

Stansted Mountfitchet

# The Link



## In this issue

VMC - music@stansted p7

Rainbow makeover p23

Neptune explained p27

Dog sense p29

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**EDITORIAL**



It seems grossly unfair that a relatively small community should have to face two massive challenges to its future: the second runway and the so-called Eco-town, both at the same time. Even the resources of a whole region would be hard-put to meet these assaults. Has anyone questioned the Government's housing projections? Other official forecasts have given cause for doubt.

A potent but perhaps not so obvious a defence mechanism is the vitality of our village itself. There are numerous examples - the popular 'Music in the Park' by Bentfield School and the Fun Run, both of which are magnificent team efforts. Then there are the on-going efforts - the Skate Park organisation, the re-launched music@stansted, Huw Johnson Club, the various Scout and Guide sections, the churches' initiatives and the SSE movement which continues its brilliant harnessing of voluntary professionalism, and now the anti Eco-town warriors. One could go on, especially when it comes to the unseen army of voluntary carers on whom so many of the elderly and less fortunate depend. Is it all too much for us? Should the "they'll get their own way in the end" philosophy prevail? Certainly not! We are tempted to recall the David and Goliath scenario where resolution and skill overcame sheer force. Perhaps two more battles to fight is not an impossible demand.

**CIRCULATION:**

The Link is delivered free to 2500 homes and businesses in Stansted Mountfitchet. Further copies may be purchased for 50p each or £5.00 for the year.

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 for publication on  
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**CONTENTS**

Thought for the Month	2	Wellbeing	19
Church News	2-3	'Those were the Days'	19
Christian Aid	2	St Mary's School	21
Congratulations	3	Rainbow Pre-School	23
In Memoriam - Arthur Douglas	4	Stansted Day Centre	23
Village Events	5	Stansted Beavers	25
Stansted Women's Institute	7	Stansted Tennis Club	25
music@stansted (formerly VMC)	7	Skywatch	27
Stansted Lunch Club	9	Huw Johnson Club	27
Birthstone of the Month	9	Uttlesford Community Travel	27
494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron		'Dogs know a thing or two'	29
Air Training Corps	11	Nature Notes	29
Mountfitchet Garden Club	11	Stansted Cricket Club	29
Stansted Conservatives	11	Stop Stansted Expansion	31
Bentfield Primary School	13	Index to Advertisers	32
stansted network	15-18		

**DISCLAIMER**

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

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Aren't you all worshipping the same God?" Most non-churchgoers don't understand why there are so many different 'churches'. Church-wise, I'm something of a hybrid: christened in infancy in the Church of Scotland, when I was aged 7 years, my parents moved us back to Sussex, where I attended a Church of England junior school, becoming a choirboy – not as innocent as he looked! In my teens I started taking faith seriously for myself, joining a Baptist congregation. Sensing a call to Ministry, I trained at Spurgeon's College: ordained in 1973 I served both in Baptist congregations and in the United Reformed Church. During an interval in ministry in 1989, my family attended an ecumenical church: the Minister was from the Church of Scotland. Strange how the circle turns! Latterly, I trained as a spiritual director through an ecumenical course. How else could it be?

When some argue that seeking Christian unity distracts from our real task, this challenges us to reach out all the more to one another as God in Jesus reaches out to us: whatever Christ's friends differ over being not of ultimate importance. Christians joining hands to express God's inclusive love in, for example, resisting every form of discrimination strengthens the case for Christ's relevance. Through sharing ministry at Stansted Free Church with a colleague from another part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church, serving a congregation that reinvented itself from formerly two separate groups, we can only be mutually enriched in our journeying together. John Bell of the Iona Community wrote these inspiring lines about the meaning of our unity in Christ:

*Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit, one God in community,  
Calling Christians to embody oneness in diversity.  
Thus the world shall yet believe, when shown Christ's vibrant unity.*

Allen Morton  
Minister  
Stansted Free Church



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## Preachers for July

6th 10.30am New Directions in Worship  
2.30pm Sarah Devereux  
13th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch  
Holy Communion  
20th 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton  
27th 10.30am Gillian Taylor

Well done and many thanks to everyone in Stansted who contributed to the total of **£2001.81** raised in Christian Aid Week. This was from the house-to-house envelope collection, the coffee morning organised by Brenda Veitch and the Quiz held at a Shalom evening. Your generosity will give opportunities for a better quality of life for people around the world who are in most need. As the Christian Aid slogan says 'We believe in Life before Death'.

Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579

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# SHALOM

Our last meeting for this term is on 7th July, which will be an evening of entertainment in the garden led by Alan Wheeler and Mike Dyer, followed by a bring and share party. This will be at 7 Blythwood Gardens and begins at 8.00pm. Please join us – you will be warmly welcomed!

Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059



## 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 9.00am and 10.30am

Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm

Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

**Confessions**  
Saturday 10.00am  
and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment

## Congratulations

Many congratulations to Simon James Collingwood and Lucy Eleanor Blethyn who were married on 6th May at Parklands, Quendon.

They will be living in The Campions, which is where Simon lived with his parents before they all moved to Loates Pasture.



**All enquiries:** The Church Office, St John's Hall,  
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP  
Tel: 815243  
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com  
Office hours: 9.00am-12 noon, Monday,  
Wednesday, Friday  
Administrator: Mrs Elizabeth Jennings  
Website: www.stansted.net/stjohns

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

**Assistant Curate:** Rev'd Dr Caroline Currer  
Tel: 815243  
Email: through the Church Office

**Director of Music:** Lorraine Everett  
Email: church.music@stansted.net

### St John's Diary

#### Sunday

8.00am	Said Holy Communion	Junior Church meets in church at 9.30am and then goes to the Church Hall halfway through the service.)
9.30am	Choral Eucharist	The Lazer youth group meets on Sunday evenings at 7.30pm.
4.00pm	Open Door @ 4 Service (all age worship) 3rd Sunday	
8.45pm	Night Prayer	

#### Monday-Wednesday

8.30am Morning Prayer  
5.00pm Evening Prayer

#### Wednesday

10.30am Holy Communion

#### Thursday

8.30am Morning Prayer

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

## From the Registers

### May

#### Baptisms

11th Gracie Alice Salmon  
25th Amy Roberts

#### Funerals

14th Doreen Mary Simmonds, age 77 - at St Mary's  
22nd Marjorie Miriam Brown, age 88 - at Parndon Wood  
23rd Carole Marie Lloyd, age 48 - at Parndon Wood

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am

## IN MEMORIAM

### Arthur John Douglas 1921 - 2008

Arthur Douglas died peacefully in Broomfield Hospital on 24th May. A man of great warmth and strength, unaffected courage and deep faith. When Arthur celebrated his 85th birthday in 2006, I asked him to write a brief account of his life. It speaks for itself. Bless you, Arthur.

Father Joe White

#### Faith in a Full Life

At a very early age my parents died and I was adopted into a non-Catholic family. This came about like this. On the day they buried my dear Mother the Catholic priest offered his sympathy to a family who were burying their six-month-old son. The priest said to the family: "On this sad day you are burying a six month old son, and I am looking for a home for a four year old boy who has become orphaned". That family became my foster family and they supported me in the practice of my Catholic faith even though some of it seemed a bit strange to them.

At the age of eighteen, this lad from the industrial area of Lancashire found himself suffering from frostbite below the snowcapped peaks at Narvik above the Arctic Circle in Norway. When the shooting started there were many silent prayers in the trenches and some unusual expression of faith, but also lots of good humour too. At 21, I enjoyed the warm sunshine of India and Burma, and felt the hostility of the Japanese as well. My mind returns there occasionally (especially at Mass), and I think of the time I helped dig a trench for a fallen comrade in a remote jungle, said some prayers, and bade "Farewell mate". I only saw a Catholic padre occasionally when Mass was celebrated in the jungle, yet, all the time, my Catholic faith was part of me. In later life I called on this faith again and again during my wife's Alzheimer's illness over ten years. I am not afraid to say when things got very bad indoors, my back garden became my Garden of Gethsemane. There I'd pray for the strength to return indoors and sort out whatever confronted me. My prayer was: "Lord, help me get through this day; I will deal with tomorrow when it comes". After I laid my foster parents and beloved wife to rest, I went to Knock in Co Mayo, where my grandparents and father came from. I found the church in the village of Liscat where my grandparents were married. On my 85th birthday, Fr Joe and the parishioners of St Theresa's honoured me with special celebrations and a Papal Blessing. I was so moved by everything that I felt lost for words but deeply grateful indeed to everyone. I thank the Lord each night for my Catholic Faith, for the parish of St Theresa, and the very youthful St Theresa herself.

Arthur Douglas

Arthur was universally loved by everyone who met him. In our parish production of 'The Importance of Being Earnest', as the lights went up revealing Arthur as Lane the butler, there was a sustained and rapturous round of applause from the audience before he said anything!! Arthur exuded humanity, sociability, and a deep interest in others which was underpinned by a knockabout humour which put people at

their ease and made them feel welcome, important and wanted. When Arthur entered social situations they lightened and cheered with his very presence. He loved people and society and this energy he transmitted was infectious. He was never more at home than in the company of family and friends.



Arthur was always hungry for knowledge and anxious to learn about what made others 'tick'. This was out of genuine human interest, but his approach could be somewhat disarming, when, after cursory introductions, he would delve straight into questions such as "And what's your purpose in life my friend?" He valued education very highly, reflecting on his own lack of opportunity, not in a bitter but in a regretful way. Once, Arthur saw a young man and in

typical fashion asked him, "And where are you from my friend?" He replied in good but broken English "Hungary". "And what are you studying?" "Medicine." "Wow! What an achievement! I went to the University of Life myself." The young man looked bemused ... and then Arthur started to tell him the long and divided history of the city of Budapest. The young man was astounded anyone could know so much.

This interest in identity was very important to Arthur and was at the root of a lot of his questioning. He was not afraid to proclaim his working class roots, or the fact that he had been adopted. He was also very keen on social justice, and was given special tokens by the miners of Nottingham who he helped during the Strike. However his most important identity was his Catholic faith which sustained and underpinned all that was Arthur, whether it was in the selfless devotion he showed in looking after his dear wife Elsie for ten years when she suffered with Alzheimer's, or the pride of the Papal Blessing on his 85th birthday. During the last few days of his life his faith, courage and humour greatly sustained him. When he was told that he needed a massive dose of radiation to prevent him from being crippled by the tumour on his spine, Arthur's response was "Does this mean I'm going to lose my hair?"

Behind this brave facade, however, was a sensitive man. When he was having the vein and artery in his arm put together in order to facilitate his dialysis treatment he confided in me that he was scared, but said, "Do you know what I thought of, David? Our Lord on the Cross ... and then it was nothing." I had asked him to play the part of the Ghost in a proposed production of 'The Ghost Train' this November. He said to me, "David lad, I'll probably be a real ghost by then." No Arthur, not a ghost, but 'Saint Arthur', both on this earth and in heaven. We all love you. We will miss your most obvious physical presence, but you will be always with us in spirit. Pray for us.

David Morson



St Mary's Primary  
School

## SUMMER FAYRE

12 noon - 2 pm

Saturday 5th July

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BBQ ~ BANDS

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St Mary's Church

Open 2 - 5 pm



Sun 6th July

Sun 3rd August

Sun 7th September

Everyone Welcome

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## VILLAGE EVENTS

### July

2	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club Evening Visit	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Bentfield Green 7.30 pm
5	Sat	Summer Fayre Ugley Garden Fête	St Mary's School noon - 2 pm Snakes Lane 2 - 4 pm
Sat 5 & Sun 6 Skips			
6	Sun	St Mary's Church Open Windmill Open Outreach Tea (after service)	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm 2 - 5 pm 2 - 6 pm Free Church 3.30 pm
7	Mon	Shalom	7 Blythwood Gdns 8 pm
8	Tue	Windmill Pre-Fête Meeting	Windmill 7.30 pm
10	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
12	Sat	Music in the Park	Bentfield School 2 - 8 pm
13	Sun	Conservatives Summer Drinks	Brambles, St John's Rd noon
16	Wed	Stansted Lunch Club	Bury Lodge Hotel 1 pm
19	Sat	Garden Club Outing Team Read begins	Library 9.30 am - 5 pm
Sat 19 & Sun 20 Skips			
24	Thu	Police Comm Supp Off Surgery	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
27	Sun	Manuden Glyndebourne	Youth Centre 10 am - noon Wilford Hse, Manuden 6.30 pm

### August

1	Fri	Conservatives Pub evening	Rose & Crown 8 pm
Sat 2 & Sun 3 Skips			
3	Sun	St Mary's Church Open Windmill Open Outreach Tea (after service)	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm 2 - 5 pm 2 - 6 pm Free Church 3.30 pm
14	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
Sat 16 & Sun 17 Skips			
Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm			

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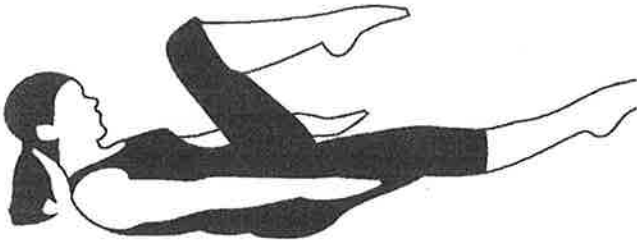
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\*Please note the free 20 minute assessment is by appointment only. Only one free assessment per patient. You have no further obligation to return for follow up treatment or advice. Hazel Williams reserves the right to remove or change this offer at any time without prior notification.





## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

We were pleased to be asked again to provide the food for the Parish Council Reception on 9th May, which turned out to be a lovely warm early summer evening, and was attended by over 80 people. There were representatives from various groups who play a part in our village life and we enjoyed being part of it all. Our pictures show our President and some of the helpers on the night, as well as the food! A few days before this we gave tea in St John's Hall to a group of visitors from Colchester who were on a coach trip to enjoy the Essex countryside. Apart from the torrential rain at one point in the afternoon, they had a wonderful time and particularly enjoyed all the homemade cakes. The WI can still be relied on to produce these at the drop of a hat or even at the drop of a cake tin!



Last month we discussed the Resolutions for the AGM, which this year is being held in Liverpool. The subjects chosen were: 'The Inappropriate Imprisonment of the Severely Mentally Ill', which asks the Government to provide treatment and therapy in a more appropriate and secure residential environment; and 'Ban on Bottom Trawling', which asks the Government to urge the EU to ban bottom trawling which causes catastrophic loss of marine life. We asked our delegate from Ugley WI to vote in favour of both resolutions, and it will be interesting to hear her report of the proceedings when she comes to our meeting in June.

After this discussion Ted Pretty gave us a talk with slides on his work in London, mostly in the City and the Tower of London, where he spent a fruitful four years renovating and helping to replace much of the lead work. He had some interesting slides taken over 30 years ago showing a different London from today. Ted is always interesting to listen to as

his enthusiasm for his job always shines through, and he goes about the county quite a lot these days giving these talks, many to other WIs.

Some of our members went to the theatre to see 'Gone with the Wind' which they all reported to be a marvellous show, and which they would happily see again, so it's a pity they didn't get the WI to review it! In July we are really looking forward to a visit from Mr T Turner of G E Sworder & Sons, to speak on 'A History of Auctions', and we hope he will also tell us something of their brand new Auction House up the road. We do welcome visitors to any of our meetings, which are the second Thursday in the month, in St John's Hall at 7.45pm, so come if you can.

Judy Colliver  
Tel:812470



*music@stansted*

For 12 years now, a familiar logo in every edition of the 'Link' has been that of the Village Music Club, bringing world-class musicians to play in Stansted. Recently though, more and more people have asked us why we went under such a modest name, so we have 'rebranded' ourselves as *music@stansted*, which reflects the pride we take in being an important part of Stansted life.

We also didn't want anyone to assume that the club was something exclusive and mysterious, or that you have to be a member to come along to any of our concerts. 'Classical' music is becoming more familiar and popular nowadays in so many ways: outdoor concerts like those at Audley End House; the success of radio stations like Classic FM; the BBC Proms; even sports anthems like *Nessun Dorma!* But a lot of people who have maybe bought a few classical CDs have not yet discovered the joy of hearing great music played to them live before their very eyes (and ears!).

Our regular supporters will be pleased to hear that the change of name doesn't mean any change in the quality and number of concerts we'll be putting on. There will be the usual four concerts, all in St John's Church, from October through to March 2009. There will be full details of performers, dates, times and prices in next month's 'Link', so look out for our new name and logo and be ready to put some dates in your diary to come and enjoy some live *music@stansted!*

Richard Allaway

### CARERS UK

Uttlesford District Branch

"Caring about the Carer"

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## STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

### May Lunch

We had an excellent lunch on 21st May in the usual congenial company and in the pleasant surroundings of Bury Lodge Hotel. Six members, led by Lloyds TSB Commercial of Bishop's Stortford: Angie and Peter Ruggiero of Bada Bing; David Brown and Nigel Holland of The Stansted Hall Cricket Club; David Norris of Auditel, Brentwood; Frank Gillen of East Anglian Debt Management, Buntingford; and Stephen Morrison of Martin and Mortimer, Harlow sponsored a presentation by The Lord's Taverners, the cricket based charity which has the aim of 'Giving young people, particularly those with special needs, a sporting chance'. The name conjures up relaxing thoughts of balmy summer days, deckchairs, the spasmodic click of leather on willow, Test Match Special and the mellifluous commentaries of John Arlott, Brian Johnston and Jonathon Agnew. But no! The Taverners' are much more than that. Bob Young, Chairman, and Barry Root, a Member, of The Lord's Taverners East Anglia Region Committee, gave a comprehensive and interesting presentation on the fundraising activities of The Taverners and on the nature of support that they give the young with special needs. The Taverners do an enormous amount of good work by providing incentives to play cricket in schools and clubs; enabling young people with special needs to participate in sporting activities; supplying minibuses to special needs organisations; creating recreational facilities in conjunction with the National Playing Fields' Association. The proceedings concluded with a lively auction for a numbered print of Village Cricket by Roy Perry. A worthy cause and a worthy charity which left the lunch some £250 better off with promises of further support.

### Corporate Entertaining

An interesting development in recent months has been the beginnings of a trend for members to use the Lunch Club's events as a relatively inexpensive vehicle for corporate entertaining. This is not only flattering for the Lunch Club but it may also provide a less intense environment for such entertainment. Furthermore, it can have the useful side effect of enriching the Club with new ideas and perspectives. I welcome the trend so long as it does not come to dominate the Club's activities. It would be interesting to hear any views that members may have on this development.

### 2008 Day At The Races

This will be Friday 11th July when we shall visit Newmarket for one of the more important days in the Course's annual calendar. The day will be a slight variation on the successful pattern of last year and the day will begin at about 10.00am with coffee followed by a conducted tour of The National Stud before lunch, which includes wine and which will be provided at Swynford Paddocks Hotel at noon. After lunch we will move on to the July Course for the start of racing at approximately 1.45pm. Barry and Joan Root will host the day and guide us through the conventions of racing and the interpretation of bookies' Tote betting and odds. Assuming that you make your own way to Newmarket, the cost will be £75 a head including Premier Enclosure badges. Nearer the time I will let you have detailed instructions and I will consider who is coming in order to see whether there is any scope for shared transport. A day at the races is always interesting, always enjoyable and occasionally profitable and

I do hope that you will decide to come to what should be a superb day out. Last year we enjoyed an excellent day in wonderfully congenial company. Please confirm as soon as possible that you will be coming and the number in your party (please feel free to bring family, friends or indeed clients) and send a deposit of £20 per head. If you would like to pay online, please, using your name and 'races' as a reference, make payment to: Stansted Mountfitchet & District Lunch Club; sort code: 20-36-98; account no.: 50902284 and notify me accordingly. Jane and I are planning to go. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

### Future Lunches

16th July – St Clare Hospice sponsored by Weston Business Centres and Daniel Robinson & Sons.

24th September – sponsored by Savills

Alastair Richardson  
Email: amg.richardson@gmail.com



## BIRTHSTONE OF THE MONTH

### July - Ruby

The red form of the mineral corundum. Very large ones are rare which is reflected in the value being higher than diamonds of the same size. Rubies found in Myanmar (Burma) are usually a particularly vivid red but good ones are discovered elsewhere. They are mentioned several times in the Bible, as in Proverbs, "who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies", "the price of wisdom is above rubies" (Job) and "wisdom is better than rubies" (Psalms). The stone was thought to be able to predict the future of the owner if it changed colour - darkening meaning death. Ruby commemorates the 40th wedding anniversary.

Peggy Honour



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## 494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps



## MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

The Squadron has been celebrating a resounding victory in the Inter-



Squadron Athletics Competition. Air Cadet Units from all over the Essex Wing took part in the field and track competition held at the Melbourne Sports Ground in Chelmsford. We won both the Junior Girls and Boys categories and were placed 3rd and 4th respectively in the Intermediate Girls and Boys. There were wins for Cadet Daniel Reed in the high jump (setting a new Wing record); Sgt Nathan Basford in the 800m; both the girls 100m relay teams; and Cadet Sara Robson (pictured) in 400m, 1500m and long jump.

Despite the high temperatures on the day everyone really

enjoyed themselves and the event presented an opportunity for cadets and staff from all over the county to socialise. Our cadets are enjoying a growing reputation for achievement within the Wing following success in a range of Inter-Squadron competitions this year and it is especially good to see the younger cadets taking a real pride in representing their unit at these events. The great team spirit within the Squadron is there for all to see.



Unfortunately our poor old Headquarters building has finally been declared beyond help and we have had to hold our twice weekly parades in St John's Hall in the village. The Squadron is particularly grateful for the use of the building until our new HQ is ready later this year. In spite of our current nomadic existence we are maintaining a very busy programme of events this summer with the cadets recently taking part in a weekend of small bore shooting and obstacle course instruction at the Army Training Range at Pirbright in Surrey. There are many other activities planned with Cadets embarking on their Gold Expedition to the Pyrenees in July and the official 'dining in' of our Commanding Officer Flight Lieutenant Ellie Chinnery at the Bury Lodge Hotel.

So if you are aged between 13 and 18 and interested in joining us, visit our website for more information.

Simon Stacey, 494 Sqn ATC,  
[www.stanstedaircadets.org.uk](http://www.stanstedaircadets.org.uk)

The first speaker of our new season was Mrs Linda Blunt of Writtle College who spoke about 'Plant Production and Propagation'. It was a 'hands-on' demonstration/talk and members were shown how to make soft wood, semi-ripe and hardwood cuttings of shrubs, how to split various types of plants as well as 'T' grafting. It was a very informative talk and it was good to see an expert actually show you how to do things. A selection of plants and shrubs propagated by the students at Writtle College were on sale in aid of their chosen charity.

### July Meeting

Please note that the next meeting on Wednesday 2nd July will not be held at the Crafton Rooms (formally the Day Centre) - it is an evening visit to Cyril Stoneham's garden at Bentfield Green at 7.30pm. This is a very pretty garden and winner of the Stansted in Bloom 2007 competition - Back Gardens Section.

### Coach Outing

**Barnsdale in Rutland 19th July - cost £14.50p.**

We have a few spaces left on our coach to the late Geoff Hamilton's garden. If you are interested in coming please phone on 07919 478144 or contact me via the club's website.

### Diary Dates

September 6th Autumn Show at Stansted Free Church.

October 11th Third General Knowledge Quiz with question master Peter Perké.

Members please remember that subscriptions for 2008-9 are now due. Single - £11.50 and double (two people at the same address) - £19.00. Visitors £2.00.

Maralyn Harris



## Conservatives

Stansted Conservatives will be holding their annual Summer Drinks Party on Sunday 13th July at The Brambles, St John's Road by invitation of Inga and Richard Shervington, starting at 12 noon.

Friday 1st August will be one of our Pub Evenings at the Rose and Crown, Bentfield Green starting from 8.00 pm onwards. On Saturday 20th September we will be holding a Harvest Supper at the Crafton Room, Stansted Day Centre with a guest speaker. For more details and tickets contact Bridget on 814440 or Joan on 814854.

Bill Stiles



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The **Carnival Fair** on Saturday 7th June was a great success, raising a fantastic £3100 for the school!! This figure includes £750 kindly donated by Barclays Bank through their matching scheme. We are very grateful to them, and to everyone else who supported the event in any way. For the first time in three years we were able to hold the event almost entirely outside – and a huge crowd of visitors made the most of the lovely weather too!



*It didn't rain on our parade*

The Carnival Parade, which involved the entire school, was a tribute to the teachers who had been working with the children during Art Week to make spectacular carnival masks and costumes and to perform their special samba.



*It shouldn't happen to a headteacher!*

The pony rides, octopus fun run, football shootout, tin can alley, coconut shy and the wet sponge throwing were hugely popular (especially when a certain head teacher was the target!).



*The children loved the ponies*

## Music in the Park - Saturday 12th July

Music 2.00pm – 8.00pm (gates open 1.30pm)

We are delighted to have secured a great line-up of bands encompassing a wide range of musical styles, from the mellow sounds of Dew Drop (with teacher Rachel Croucher on vocals), through to the Indie/rockstylings of Enquire Within - both returning by popular demand following great performances last year. New boys on the block this time are another local group Something Happened in Tutorial and we wish them a very warm welcome to the event. Our new headline band, The Heaters, is also based in Essex and has a very experienced seven piece line-up including trumpet, tenor sax and a great sense of humour!



While the bands are stimulating your musical taste buds don't forget to make a trip to the barbecue where the one and only Olly Pocknell will be preparing sensational lamb wraps, burgers and sausages for your delectation. The bar will be serving real beer from the barrel, a selection of lagers and wines, Pimms and soft drinks. Also available will be sweets and drinks, ice cream, popcorn, face painting and t-shirts sporting the Music in the Park logo!

### What a whopper!!

We have allowed ourselves to get completely carried away and book the biggest inflatable on the planet (well, in Essex at least) a 65' x 25' Giant Fun Fair!! There will be a separate bouncy castle for the youngest children. Other activities in the children's area will include giant jenga, table football, table tennis and football shootout. There will be a smoking area to one corner of the field and guests will be asked not to smoke in other areas. Tickets cost £7.50 in advance or £8.50 on the gate. Children under 16 go free but must be with a paying adult.

Alison Thompson  
Co-Chairman,  
Bentfield PTA

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## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

\*\*\*\*\*

### ECO-TOWN? FINAL CALL FOR OBJECTIONS

Every household should have received a document from us detailing how to lodge objections to the proposed Eco-Town at Elsenham. Be in no doubt that such a development of around 5000 homes would have a devastating impact on our village.

The public meeting held on 29 June was not particularly well attended – we hope that this is not because people do not appreciate the damage that will be caused by an Eco Town. However, many of those who were present offered to undertake delivery of the document around the village, and to all of those a very big thank you.

The deadline for receipt of objections is 30 June, so if you have not already sent a letter or e-mail, please do so **NOW**. It is essential that as many people as possible send their objections, and it would be helpful if you could send a copy to us as well.

E-mail to:  
[ecotowns@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ecotowns@communities.gsi.gov.uk) and copy to the Minister for Housing  
[flintc@parliament.uk](mailto:flintc@parliament.uk)

Write to: The Eco Towns Team, Housing and Growth Programmes, Dept for Communities and Local Government, 2/H9 Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU. Again, send a copy to Rt Hon Caroline Flint MP, Minister for Housing, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

### MOVING THE PARISH PLAN AHEAD

Following a meeting last month of the people who had indicated an interest in joining one or more of the working parties, work has begun.

The working parties are listed below together with the number of people on each and the name and telephone number of the co-ordinator for each group.

If you would like to join a group, please contact the co-ordinator or inform the Clerk (813214 or [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net)).

#### HEALTH (6)

Fran Richards –812748

#### OPEN SPACE/SPORT/LEISURE (6)

Jo Freeman – 812524

#### HIGHWAYS (8)

Ray Woodcock – 816468

#### FUTURE OF STANSTED (8)

Ruth Rawlinson – 814222

#### COMMUNICATION (2)

Oya Wilkes – 817112

#### POLICE (5)

Peter Jones – 813252

#### AIRPORT (3)

Ray Woodcock – 816468

#### EDUCATION (6)

John Hudson – 814489

The following groups have not yet begun:

#### RAIL, BUS, RETAILING AND LOCAL COUNCILS

It cannot be stressed enough how important the work of these groups will be to the completed plan. Without your thought and input this is likely to be an inferior document.

Although there are major issues to be tackled, much of the plan will consist of many small actions in diverse areas which will, cumulatively, provide great benefit to this community.

Even if you do not wish to join a working party, please send any ideas or wishes to the groups so that these can be considered. Your input is crucial to creating an effective village plan.

\* OUR LIVES \* OUR VILLAGE \* OUR PLAN

## **AIRPORT ISSUES – UPDATE**

The Airport Working Group has been concentrating on two consultations recently – the NATS one relating to changes in flight paths, and the Highways Agency's proposals for the M11 Junction 8b.

Our response to the NATS consultation has been approved by Full Council and can be viewed on the website at [www.stansted.net](http://www.stansted.net) - click on Parish Council and then on the publications page.

With regard to Junction 8b, a site meeting took place towards the end of May with representatives of the Parish Council, Residents of Burton End and the Highways Agency. Issues discussed included the effects of street-lighting and the possibility of using shorter columns which would impact less on Burton End. The construction access from Church Road was raised as we have concerns about the impact on the Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College from noise, dust, security etc.

Landscaping and planting were also discussed and we were assured that fast-growing species will be used and the standard will be much higher than that in place when the M11 was first constructed – those trees have only just reached maturity and now act as an effective screen.

Once the final comments have been approved by Council – probably on 18 June – this document will also be posted on the website.

## **DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

July 9	-	Full Council
July 16	-	Finance Committee
July 30	-	Full Council
August	-	No meetings

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Parish Council meetings, and may address the Council on any relevant issue at the start of Full Council meetings. These comments are noted but no discussion is entered into. Meetings are held in Crafton Green House at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated on the agenda. Agendas are posted on the Parish Council's website [www.stansted.net](http://www.stansted.net) under Publications.

## **TREE WARDEN**

The Parish Council is responsible for a good number of trees on Open Spaces around the village. We are looking for a person with knowledge on trees to become the Parish Tree Warden. [A professional qualification would be a benefit but is not a requirement.] We don't believe that this is an onerous task, but requires occasional visual inspection of trees, and drawing to the Council's attention any matters for concern or where further investigation may be required.

For further information, or to discuss in more detail, please contact Ruth Clifford at the Council Offices.

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

Bookstart Baby and Toddler – every Tuesday from 11-11.30am. Come and meet other parents and carers and have fun with story and rhyme.

### **Don't Just Sit There – Get Reading!**

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## RELIEF LITTER COLLECTOR

We are sure you will agree with us that Gerard Frogley, our litter collector, does an excellent job around the village. Well, even Gerard needs to take a break from time to time! He is reluctant to go on holiday because he has to work three times as hard on his return as we have no permanent holiday cover.

We do have one parishioner who steps in from time to time and to him we are most grateful, but ideally we need someone who can cover for holiday and sick leave on a regular basis.

If you are interested in further details, please contact Ruth or Anne in the Council Offices.

## WINDMILL

We have had very little to say on the Windmill for some time and, sadly, things have not changed much.

Last month we were told by English Heritage that they may not be able to support our application for funding (this has been with them for nearly two years now) due to less money being available, and that we could try applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

As we go to print, we have completed a pre-application enquiry form and are waiting to hear whether this project would be eligible for either of two funding schemes which they operate.

## A PLEA FROM HOME START

Calling all volunteer parents – can you help make a difference to young families?

Many parents need help, friendship, advice or support during those early years when children are young. All kinds of families can find it hard to cope for all sorts of reasons, maybe because of illness, post-natal illness, bereavement or loneliness.

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recruit new volunteers and your experience as a parent could help other families.

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[Articles from voluntary organisations will only be included as and when space permits]

## NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT MEMBERS

### From Cllr Alan Dean

I have been asked to include a list of what can be put in the green recycling bins:

Paper of all types (including shredded) - newspapers, magazines and brochures, telephone directories and Yellow Pages; Cardboard - greetings cards, food packaging such as cereal boxes, juice and milk cartons;

Plastics - carrier bags, margarine tubs, yoghurt pots, ice-cream containers, ready meal and food trays, fruit and vegetable punnets, tubs, plastic bottles and bottle tops or lids, cups, sandwich packs, CD / video cases (but not tapes);

Aluminium and steel cans and tins, aerosols, kitchen foil, ready made meal containers, take away food containers, party platters, Meals on wheels containers.

Please **do not** include following, which should go in your black bin: CDs/DVDs, cling film, bubble wrap, shrink wrap, cellophane, crisp packets, chocolate wrappers etc., black bin liners, expanded polystyrene, video or cassette tapes, hard plastic items such as toys.

The council has extended the consultation period on the airport second runway to 26<sup>th</sup> September. That date will soon arrive and I am concerned that people have had to make so many representations about the airport that they may think they have already done enough. **This is a new application.** It is not about growth of the airport on the existing runway, on which the government is due to pronounce soon. If you have not written to

Uttlesford District Council at London Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4ER in very recent months about the second runway, your voice will not be heard.

I have been trying without success so far to persuade county highways to provide a dropped kerb outside the post office to allow disability vehicles easier access. I shall also be asking them what went wrong with project management at Pesterford Bridge after yet another closure caused chaos. I heard of one person who was sent on a 40 mile diversion trying to get from Stortford into Stansted only to land back in Stortford. I am sure most locals ignored the confusing signs sending them to Saffron Walden when they wanted to go to Bishop's Stortford or the sign at the top of Forest Hall Road that directed drivers across the fields to Stansted Hall!

*Cllr Alan Dean*

*Tel: 01279 813579/ 07710 105824*

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

When asked to comment about his view of what was meant by politics Ossie Osborne said a couple of years ago that "stuff 'appens" and at the moment a lot of stuff is certainly 'appening in Stansted.

Firstly, we are presented with the prospect of one ECO Town at Elsenham with a potential 5000 houses and another at Hanley Grange just over the border in Cambridgeshire with upwards of 8000 houses. Setting aside the fact that the term ECO Town is the classic Orwellian oxymoron where the destruction of this part of Essex by suburban sprawl is presented as a measure for protecting the environment, it is indisputable that this will have a huge impact on Stansted Mountfitchet in general and the rail services in particular. We already have the situation where commuters from the village suffer daily indignities, but if we add the impact of these two developments plus the proposed housing at Harlow North and the growth of the airport, the rail service will burst at the seams. Essex County Council has joined with Uttlesford and the Joint Parishes in fighting against ECO Towns.

The other item for which Orwellian motives have been suggested is the relocation of the Surgery that serves Stansted and the

surrounding area. It is irrefutable that the surgery needs new premises and that the expansion of the services which will be offered are exactly what the patients need. However, the location of the new facility is proving to be an intractable problem with the proposed location at the Rochford Nursery site proving to be very unpopular with many Stansted residents. In conjunction with the Parish and Essex County Council alternative sites within the centre of the village are being investigated but many of these options are fraught with complexities. Unfortunately, time is a critical factor in all this and it is to be hoped that the three public meetings that the PCT have arranged, have enabled everyone to make their point.

Whether its George Orwell or Ossie Osborne – stuff will continue to 'appen.

## **CONTACT US!**

Clerk – Ruth Clifford  
Admin Assistant – Anne Court  
Phone/Fax: 01279 813214 – 10am – 1pm  
E-mail: [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net)

## **OTHER CONTACTS**

### **Uttlesford District Council Members**

*Alan Dean* Tel: 01279 813579  
Email: [cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cldrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk)  
*John Hudson* Tel: 01279 814489  
Email: [cllrhudson@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrhudson@uttlesford.gov.uk)  
*John Salmon* Tel: 01279 814789  
Email: [cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk)  
*Geoffrey Sell* Tel: 01279 815925  
Email: [cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk)

### **Essex County Council Member**

*Ray Gooding* Tel: 01279 813103  
Email: [cllrgooding@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:cllrgooding@essexcc.gov.uk)

### **Member of Parliament**

*The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP*  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
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Fax: 020 7219 5600  
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### **Police**

Stansted Police Station, Hargrave Close  
Tel: 812211  
Essex Police non-emergency number:  
0300 333 4444

## Wellbeing

Exploring the connections between mind,  
body and spirit with Isobel Bradshaw



Freeing ourselves from materialistic concerns and desires is one path towards wellbeing. Why then do I find myself so attracted to the teachings of Sir Alan Sugar and his apprentice? Waiting with trepidation for the domestic wellbeing task of the year - (our annual family holiday) I take a quick intake of breath; "fail to plan - plan to fail" rings in my ears and what planet was I on when I invited the in-laws to join us. The business guru demands market research. My hairdresser became my focus group having listened to thousands of holiday stories - she put her money on 'keeping the kids happy'. Last summer to our credit, husband and I invested a considerable amount of time in situ weighing the risk/cost opportunity of repeating our successful trip to Spain. We presented the idea to the kids and the in-laws but it was mummy's promise to ride the black tunnel at the water park that clinched the deal.

My nerve wavered. "Could Gran and Granddad possibly fly out separately at a slightly later date?" Eldest daughter was adamant that we were all to travel together - Gran and Granddad were to have the 'total experience'. D H Lawrence wrote explaining her intuitive insight "whilst we can do anything with a thought - an experience does something with us". Six people living together for ten days, routines and roles will be challenged and questioned. We shall go away together as one family and return as another.

Planning a holiday for a group of people where the desired outcome is wellbeing is quite an enterprise. Holidays have a history of disappointment because we overload them with expectations. Whilst beautiful weather, lovely accommodation and tasty food will undoubtedly improve the chances of a successful holiday, it's always well to remember the constant factor, which is that you take yourself on the holiday.

People are now living and working under a lot of pressure. Holidays have become a time in which some just crash and consume anything which offers any promise of relaxation. 'Getting away' on holiday paradoxically prepares us to return to our life's journeys. Holidays originally were holy days; days to rediscover a unity in mind, body and spirit. Our paths, our plans for wellbeing are personal. My father-in-law may choose a sun-lounger in the shade with a cold beer, my kids will dash in and out of the sea - I will want to practise my yoga. The joy of a family holiday however can simply be in the 'being together.' Tiredness will fall away and living again may become as easy as the sunshine. Enjoy your summer and if you find yourself as project manager - try not to get fired!

Isobel Bradshaw  
isobel@stanstedlink.org.uk

## THOSE WERE THE DAYS



Nicholas Parsons is still a well-known entertainer, probably his best known performance being the Chairman of 'Just a Minute' on Radio 4.

Stansted Carnival was opened by various celebrities during the '60s and early '70s thanks to Sir Aubrey Buxton of Norman House and latterly of ITV fame through his wildlife series.

Those were golden days to which Dick Pollard will be returning in future issues.

*A youthful Nicholas Parsons greets the crowds at Stansted Carnival in 1972*

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# ST MARY'S C E FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Caring, sharing, preparing for life*

We have had a number of visitors to the school lately. A moderator visited our Foundation Stage and made a very favourable report on the quality of observations, assessment and record keeping to monitor the progress of the younger children. We know that the children make good progress but it is always good to have our practice endorsed by an adviser! We have also had some very positive feedback on the transition programme for the children joining the Foundation Stage in September. We have had some very happy days with the new children and we are looking forward to having them full time in September. If you are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school, please give us a ring on 812212 to arrange a visit. We are always happy to show you around the school and answer any questions. We also have a website full of information:  
[www.st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk)

Year 6 invited Mrs Audrey Rodgers to tell them about being a pupil of St. Mary's back in 1939 when she came to Stansted as an evacuee from London. Matthew Granger made notes of what Mrs Rodgers told them:



*Life was harder than in London where she had a comfortable home and a good school. In those days the school was rough, and became crowded when the evacuees came. It was dirty, cold and strict. They had to carry a gas*

*mask all the time. There was gravel on the playground, and if the children fell they would get a bad graze. Iodine was put on their cuts. The toilets were holes in a bench, with a fence to separate girls and boys. Twice a day waste was washed through to the river! In Year 6 the children took the 11+ to go to secondary school. If you didn't pass you stayed at St Mary's until you were 14 then left to find work.*

I am glad to say that St Mary's is very different today!

Mrs Rodgers' father was a keeper at London Zoo, so she also enjoyed our other visitor that day - 'Jake the Snake'! Jake is a python and all the children (though not quite all the staff!) were fascinated to touch his skin and admire his patterns.

They asked some excellent questions. Maple class have done an impromptu mini topic on snakes as a result of the visit. Here are some of the things they found out:

*Did you know...*

- Snakes have no ears – they can smell their prey or detect the heat from their bodies.
- They catch their prey by biting, trapping, poisoning or strangling it.
- The South American anaconda is the longest snake. They can be 10m long – that's six children lying end to end.
- Snakes lay eggs which take 10 weeks to hatch. The nest is a pit in the earth. The temperature in the nest determines whether they are male or female.
- Baby snakes look after themselves as soon as they are hatched.
- The Black Mamba is so called because it is black inside its mouth.



Thanks to Holly, Sian, Lucy, Callum, Daniel and Emma in Year 2 for this information.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Our Summer Fair is on Saturday 5th July 12 noon until 2.00pm. Put the date in the diary and come along to join the fun!

Christine Tonkins,  
Headteacher

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## RAINBOW GETS THE MAKEOVER TREATMENT

As mentioned in the last issue of the 'Link', we were extremely lucky to have The Stansted Hilton team come to Rainbow Pre-School in June to give the premises an amazing makeover. Under the generous supervision of Trevor, the hotel's Head of Maintenance, and Liz, part of the management team, a party of 20-30 staff members gave up their free

time over the weekend of 7th/8th June to transform the outside area into a more colourful and inspiring place to play. From revarnishing and repainting the wooden railings and fences to constructing a spacious new play house to installing a new boiler and outside sink, the team worked very hard to get the makeover done before the children arrived on Monday morning. We are extremely grateful to all those volunteers who have made such a difference to the Pre-School.



*The Manager of the Stansted Hilton presents the children with some flowers for the garden*

The garden area was totally replanted to incorporate a new sensory garden and a vegetable patch. Now as the children wander round they can smell curry plants, lemon balm, thyme, chives, even chocolate plants! In the vegetable patch they have already planted tomato plants and are looking forward to sampling some of their produce at snack time in the weeks to come. The Hilton were also very generous in supplying the children with a lot of new equipment. This included a digital camera, new two-wheeler bike, walkie talkies, road safety signs, storage bins, blackboard and new plants, seeds and tools to help with the vegetable patch.



*A new play house*

At a time when more and more is demanded of Pre-Schools with little outside financial assistance to meet those demands, we are extremely grateful for such support, so our final thanks go to Barbara Matheson, the General Manager of the

Stansted Hilton, for her generosity both of time and money. To help raise money for other local charities the Hilton is organising an 'Around the World in a Day' event on Sunday 29th June. For more details on how you need only walk one mile in the vicinity of the Stansted Hilton to fundraise visit [www.hilton-foundation.org.uk](http://www.hilton-foundation.org.uk).

If you are interested in a place at Rainbow Tots (age 18 months to two and a half years) please contact Tina South on 814371. If you are interested in a place at the pre-school please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for further information.

Isabelle Page,  
Rainbow Committee



## STANSTED DAY CENTRE

### News from the Crafton Room

Could you spare just two hours once a fortnight? If so, come and join our other friendly volunteers! We urgently need more help serving teas and lunches at the Day Centre. We are also sad to announce that Susan, one of our cooks, will be leaving us shortly. Best wishes go to Susan from everybody at the Day Centre. If you think you can help with volunteering or are interested in the cook position, please contact me at the Day Centre on 815091 or Robin Scarr on 813080.

We also need drivers to take five or six people to the Day Centre on Thursdays and Fridays. They arrive in time for lunch and return home in the early afternoon. We work on a three week rota so it is not too arduous! A four-door car is essential. If you feel that you could help, please phone Bridget on 814440.

Kat Lupton,  
Manager



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## STANSTED BEAVERS

What another busy month we've had, and lots of fun too. The Beavers enjoyed a visit from the Community Police Officer, Anne-Marie Clark. The theme of the visit was safety. The boys listened with great interest and were also given the opportunity to put their thinking caps on and come up with answers and ideas relating to the theme. They were all excited to see the 'Smart' community police car.



Saturday 17th May was another busy day spent with other Beaver groups from the district at Hatfield Forest day camp. The weather was not on our side but it did not spoil the fun. The HUGE tent was put to good use as shelter from the rain when we had lunch. Tent pitching, animal tracking, blind trail and an assault course were just a few of the activities the Beavers experienced. Although they were all wet at the end of the day they had a fantastic time, thanks to Captain Jackie Weston who organised such a great day for all the Beavers.

We are working towards a number of Beaver Scout badges at the moment and have an exciting programme of activities planned for the rest of the summer term. If you have a child who would like to become a Beaver please get in touch with Beaver leader David South on 814371 or helpers Jenny Amos 817536, Claire Jonas 816924 or Dot Staunton 812825.

Jenny Amos

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## Stansted Tennis Club



### PWP Open Morning

On 1st June, Martyn Taplin arranged a successful morning at the club, whereby members were able to have a hit with a large variety of 'Head' rackets as well as having the pace of their serves measured by a speed gun. Around 20 members supported this event.

### Cayless Chilli Tournament

Sixteen players took part in this relatively new tournament, which was held on 18th May. The Tennis Club welcomed back Fran Cayless, who moved from Stansted three years ago and donated a trophy which is now presented each year. As well as a lot of good tennis, players also enjoy a delicious chilli supper after play has finished. The final this year was won by Chris Hollis and Fiona Pye, who defeated mother and son, Nikki and Ben Taplin 6-4 in a very closely fought match.

### July Tournaments

Sunday 13th 12.45pm - Boys' Primary Singles  
Sunday 20th 12.45pm Bristow Junior Doubles  
Sunday 27th 12.30pm Wilby Senior Doubles Tournament

### Hospital Cup

This tournament is now well under way. Could participants continue to check the draw and arrange their matches.

### Club Tournament

The draw is now up on the clubhouse notice-board. All participants should now start arranging and playing 1st and 2nd round matches before the holiday season begins.

### Coaching

There are a couple of free spaces at the adult coaching session on Fridays 2.00pm-2.45pm. If you would like to come along and join in, please call Chris Hollis on 319155. You don't have to be a member of the club. The spring/summer 2008 junior coaching and match practice sessions for ages 6-15 are now well under way. If you would like to find out more and get your name on the waiting list, please call Chris. Martyn Taplin 816386 coaches adults on Saturday afternoons at the club.

### Used Tennis Balls

Priced at £1 per tin of four balls. Please call Jan Hollis 812073.

### Club Playing Sessions

Wednesdays from 10.00am and 6.00pm  
Fridays from 9.30am; Sundays from 10.00am

### Contacts

For further information, please contact Richard Mott (Secretary) on 466348, Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 812073 or Daphne Lunnon (Membership Secretary) on 817574.

Chris Hollis



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## SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



Neptune, the furthest planet from the Sun, makes its way round the Sun once every 164 years. It is the fourth gas planet, about 30,000 miles in diameter and is a rather lovely blue, due to an atmosphere mainly consisting of methane, so it looks good but smells horrible. Last month we investigated Uranus and I wrote that the planet was virtually featureless, not least because of its remoteness, 1.8 thousand million miles from the Sun, which meant that Uranus did not receive enough heat to drive much of a weather system. So why does Neptune, the eighth and furthest of the Sun's planets and 2.7 thousand million miles from the Sun, have so much activity? Neptune experiences storms deep within the gas cloud which show themselves as patches of darker blue and covering millions of square miles; and on the 'surface' of the planet (there is no solid surface as it's all gas) streaks of white gas whiz round Neptune at a faster rate than the spin of the whole planet. Not only that, but these 'scooters', as they are known, are often in pairs running parallel with each other. The scooters are one of many examples of things that are 'impossible' in the Universe.

All of these events have been witnessed by the spacecraft Voyager 10 which also confirmed that Neptune has rings, like Saturn, but, like Jupiter and Uranus, are very thin and not visible from Earth. Neptune, as with all planets from Earth outwards, is home to several moons, and in future months they will be the subject of several Skywatches. Moons, it seems, are potentially more interesting than planets.

Until a year or two ago, Pluto was regarded as our furthest planet. Sadly, it has been downgraded to a new category of 'Minor Planet'. This is because we now have telescopes that have discovered that there are other Plutos all over the place, rather like a ring of minor planets round the Sun. But Pluto's solar orbit, which takes 248 years, actually crosses the orbit of Neptune with the possibility that, at some time in the far, far future, the planets could collide. However, orbital mechanics, a rather fearsome and ultimately imprecise science, suggest that the orbits are interlocked such that the two planets will never meet. But, just to be on the safe side, look out for the August edition of 'Link' ... in the year 9027!

Martin West,  
Mooncraft Productions

### UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

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## Huw Johnson Club

This month I would like to say a big thank you to all our helpers, drivers and Committee members who do so much for the club. Many of our drivers have driven for the club for over 30 years. With a record like that I cannot understand why my requests for more drivers doesn't produce an avalanche of volunteers, all anxious to find out why our drivers find this 'task' so enjoyable. We hear so much about problem teenagers but the teenagers we have met at club have always been caring and concerned towards our members. Some have come to do their Duke of Edinburgh award, while others have come because they want to do something worthwhile. If you know a teenager who would like to join us, give me a ring on 812284.

Two of our teenage helpers went off to university, worked abroad, and now as young women turn up week by week at club. Whenever Katharine or Ellen arrive at the Church Hall our members rush to greet them. They are so enthusiastic, encouraging all our members to join in our activities. Thank you too to Hannah, Sandra, Jean S and Jean W, Rene, Christine, Tom and Len who do so much every week to keep the club running like clockwork all under the eye of Derek, our President. Why not come along one Thursday evening to meet us? Who knows, you might come again!!

Marion Johnson  
Tel: 812284

## UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY TRAVEL



We are a charity providing transport for residents of Uttlesford who are unable to use public transport to meet their travel needs. We have seven minibuses, adapted for wheelchairs that provided in excess of 25,000 passenger journeys last year for approximately 1,500 members. In order to be able to continue this service and also meet the continual demand for additional trips, we urgently need VOLUNTEER drivers. Full training will be given. If you are able to give a few days or evenings each month to assist in this invaluable service for our members, please contact David Rose on 01371 875787 for further information.

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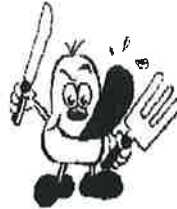
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## DOGS KNOW A THING OR TWO

I think I've said it before but I'll say it again. I love being a vet. I feel I'm truly lucky to be able to be doing the job that I first started wanting to do when I was nine years old. It has changed a lot in the last 20 years (don't get me started on Health and Safety and DeFRA paperwork, just what do they do with all the copies of the official forms they request?!), but one thing remains the same, the joy of the animals. In a busy and often stressful day it's the little things that make you smile: the cat that rubs its face on your hand when all you're trying to do is feel for enlarged lymph nodes; the dog that gives you a friendly lick on the nose when you're bending down to listen to its heart with your stethoscope; and the horse that blows gently in your ear when you're talking to the owner. I find these small things remind me of why I wanted to do the job in the first place and why I continue to want to do it.

You also get the occasional scenario or hear the occasional story that makes you stop and think. One such story was emailed to me by a colleague recently. He had been asked to put an old dog to sleep at the owner's home and the couple's six year old son was also present to say goodbye to his pet. After the old dog had slipped away peacefully, everyone was talking as you do, about how sad it is that animal's lives are shorter than ours, when the small boy said "I know why". Everyone turned to him rather startled and he said, "people are born so that they can learn how to live a good life - like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long." I reckon there's a lot we can learn from dogs:

*When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.  
Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.  
Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.  
Take naps.  
Stretch before rising.  
Run, romp, and play daily.  
Thrive on attention and let people touch you.  
Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.  
On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.  
On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.  
When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.  
Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.  
Be loyal.  
Never pretend to be something you're not.  
If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.  
When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.*

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly.



Ilse Pedler, Partner  
Mercer & Hughes,  
Veterinary Surgeons



## Nature Notes

With the flush of early summer flowers largely over, hedgerows and roadsides are thick with nettles coming into seed and the emerging heads of hogweed, together with docks, plantains and buttercup. A less casual look would reveal a



Caper spurge  
*Euphorbia lathyris*

number of other inhabitants. A short length of our old favourite, Pennington Lane, produced an attractive mix in June. Among them were teasel, meadow cranesbill, spear thistle, greater burdock, caper spurge, hoary cress, white bryony and silverweed. The latter is a good carpeting plant with silvery green leaves which would not be out of place in many gardens. Another 'wild' plant that we see growing on walls at this time is yellow corydalis or fumitory. This is a welcome alien that has made itself at home here for many years. That great Victorian gardener, Gertrude Jekyll, was notable for her blending of native and cultivated plants.

Bird activity tails off (ouch!) after midsummer when they leave gardens and return to fields and hedgerows. Pigeons, sparrows and tits tend to stay with us. Blue tits had a poor breeding season last year but long-tailed and the other two species seem to have prospered. The otter is attracting much attention, partly through the BBC's 'Springwatch' series, but our local rivers have so far not become their territory. The Cam on the Cambridge border and the Stort below Sawbridgeworth are the nearest known haunts. One often overlooked job is the clearing of nest boxes at the end of the season. Dead fledglings and debris become a breeding ground for parasitic mites and so jeopardise the chances for next year's tenants.

Derek Honour



## Stansted Cricket Club

Our home fixtures for July are as follows:-

Sat 5th	1330	1st XI v Nazeing Common I
Sun 6th	1400	Sun XI v Chrishall
Sat 12th	1330	2nd XI v Birchanger II
Sun 13th	1130	Sun XI v President's XI
Sat 19th	1330	2nd XI v Thundridge
Sat 26th	1330	1st XI v Bengoe
Sun 27th	1400	Sun XI v Stocking Pelham

The highlight of the month is the annual all-day game on Sunday 13th July against the President's XI, which is mainly composed of former players from the club. New players wishing to join should contact David Hedge 812509 (Adults) or Keith Ayres 814471 (Juniors).

David Hedge,  
Secretary

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### Shakespeare in the Garden

The annual and highly popular 'Shakespeare In The Garden' event in Widford (near Ware) will this year feature 'The Winter's Tale' – the Bard's haunting and moving tragic-comic romance that includes the most famous stage direction in Shakespeare, 'exit pursued by a bear'. The performance is on Sunday 6th July in the grounds of Bullards, the historic home of Michael Beckman QC, who each year invites the Gloucester-based **Rain or Shine Theatre Company** to stage a performance in support of a different cause. The company specialises in outdoor summer tours of classical theatre to castles, stately homes and gardens throughout the UK. All profits from this year's tenth anniversary event will go to SSE's second runway fighting fund.

'The Winter's Tale' is set in the court of Sicily and built around the relationship of Leontes, King of Sicily, and Polixenes, King of Bohemia, who have been friends since childhood. However, when Leontes falls prey to an irrational jealousy and accuses his wife, Hermione, of having an affair with Polixenes, the repercussions have shattering results for all concerned. Sixteen years go by and the shepherds of Bohemia are celebrating their spring festival, unaware that amongst them are a comical singing rogue, Autolycus, and a young couple, all destined to play a part in the reconciliation of Sicily and Bohemia. At times both comic and tragic, Shakespeare carefully weaves 'The Winter's Tale' into an incredible story of human frailties and, ultimately, strengths. The performance will continue in the open air come rain or shine in all but the worst weather (of 58 performances across the country last summer only one had to be abandoned).

Tickets are available in advance at £12 each (£15 on the day) and £8 for children. The grounds open at 4.30pm for those wishing to picnic and the performance begins at 6.00pm. Bring low backed chairs or a rug, and small gazebos are welcome for the edges of the garden. Licensed bar. Tickets from SSE on 870558, or book online (booking fee applies) through [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk). Further information on Rain or Shine Theatre Company can be found at: [www.rainorshine.co.uk](http://www.rainorshine.co.uk).



The photo above shows members of *The Winter's Tale* cast (from left to right): David Middleton (Polixenes), Charlotte Kingsford (Hermione) and James Reynard (Leontes).

Carol Barbone, Campaign Director,  
Tel: 0777 552 3091  
Email: [cbarbone@mxco.co.uk](mailto:cbarbone@mxco.co.uk)

### The rise and fall of Stansted Airport

The continued downward slide in the number of passengers using Stansted Airport has led SSE to call on BAA to scrap its misguided expansion plans for making the airport bigger than today's Heathrow with a second runway. The publication on 11th June of passenger numbers for the airport show a 4.4 per cent reduction in Stansted passenger traffic for the period January to May 2008 compared with the same period last year. This is the seventh month in a row that Stansted has posted a decline – now running at an average of 23,000 fewer passengers a week. By contrast, Gatwick, which already handles 50% more passengers than Stansted – and has no plans for a second runway – continues to show steady growth year on year, despite the economic downturn.

In the past six months Stansted has lost all three of its transatlantic routes and now has no long haul services left. Attempts by Stansted's management over the past three years to establish new routes to Asia and the Far East have also failed to come to fruition and, as a result, the airport is back to being an airport focused on cheap leisure flights to UK and European destinations. Further falls are expected with airport bosses predicting just 22.7m passengers in total for 2008 – a figure which may be over-optimistic given Ryanair's intention to ground ten percent of its fleet during next winter and to transfer further flights from Stansted to Luton. A key factor in Stansted's decline has been the increase in airport charges imposed by BAA at Stansted since April 2007 to help pay for its expansion plans. Pending the outcome of a legal challenge, Ryanair has said that it will not pay the latest increase in airport charges levied by BAA in April of this year. It seems that Stansted's management are so focused on pie in the sky expansion plans that they've taken their eye off the ball and are losing passengers in droves. They would do well to end their obsession with building a white elephant runway that nobody wants.

Carol Barbone, Campaign Director,  
Tel: 0777 552 3091  
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# Index to Advertisers

		Page			Page
Art and Craft	Millway	6	Household Services	A Better Aerial	28
Community & Care	Alzheimer's Society	20		ada Decorating	24
	Hearing Help	24		A&M Collins Roofing	14
	Helpline	8		Bubbles Bathrooms	BC
	Stansted Day Centre	20		Do-It-4U	6
	Uttlesford Carers	29		JDW Gas Heating Specialist	30
	Carers Support Group	7		Harpers Plumbing & Heating	10
	Uttlesford Mind	12		Newman's Home Services	12
	Ugley Village Hall (for hire)	26		Ray the Plumber	12
Computing & Office Services	Alan Horsley (Computer Repairs)	8	Leisure	Ray Morton (painter/decorator)	8
	Gina's Business Services	8			Sunrise Home Improvements
	Shadowfax (IT Solutions)	20		Tim's Tiles and Interiors	30
	Net Studios (Web Design)	20		Graham School of Dance	22
	TCS (Set Up & Repairs)	12		Mitchell School of Dance	14
	Lan One (Accessories & Repairs)	28		Back to Basics (Pilates)	6
	MCM (Repairs & Web Design)	8		Melody Bear (for children)	20
Education	Adult Community Learning	25		Knot Toys	8
	Birchanger Nursery Unit	20		Crusty Jazzers	8
	Montessori Day Nurseries	6	Motoring & Cycling	D Bonney & Sons	10
	Rainbow Pre-School	24			David Nunn's Garage
	Sunnyside Nursery	28		Larry Jolley Driving Tuition	12
	U3A	9		Garry King Family Cycles	BC
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	Zelta Batteries	26			Lino Thomas (hairdresser)
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	Mansell & Co	FC		Fancy Fingers (beauty)	26
	Dina McDonald	28		Glynis Cheers (hypnotherapist)	24
	Pothecary Witham Weld	30		Lower Street Clinic	20
Food & Lodging	Bada Bing!	FC		Stansted Chiropractic	22
	Eddie Ho Fish & Chips	8		Stansted Psychotherapy	24
	Pocknell Food Co	14		Bay Tree Clinic	22
	Royal Tandoori	8		Holistic Horizons	20
	The Laurels Bed and Breakfast	26		H C Williams (osteopath)	6
	The Kings Arms	14		Newwin-E Ltd	30
	Chocolates for Chocoholics	26		Once Upon a Time	8
	Flutes Tapas Bar	23		Papel Cards	26
Funeral Services	D C Poulton & Sons	10		Swellegant (maternity hire)	24
	Daniel Robinson & Sons	BC		what's a name's (hair salon)	BC
	J Day & Son	8	Printing	Comma Graphics	28
Furniture & Furnishings	Fabrications	12			Copyzone
	Kate Harrison	26	Property Services & Auctioneers	Aldwych Construction	22
New Look (upholsterers)	30			Grenville Construction	28
	Valley Carpets	10		Stansted Plant Hire	14
	Stansted Carpets	28		HTM Scaffolding	30
Garden Supplies, Services & Floral	D Honour & Son	12		David Lee Estates	BC
	Steve Hall Garden Services	26		Inter County	28
	Green Thumb	BC		Bareham Overy Partnership	10
	J R Johnston (Trees)	8		Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	28
	Mayfair Ponds	22	Retailers	Family News	8
	Simplylawns	24			

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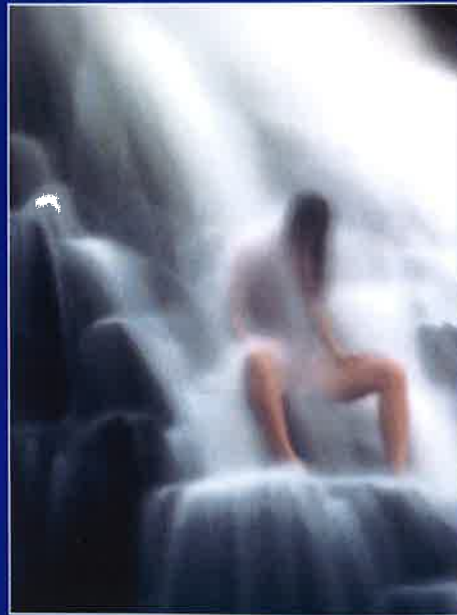
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