra prize of £200:

£200: No. 169 – Kaye Jones  
£100: No. 143 – Heather Horner  
£ 50: No. 5 – Linda and Tony Gurr  
£ 25: No. 89 – Ingirid Shervington

The draws for September will be held in St John's Church following the 9.30am service on Sunday 25th September. There are still numbers available, so to join the scheme please contact me on 814562 or Rosemary on 815551.

Francine Cope



**Harvest Supper Sunday 16th October St John's Hall**

As is now our tradition, we will be holding our Village Harvest Supper followed by light entertainment provided by all the churches. This year we are providing a hot meal with a difference: fish, chicken or veggie burger and chips, followed by crumble and custard! The supper starts at 6.00pm and tickets, priced £6 with accompanied children free, are available from St John's Office, (815243 Mon, Wed, Fri 9.00am-noon), Marion Dyer (814059) or any of the churches. Please bring your own drink and glasses. All are welcome and any surplus money raised will go to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) which raises funds for all major world disasters, such as the East Africa Appeal.



Helen Baker  
Tel: 814865

**APOLOGY** In the August 'Link' we incorrectly reported the age of the late Robert Osborn as 66; it should have been 60.

## IN MEMORIAM

### BILL BARKER

26th July 1932-21st July 2011

William Frank Barker was born and raised in Hammersmith where he was known as Billy, Bill or Will. His schooling was very haphazard, due to the war, and Bill was evacuated - a very unhappy experience for him. He left school at 15 and tried various jobs, finally becoming a heating and ventilating engineer. With characteristic determination to gain qualifications and further his career, Bill studied at night school whilst working full time. His eventual job as a trouble-shooting consultant took him around the UK and abroad, working on many and various projects including the Palace of Westminster, several universities and banks, and even sultans' palaces in the Far East. Bill and Dot married in 1955, setting up home in Hammersmith where daughter, Susan, was born. They moved to Stansted in 1958, and later on son Peter was added to the family.



Bill was a quiet, cheerful, unassuming man who always put his wife and family first. He took a keen and lively interest in his children and grandchildren's lives, and also his and Dot's extended family. He had a great rapport with them all, especially the younger members. Bill was strong, physically

and mentally, and extremely hard-working. Very practical and knowledgeable, he was willing to help anyone, and always ensured that every task he took on was done properly. An active member of St John's Church, he served on the Parochial Church Council for a time, and for many years he looked after the heating systems in St Mary's, St John's and the Church Hall. (He would even help stoke up the boiler in St Mary's every Saturday night to warm it up for the Sunday services.) Bill also sang in the choir for over 50 years, his rich deep voice earning him the affectionate nickname of 'Bing'. As his fellow basses often remarked, "Bill is the bass - we just sing bass!" (A version of 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing', which mentions Bill's talent, will hopefully be featured in the 'Link' at Christmas time.)

In his younger days Bill took part in diving competitions and later on used his talents in the pool to teach his children, grandchildren, and even his friends' offspring to swim. He went to the gym in the days before it was fashionable, and right up until the last few months of his life he 'did his weights' and could be seen striding around the village on one of his early morning walks.

Bill excelled at everything he did and was a good dancer, darts and snooker player. He was also known to enjoy the

odd pint and although quite reticent, had a wicked sense of humour. After a few drinks he would often launch into cockney rhyming slang taking great delight in the blank expressions on everyone's faces as they tried to work out what on earth he was talking about. Bill loved to cook and his 'Ruby Murrays' (curries) and his spicy bread pudding were legendary.

Bill Barker was a true Christian in every sense of the word. He was a genuinely kind and caring gentleman, who will be greatly missed by all those privileged to have known him.

Yvonne Ayres

**Footnote:** Dot has asked me to express her gratitude for the overwhelming number of cards, letters and messages of support she has received from the people of Stansted, and beyond. They have been much appreciated by all the family. Also to thank Paul Wilkin and the choir for their support and kindness.

### BILL BARKER - MY DAD - AN ORDINARY DAY

A beautiful and loving family man  
Who began his days around five  
Boat Race washed a good Ocean Wave  
Barnet Fair combed Hampsteads brushed

Mae West pulled on then Beetles and Ants  
Clean Dicky Dirt and a smart Peckham Rye  
Almond Rocks and round the houses  
A belt but never Airs and Graces

Suited and booted down the Apples he'd go  
Drink pots of Rosie with a Cosy on Loaf  
Eat his porridge steaming hot or  
Mutter and Stutter on brown Holy Ghost

His Daisy Roots on for a brisk Ball and Chalk  
A whistle and smile down the Frog and Toad  
Newspaper crossword and milk to collect  
Shining Mince Pies in the bright morning sun

He loved doing not sitting life's treasures enjoyed  
Grandchildren gardening laughter and love  
Light of Jam Tart a most joyous spirit  
Generous of time with family and friends

He loved my mum and us Dustbin Lids  
Kept locks of our Basin and Gravy hair  
Soap and Water and Currant Bun  
Often called Horror Tangs when young

Family together he loved nothing more  
Wine would flow much laughter be shared  
Our Derbies he filled with piping hot Ruby  
Followed by crumble and lashings of cream

Dinner washed down with a sloe Vera Lynn  
As Dandy he savoured with La-Di-Da large  
Cribbage was played round his Caine and Abel  
To name just a few of his favourite things

Another day ended guests gone home  
Back up the Apples into soft Kennel warm  
Snuggled close to his Trouble and Strife  
Who will always be the love of his life

Susan Kyle



**Friends of St Mary's Church**  
**Exhibition of Radio Controlled Models**  
*by The Moorhen Model Boat Club*  
**11 am - 5 pm Sat 3rd Sept**  
 Entry free - donations welcome  
**Church also open**  
**2 - 5 pm Sun 4th Sept**  
 Refreshments ~ Everyone Welcome



**SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE & STRIDE**  
**Sat 10th September**  
**10 am - 6 pm**  
 Forms from the churches or John on 656645  
*Come and join the fun*

**CHARITY NIGHT**  
**From 8 pm Sat 10th Sept**  
**The Dog & Duck, Lower Street**  
 Chilli ~ Curry ~ Stew & Dumplings  
 Eat as much as you like for £10  
*Proceeds to be shared between:*  
**Thomas Lambert** (who has leukaemia)  
**Stansted Cricket Club** (improvements to clubhouse disabled facilities).  
 All Welcome ~ Tel Sally 812047

**VILLAGE EVENTS**

**Sep**

1 Thu	Local History	Day Centre 8.00 pm
2 Fri	NCT Tea and Toys	Henham Church Hall 10 am
3 Sat/4 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
3 Sat	Radio Controlled Models	St Mary's Church 11 am - 5 pm
4 Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
	St Mary's Church Open	2 - 5 pm
7 Wed	Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
8 Thu	Norman Lamb visit	Day Centre 7.00 pm
	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
9 Fri - 11 Sun	Woodfest	Hatfield Forest
10 Sat	Essex Churches Ride and Stride	10 am - 6 pm
	Charity Night	Dog & Duck 8 pm onwards
<b>11 Sun</b>	<b>Link copy due in today</b>	<b>before 12 noon</b>
13 Tue	Drop In starts	Spangles 10 am - noon
15 Thu	U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 pm
16 Fri	Walk for St Clare's	B Stortford Rugby Club 8 pm
17 Sat/18 Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
20 Tue	Open Evening	MMCC 6 - 9 pm
24 Sat	Conservatives' Harvest Supper	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
25 Sun	Car Boot sale	Mountfitchet College 11 am - 2 pm
	Nearly New Sale	Bentfield School 2 - 3.30 pm
26 Mon	Shalom At Home	White House, Ugley Green 8 pm
30 Fri	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Old Lane Hse 10.30 am - 12.30 pm
	Cricket Club Quiz	St John's Hall 7.30 pm



**STARLIGHT WALK**  
**8 pm Fri 16th September**  
 5 mile sponsored walk starting and ending at  
**Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club**  
 Call 773750 for application form or register on-line at  
[www.stclarehospice.org.uk](http://www.stclarehospice.org.uk)



**Stansted Conservatives**  
**HARVEST SUPPER**  
**7.30 for 8 pm Sat 24 Sept**  
**Day Centre**  
 Tickets £10  
 Tel Bridget 814440 or Joan 814854  
*Do join us for an enjoyable evening!*

**ELSENHAM ART & CRAFT**  
**10.30 am - 4.30 pm Sat 1st Oct**  
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 Stalls ~ Demonstrations  
 Hot Drinks ~ Cakes ~ Bacon Rolls  
 Entry FREE!  
 For information tel Geoff 812702  
 Includes stalls by members of the Guild of Essex Craftsmen



**Stansted Singers**  
 An evening of Cava & Canapés  
 7.30 pm Sat 1st Oct  
 St John's Church  
 Adults £5 Children £2.50 from U3A members or at the door  
 Tel 503848 or 812481

The Mountfitchet Maths & Computing College PTA   
**CAR BOOT SALE**  
**11 AM - 2 PM**  
**SUNDAY 25TH SEPT**  
 Plus Hot Food & Refreshments  
 £7 Cars, £12 Vans & Lorries  
 Tel Tina on 814371 Yvonne 813071



**Stansted Cricket Club**  
**QUIZ EVENING**  
**7.30 pm Fri 30th Sep**  
 St John's Hall  
 Tickets £5 incl pizza & garlic bread  
 Tel Ian 07540 082003 or Matt 07877 481640  
**Licensed Bar ~ All Welcome**

**Macmillan Cancer Support**  
 Come & Join the   
**Fri 30th Sept**  
**10.30 am - 12.30**  
 Old Lane House, Church Road  
 Raffle ~ Cake Stall  
 All Welcome ☎ 813172



**Bentfield School PTA**  
**Nearly New Sale**  
 In aid of Sensory Garden Project  
**2 - 3.30 pm Sun 25th Sep**  
 Toys ~ Books ~ DVDs  
 Clothes ~ all for ages 0 - 11  
 Donations Welcome Tel 07885 856455  
 Admission 50p ~ All Welcome

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**Free introductory class throughout this month**



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[osteopathy@hazel-williams.co.uk](mailto:osteopathy@hazel-williams.co.uk)

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

the osteopath

## Lower Street Clinic

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We are offering an initial consultation with the **Chiropractor** which includes a thorough physical and spinal examination for **£25** (normal fee £50) on production of this advert.

Digital X-ray available on site

Dexa Scanning for Osteoporosis available

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BUPA and AXA/PPP



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No GP Referral required

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Marcel Morelli MSc (Chiro), DC, and Associates  
Registered Doctors of Chiropractic

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Stansted CM24 8BZ

Registered with the General Chiropractic Council

## DIAMOND WEDDING

On Sunday 7th August we celebrated our 60th Wedding Anniversary accompanied by close family and friends, with a lovely meal at the Coach and Horses in Newport.



We requested donations to be made to the ORBIS charity, which is involved in the treatment of eye problems abroad, instead of personal gifts, but received surprise presents from our family and a card from the Queen. It was a fantastic and emotional day, and we would like to thank everyone involved in making it such a special occasion for us.

Pam and Doug Alcock

*Older members of the village will remember PC Doug Alcock when he 'walked the beat', and visited local schools, from 1963-1988. They may also recognise his wife, Pam, who served the community too in her 20 years as a receptionist at the St John's Road Surgery. Editor*



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

In the expectation that this issue will be on your doormat before Bank Holiday Monday, may we remind you of the Annual Fete on the 29th August at 2.00pm when, together with many other Stansted folk, we hope to see you there. It will be in its well-liked format with a few new events - among them a popular popgun gallery. Come and swell the throng! Wind permitting we hope that the Windmill will have its sails turning. Being an old fellow with a chequered history the mill has just come through a re-settling operation after a year's working. We hope that it will remain in rude health for a good while yet.

The quiz season will soon be upon us, so make a note of 8th October at 8.00pm when we shall hold our annual Quiz in St John's Hall.

Derek Honour  
Tel: 647213

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Pam and Ian Seavers**  
**1st September 1951-1st September 2011**

Congratulations to our Mum and Dad on their  
Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Gill, Geoff and Jessy (the dog!)

## WELL DONE!!

Our practice inspection took place at the end of July and I am pleased to say we passed with flying colours! Emma, Wendy, Angela, Jo and Ollie all worked brilliantly to get the practice looking sparkling clean and all our paperwork in order. In fact, if you stood too long in one place, you were in danger of being scrubbed with disinfectant, labelled and arranged tidily on a shelf! The inspector was very complimentary, particularly about our friendly working atmosphere and our levels of hygiene. She said she could usually manage to find a grubby corner somewhere but couldn't at all with us! So a big thank you to all the staff and of course to everyone at our Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow surgeries too.

We are hoping to hold a tortoise information evening in September. This will probably be at our Saffron Walden surgery and will be open to anyone who has a tortoise and wants more information on feeding, hibernation, housing or any other aspect of tortoise management. They are fascinating animals, and often quite forceful characters. We had one at the surgery for a while that was brought in as a stray. The nurses used to let it wander around the garden, but it used to follow them round when they were hanging the washing out and try and bite their toes. Mind you they had nicknamed it 'Crusty pie', so I think it was only getting its own back! After extensive enquiries an owner came forward, and apparently the tortoise had been missing for about a month and had travelled about five miles from its home. It turned out it was called Zippy. So if you want any more information about our tortoise evening, please give us a ring at the surgery and we can give you more details.

Ilse Pedler

Mercer & Hughes Veterinary Surgeons  
Tel: 813780



Our new Holiday Club for children with learning disability has been a brilliant success. Every Wednesday about 18 children and helpers go out for the day - it is quite an undertaking. We have been to Colchester Zoo, Walton-on-the-Naze, Legoland and Paradise Wildlife Park. Many of our helpers are volunteers and the parks usually allow us free or very much reduced entry charges. Not only do the children have a great time but the parents are given a break to spend time with their other children. Young children with learning disability can be very demanding and the parents really need a rest. The summer period is the time when we get on with maintenance of our London Road building. Apart from the painting, this year we are having some of the windows double-glazed, the central heating boiler replaced and the loft insulated. Maintenance, like fundraising, is a never-ending task for our wonderful supporters. In September all the regular activities start up again and we are exploring the possibility of starting a twilight club to give some of the children an after-school activity. We welcome new members and, of course, we are always looking for helpers and people that are good at raising money. You can find out more on Facebook 'Grove Cottage Bishops Stortford Mencap' or at [www.mencapgrovecottage.org](http://www.mencapgrovecottage.org) or call 656085 (ansaphone).

David Scott

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## STANSTED U3A

Our next meeting is Thursday 15th September in St John's Hall. Doors open at 1.30pm and the meeting starts at 2.00pm. Tea, coffee and refreshments are available free this month.

Come along and see what activities there are which you may be interested in. Sign up, participate and enjoy. Our talk this month is entitled 'Fungi, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly' by June Crew, an enlightening talk of the fungus world – what you thought you couldn't eat but you actually can – learn about some of the most poisonous fungi around. If you have a sample, bring it along and June will try and identify it.

Our recent Paris trip was a major success and thanks must go to our organisers. Our trip took us to Claude Monet's house and gardens at Giverny, the magnificent Chateau de Fontainebleau, and the village of Barbizon, with the last night at a bistro in the shadow of the Panthéon followed by a boat trip on the Seine.

### Forthcoming Events

**Salute to the '40s** - 17th September - Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent. Life on the Home Front, Period Fashion, Wartime Vehicles and Entertainment! Visitors will encounter bombsite urchins, 'spivs', soldiers and sailors, coppers and Dockyard Maties. All the galleries and attractions of The Historic Dockyard will be open as normal. Tickets are still available.

**Cava and Canapés** with the Stansted U3A Singers - 1st October 7.30pm - Evening of music and entertainment with the U3A singers and guest performers followed by Cava, wine and buffet at St John's Church. Tickets for both events available from Maggie on 503848 or Jan on 812481.

**'Legally Blonde – The Musical'** - Thursday 13th October Fully booked

**'60s/'70s Night** – St John's Church Hall – Friday 11th November - live group with fish and chip supper. You do not have to be a member of U3A to attend. Please contact Maggie for further information.

For more details of U3A and any of the above, please see our website: [www.stanstedu3a.org](http://www.stanstedu3a.org) or contact me (Vice-chair), Cherry (Chair) 817140 or Chris (Secretary) 817587.

Alan Bore  
 Tel: 813938

### Appeal For Information

I am trying to find the Andrews family who lived in, and ran, the Post Office on Chapel Hill in Stansted. Ronald and Lorys had two children, Nigel and Karren, and I understand they emigrated to Australia in 1976. I'm hoping that someone in the area will have kept in touch with the family (exchanging Christmas cards maybe?) and will have an address for them. I would be very grateful for any information, however little.

Kelly Valentine  
 Tel: 01245 350392  
 Email: [kellyannevalentine@googlemail.com](mailto:kellyannevalentine@googlemail.com)



## HATFIELD FOREST HIGHLIGHTS

The year has been flying by and school holidays are over. Here at the Forest we are busy sawing and milling in preparation for the upcoming WoodFest, 9th-11th September. For the first time ever we have camping for the weekend and it has been so popular that we sold out of pitches by June. We have got plenty of workshops including basketry, willow work, copper work and timber hewing, and there will be live music. Timings are:

Friday 6.00pm-11.00pm with open mic set  
 Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm with music until 11.00pm  
 Sunday 10.00am-4.00pm

Venison is for sale in the Shop. The fallow deer season started again on 1st August and since then we have been keeping venison available in the Shop. We are also having a Venison Taster Event on 11th and 12th November where free samples, recipe ideas and cooking advice will be available.



In October the coppicing season will start again and every other weekend our gallant coppice volunteers will be continuing a traditional form of labour that has been carried out on the Forest for hundreds, if not thousands of years. Last year we achieved our first 35-year rotation and this year the coppice volunteers will be returning to Elgin's Coppice, the first area coppiced by the group 35 years ago.

Laura Slater  
 Community Warden  
 Tel: 870678

Email: [laura.slater@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:laura.slater@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### CALLING NEW ADVERTISERS

We have one small colour and a few black and white advertisements remaining for our new printing year which begins in November.

Colour ads start from as little as £375, and black and white from £115 for the whole year!

Please visit [www.stanstedlink.org.uk](http://www.stanstedlink.org.uk) for a price list and booking form or if you do not have internet access call Marion on 814059

*We look forward to hearing from you!*

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## 494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

The summer season kicked off with an evening of Paddle-sports for eight of our cadets in Chelmsford. The cadets experienced an introductory training session and a practical 'hands-on' paddle in their own canoe down the River Chelmer. Our yearly large Fieldcraft Exercise, *Long Claw*, also took place in July at Carver Barracks. Cadets put their field camouflage, communication and leadership skills to the test during a number of challenges and a night exercise!



Our cadets recently returned from a full week of fun challenges and activities that took place at the Army Training Centre in Pirbright, Surrey. The camp was absolutely packed with activities including range shooting, climbing, abseiling, an overnight Fieldcraft exercise, museum visits and social activities. Sixty cadets took part from Squadrons including Braintree, Witham and Rivenhall, Chelmsford, Southend and our own 494. A total of 12 cadets obtained their Marksmanship Awards – a big challenge to get 20 rounds inside a two inch circle! We're especially proud of Cadet Jacob Walker for winning the *Most Improved Cadet* award for his hard work and personal development during his time away on camp. A whole lot of new friends made all round. Lots of ideas and plans already brewing for next year's camp!

The latest recruit intake of 12 cadets are progressing well with their basic training and will soon be joining the rest of the Squadron with their well ironed uniforms! We look forward to our next intake at the end of September this year. I would like to invite anyone who lives locally and is aged over 13 to get in touch! If you are aged between 13 and 16 and interested in joining us, contact us for more information: Telephone 681559 Mondays and Fridays 7.15pm-9.30pm (24 hr answer phone) or email [494@aircadets.org](mailto:494@aircadets.org).

Dave Wilding  
Pilot Officer

## THE DOG & DUCK CHARITY NIGHT

On Saturday 10th September from 8.00pm, the Dog and Duck is holding a charity night. The proceeds will be shared between Thomas Lambert (who has Leukaemia) and Stansted Cricket Club (to help with the improvements to their clubhouse disabled facilities). On offer will be chilli, curry, and stew and dumplings – eat as much as you like for only £10. Please support this very worthwhile event.

Sally Banks  
Tel: 812047



## ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

The annual Grove Cottage Summer Party was again hosted by our Club at Martin Mugele and Val's Marston Farm. With the barbecue fired up and the Woodwind of Stortford Band playing, a sizzling time was had by all. It was a special day and a real community atmosphere with Grove Cottage members, Rotarians, friends and family joining in the fun.



A number of members from the Bishop's Stortford Rotary Club joined us at the Lemon Tree for Derek Crowther, our newest member's, career talk. He treated us to an authoritative account of the construction of the Second Severn Crossing that was opened on 5th June 1996 by the Prince of Wales. He was a major player in a civil engineering triumph – it was delivered on budget and on time and it was not only soundly designed but also aesthetically pleasing. The project became a benchmark for large civil engineering projects around the world. We meet Tuesday evenings at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford. Anyone interested in Rotary or wishing to know more please contact me

Peter Latham  
Tel: 507294

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

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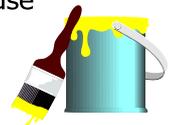
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## Stansted Tennis Club



### Tournament results

The Bristow Junior Doubles trophy was competed for by five pairs on Sunday 17th June. Each pair played seven games against all other pairs and then competed in a seeded knock-out draw. Amidst the heavy downpours, the pairing of Matt Hollis and Conor Hutchinson defeated Felix Rutherford and Trent Williamson in the final. The trophy is played for annually to commemorate the death of Paul Bristow, who was tragically killed in the Twin Towers terrorist attack. This year was especially poignant as it was the 10 year anniversary of Paul's death. Paul's parents, Derek and Win, presented the trophy and commented on how nice it was to see a girls' doubles pairing taking on the boys. So congratulations to Hannah Brown and Helen Carter!

### Court repainting

The courts were closed for four days at the beginning of August so that remedial painting work could be carried out. Thanks for your patience while this was carried out.

### Dates for your diary

**Sunday 11th September (all day)** - Club Finals Day.

**Saturday 17th September (all day)** - Hospital Cup Finals at Henham Tennis Club. The Club will be donating a raffle prize for this event. All monies made by this event go towards The League of Friends of Saffron Walden Community Hospital, which provides support for the Community Hospital and, in particular, Avocet Ward. Our raffle prize this year will be a toiletries hamper, so if anybody would like to donate any soaps, scents, etc, we would be very grateful. Please contact any Committee member.

**Sunday 18th September** - Clower Boy's Singles Tournament.

**Monday 12th September** 7.00pm-10.00pm. Ladies' Night All are welcome!

### Coaching

If you are interested in finding out more about coaching at Stansted Tennis Club, please contact Chris Hollis on 319155 or Martyn Taplin on 816386 (Monday night adult session).

### Used tennis balls

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

### Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions:  
Wednesday from 9.00am and 6.00pm  
Friday from 9.30am. Sunday from 10.00am

### Contacts

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

Chris Hollis



## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Amelie May Garrad was born on 10th July 2011 weighing 11lb 5oz.(!) to parents Helen and David at home in Livings Way, Foresthall Park. Massive thanks to Teresa of Saffron Walden Hospital and Bobby of Harlow Hospital who were the attending midwives at the birth. Thanks also to the Rodings Midwifery Team (based in Stansted) for their fantastic support.

David Garrad

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S



### Radio Controlled Model Exhibition

A reminder that the Moorhen Model Boat Club of Harlow will be displaying their radio controlled boats, tanks, cars, lorries and aeroplanes. All these models are made by hand and take hours or even years to build. So please come along to St Mary's on **Saturday 3rd September** 11.00am-5.00pm. There is something for all the family. Entry is free but donations in aid of St Mary's Church will be gratefully received. Tea and coffee available.

Sally Argent

Secretary

Tel: 812418

Email: argent62@btinternet.com



### Nature Notes

Previously reference has been made to winners and losers resulting from the abnormal weather over the last year or so. A stroll along Pennington Lane and back along Cambridge Road has shown up examples of these among the 30 or so species of trees and shrubs to be seen along the way. For instance, the oaks are mostly laden with acorns whereas the ash trees have barely a seed between them. Most other trees have fruited well and there are lots of nuts, crab apples, sloes, damsons and haws. Most horse chestnuts are afflicted with disease or parasites and it does not look a good year for conkers. Spindle and dogwood bushes have few or no berries. Climbers seem happy with the promise of hops, blackberries, old man's beard and necklaces of red bryony berries this autumn. The poor elm suckers have burgeoned this summer but their lives are short as they succumb to Dutch elm disease. Sadly few birds were seen in spite of the abundance of seeds and fruit. Although we have enjoyed rain the ground is still very dry. If you can see daylight through the base of a hedge in high summer it is an indication of drought. The showing of summer flowers is poor apart from burrs and the yellow ragwort. The orange and black caterpillars of the cinnabar moth feed on ragwort but I only saw five of them on all the hundreds of plants along the road. In fact, comparatively few insects were about; hardly a butterfly or bee, and the gall wasps which have plagued the acorns for the past two years have disappeared. Some little creatures are thriving, however. By the north corner at the junction of High Lane with Cambridge Road there is a colony of hedge snails. Dozens are climbing on the road sign and hundreds more on the grass and leaves nearby.

Felix

### BALLROOM & LATIN DANCE CLASSES

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# ST CLARE HOSPICE

A nurse-led clinic offers both patients and their families the opportunity to discuss their illness, to ask questions and explore and plan care in an extremely positive way. The service, a joint venture between the local hospital and St Clare Hospice, has been a huge success over the past six months and has seen 76% of patients access other hospice services such as Day Therapy, Complementary Therapy and Carers' Support Groups.

Have you signed up for our first Starlight Walk yet? Friday 16th September 8.00pm from Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club. If you cannot manage the five-mile walk, are you able to marshall en route with a friend/husband/partner? This can be just as much fun. Please call Laura Petchey on 773750. Stansted Friends of St Clare Hospice are holding their regular Quality Sale and Jumble in Clavering Village Hall at 2.00pm on Saturday 1st October. If you have any clothes or bric a brac you would like to donate please contact Gill on 815486 (after 20th September). Finally, the Hospice would like to thank the Kings Arms for their continuing support. Their Fun Day on Sunday 28th August promises to be action packed for all the family and I hope you will support all the hard work that has gone into making the day a success.



Caroline Bore  
Secretary of Stansted Friends of St Clare Hospice  
Tel: 813938

## 'SIGNUPTOSING'

'SignuptoSing', the Saffron Walden Youth Choir, is planning a new musical venture for the autumn term. Weekly rehearsals begin on Monday 5th September to prepare for an exciting concert performance on Friday 18th November at St Mary's Church in Saffron Walden. The course offers an appealing mix of contemporary and classical music. A choral medley from the popular 1970s musical 'Godspell' includes 'Prepare ye the Way of the Lord' and 'Day by Day'. These are paired with the well-loved Christmas choruses from Handel's 'Messiah': 'And the Glory of the Lord' and 'For unto us a Child is Born'. Singers aged 8-18 are warmly invited to join this friendly and rapidly expanding choir, directed by local composer and conductor Janet Wheeler. This is a fantastic opportunity for young musicians to make friends and discover the fun of choral singing. Sign up soon by contacting me or by visiting [www.signuptosing.org](http://www.signuptosing.org). 'SignuptoSing' is a youth choir based in Saffron Walden, although it draws singers from primary and secondary schools in the town and surrounding villages, as well as Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. Singers sign up for each particular project, rather than making a longer-term commitment. The choir will be accompanied by the talented 'SignuptoSing' orchestra for the concert performance. Rehearsals for young string players of at least grade 6 standard will be led by Janet Wheeler together with string coach Ysobel Latham. Players contact me for more details.

Steph Green  
Administrator  
Tel: 01799 521614

## STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

13th July saw us back in the comfortable and welcoming surroundings of the Stansted Centre as guests of Weston (Business Centres), which has now generously sponsored the July lunch to promote St Clare Hospice for nine years. It was good to see so many attending the lunch and, in particular, to welcome representatives of Isabel Hospice, which also serves the locality alongside St Clare. Tanya Currie, Acting Chief Executive of St Clare, outlined St Clare's services and aspirations, while her colleague, Louise Hamilton, Manager of St Clare's shops, told us about the trading side of the Hospice's activities, emphasising the enormous contribution made by individual and corporate volunteers, almost 500 people in total. For a number of those present, it was their first experience of a hospice's work and they confessed to having been considerably moved by the presentations. Elizabeth Earl, former President of the Inner Wheel Club of Bishop's Stortford, presented Tanya with a cheque from Inner Wheel which brought the sum raised by the Club during Elizabeth's term as President to over £3,000.

As a Trustee of St Clare, I do urge those who feel that they have something to offer St Clare in terms of time, energy, expertise or, dare I say it, money, to come to Hastingwood (the M11 Harlow exit) to witness the work done and to feel and experience the optimistic and caring ambience of the Hospice. The next lunch is on 21st September.

I was very pleased to be invited to breakfast at Mountfitchet Mathematics & Computing College at which Catherine Anderson, Head Teacher, told us of her ambition to create a constructive link between students and local trades and businesses. The objective is to give students an unblemished insight into the real world of trade and commerce; a world into which they will ultimately step; a world for which students must acquire the skills and qualities as well as the qualifications to ensure success in a very difficult economic climate. If we, the College, local businesses and the students, can work together in this endeavour, we will all serve ourselves well and students will emerge from College with much of what we, as businesses, most need. I invite members of The Lunch Club to consider ways in which they might be able to help and to explore the possibilities with Catherine at [c.anderson@mountfitchet.essex.sch.uk](mailto:c.anderson@mountfitchet.essex.sch.uk).



Alastair Richardson  
Tel: 815959  
Email: [amg.richardson@gmail.com](mailto:amg.richardson@gmail.com)

## Little Hadham Antiques Fair

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## TIGER! TIGER! TIGER! Part 2

You'll remember we had an exciting first jeep drive when we spotted our first tiger in Kanha National Park in India. Each time we entered the park we have an allocated route. This helps to prevent too many vehicles surrounding the animals. No doubt the rules are bent a bit but the principle is good. Each day the first place we aimed for was the area which became known to us as the breakfast stop. Here our guides found out if there will be a 'Tiger Show', where we had the opportunity to have an elephant ride to see tigers close up. If tigers have a successful hunt overnight they generally gorge as much as they can, up to 30kgs in one go apparently, and then lay up for the morning. The mahouts knew, roughly, where they might be and if they found one, and it wasn't too far off the tracks, the 'Tiger Show' is on.

So up we climbed onto the elephant and we're off. After a short walk we arrived at the edge of a gully. On a ledge in the gully was the same tiger we had seen on our first trip guarding the remains of his kill, which was a gaur. The mahout positioned the elephant so we were able to get a good look and some great photo opportunities. Then it was a short walk back to dismount.



Alarm calls of langur monkey and chittal (spotted deer) are a sure sign of the presence of tiger or leopard. Word was passed from driver to driver that a kill had been found. We headed towards the area full of expectations of seeing another tiger. On arrival we saw only crows and jackals on the fresh carcass of a spotted deer. There were also vultures in the trees gathering for their turn at the pickings. No sign of tigers though, so we went off exploring elsewhere.

Later that afternoon we returned to the same area and saw a female tiger heading towards the carcass. Unimpressed that most of it had been eaten by scavengers she emitted a low growl and chased off a jackal and several crows and vultures that had been helping themselves to a free meal!



Over the next six days we ventured into the national park and were lucky enough to see one of the female's three adolescent cubs on a couple of occasions and had more 'Tiger Shows' where we got to within three metres of them! We managed to get a good view of a leopard a couple of times too. The bird life is too numerous to list here, but of the 380 or so species that inhabit the park we managed to see 145 of them, plus many types of butterflies and insects. Favourites here were the Indian roller (magnificent colours in flight), Malabar pied hornbill (a huge bird and relatively rare in Kanha), green bee eater (against the sun it looks golden in colour), the wonderfully named greater racket-tailed drongo and the many types of raptor. We also saw jackal, wild boar and even a flying squirrel - which our guide was as excited about as we were - he hadn't seen one in the park for two years, and we saw it 'fly' too!

We had been hopeful of seeing tigers on this trip, they're not guaranteed, but our hopes had been fulfilled and then some! Eventually, after seven busy but exciting days, we had to leave Kanha and our return journey took a detour via Agra, to visit the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, before being taken back to Delhi airport for our flight home.

Sheila and Alan Bowles

## SELF ASSESSMENT PENALTIES – CHANGES FOR THE WORSE!

From our standpoint, the coalition government is using a wide range of methods to collect money in various ways, from taxpayers. We have certainly noticed an increase in the somewhat 'threatening' tone of communications that clients have received for overdue payments, even for very small amounts.

Another thing that HM Revenue and Customs has recently reviewed is the penalty system for late submission of Self Assessment tax return forms. Previously, if you were slightly late submitting your return then it would cost you £100. If you were quite late, then a further £100 would have been charged. However, if you were late submitting your return, and you either owed no tax, or were due a refund, then HMRC could not charge you a penalty under normal circumstances. This has all changed, and not for the better! An initial penalty of the same amount will still be charged, and after this, a daily penalty will be imposed. This will run up to three months after the deadline for submission, so could result in a fine of £900. After this, there will be a further penalty of a flat rate of £300 or 5% of the tax lost, whichever is higher. And, surprise, surprise, these penalties will apply to all taxpayers, even those that don't owe any tax for the year, or are due a refund. These changes are a most unwelcome addition. The pressure to ensure that your Self Assessment tax return form is submitted promptly has never been higher, and the penalty regime will certainly mean that everyone's attention should be focussed, for fear of the expensive consequences!

For any discussions on these points, or other matters, please call either Jeremy Fozzard or Mark Williams.

Mark Williams  
Mansell and Co LLP  
Tel: 658499

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## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

\*\*\*\*\*

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS - LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS

#### Why care about planning?

If you care about where you live, you should care about planning. Planning is simply about where stuff goes. It's about stopping the wrong things being built in the wrong places and making sure the right things are built in the right places. The Government is in the process of shaking up the planning system. Currently making its way through Parliament is the localism bill. Once enacted it will do away with Regional Planning targets and will introduce the concept of Neighbourhood Plans. The Government says these will provide an opportunity for local people to 'shape development in their areas rather than being dictated to'. The idea is that proposals for say new housing will be pulled together in a neighbourhood plan, funded with a modest government grant. Once complete the plan will have to be approved by parishioners in a local referendum. It will then become an 'order' and gain legitimacy. However, it has been noted that the words development and business occur in the bill 340 times, the word countryside just four.

The Parish Council has met with Uttlesford's head of planning on two occasions recently. The District Council is keen for Stansted to develop our own Neighbourhood Plan. Newport Parish Council and Saffron Walden Town Council have also been approached.

#### What are Neighbourhood Plans?

- Initiated and led by the community
- Not compulsory - you don't have to do it and it won't always make sense for your area
- About shaping new development - not stopping it
- Become part of the planning policy against which applications will be assessed
- Need to be in line with national and local planning policy.
- Prepared following a statutory planning process

#### How does a Neighbourhood Plan differ from a Parish Plan?

- They are all plans for the future of an area but their purposes and status are very different
- The recently adopted Parish Plan would provide the starting point for a Neighbourhood Plan

Planning policy is a state of flux which carries potential threats to Stansted. Uttlesford like so many other local authorities does not yet have a core strategy. This sets out the number of houses the district requires and where they should be built. A neighbourhood plan is an opportunity to influence the core strategy. However, the presumption behind such a plan is that they would help to bring forward development. Professional help would be required to establish likely planning gains. The Parish Council is very aware that this community has already taken significant development with the development at Foresthall Park. The Parish Council always accepted that there will be organic additions (such as at Sworders Yard) within village development limits. Further large development could not be accepted until long after Foresthall Park was completed.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Head of Planning at Uttlesford District Council commented on the downside of not producing a neighbourhood plan namely that Stansted would lose the direct ability to guide development in the village. Uttlesford District Council would produce its Core Strategy and consult in the usual way.

#### What next?

The Parish Council is keen to hear residents' views about whether or not a neighbourhood plan should be prepared. At a meeting in the autumn which as normal will be open to the public, the Parish Council will take a decision. Further information on Neighbourhood Plans is available on request. Your views are eagerly awaited.

## AIRPORT RELATED PARKING - NO EASY SOLUTIONS

The Parish Council, individual councillors and the police receive numerous complaints about airport and commuter related parking. Given a regular rail service and the twenty-four hour bus service (no. 510) through Foresthall Park to the airport, it is not surprising that this village, particularly in the roads convenient for such transport, is an attractive proposition for people seeking cheap parking.

Provided parking is legally permitted, ie vehicles are not parked on yellow lines, approaches to pedestrian crossings and are not causing an obstruction, there is no action that the police or any council can take (unless the vehicle is untaxed). No residential house or flat has any legal right to park outside their own property.

However, if you can identify airport relating parking and support this with evidence including photos confirming location and time, then phone the Airport line on 0800 731 2385.

Once there is evidence that there is a substantive problem, then BAA and other authorities will support the introduction of parking restrictions as has happened in Takeley. The type of restriction, which is effective in tackling the problem and is able to be enforced, is a one-hour no parking restriction. Note, however, that no parking in this period would also apply to residents or their visitors.

The other aspect of such action which would need discussion is the danger of moving the problem from one area to another. Given the undesirability of placing extensive parking restrictions through much of the village as well as the likelihood that these could not be enforced, it will need to be a regular and significant problem rather than an occasional event.

Sorry not to offer any simple and speedy solutions. It is likely, however, that action will need to be taken in some areas but only after consultation. There is no desire to make residents feel that the medicine would be worse than the disease!!

## FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

To continue with our explanation of Parish Council finances, this month we focus on the F&GP Committee. This committee is responsible for the running of the Parish Council offices, the Crafton Green complex, publicity and most other matters not related to Open Spaces.

The table below summarises the main areas covered:

	2010/11	2011/12 Budget
Salaries/NI/Pensions	77,463	80,625
Rates	7,319	10,000
Insurance	7,541	9,000
Telephone/Broadband/ Stationery	2,779	2,750
Publicity - The Link/Website	5,775	4,400
Fees	6,687	4,600
CCTV	4,000	4,000
Crafton Green House	4,985	2,500
Other expenditure	10,713	6,900
Other income	38,819	39,500

To put some flesh on the bones the figures above include the following:

- Salaries cover the Clerk, Assistant, cleaning, litter collection and any casual labour. For the current year there is an allowance for an additional part-time staff member included.
- Rates are paid on the Crafton green complex and the Windmill.
- Insurance, in addition to covering the above, is paid for lighting, bins seats, the fountain area, play areas plus possible liabilities relating to staff and councillors.
- Fees include payments for professional services including legal & audit (internal & external) and bank charges.
- CCTV cost is an annual fee paid to Uttlesford District Council for a maintenance contract. This is not good value and funding is being sought for a new system.
- Crafton Green House represents the net income after costs are deducted from the rent and share of expenses received from the clinic.
- Other expenditure includes a miscellany of items such as fireworks, staff training, members expenses and cleaning materials.
- Other income largely consists of clinic rent and costs, library rent, firework income, donations and interest.

Looking ahead major changes are set to take place. With the whole of the Foresthall Park estate set to become part of this parish at the end of March 2012, with the anticipated move, all fingers crossed, of the clinic to the new health centre, perhaps by the end of 2013 or shortly after (!!) and with the likely closure of the police station,

(how can we retain a police presence in the village), there is much work to be done and issues to be resolved.

Three points may be left for consideration at this state:

- A larger population and area will need to be serviced. Discussions are underway to provide a better library service, a police reception and a community information service. At this stage an additional part-time member of staff has been included in the budget (only six months in this year). In addition the sterling efforts of Gerard Frogley will need to be supported with help at Foresthall Park.
- The move of the clinic to the new health centre (hopefully) will mean the loss of rent but will enable the Parish Council to move to the ground floor thus complying with disability legislation.
- The ownership of the Day Centre building will entail costs such as rates, insurance and maintenance. Negotiations are in train with Uttlesford District Council to agree a financial contribution to cover these costs.

However, in considering the funds needed to provide buildings and services, there are potential funds available from a number of sources as well as the rising council tax contribution from Foresthall Park. It is early days but the anticipation is that much of this funding will not be extracted from your parish pockets - if correct we will all be pleased and benefit.

## **CHINESE LANTERNS**

It has been brought to our attention that Chinese Lanterns have been spotted in the sky locally. These can be a fire hazard and are a particular threat to crops and thatched properties. The Fire Brigade have expressed their concern so if you are sending these lanterns skyward please be aware of the danger and damage they could cause.

## **HEALTH CENTRE UPDATE - HOLD YOUR BREATH!**

At a meeting on the 20 July, Pelham Structures, the developers, indicated that it was their intention to submit a planning application before the end of July, while the Primary Care Trust confirmed that the Castle Lotus site in Lower Street remained its preferred option and that the financial budget for the project was in place and approved by the Board.

The major issue which continues to cause concern relates to highways with Essex County Council unwilling to communicate any firm conclusions ahead of the submission of the planning application.

The other site at Foresthall Park is now considered by the Primary Care Trust to be too small. However, should the scheme at Lower Street not proceed, this conclusion may need to be reviewed.

**Note:** Since the meeting, Pelham Structures have appointed new highway consultants. Planning application likely to be delayed until the end of September.

## **RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME AND OTHER MATTERS**

Essex County Council highways have informed us that the Residents' Parking Scheme for Lower Street and Grove Hill should be implemented in the second half of September.

At the same time as putting in the relevant signage, it is intended to undertake some highway repair work on Grove Hill and the re-painting of the faded road markings on Lower Street and the pedestrian crossing on Chapel Hill. In order for some of these works to be undertaken, Grove Hill will be closed to traffic on two Sundays, probably at the end of August or early September.

At the same time lines will be painted on part of Church Road, entrance to Spencer Close and Crafton Green.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PUBLIC MEETING** ***[www.stanstednhw.org.uk](http://www.stanstednhw.org.uk)***

The next Public meeting of NhW will be on Wednesday 26 October 2011 in the Stansted Free Church Hall at 7.30 pm. At our last meeting in May it was requested from the floor that we should meet again in October rather than leave a full year between meetings. To ensure that we meet twice a year we need to show that this is enough public support for this request to be taken on board.

## **NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Housing and benefits are two services from Uttlesford that are important to many people in Stansted. I have received complaints about the standard of customer care. It would be helpful to hear from anyone who has similar concerns. People who want a home from the council or housing association have now to apply by regis-

tering with the HomeOption 'choice based letting scheme' using the internet website [www.homeoption.org](http://www.homeoption.org). This scheme is used by several local councils. Some allow applications to use a standard paper application form. The website says 'Uttlesford District Council only accepts applications via the on-line form'. However, it is possible for applicants without internet access or who have difficulty completing on-line questionnaires to get someone at the council to take details over the telephone. Have you found this works ok? Have you had problems registering? Please let me know.

Recipients of council tax and housing (rent) benefits have to tell the council if their financial circumstances change. This is to allow the council to reassess their entitlement. However, what happens is that the benefit payments are suspended whilst council officers re-calculate the payments. This can take up to two months and has been causing major financial stress to some people. Have you experienced this difficulty or do you know someone whose benefits have ceased and then resumed after a long break? Please let me know.

**District Councillor Alan Dean**

## NEWS FROM ESSEX POLICE

Can we remind residents to lock their cars and to keep any valuable in the car out of sight. Over the last few weeks we have suffered a number of thefts from insecure vehicles. Thieves are taking advantage of these easy targets and stealing items such as Sat Navs, any other electrical items and money.

The Beat Surgery dates are as follows: 6 October 3 November, 1 and 29 December - all Thursdays held in Stansted Library - 2.00 - 4.00 pm.

## DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Open Spaces - 7 September  
 Full Council - 14 September  
 Full Council - 28 September

## CONTACT DETAILS

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

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<i>candbstiles@tiscali.co.uk</i>	
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<i>prtvt@btinternet.com</i>	

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### Essex County Council Member

<i>Ray Gooding</i>	Tel: 01279 813103
Email: <a href="mailto:cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk">cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk</a>	

### Member of Parliament

*The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP*  
 House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
 Tel: 0207 219 5214/Fax: 0207 219 5600  
 Email: [alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk)

### Police

<i>PC Tom Bastendorff</i>	Tel: 01279 812211
Non-emergency number*	0300 333 4444
<i>PCSO's (Stuart/Kelly)</i>	Tel: 07801 461 666



## STANSTED IN BLOOM

On Saturday 16th July the winners of Stansted in Bloom 2011 met to receive their well-earned prizes and certificates. Despite the dry weather, the residents who had entered their gardens this year, managed to produce some beautiful hanging baskets, tubs and floral displays. First prize was won by Cyril Stoneham of Bentfield End, followed by Jenny Wraith of Foresthall Park (2nd prize) and Mandy Telford of Cawkell Close (3rd prize). Eight businesses in Stansted sponsored the competition this year, enabling the remaining participants: Rosemary Thomson, The Dog and Duck public house, Samantha Dunn, Claire Crommie and Joan Grose to also receive a prize and certificate. Recognition was also given to Yuva, Chimneys and the Cock public house in the form of a certificate designed especially for this year's competition by The Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College. We thank them for their support in this way. We would also like to thank the judges for this year - Anne Berrisford and Diane Newland. The effort of all who participated in any way is much appreciated and we hope that next year many more gardens and displays will be entered, making our village a pleasure for all to enjoy.

The following are the businesses who sponsored the competition: Orion Heating, Intercounty, Boots, B & R Carpets, Richard Handford (Chiroprapist), Steve Golding, Lan One Computers and Emily's Flowers, and we very much appreciate their involvement and interest. Once again You're Furnished and the Co-op are going to sponsor our local schools and we thank them for their support. Our thanks also go to St Mary's C of E Primary School for their colourful posters advertising the competition.

Cllr Valerie Trundle



Photo: Tudor Owen

## KERBSIDE TEXTILES RECYCLING

Uttlesford District Council will shortly be trialling textiles recycling across the district. Special recycling bags and explanatory leaflets are currently being distributed. Any residents who have problems with missed collections, fortnightly with the green bins, or do not receive bags or leaflets should contact Essex Textiles on their freephone number 0800 787 9071.



ME S S E  
E

Moving, inspiring, informative and entertaining are the words that spring to mind when recalling the recent visit of Mr Barry O'Connell, his wife Jenny and their dog Guy, a delightful black retriever. The subject of the talk was 'Canine Partners' and the amazing changes that a canine partner can bring in the lives of a disabled person and their family. In the space of an afternoon, we heard about the origins of Canine Partners which began in America. Mr O'Connell described how an occupational therapist came to his home to assess his needs and the environment in which the dog would be living, and explain how training sessions are arranged at the Canine Partners Centre in West Sussex. Here the prospective human partners are shown how to look after and play with the dog, and take him for walks - as the dog is allowed one hour a day for walks and play time and 'just being a dog time'. Training is also given in how to handle different situations and environments such as supermarkets, parks, restaurants, hospitals and pubs. After the training sessions, the partners go back home supported by after care assistants who visit regularly and supervise the partnership during the settling in period. We were then told about just a few of the amazing ways in which Guy helps him, from waking him, fetching his clothes, opening and closing doors, switching lights on and off and helping him undress - taking over about 80% of the duties that Mrs O'Connell had to do. We were given a very enlightening demonstration of Guy's skills - picking up tins, packets, a crutch, dropped keys, mobile phone, pen and even handing over a purse to Mrs O'Connell in her role as shop assistant. He then demonstrated how he switched lights on and off! Afterwards, Guy was invited to draw the first raffle ticket which he did very carefully! Other subjects on the horizon include 'A tour of Grandad's garden' in September and the Nazeing Handbell Ringers in December for a festive finale. If this rings your bell why not come and join us - you would be very welcome! We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922



## Huw Johnson Club

In spite of the heavy showers, Hannah's annual garden party went ahead as usual, with Hannah's wonderful lunch. The raffle had so many prizes that almost everyone won a prize. One family brought along a giant tortoise and we were invited to guess its weight. The poor tortoise spent most of the day trying to escape into the adjoining field, and who could blame him? Thankfully you did not actually win the tortoise if you guessed correctly! A very big thank you to Hannah, Chris, Joanne and all the family for a lovely event which raised over £1000 for the Club. Thanks also to an anonymous donor for a £300 cheque and the Stansted Lodge of Instruction for £100. We are very grateful for the Lodge's continuing support. We enjoyed our outing to Dunwich on August 20th when we feasted on delicious fish and chips.

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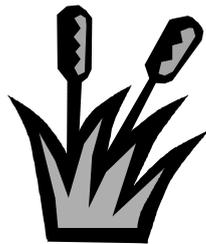
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I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the recently formed Foresthall Park Residents' Association. I have been living in Foresthall Park for nearly two years now, and whilst it became clear that loose networks of friends and neighbours existed, myself and a few others thought that it would be beneficial to have a more formal residents' association. The objectives of the new association would be to:

Act as a focal point for residents to raise issues and concerns relating to Foresthall Park.

Provide a clear channel of communication regarding these matters to and from the Stansted Parish Council and other relevant bodies.

Ensure Foresthall Park is a good place to live - promoting neighbourliness and community spirit

Help Foresthall Park become firmly established within the broader village community.

To get the ball rolling we dropped leaflets through the door of every home on Foresthall Park to gauge interest and on 12th July we held our first meeting with those people that expressed an interest. It was well attended and my thanks must go to the MMCC for hosting us and three of our local Stansted district councillors (Alan Dean, Iris Evans and John Salmon) who also attended, demonstrating their commitment to the development and its residents. We have now formed a committee and are working hard to address the issues and concerns raised by the residents. In terms of issues raised, there was general agreement over the main ones (not necessarily the solutions!). These ranged from the need for litter/dog waste bins to the more complex issues such as pedestrian safety along Church Road and parking/traffic issues on Walson Way. As a result, the committee have chosen to prioritise those issues connected to safety as well as those that we consider quick(ish!) wins.

Of course, there are always hurdles and it may be of interest to those who were not at the meeting to learn that (at time of writing) all of Foresthall Park is still owned by the three developers. This means that the Stansted and Birchanger Parish Councils cannot yet legally spend any money on the development. This situation should change soon as parts of the development are handed over but no dates have been set. This is further complicated by the parish boundary changes that come into effect on 1st April 2012 (presently approx 2/3 of Foresthall Park is in the Birchanger Parish and after this date, it will all fall under the Stansted Parish). In the interim, we encourage all residents to urge the developers to pay a little more attention to the maintenance of the communal areas that they are presently responsible for – there is little point in landscaping an area unless it is maintained or building a playground that is not kept tidy. The plan is to provide monthly updates in the 'Link', create a dedicated website and send out updates to those who have provided their contact details. We will arrange another meeting in a few months time. In the meantime, if you would like further information on who we are or what we're doing then please get in touch.

Stephen Berry  
Chairman

Tel: 647652

Email: s.berry@mac.com

Little Scrummers Rugby is an exciting idea based on non-contact rugby for girls and boys aged 2-6 years. Our aim is to introduce younger children into the game of rugby at an earlier age, by equipping them with the skills that they can develop later at school or at club level, or just to simply **HAVE FUN!** We are a small family-run business based in Stansted, with classes in Harlow, Chelmsford and Maldon. We started running classes in 2009 and are so excited to be finally bringing our classes to our community in Stansted after hoping to do so since last year! We strive to give the children the attention they deserve and being a small company means that we really do know the children and their parents on a one-to-one basis. Our coaches are all hand selected by us and we know them all personally. We are CRB checked, and fully insured. Our classes start in Stansted on 3rd September in St John's Church Hall. We want you to enjoy what we do and for you all to have fun! Please register for a **FREE TRIAL** with us. Please telephone or email us, or take a look at our website [www.littlescrummers.com](http://www.littlescrummers.com).

Carly and Andy Poyser

Tel: 07543 330713

Email: [mail@littlescrummers.com](mailto:mail@littlescrummers.com)

## HARGRAVE HOUSE

I would like to give a huge thank you to all who attended Hargrave House's Summer Fete on 23rd July. We raised £1,419 for the residents' fund. At one point we thought it was going to rain but the weather was on our side.



I would also like to say a big thank you to all who helped with the preparation - so much time and effort goes into organising such an event – and also to those who gave all the lovely donations for our raffle and tombola stall - you are all very kind. We have had our residents meeting and have decided that we need a new chicken coop and we are going to do a sensory garden, which all residents will benefit from. Once again thank you for supporting us, and we look forward to seeing you all next year. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Stella Papworth  
Activities Co-Ordinator

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September brings the start of the new school year and if like me you have a child starting school for the first time, the new school term will bring with it a mixture of emotions. Pride at watching my little girl start on her first day and disbelief at where the last four plus years have gone! All of our school holiday events were a great success and thank you to all the NCT members who organised the activities. The photograph



shows the fruit picking morning that took place with a picnic afterwards. The children had great fun picking the fruit and running around the grounds. Amongst the general gossip, Mums also discussed how they would be using the fruit from purees for babies to summer fruit muffins.

Are you friends with your local NCT branch on Facebook? By liking us you will then receive reminders of our planned events. Fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates? Why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings, which are informal gatherings held in member's homes. Each age group is individually tailored for: Bumps and Babes, Toddlers and Pre-school. We would love to meet you and it is a great way to make new friends.

**Additional events for this month** - all our events are for members and non-members – for further information on any of the following or our weekly coffee mornings, please contact me.

For all ages – Friday 2nd September Henham Church Hall 10.00am Tea and Toys with Phoenix Cards

For Mums and Dads – Tuesday 13th September 8.00pm Branch Social Meeting.

Anna Sedgbeer  
Tel: 812257

## SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect  
of the night sky



### Rest in Peace, Space Shuttles

After 135 launches the Americans have decided to retire the fleet of shuttles and with that the decision to almost completely cease manned flight after nigh on 50 years. There will still be American astronauts going to and from the International Space Station but they will all go via the services of the USSR at a cost of 60 million dollars per return trip. The shuttle standing, ready for lift off, against the launch tower was such a huge, ungainly looking 'lump' it seemed unlikely that it could move anywhere, let alone upwards. But we know it will. The three main engines take just over eight seconds to reach full power; fuel flowing from the huge orange tank which also supplies the liquid oxygen that allows the fuel to burn. With that power the solid fuel rockets ignite with almost instant full power and 3000 tons of metal starts to rise, using nearly ten tons of fuel a second. After around five minutes the solid boosters run out and are ejected (they are later picked out of the Atlantic Ocean) and a lighter shuttle carries on accelerating to the point when the main tank is all but empty and ejected (it will start to fall but burns up in re-entry to the atmosphere) as the shuttle alone reaches orbital speed of about 17,000 mph.

The shuttle can seat up to seven astronauts and as most of the shuttles' work over the last five years has been the transfer of personnel to and from the International Space Station (ISS), it was usually full in each direction. But before all of this to-ing and fro-ing, the vast bay in the shuttle was used many times to take up new sections of the station. This was an enormous project and required astronauts to acquire new skills in connecting cables and bolting together large bits of metal that have to be absolutely airtight, in a deadly environment. And they have, but not without a few worries, not least of which is letting the tool out of your hand. Some are caught but the others get away. The getaways have to be watched for some time to make sure they float away from the whole volume of the ISS and the shuttle. So far, so very good. Next month will continue with the space shuttle, including 'Things You Didn't Know'.

Martin West



## RUGGERBUGS

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Norman Lamb, MP for North Norfolk, is visiting Stansted on Thursday 8th September, and will be at the Day Centre from 7.00pm for informal talks. A light buffet will be available, and everyone is welcome. Please bring your own drinks.

Ruth Rawlinson  
Tel: 814222

## TRY A RELAXED APPROACH TO LABOUR?

While most women of my age have their minds on having babies, starting a family was never part of my plan. In fact, I found the thought of getting pregnant so terrifying, I decided to give motherhood a miss altogether; because, like the actress, Helen Mirren, I suffer from tokophobia, a morbid fear of childbirth. Then, one morning, my worst nightmare became a reality when I discovered I was pregnant. It was then I came across Hypnobirthing. I was sceptical, convinced that nothing anyone said could help me to overcome my fear. We were taught how to visualise our birth, shown breathing techniques, told how our bodies work and did lots of relaxation exercises. After a while, I began to feel less anxious.

One of the best techniques I learned was to imagine the contractions as waves and use this with the breathing. Most women fight against contractions but if you go with them, they are much less painful. When I went into labour, I laughed, and went back to sleep. Four hours later my waters broke so we went to the hospital. I managed to get through my back-to-back labour as something clicked inside me and I used the techniques automatically. I wasn't scared, I focused on what I'd been visualising over the previous months. I felt calm, in control and without fear. I wasn't fighting my body or giving into the fear, so I had a relatively easy time and as soon as I saw my son Roni, I melted with joy. I love the hypnobirthing philosophy and believe all women should have the opportunity to use it. I now teach classes in the Stansted area, as I love and believe in it so much. Having our two (yes, two!) children was the best thing we ever did, and I felt cheated I had spent so many years too scared to give birth. If you would like to learn more, please contact me.

Debs King  
Local Practitioner

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There is always something new going on at Spangles and during the holiday season we are organising an improved timetable for September. We are pleased to announce the partnership working between Spangles and Integrated Support Services. Tuesday 13th September will see the start of a weekly drop-in session from 10.00am-12 noon, which aims to support the successful integration and settlement of migrant families, refugees and other ethnic minority families. It will be a fantastic opportunity to play and have fun with the children in a multicultural environment, but at the same time parents of young children will be able to make friends and share experiences. The aim is to provide information and support for migrant families to help them settle into the community and encourage the English language to be learned and used which will be so beneficial to the children when they attend school. The group will of course welcome all nationalities and we hope that adults and children alike will help with translation and understanding where it is needed.

#### Polish

Zapraszamy wszystkie rodziny z dziećmi poniżej 5 roku życia od 13 wrzesnia do Spangles Children Centre w kazdy wtorek od 10-12.

Jesli chcialby dowiedziec sie wiecej prosimy o kontakt ISS lub Spangles Children Centre.

#### Portuguese

O artigo acima é um convite para famílias com crianças menores de 5 anos para vir ao Centro Spangles infantil nas manhãs de terça-feira. Se você quiser o artigo inteiro traduzido em seu idioma, por favor contate com o Atendimento Integrado ou Centro Spangles infantil sobre os números acima '

For more information please call Integrated Support Services on 639442, or contact Spangles on the number below.

Mandy Fitchett  
Co-ordinator  
Tel: 812348

## STANSTED DAY CENTRE

We are now showing films after lunch on most Fridays. Come and join us for a delicious two-course lunch and then enjoy the film on our widescreen television in the company of others. Afternoon tea is served half way through and we provide a selection of home baked cakes. Internet access is available at The Day Centre on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. IT support and tuition are available or we have computers that you can use privately. If there are any keen gardeners out there, we are looking for people to help us maintain our new vegetable garden. We have a large area that will need regular care. We are also on the hunt for raffle prizes for various events that we have planned, so if you have any unwanted gifts or anything lying around that you don't want, please think of us. Age Concern Toenail Cutters will be at The Day Centre on 18th October; to book an appointment please call 01245 423334. The Day Centre is also available for hire, with a large dining hall, well equipped kitchen and office available at very competitive rates.

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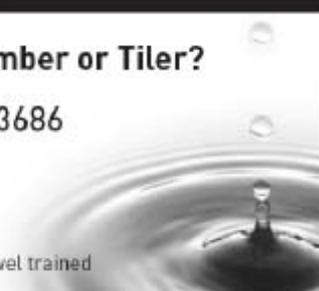
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## THE CLOTH CAP BRIGADE!

Every year or two a group of Stansted Scouts, old guys and old mates, nicknamed 'the cloth cap brigade' get together in Stansted. They are organised by ex Choirmaster and Scout Leader, Keith Turner, assisted by one or two other ancient gentlemen. Most are Stansted and ex-Stansted residents round about the 70 year old mark (not all!). On Friday 22nd July about 20 hardy senior gentlemen, some coming from as far afield as Ireland (John 'Spud' Murray), Norfolk and other far flung parts of the globe, met at the Scout Hut in Water Lane. There they had light refreshments and took part in a competition involving the manufacture of catapults and using the finished articles to aim at a cluster of tins. As I recall Barry Francis and team won this (somehow!). We walked to Gall End and along the public footpath past the old stables where we remembered Paddy Hutley, a well-known village character from our youth. Next stop was The Cock, which is very close to the fountain, a favourite spot where we used to meet to take photographs of the group. Things have changed on the fountain and the seats are no longer there, but we have fond memories of the fountain where elderly gentlemen from the village used to sit and watch the world go by!



After food and liquid refreshment at the pub we made our way to Hargrave Park Sports Ground where we had arranged a bowls competition. Great skills were displayed with a wealth of experience to call on. We then proceeded to Sandra and Keith Ayres' residence for a film show of past times in the Scouts. The next visit was to the lovely St Mary's Church for our usual paying of respects to Old Comrades. This was a particularly emotional time for many of us as we had just received the news that Bill Barker, a much loved and valued friend to many people in the village, had passed away. We then exercised our vocal chords with a spirited rendition of Jerusalem accompanied by Keith Turner on the revitalised organ. In the evening most of us met at the beautiful Ugley Chequers for a splendid meal and an exchange of many more memories (and one or two pints). As previously reported in the 'Link' this is a regular event and it says a lot for the village and the old Scout Group, that this is organised and enjoyed by all 'the cloth cap brigade' who attend.

Richard Pollard

### UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

**Saturday 17th September**

10.00am-12 noon

**Ugley Village Hall**

*Lots of tasty food for autumn plus crafts and refreshments. See you there!*



## Stansted Cricket Club

Our successful league season has continued with the 1st XI top of Division 2 with 11 wins and two abandoned matches after the first fifteen Saturdays. The 2nd XI is fourth in Division 6 with seven wins and three rain-abandoned matches. After a series of cancellations the Sunday XI won its third match on 24th July, beating Stocking Pelham by one wicket. The annual President's XI match on 31st July saw the home side dismissed for 156 (C Kirby 65, D Hedge 5-45) and comprehensively beaten by five wickets (R Selby 70 no). Personal batting achievements this month include C Kirby (118 and 55), B Sammons (72) and M Cope (62 no). The best bowling performances belonged to J Prichard (5-41).

We have applied for funding for our pavilion extension and hope to hear in the next two weeks. As a fundraiser the Club is holding a Quiz Evening at 7.30pm on Friday 30th September in St John's Church Hall. Club members can buy advance tickets (£5, including pizza and garlic bread) from Ian Parsons (07540 082003) or Matt Cope (07877 481640). There will be a licensed bar in operation. Donations of raffle prizes are very welcome. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring 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

*music@stansted*

Calling new members! We are always delighted to welcome new members to join music@stansted. Next season's programme starts on Saturday 15th October at 7.30pm in St John's Church, when the English Chamber Orchestra's programme will include Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons'. That is followed on Sunday 11th December at 3.00pm by Katy Bray, mezzo-soprano, and William Vann, piano. The fast-emerging Piatti String Quartet come on Sunday 29th January 2012 at 3.00pm; and on Saturday 17th March at 7.30pm we shall be welcoming back one of this country's finest violinists, Jack Liebeck. A big attraction of becoming a member for the season is a discount equivalent to at least a third off the door ticket price of £12. We have held the cost of membership for the last three years at Individual £32, Concession (over 60s and university and college students) £30. To join (or renew), please send a cheque payable to Music at Stansted, together with a note of your name(s), address, telephone number, and email address (if you wish to be placed on our mailing list for information) to: The Membership Secretary, c/o 25 Chantry Road, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 2SD. For more information about us please visit our website – [www.musicatstansted.com](http://www.musicatstansted.com) or email us on [info@musicatstansted.com](mailto:info@musicatstansted.com). Tickets for the October concert: adults £12, children £1, from Stansted Carpets, Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford, Sonia Levy tel 815282, or at the door.

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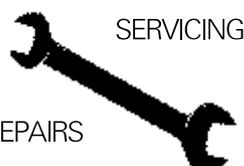
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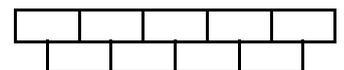
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# MOUNTFITCHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



## Head Boy and Head Girl

Congratulations to Jacob Walker and Jessie Smith (both formerly of Bentfield Primary School) on being appointed as Head Boy and Head Girl for 2011/2012. They are joined by Deputy Head Boy, Bradley Kaye (St Mary's Hatfield Broad Oak Primary) and Deputy Head Girl, Lydia Treend (Takeley Primary). We wish them well in their year of office.

Catherine Anderson  
Headteacher

## News of former student

Congratulations to James Berry (Head Boy at MMCC in 2003/2004) who has graduated from Anglia Ruskin University with a 1st Class Honours Degree in Electronic Engineering. This is a superb achievement by James who attended St Mary's C of E Primary before MMCC and completed his A levels at Long Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge. He has received a job offer from a leading global consultancy company in the automotive industry.

Mr P Smith  
Deputy Headteacher

## Year 8 Trip to France

The four-day visit was action-packed, with trips to a sweet factory, a chocolate factory, the beach, a hypermarket, a French market and a bakers, where the children made their own croissants, and received a croissant and a petit pain au chocolat to take away. A highlight of the trip was a visit to Parc Astérix, near Paris. On our last evening, we took a walk through the village to the local church, where we placed a silk flower on the War Grave of a solitary British soldier, who died in 1916. The village is on the very edge of the



Somme area and we do not know why Private Bellamy is buried in a normal graveyard so far from the War Cemeteries found throughout that region. Staff and students alike had a rewarding trip during which the students had to complete a workbook, and prizes will be awarded for the best ones at a later date.

Mrs T Huckerby  
Modern Foreign Languages Department

## MMCC Open Evening

Open Evening for prospective students and parents for entry in September 2012 is on Tuesday 20th September from 6.00pm-9.00pm. Head Teacher, Catherine Anderson, will be speaking in the Hall at 6.15pm and 7.15pm. Informal tours of the College between 9.15am and 11.00am are available on the same day; formal tours on Thursdays and Fridays by appointment; please call Ann Williams on 813384.

## MMCC PTA Boot Sale

25th September 11.00am-2.00pm. Sellers from 10.00am. Pitches £7 cars, £12 vans and lorries. Pay on the day. Buyers from 11.00am-2.00pm. Hot snacks available. Please phone Tina on 814371 or Yvonne on 813071.

Ruth Martin  
www.mmccpta.org.uk



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Paul Beard travelled from Kent to tell us about his fundraising work with Barnardo's and some of its history. Thomas Barnardo was born in Dublin in 1845 and he converted to protestant evangelism and decided to come to London in order to train as a medical missionary in China. He was so affected by discovering children sleeping on roofs and in gutters that he decided to devote his life to destitute children. He opened his first Home for Boys in Stepney in 1870. A sign was put above the door 'No destitute child ever refused admission'. A Village Home in Barkingside was opened in 1876 for 1500 girls. Barnardo's still run residential schools but homes and orphanages ceased about 30 years ago. There were several in East Anglia and some members remember visiting them. Thomas married in 1873 and had seven children including one with Down's Syndrome, which influenced him in the care of disabled children. He never qualified as a doctor and the name of the Charity changed from Dr Barnardo's to Barnardo's in 1988. These days Barnardo's works directly with over 100,000 children and their families each year running vital projects including counselling for children who have been abused, fostering, and disability inclusion groups. It has come a long way in less than 150 years and fundraising is very important; one of its main sources is via legacies, and the Free Will Scheme.

Our competition for a christening robe produced some lovely family gowns, many over 100 years old, which had been worn by the present owners - not originally of course! Four of our members entered items in the recent 'At Home with the WI' event in Saffron Walden and were awarded gold, silver and red stars for their embroidery, tapestry and photography, including our secretary, who also gained a silver award for her garden in 'Stansted in Bloom' for which we congratulate her. Five blankets have been taken to the Isabel Hospice made from knitted squares and 60 tea tokens sent to the Yorkshire Tea Rainforest Project.

The next meeting called 'Members Day' is on 8th September at 7.45pm in St John's Hall, and is run by non-Committee members - designed to give the present Committee a rest and to encourage others to stand; not sure if that works or if it puts people off, but the Committee enjoy it! We have welcomed a lot of visitors to our meetings this year, and our membership is growing. We shall be pleased to see anyone anytime, particularly from the new houses at Foresthall Park.



Judy Colliver  
President  
Tel: 812470

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## TIME FOR BAA TO ACCEPT DEFEAT AT STANSTED

SSE has condemned BAA's suggestion that it will apply for judicial review of the final verdict from the Competition Commission (CC) ordering BAA to sell Stansted Airport by the end of next year. The uncertainty has gone on far too long and BAA should now respect the ruling of the Competition Commission and the courts and sell Stansted as quickly as possible. With a new owner in place there would be an opportunity for genuine and meaningful dialogue based on maximising the local benefits of the airport and minimising its adverse impacts on the community.

Carol Barbone  
Campaign Director  
Tel: 0777 552 3091



**STANSTED  
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### 'A great place to have fun and meet friends'

It's great to be back, but firstly I must take this opportunity of thanking Doreen Scraggs for stepping in at such short notice and covering all the secretarial duties of the Club as well as writing this column in the 'Link'. We are very fortunate to have so many members who are willing to generously give their time and help, and this makes our Club such an enjoyable place to be a member. On a slightly sadder note, our Chairman and Seniors Captain, Stephen Hill, has had to resign for personal reasons. Stephen's service to the Club in all the various roles he has undertaken over the years, as well as his sensible advice, not to mention his first-class bowling ability, will be sorely missed. We all wish Stephen every success and best wishes for the future. John Scraggs, our Vice-Captain, has taken over Stephen's position as Chairman and Peter Clements has stepped in as Seniors Captain. We thank them both for undertaking these tasks at such short notice.

Our winning ways continue in both the seniors and Club games, with wins over The Stock Exchange, Elsenham and Havers. Last week our team won the Cowan Cup against St Chad's, winning on each rink. In the league, our 'A' team is lying in 5th position and our 'B' team, a very credible 3rd; well done to all concerned. The ladies team are having a successful year to date, finishing 4th in the league. Last Sunday they held their annual Ladies Day, which was a great success, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, raising some £350 towards Club funds. Congratulations to Toni from the Griffin Club who was the overall winner of this fun day competition. It is also great to see both our young and new bowlers involved in club games, so special congratulations to both Shaun Hill and Peter Short for their commitment to the Club and the hard work they have put in to improve their bowling skills. We are always open for new members, so if you would like to try your hand at bowling, why not come along to the Club any Friday evening from 6.00pm? This

invitation is open to both men and women; all you will need is a flat-soled pair of shoes, and we will supply everything else. Our Club is located in Recreation Ground, just off Chapel Hill. Stansted Bowling Club is a great place to make new friends and bowling will also help keep you fit!

Edward Taub  
Hon Secretary  
Tel: 816932

## STANSTED SCOUTS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

In 1911 Stansted formed its own Scout Troop. Prior to that, joint meetings were held with a Bishop's Stortford patrol. There is an excellent Troop photo from 1911, which shows the Scouts outside Blythwood dairy. 100 years later, and around 300 people attended the Centenary celebrations, with many ex Scouts and leaders coming from as far as Wales to be reunited and to rekindle past friendships. They viewed old photos, log books, uniforms and other memorabilia going back to the 1911 Troop photograph. Malcolm Treacher, an ex-Stansted Scout Master whose links with the Troop stretch back 70 years had compiled an excellent history of the group. Malcolm's photos along with John (Sam) Salmon's photos made up most of the display. Scouts at the windmill featured prominently as that was where the troop met for over 20 years. There were also photos, a programme and people from Stansted's 1961 50th Jubilee Show held in the Central Hall on Chapel Hill (now The Old Courthouse).

Bart Robinson, who became a Stansted Scout in 1931, cut the celebration cake, along with Malcolm Treacher. Peter Clark another former Stansted Scout Master came from Huntingdon to present a cheque - a legacy from his late mother, who despite leaving Stansted in the



1970s, never forgot the Group. A special 100 years badge was also commissioned, some of which are still available to purchase at £1 each. Brenda Ryan and her team kept the refreshments going all day, providing much needed teas etc. A barbecue and various outdoor activities were laid on, and even the rain did not spoil the afternoon. The day was a great success. It was so nice to see old members and friends, some of whom have kept in touch for decades. Many thanks to my fellow organising committee members - Malcolm Treacher, John Salmon, Derek Honour and Mike Byrne for their hard work in planning and preparing such a professional presentation and enjoyable event. Mike Byrne, Scout Leader, said "We intend to continue camping and providing a variety of outdoor activities which the Scouts so obviously enjoy. Hopefully Stansted will celebrate its bicentenary in 2111".



Mark Gerber  
Group Scout Leader

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## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

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### August Meeting

It took Robin Carsberg and his wife less than five seconds to say "yes" to the invitation to go 'botanising' in New Zealand for a couple of months. Members and visitors were treated to a slide show and talk about the journey itself, the country, its inhabitants, its unique fauna and of course the flora. As it takes 24 hours to reach New Zealand, a stop-off was recommended ... and where else but Singapore and a trip to the National Orchid Gardens, where the largest display of tropical orchids in the world grow. Photographs of some of the 3000 different types of orchids grown in the Botanical Gardens wetted our appetites for what was to come. Mr Carsberg explained that in both islands there are mountains, many volcanic, and also areas of rolling hills. However the dramatic cliffs, fjords, mountains and lakes made famous by the 'Lord of the Rings' films, are only found in the Fjordland National Park in the South Island. As New Zealand sits astride the Pacific and Australian tectonic plates, earthquakes are a constant threat. The volcanoes and hot springs are a reminder that the islands are part of the 'ring of fire'. He also explained that when you see 'Australis' in a plant's name – it does not mean that it specifically comes from Australia, but that is it from that general area of the world. As the UK climate is similar to New Zealand's, many of our garden plants and shrubs have been introduced from there such as cordylines, pittosporum, phormiums. One plant, the russell lupin, still grows wild in some areas of New Zealand and when in bloom, the large drifts of these colourful flowers have become a popular tourist attraction.

During their trip Mr and Mrs Carsberg were given hospitality by a Maori family, and members were introduced to some of the Maori names for plants and animals and were told about the legends and stories attached to certain trees/animals/ places. One tale was about a large Kauri tree known as Tane Mahuta (Father of the Forest), which is about 1200 years old and has a girth of approximately 46 ft and is over 150 ft tall. Mr Carsberg said that if you have the opportunity to visit Aotearoa (the Maori name for New Zealand) meaning 'Land of The Long White Cloud' you will not be disappointed!

### Saturday 10th September

The Club is arranging another outing, to the fabulous Waterperry Gardens, near Wheatley in Oxfordshire. The gardens include one of the finest herbaceous borders in the country, which flowers continuously from May to October. If you would like to come, please telephone me as soon as possible, or leave a message via the contact tab on the Club's website. The cost, including entry to the gardens and coach fare, is £18.50. **The trip is open to non-members.**

### September Meeting

Wednesday 7th September at the Day Centre. Doors open at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Club member, Pat Barrett, will be talking about 'My Travels to Nepal'. Everyone is welcome.

Maralyn Harris  
Chairman  
Tel: 07919 478144

## CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS

The time has come to think about planting bulbs. A lot of bulbs fail because they are planted too deep or not deep enough. With most, the general rule is to plant them twice their depth (if they are two inches dig a hole four inches); however, with daffodils and narcissi you can go up to three times the depth. This has the advantage in the spring, that when your daffodils have died down, you can overplant them with annuals. Larger bloom daffodils should be planted four inches apart, smaller ones two to three inches.



Cyril Stoneham



The school has had a phenomenally successful year. We started 2010/2011 in special measures and leave the academic year rated by Ofsted inspectors as good with outstanding aspects. Even with much valued support from the Local Authority and Her Majesty's Inspectors, the vast majority of work has been shouldered by the staff. The process following Ofsted's assessment that the school should be placed in special measures has been difficult. A lot of hard work has gone into addressing concerns raised in the Ofsted report and on building upon the school's strengths. As Governors, we have been impressed by the commitment and dedication of staff in achieving notable progress, and we feel our recognition of this achievement should be made known. Unless you work in a school, it is easy to forget that the necessary changes to processes and procedures that are regularly required, have to take place alongside the daily life of the school. The work of staff is not restricted to the delivery of lessons. Lesson plans, teaching spaces and resources have to be prepared. Work has to be marked and feedback given to pupils, parents and carers. Progress needs to be discussed with other members of staff and many staff are involved in clubs and extra-curricular activities. A full day becomes an even fuller agenda when school improvement activities are taken into account. As well as our thanks to the school's staff, we would also like to recognise the part played by the pupils. At Bentfield, we have a wonderful student body of caring and considerate children. They have always been at the centre of what we do and have played a significant role in the school's progress throughout the year. To our minds, they are not just good with outstanding aspects, they are just outstanding. Well done to all involved, it has been a significant and impressive year.

Robert Coop  
Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body

### PTA News

**Nearly New Sale** of books, toys, clothes and DVDs for 0-11 year olds on Sunday 25th September 2.00pm-3.30pm at the school. Contact Mel on 07885 856455.

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