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Peter Sanders with his new book

'On the Beaten Track'

Photo: Yvonne Ayres

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EDITORIAL



Our village may be viewed by many passers-by as an insignificant little place by the airport. However, such an uninformed view could not be further from the truth. Unlike most rural parishes Stansted Mountfitchet, once known as 'Radical Stansted' is a village that punches way above its weight. Peter Sanders' wonderful new book 'On the Beaten Track' (page 14) charts the dynamic role and positive influence this little parish has had on the democratic and economic development of this country and wider afield. It was business as usual on page 17, as our long awaited new Health Centre in Castle Maltings opened its doors to patients for the first time on 31st October. The year 2016 will be remembered by many as a year of surprises and uncertainty. As we prepare to celebrate the joys of Christmas and the end of the year, *Thought For The Month* on page 2 encourages us to listen to the song of the Angels, 'Peace on Earth' and to remember the plight of the suffering. *The team at The Link wishes every one of you a Christmas full of joy and happiness.*

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CONTRIBUTIONS Up to 300 words in Word format. Photographs to be sent separately (jpeg)
By email (preferred) to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by noon on 11th January for the February issue or by hand/post by noon on 8th January to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Angels fill the sky with song when Jesus is born. They sing, 'Peace on earth'. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, can you hear their song? 'O hush the noise and end the strife, to hear the angels sing' are the words of a Christmas carol. Edmund Sears wrote the Christmas hymn of the angels' song from which these words come in the middle of the 19th century in the United States just as the American-Mexican war was ending. The hymn spans time and place from Bethlehem at the turn of the Christian era to the writer's own time and place. It encourages us not to hurry to Bethlehem, but to be alert where we are now. Listen, the carol says, the angels are singing for us: 'Peace on earth'. Do we hear their song? I am often out and about early on Christmas Day. I have seen incredible frosts – the trees all agleam with silvery ice. The roads are almost empty; it is as if the whole world has taken a deep breath, paused and inhaled the aroma of peace. The angels have sung again: 'Peace on earth'.

I carry prayers with me as I travel on Christmas Day to share in Christmas worship. They are prayers that embrace the distress of the world: the conflict in places like Syria; the nations rebuilding after disasters like in Haiti; the political uncertainty that follows on from Brexit; the homes touched with sorrow, distress, and anxiety. They are the prayers of the longing of our hearts that long to hear in the strife, 'Peace on earth'. The angels are singing for you and for me, and for all. Listen to their song. Peace to you all this Christmas.



Roy Fowler
Minister, Stansted Free Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St John's (Church of England)

Sunday 11th December

4.00pm Christingle

Sunday 18th December

5.00pm Carol Service at St Mary's, Farnham

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

3.00pm Children's Christmas Eve Service

Come dressed as a character from the Christmas Story

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

No 8.00am Service. 9.30am Family Communion

Sunday 1st January

No 8.00am Service. 9.30am Holy Communion

Society of Friends

Sunday 11th December 10.30am Meeting for Worship

Sunday 18th December 10.30am Meeting for Worship which will include carols and readings followed by mince pies

Christmas Day

no Meeting for Worship

Sunday 1st January

10.30am Meeting for Worship

St Theresa's (Roman Catholic)

24th December (Christmas Eve)

7.00pm Family Christmas Eve Mass

Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas Day Mass

Sunday 1st January

10.00am Mass



Free Church

Sunday 11th December

10.30am Gift Service and Communion

Sunday 18th December

10.30am Carols

Christmas Day

10.30am Christmas Day Worship

Sunday 1st January

10.30am Morning Worship



Contact: Howard and Ros Page

Tel: 810813

Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com

Our @27 meetings are on alternate Tuesdays: 13th December, 17th and 31st January 7.30pm coffee for 7.45pm start. @27 is a house-church or home group-style meeting with modern worship music, a bible-based topic, discussion, prayer and more. If you are looking for Christians with a contemporary outlook, a desire to grow in our faith and a vision to benefit the wider community, why not join us? All welcome - you do not have to be a member of Family Church, or any church, to attend. Please contact us for details of topic and venue. We also run other activities for different age-groups, some for those looking for Christian content, and other activities with no specific Christian content which are suitable for everyone - those of any faith or none. For more details visit our website or contact us. Wishing everyone a very blessed Christmas and New Year.



Howard and Ros Page

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ

www.sttheresastansted.org

Priest Father John Garrett

Office Tel: 816889

Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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

Confessions

Saturday	10.00am
	and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AE
www.saffronquakers.org.uk/stanstedhtml

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

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

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

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

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am every week

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

Light Group 10.30am-12 noon 14th January
This is a guided meditation for personal enlightenment. You are warmly invited to attend.

St John's Diary

Sunday
8.00am Said Holy Communion
9.30am Choral Eucharist (2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays)
9.30am Family Communion (1st Sunday)
Tuesday
9.15am St John's Tots 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.
Wednesday
8.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion
Thursday
10.30am-noon The Coffee Pot
Monday-Thursday and Saturday
5.00pm Evening Prayer



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

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

Lettings Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059
lettings@stanstedfreechurch

Preachers for December

4th 10.30am Rev'd Charles Martin
11th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Gifts and Communion
18th 10.30am Carol Service
25th 10.30am Rev'd Christine Fowler - Christmas Day

Preachers for January

1st 10.30am Julie Finbow
8th 10.30am Rev'd Christine Fowler
15th 10.30am Rev'd David Chapman
22nd 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Covenant Service
29th 10.30am Rev'd Jenny Martin

From the Registers October

Baptisms

2nd Harvey Alexander Pereira Alves
23rd Logan James Bradley
Freddie-Joe George Wright

There were no weddings or funerals in October

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the October draws:

£100 No 149 Ros Francis
£ 50 No 24 Stella Skingle
£ 25 No 33 Charlie Salmon

The draws for December, including the second of the year's extra draws for £200 will be held on **Sunday 18th December** (Note – a week early to enable the lucky winners to enjoy their windfalls for Christmas!) and the following draw on **Sunday 29th January**, both in St John's Church following the 9.30am service.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562



SHALOM

Our Christmas Party is on Monday 12th December 8.00pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens. Bring some finger food plus a reading or piece of music to share. There is no January meeting.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



St Clare Brings Festive Cheer to Local Shops

Festive plans are already in full flow for the hospice's shops as they gear up for the busiest shopping season of the year. We have eight shops across West Essex and East Herts, each of which will be holding special Christmas shopping events and festive fayres in the lead up to Christmas, stocking a fantastic range of Christmas cards, festive decorations, ornaments and gifts. The Great Dunmow shop, which specialises in furniture and collectibles, is selling the full range of the Hospice's Christmas cards; the Saffron Walden shop will be joining in the town's annual Late Night Shopping Event on Friday 2nd December, and will also have a festive stall in King Street. Each year a group of talented artists are commissioned to paint a range of local landmarks to adorn the St Clare Christmas card range. This year the card featuring Dunmow's iconic Doctors Pond was painted by East Anglian artist Mike Sherard, and the Saffron Walden card, featuring the Common, was painted by another East Anglian artist, Sharon Kulesa. The original of this painting (shown below) will be up for silent auction at the Late Night Shopping evening. The full range of cards and other gifts can also be purchased online at our eBay store, so be sure to order yours soon. For the full calendar of St Clare Hospice's Christmas events, visit our website.



Light up a Life services

The Hospice, along with hundreds of local people, is preparing to celebrate the lives of friends and loved ones at a series of *Light up a Life* services. The December services give everyone, whether they have a personal connection with St Clare or not, a very special way to remember those who will



be missed over the festive period and to honour their memory in a very personal way.

Dates are as follows:

- Thursday 1st 7.00pm Waltham Abbey Church
- Saturday 3rd 4.00pm St John's Church, Epping
- Saturday 3rd 4.30pm Methodist Church, Loughton
- Thursday 8th 4.00pm St Martin's Church, Ongar
- Sunday 11th 3.30pm United Reformed Church, Dunmow
- Wednesday 14th 7.00pm St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood
- Saturday 17th 4.00pm St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood

The highlight of the services held at the Hospice is the lighting of the tree, with each light representing the life and memory of a loved one. If you would like to dedicate a light to a loved one, and to have their name placed in the Book of Remembrance, go to our dedicated webpage at: www.stclarehospice.org/light-up-a-life. You can let the Hospice know which service you are planning to attend through the webpage or telephoning 773750. Just like the Hospice's care, participation in *Light up a Life* is completely free of charge. However, if you would like to make a donation, it would be appreciated by the patients and their families. With very limited funding from the NHS, St Clare relies heavily on the support of local people.

Rebecca Hedges
Communications officer

Spring Quiz Saturday 11th March 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Forest Hall School. Teams of eight. Tickets £10 (includes ploughman's) from Christine 815007 or me. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Book early to avoid disappointment.



Caroline Bore
Tel: 813938



Harvest Supper

There was great entertainment from the Stansted churches at the Annual Harvest Supper in October. In addition to poems, sketches, and St John's Choir, there was the opportunity for audience participation in well-known songs



(accompanied by a variety of instruments including ukuleles), some of the words having been updated by Alan Wheeler to reflect Stansted events.



Marion Dyer



St John's Church

3 pm Sun 4th December
Riyad Nicolas piano

3 pm Sun 29th January
Globe Ensemble
Harp, flute and viola

Tickets £15 (under 18s free) from Absolute Travel; Sonia Levy 815282; or on the door



Stansted Messy Church

3.30 - 5 pm Sun 4th December

Professional Face Painting

Come dressed as a person or animal from the Christmas Story (optional)

Activities ~ Celebration ~ Food

Also on Sun 22nd January
Both events at St Mary's School

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch



Stansted Millers

Pre-Christmas Event

Sat 10th Dec at the Windmill

Dress as an Elf or Fairy & win a prize

Santa's Grotto 3 - 5 pm (entry £2)

Refreshments include tea, coffee, mince pies, mulled wine, burgers plus wine and beer from 5 pm

Mill souvenirs & Christmas Cards

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

December

1	Thu	Stansted Local History
3	Sat	Salvation Army Carol Concert
4	Sun	Music@stansted Messy Church
6	Tue	Stansted is Well Read
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club
8	Thu	Stansted U3A Stansted Evening WI
10	Sat	Windmill Pre-Christmas Event Carols for All Concert for St Clare
10	Sat & 11	Sun Angels & Christmas Trees
11	Sun	Family Café Skips Manuden Singers Concert
Mon 12, Wed 14, Fri 16		Making Christingles
12	Mon	Shalom Party
13	Tue	Day Centre Christmas Lunch RSPB Social
17	Sat	Celebration of Christmas
22	Thu	Village Carol Singing
23	Fri	Village Carol Singing

Day Centre 8 pm
B S Methodist Church 7 pm
St John's Church 3 pm
St Mary's School 3.30 pm
Dog and Duck 8 pm
Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
St John's Hall 1.30 pm
Day Centre 7.45 pm
Windmill from 3 pm
St Mary's Church 3.30 pm
Thaxted Church 7 pm
St Mary's Church 10 am - 5 pm
Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
Lower Street 12.30 - 4.30 pm
St Mary's Manuden 7.30 pm
Free Church 10 - 11.30 am
7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
Day Centre 12.30 pm
B Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
St Theresa's Church 3 pm
Church Rd/Mountfitchet Rd 7 pm
Mountfitchet House 7 pm

January

3	Tue	Stansted is Well Read
5	Thu	Stansted Local History
7	Sat	Granta Chorale
10	Tues	RSPB
11	Wed	Link copy due in today
12	Thu	Stansted Evening WI
14	Sat	Red Cross Quiz
14 & 28	Sat	Family Café
17	Tue	CAMEO
18	Wed	Ugley W I
19	Thu	Stansted U3A
22	Sun	Messy Church
24	Tue	Hearing Help
27	Fri	Day Centre Burns' Lunch
29	Sun	Music@stansted

Dog and Duck 8 pm
Day Centre 8 pm
Newport Church 7.30 pm
B Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
before 12 noon
Day Centre 7.45 pm
Manuden Comm Centre 7 pm
Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
Day Centre 7 - 8.30 pm
Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
St John's Hall 1.30 pm
St Mary's School 3.30 pm
Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 12.30 pm
St John's Church 3 pm



Friends of St Mary's Church

Angels & Christmas Tree Festival

Sat 10th & Sun 11th December
10 am - 5 pm

Carols for All 3.30 pm Sat 10th

Refreshments ~ All Welcome

Entry Free

Donations to Friends of St Mary's Welcome



Christmas Events

10 - 11.30 am

Mon 12th, Wed 14th, Fri 16th Dec
Stansted Free Church

Come and make Christingles and meet Father Christmas

All ages welcome - No charge
Come on any or all three days



Village Carol Singing

www.stanstedchurches.com

You are warmly invited to join us

Thu 22nd December 7.00 pm
Meet Church Rd/Mountfitchet Rd
Finish West Road

Fri 23rd December 7.00 pm
Meet Outside Mountfitchet House
Care Home in Coltsfield
Finish Birchalls

Followed by seasonal refreshments around 8.30 pm

Singers & collectors welcome

Collecting for Christian Aid
Light the Way Appeal
helping those who are fleeing violence

Recorder & flute players welcome but please tel 814059 in advance to arrange music



BritishRedCross QUIZ NIGHT

7 pm Sat 14th January
Manuden Community Centre
Tickets £12.50 incl Ploughmans from 816916 or 813172

Tables of 8 - 10
Bar and Raffle



Celebration of Christmas



Carols and Readings
3 pm Sat 17th December
St Theresa's Church, High Lane
Collection for Christian Aid
Light the Way Appeal
helping those who are fleeing violence

All welcome - please join us



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Marcel Morelli MSc (Chiro), DC.
And Associates

Registered Doctors of Chiropractic



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN STANSTED



COME AND MAKE CHRISTINGLES!

We are all getting excited about our special events planned for **Monday 12th, Wednesday 14th and Friday 16th December**. The Place will be open as usual from 9.30am, with planned activities 10.00am-11.30am. There will be fun craftwork including making Christingles, which will become the focus for a short time of reflection on why we celebrate Christmas, followed by a visit by Father Christmas! Everyone is welcome, even if you have never been before. There are no age restrictions, so whether you are one or 101 please do come and join us. On **Friday 9th December** from 10.00am we shall be decorating the crib and Christmas tree in the church, and we invite anyone, young or old, to help us! **The Place on the Hill** is a free drop-in held at and organised by Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, which is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Do come and join us - all ages are welcome. Please note we are open throughout December and January **except** Mondays 26th December and 2nd January.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Saturday 17th December 3.00pm

This very special event of carols and readings will once again be held at St Theresa's Church, High Lane, followed by light refreshments. Please come and take part in this traditional festive community event. Singers, whether in a choir or not, or members of a church or not, are most welcome (for more details see separate article below). There will be a collection for Christian Aid *Light the way* Christmas Appeal, which is helping people fleeing from violence. We look forward to seeing you.

David Morson
Tel: 850209



CALLING ALL SINGERS!

If you have ever enjoyed singing parts in a choir, you are invited to join the choir being put together specially for this year's **Stansted Celebration of Christmas**. There are only three rehearsals: Thursdays 1st, 8th and 15th December at 7.30pm in St Theresa's Church, and it does not matter if you are not currently a member of a local choir, or of a church. This is an event for the whole community and all singers are welcome (but especially tenors and basses!). We will be performing a varied programme of familiar and less well-known Christmas music. Printed copies are available in advance of the rehearsals from Kathy on 816293 email: kewest@btinternet.com and we can email you links to online performances of some of the music. The Celebration is on **Saturday 17th December** at 3.00pm in St Theresa's Church, with a run-through at 1.00pm.

Ros Page

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

Come and join in the fun, especially if it's snowy! We meet each evening at 7.00pm:

- **Thursday 22nd December** meet at junction of Church Road and Mountfitchet Road to proceed along Manor Road and Stoney Common ending up at West Road
- **Friday 23rd December** meet at Mountfitchet House Care Home in Coltsfield. We will sing inside Mountfitchet House for a while and then proceed along Coltsfield and High Mead ending up at Birchalls

Each night the singing is followed by refreshments at around 8.30pm. We welcome more singers - there is no rehearsing, just come along. We also need collectors. This year we will be collecting for the Christian Aid *Light the way* Christmas Appeal, which is helping people fleeing from violence. Please support us - thank you!

Mike Dyer Tel: 814059
Helen Baker Tel: 814865



FESTIVAL OF ANGELS AND CHRISTMAS TREES

Activities and preparation for Christmas will be well on the way by the time you receive this issue of *The Link*. One Christmas festivity I would like you to remember is the Festival in St Mary's Church on **Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December 10.00am-5.00pm**. The Friends of St Mary's have invited local organisations, schools, companies, and charities to fill a space in the church with an angel or Christmas tree. Refreshments will be on sale. Entry is free but donations will be very welcome in aid of St Mary's Friends who help the Churches Conservation Trust to maintain this wonderful building. On Saturday 10th at 3.30pm is our *Carols for All* so please do come along and join us and support this wonderful Christmas Festival.



Sally Argent
Tel: 01945 870919

WINDMILL PRE-CHRISTMAS EVENT

Saturday 10th December at the Windmill. Bring the children to see Santa in his grotto from 3.00pm-5.00pm where they will receive a gift from Santa, sweets and drinks, all for £2 per child. We hope the children will dress up as an elf or a fairy - there will be a prize for the winners. There will be tea, coffee, and mulled wine, mince pies, and a burger van will be outside for all to enjoy. Normal prices will apply for a tour of the Mill: £2 adults and 50p children aged 5 to 16. At 5.00pm a bar will open with a glass of wine or beer at £2, plus non-alcoholic drinks and nibbles. There will be a raffle and our windmill souvenirs and Christmas cards will be on sale. We look forward to seeing you. A happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year from everyone at the Windmill.

Molly Clark
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768

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At the Year's Turning

A warm welcome awaits you in St Mary's Church, Newport on **Saturday 7th January** at 7.30pm, when chamber choir Granta Chorale will be joined by a talented group of actors and readers from Cambridge, to present an hour of rousing entertainment with choral music and the spoken word. Songs of wintry weather, seasonal carousing and characters from pantomime will all feature in this unusual new year programme. Expect music in a wide variety of styles, from the beauty of unaccompanied sacred choral harmony in Britten's *Hymn to the Virgin*, to popular a capella numbers, including *Let it Snow* and wassail songs such as Holst's *Bring us in Good Ale*. Items composed by the choir's conductor Janet Wheeler will include *Pantaloone* and *Columbine* from her choral suite *Harlequinade* - portraits of some of the characters in the history of pantomime. Between the music, our experienced readers from the Cambridge drama scene will perform spoken word items chosen and directed by Jennifer Dunn and well-known writer Nick Warburton. There will be time for refreshments and a chat with friends and neighbours. What better way to see out the festive season and mark the turning of the year! Tickets £12, seniors £10, children £4 from Berenice 01799 541498, Cheryl 01799 541463 or Granta Chorale Tickets 01799 531167.

Sue Sylvester-Bradley



ST CLARE CONCERT - THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Amici Cantate is delighted to be returning to the stunning setting of Thaxted Parish Church for a Christmas concert in aid of the Hospice. On Saturday 10th December 7.00pm, Amici Cantate will present an evening with the internationally acclaimed Imperial Male Voice Choir, the fabulous Thaxted Primary School Choir, Andrew Wilson (baritone), Rachel Wick (harp) and Alan Tait (cello). The concert will be directed by John Tripp, Deborah Miles-Johnson and Maggi Griffiths and accompanied by Charlie Penn (organ, piano), Leanne Singh-Levett (piano) and Graham Instrall (percussion). The programme includes a unique performance of Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, combining the forces of a high young voice choir, an adult choir and a male voice choir - about 120 singers in total. Vaughan-Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* plus traditional carols with audience participation will also be included. Tickets: adult £10, under 16s £5, family (two adults and two children) £20 email: tickets@amicicantate.org.uk, tel 506773 or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/amicicantate.

Alison Thompson



MANUDEN SINGERS

The Manuden Singers and Players, directed by Ian Priest, present **Music for Saint Cecilia at Christmas** on **Sunday 11th December** at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Manuden. Soloists: Sophie Cotton (soprano), Jeff Phillips (tenor), and James Priest (bass). Tickets: adults £10, children £5 from 812157 or on the door. Proceeds to World Child Cancer.

What better way to spend a winter Sunday afternoon than in the warmth and comfort of St John's Church enjoying a piano recital by internationally renowned pianist, *Riyad Nicolas* and a concert by *The Globe Ensemble*? At 3.00pm on Sunday 4th December Riyad will be bringing us music from five favourite classical and romantic composers, with a sixth hovering in the background. As well as a Mozart sonata and Schumann fantasy pieces, we will hear a Chopin waltz and polonaise, and not one but two bravura studies on the famous theme by Paganini, one by Liszt and one by Brahms. A wonderful programme of music with seasonal mince pies served during the interval for good measure.

We have another treat in store early in the New Year when, on Sunday 29th January at 3.00pm The Globe Ensemble will bring us the melodious strains of music for harp, flute and viola. As well as luscious works specifically written for this combination by Bax, Weinberg, Leclair and Debussy, they will be playing arrangements of favourite French melodies specially written for them. This time, interval refreshments will include glasses of our highly-acclaimed mulled wine.



Tickets for both concerts are: adults £15, children under 18 free, from Absolute Travel; Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy, tel 815282; or at the door. Check out our website for general information or for a specific enquiry please email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk.

Alan Corbishley



CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other)

We are holding a **Community Carol Concert** in aid of Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust on **Saturday 3rd December 7.00pm** in Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church. The concert will feature the Hadleigh Temple Band and Timbrels. Please come and join us.

The group will not meet in December so our next meeting is on **Tuesday 17th January 7.00pm-8.30pm** (note change of start time) in the Day Centre, which will be a Burns Night Celebration. Cost is £10 for the year or £1 per meeting (including refreshments) which covers our expenses of hall rent and visiting speakers. Details of all the meetings for 2017 will be in the next Link. We hope to meet you soon.

Lieutenant Megan Lowe

Tel: 507464

Email: megan.lowe@salvationarmy.org.uk

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NEW POP-UP CHRISTMAS SHOP



Observant Link readers may have noticed the shop's unusual window displays such as the one below.



Photograph by Simon Wilson



STORT VALLEY ROTARY

Santa Collection

Santa is preparing for his usual visits to Bishop's Stortford and Stansted and looking forward to again meeting the children and some of his older fans. Last year, we at the Rotary Club of Stort Valley collected a significant amount and all the money collected was distributed to many good causes. We are most grateful for the generosity of the people of Bishop's Stortford and Stansted and hope that despite hard times you will feel able to be as generous this year. We start this year in Bishop's Stortford and Santa will be in his sleigh hoping to meet as many children as possible. The following week we will be in Stansted. Below is Santa's daytime schedule 10.00am- 4.00pm:

Saturday 3rd December Market Square,
Bishop's Stortford (Christmas Fayre)
Wednesday 14th December Tesco, Stansted

We wish all residents of Stansted and especially Santa's friends, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Martin Budzinski
Tel: 07803 878961

Email: martin@voucherpacks.com



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



This year the vibrant autumnal colours lingered well into November along with masses of red berries on hawthorns and holly bushes. It has also been a good year for acorns and beech nuts. As the days shorten through December this feast of fruits and seeds will provide ample food for our native wildlife as well as the winter migrants such as fieldfares and redwings. Large flocks of wood pigeons are especially noticeable at this time of year. What makes the wider countryside of the Hundred Parishes so attractive is its tapestry of hedges, arable fields, copses and small woods which are a testament to successive generations of landowners whose activities have shaped this landscape. The more recent additions of pylons, major roads and railways together with expanding urbanisation demonstrate that this landscape is evolving to meet the varied needs of people, while still retaining some considerable space for wildlife. As the festive season approaches, the desire to festoon our dwellings with garlands of fresh green branches gathered from hedgerows is still strong. To bring the outdoors inside provides us with a timely reminder that we rely on this vital greenness to revive our spirits when the days are short. Today's customs associated with Christmas are largely due to the campaigning of one local man - William Winstanley. He lived in Quendon and was an influential writer in the 17th century. He championed the revival of traditional celebrational trappings of Christmas that we now take for granted, but which were banned during the Puritan austerity of Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth. Our website has more information about Winstanley under the *People* section, and also suggests interesting walks where you can appreciate the beautiful countryside at any time of the year.

Tricia Moxey
Trustee
Tel: 01277 364522

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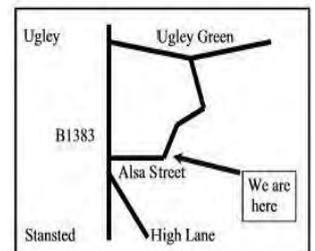
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Magna Carta Primary Welcomes Pupils

The grand opening of the Magna Carta Primary Academy took place on 30th September. Head of School, Amy Dias, invited parents into the school where their children gave them a tour of their classroom and shared examples of their work. There was an opportunity for students to play and read with their parents whilst photos from their first few weeks at the new school were displayed on a screen. This was followed by afternoon tea in the hall, including special Magna Carta logo cakes and cakes decorated by the children. Cllr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, was guest of honour and had the task of cutting the ribbon, signalling the



school's official opening. He said he was delighted that Magna Carta Primary Academy has now officially opened and enjoyed the opportunity to visit the school. The refurbishment of the Peter Kirk Centre has enabled the first intake of reception pupils to benefit from a high quality learning environment while works on the permanent new school building are completed. Ray said he will continue to follow the project closely in the coming months and looks forward to the new school site opening in September 2018. The Council is committed to ensuring there are enough school places to meet demand and is planning to spend about £360 million over the next three years on creating thousands of new spaces across Essex.

Adam Smith
Acting Media Co-ordinator



The **Gift Fair** on 12th October raised £12,096. Thank you so much to everyone who came to this event and helped to make it such a success.

Rosina Kirkwood

Charity Quiz Night Saturday 14th January 7.00pm in Manuden Village Community Centre. Admission is by ticket only, priced £12.50 (including nibbles and ploughman's) from Rosina on 816916 or myself. Tables of eight to ten people. Bar and raffle.

Christine Stiles
Tel: 813172

Sunday 4th December and Sunday 22nd January 3.30pm-5.00pm at St Mary's School

Families are welcome to join us for our next two **Messy Church** events. This relaxed and lively style of church for families has activities, celebration and food, and plenty of **FUN!** Children can try out a variety of craft activities linked to a theme that we also explore with songs, stories and games. After the celebration, everyone has tea - sandwiches, drinks, cakes, crisps, snacks, and fruit. We welcome families, particularly those with children aged under 12. However, older children are also welcome as long as they come with an adult.

Try out your nativity costumes!

For the December event, children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Christmas story if they wish (shepherds, angels, Mary or Joseph, sheep etc will all be very welcome) and we will have professional face-painting during the craft/activity time from 3.30pm-4.15pm, as well as some Christmas-themed crafts.

In September, the theme was *Thanking* and we warmly welcomed the 15 families who joined us – including five for whom it was their first visit. Activities included decorating thank you cards for Stansted Street Cleaners Lucy and Levi (see photograph on page 19), the Stansted Surgery and St Mary's School; illustrating a poem of thanks; writing on the petals of a large sunflower things to be thankful for; drawing happy/sad people; and making playdough harvest baskets. There was also a harvest-themed game for all ages. Finally, everyone joined in with songs and stories reminding us to thank those people who help us through life.



Stansted Messy Church is arranged by Churches Together in Stansted and there is no charge. See our website for more information, and to find out what makes Messy Church 'messy'.



Marion Dyer Tel: 814059
Richenda Whitehead Tel: 813875
Publicity Team

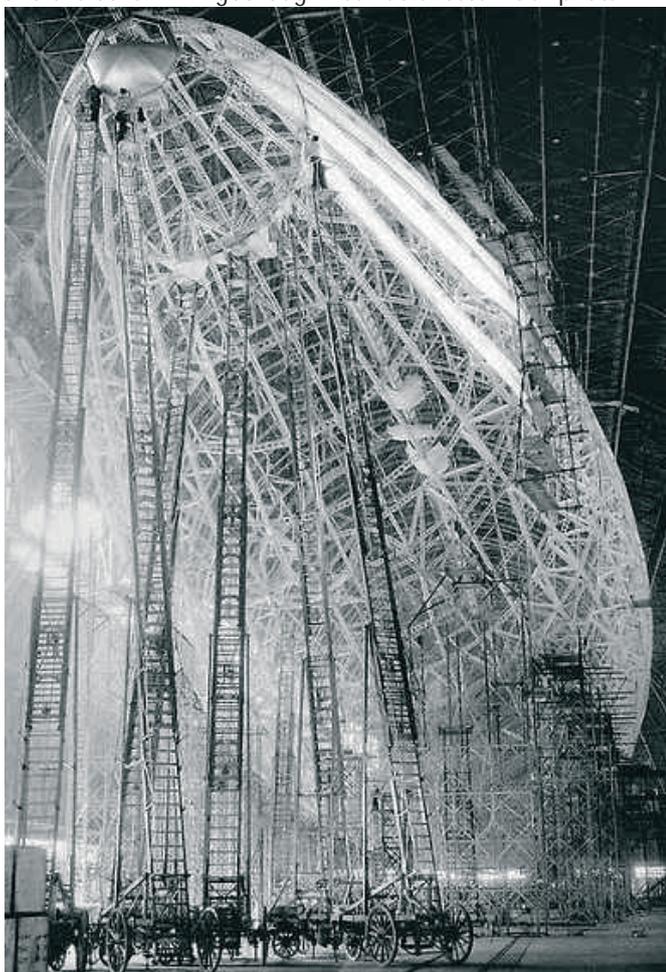
THANK YOU

I would like to thank all those who contributed donations to the Lymphoma Association following Johnny's death. The total amount raised including the CD *Moving On* sales was £5,172. Many thanks.

Cathy Rodgers

Martyn Lockwood - Somewhere over Essex

We had a great turn out for Martyn's very enjoyable and informative presentation. He gave us an insight into early airships, explaining that there were two main types of airships. The most common was a *Zeppelin*, designed and built by Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, made from duralumin (a combination of aluminium and copper); the other being Schütte-Lanz airships made of wood, which were smaller. Zeppelins were first flown commercially in 1910 by Deutsche Luftschiffahrts-AG (DELAG), the world's first commercial airline service, but introduced into the military at the beginning of WWI, mainly as a bomber unleashing hundreds of highly explosive and incendiary bombs (all thrown by hand). We did not have resources to attack them. By the time our only defence plane (BE2c) was mobilised and reached the heights of the airships, they had already carried out their mission and left. Only a few were brought down, including two in Essex, one in Great Burstead near Billericay and the other in Wigborough near Colchester. Our pilots



had a tough time; not only did they have to scramble their primitive aircraft to maximum heights, but then had to use their machine gun whilst flying and being shot at by the 18 machine guns mounted on the airship. You can visit the airfield at Stow Maries where the BE2c flew from, which is the only original existing WWI airfield in the country. You can see flying displays or visit the restored old buildings and hangars that still exist today. See www.stowmaries.org.uk (my old stomping ground, fantastic for viewing birds of prey especially owls).

Next meetings

On Thursday 1st December Peter Sanders will be giving us an insight into his new book which is on the history of Stansted Mountfitchet. He will be signing copies on the night, so please feel free to come along and celebrate all the work that has been carried out in completing his book. The January meeting is on Thursday 5th, when four or five members will be giving short talks. Both meetings are 8.00pm at the Day Centre.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

ON THE BEATEN TRACK: A NEW HISTORY OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

On the evening of Monday 28th November at 8.15pm in St John's Church Hall and hosted by the Parish Council, the Local History Society will be launching its first publication *On the Beaten Track: a History of Stansted Mountfitchet* by Peter Sanders. With 150,000 words and nearly 100 illustrations and maps, this is the first substantial history of our village and Peter has dedicated it to members of the Society. It is called *On the Beaten Track* because Stansted has always stood on important lines of travel and communication. This has made the village less isolated and more prosperous than many other rural communities. So the dominant theme of the book is one of lively engagement with the wider world. Stansted has been the least parochial of rural parishes and has been very much on the beaten track. The history of the village is one of absorbing and fascinating interest. At times its people have been heavily involved in the affairs of the country as a whole. The second Richard de Montfichet portrayed on our village sign was one of the 25 barons chosen to make sure that King John observed the provisions of Magna Carta. In the Civil War, Stansted's sympathies lay heavily with Parliament against King Charles I. Timothy Myddelton of Stansted Hall, played a leading role in organising Parliament's opposition in Essex. The vicar, Richard Ward, published fiery pamphlets damning the King and championing the Parliamentary cause, and at one point Stansted was one of the recruiting centres for the Parliamentary army. The most dramatic and distinctive development came with the railway in 1845. The local economy flourished, population soared and, led by the squire, William Fuller-Maitland, Quaker shopkeepers, Joshua, Joseph and Harford Green, and the wealthy directors of the celebrated wine and spirit merchants, W and A Gilbey, Stansted became a tower of strength for the Liberal Party and was widely known as Radical Stansted.



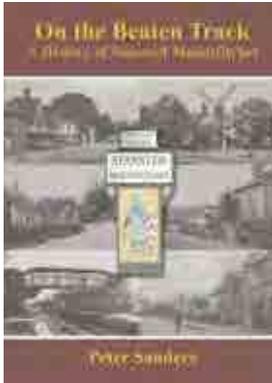
The Local History Society is proud to publish a book that will be so important in helping us to understand our history and that will enable us to look at our village with fresh eyes. Copies £15 from the Parish Council and Millway, or £18.50 (including postage) from Peter Sanders, 31D Church Street, Saffron Walden CB10 1JW. Cheques payable to Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society.

Peter Brown
Chairman,
Stansted Mountfitchet Local History Society

PUZZLES PAGE

WIN! WIN! WIN! A COPY OF 'ON THE BEATEN TRACK A HISTORY OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET'

How much do you know about Stansted Mountfitchet? We have a free copy of Peter Sanders' prized new book to give away! To win, simply answer the following questions correctly and email your entry to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk along with your contact details by **23rd December**. The winner will be first correct answer drawn out of a hat by Peter.



Stansted Mountfitchet

- (1) What does the name Stansted mean?
- (2) Where does the name Mountfitchet come from?
- (3) Who was the first Lord of the Manor in Stansted after the Norman Conquest?

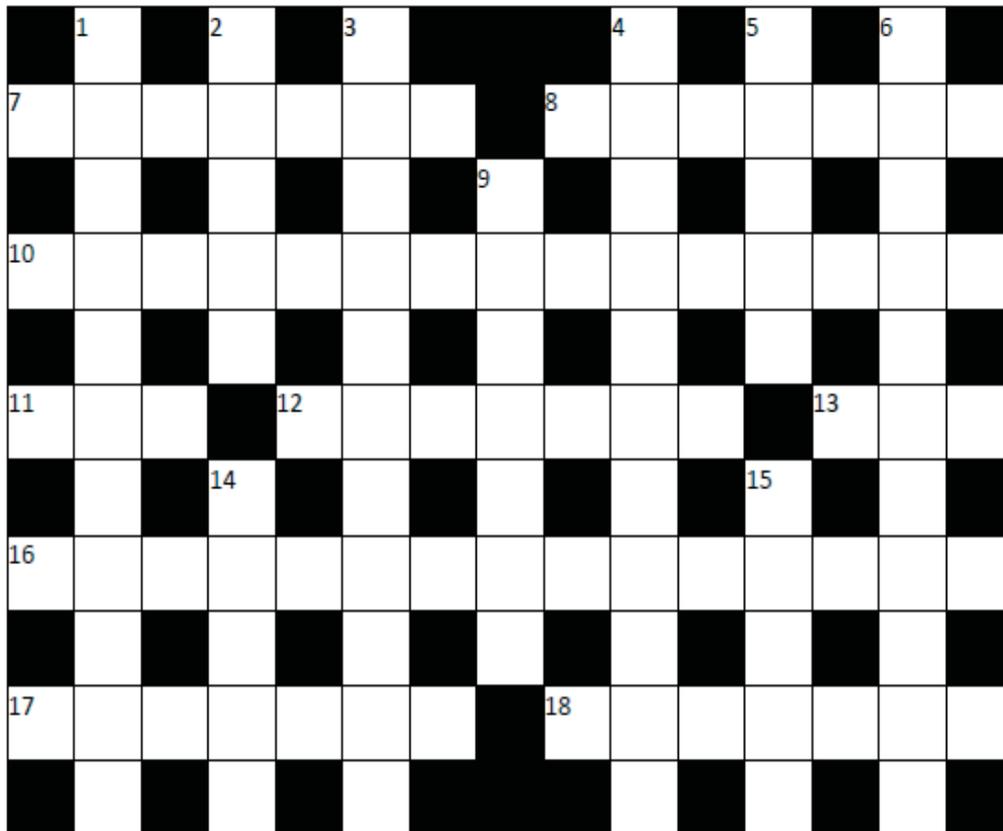
The Old Court House

- (1) What was the first name of The Old Court House on Chapel Hill?
- (2) Which organisation was its first tenant?

The Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club

- (1) In which year was the building now occupied by the Social Club in Lower Street opened?
- (2) What was the first organisation to occupy the building?

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 7 1's status with viewers (7)
- 8 Ask about (7)
- 10 Road safety measure (7,8)
- 11 Flying cricket tool (3)
- 12 Sounds like citrus fruit needs help (7)
- 13 One male (3)
- 16 Learning place aimed at first principles (6,3,6)
- 17 Not thought of
- 18 George cleaned the windows with its help!

DOWN

- 1 Terpsichorean entertainment in the 60s (4,7)
- 2 What to dance to (5)
- 3 Professional from down under (7,4)
- 4 Professional (5,2,4)
- 5 Journey, goal (5)
- 6 Another antipodean pro (7,4)
- 9 Formation(7)
- 14 Noise? teamed with 2 (5)
- 15 Song from the Bible (5)

Compiled by Roger Wardle. Answers on page XXX

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"Where did that come from?" was the theme of Julie Pollard's evening of flower arranging. Every display was accompanied by a brief history of the subject it portrayed, as well as personal memories, anecdotes and general hints on displaying the flowers. The subjects were varied and ranged from Ice Cream to Christmas via John Tradescant!! Using her years of experience in the retail industry, members were also shown how to gift wrap awkward shaped parcels and how to hand tie a bouquet of flowers. The members' Green Bowl Photographic Competition was won by Monica Dudley's *Summer Flower Meadow at Ickleton House*. 2nd place was Paul Embleton and 3rd place was Pat Allen. The subject of the competition was *My 'highlight' from a garden visit* - anything from a vista to a bench. Congratulations to you all.

To start the build up to the festivities, the meeting on 7th December will be the members' Christmas bring and share party. There is no meeting in January so the first meeting of the New Year will be on Wednesday 1st February when we will be welcoming Claire Matthews talking about *The Gardens of Easton Lodge*. The Club meets at the Day Centre, adjacent to the Council Offices and car park at the top of Chapel Hill – doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. *The Garden Club wishes all Link readers a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.*

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144



www.birchangerwoodtrust.org

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Everything is sleeping in the Wood, the trees, the bulbs, our hedgehogs, and the weather? Well ... rain, winds, sun, frost, snow? Notwithstanding, Santa Claus will fly over and deliver. The New Year ... sorry no bagpipes and probably no haggis in the Compound; however please have a lovely time and enjoy walking our paths in the ancient Wood. The Trust thank you all so much for using the Wood. As a bonus - if you are driving along the A120 in January or February heading east towards the motorway, in the early morning following a cold and frosty night, the whole Wood may well be sparkling as the sun catches all the frosted brambles, bushes and shrubs, and to enjoy this, you don't even have to get out of your car! However should you want to stay warm, collection of cut and matured firewood for your log-burner remains at £10 per wheelbarrow load, or £70 per cubic metre. Go to our Compound off the Heath Row footpath/track entrance. This is open most Saturdays 9.00am-10.00am and 2.00pm-3.00pm. In this respect, the Trust is making every effort to improve the entrance to Birchanger Wood for the collection of wood but the access to the Wood is not owned by the Trust and we are reliant on others for the maintenance of the track from Heath Row into the Wood.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Email : secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org

NEW HEALTH CENTRE OPENS

I was expecting fanfares, or a ribbon cutting ceremony at the very least; but when I visited Castle Maltings on the opening morning all was calm and quiet with business as usual, just in much better surroundings. Situated on the first floor of the new purpose-built building the surgery is lighter, brighter and altogether more spacious. Access is



Photo: Barry Chandler

easier with wide doorways and a lift for the less able bodied, as well as stairs. In the re-configured Lower Street car park there were plenty of spaces including designated disabled ones, but the new layout was confusing with no directional or entrance/exit signs to the various parking areas. There is also a kerb running across the middle of one section with bright yellow warning stripes that at first glance looks like some sort of 'speed bump'. Judging by the scrape marks a few motorists had already attempted to drive over the kerb. (I wonder how many pedestrians have tripped over it?)

The newly designated coach parking bays situated at the side of the approach road reduces the road to single lane in places, which is not ideal. Coach passengers (mostly children) are forced to alight straight onto the road in the path of on-coming cars; surely this is dangerous? A further concern is the safety of pedestrians crossing the road from the bottom of Chapel Hill to Castle Maltings. That said, it is a definite 'thumbs up' for the new surgery but the jury's still out on the car park (although I understand it is still a 'work in progress') and pedestrian access. I am told there is to be an official opening early in the New Year. Perhaps there will be fanfares and ribbon cutting then!



Yvonne Ayres

NEW DENTIST

Castle Dental is now open on the ground floor of the Castle Maltings building. The practice is modern and state of the art, providing both NHS and private treatment. Opening hours are 8.30am-5.00pm Monday to Friday, tel 815166.

Angela Cairns
NHS West Essex

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS

7.Popular 8.Enquire 10.Pelican Crossing 11.Bat
12.Limeade 13.Man 16.School for basics 17.Unknown
18.Ukulele

DOWN

1.Come Dancing 2.Music 3.Natalie Lowe 4. Anton Du Beke
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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

RETIREMENT OF ANNE COURT

After thirty years of working in the Parish Office Anne officially retired in November. During her long service Anne has got to know many of our residents, particularly our seniors, who paid her a visit every year to renew their rail cards and enjoy bringing her up to date with their news.

Parish Council Chairman, Maureen Caton, said "Anne's retirement has been well-earned. She has served our community well for thirty years and has seen and coped with the many changes in work processes and systems. She is generally the first point of contact, either by phone or visiting the office. Her sense of fun



and humour has helped see her through some complex situations, and residents have commented on her cheerfulness as well as her helpfulness. We wish Anne a very happy retirement, with time to spend with her close family and her new puppy."

PARISH OFFICE SERVICES

Anne's retirement means that the office will be operating with 20 hours less wo/manpower a week until a replacement is appointed. This inevitably means some things will take a little longer to happen so please bear with us!

NEW COMMUNITY BUILDING

We ceased work on the site following a letter from a local developer who holds easements relating to utilities which are below our build. Our solicitors are working with the developer's legal representatives to resolve this situation.

RESIGNATION OF Cllr MARK CAPELL-HELM

Mark Capell-Helm has tendered his resignation as Parish Councillor, for personal reasons. We thank Mark for his service and wish him well. We have advertised the vacancy in line with protocol.

UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

We are pleased to report that all four of the Parish Council's nominees for Uttlesford Community Awards were accepted by the Awards committee. Awards will be presented to:

Seann Tomson for his work in fund raising and planning the new skatepark. Since the skatepark was opened Seann has done a great job in ensuring it is well looked after and that the code of conduct is respected by all the users.

Ray Woodcock for his contribution to Community Speedwatch, The Flood Working Group and his campaigning in relation to the new Health Centre as well as on airport and road safety issues.

Bill Stiles for his work on airport issues, public footpaths and his charity work.

Molly Clark for her work with the Stansted Millers and her hospital voluntary work.

STANSTED ENVIRONMENTAL RANGERS

We have two Environmental Rangers on the Parish Council payroll. They spend most of their time emptying our litter and dog waste bins and picking up litter, but their job description also covers other jobs



that help keep the village looking clean and tidy. A lot of what they do is pretty thankless, so our rangers, Levi and Lucy Loveridge were

really pleased to get a card from the children at Messy Church thanking them for the work they do in keeping the village clean and tidy.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We continue to work on the plan. Focus groups are to be held to ensure we are addressing issues that are important to the village. Please see the Neighbourhood Plan website for details of locations and dates – www.stanstedneighbourhoodplan.com.

Members of the steering group invited local estate agents to a meeting to get their perspective on the property market in Stansted. They provided an interesting insight to the pull factors (what attracts people to Stansted) and the push factors (what puts people off Stansted). Not surprisingly, good communications were viewed as a significant pull factor and the "quaintness" of the village, although people from outside the area are put off Stansted because they worry about its proximity to the airport and the possible negative environmental factors associated with this. Traffic issues, particularly the problems in Cambridge Road, were a major push factor.

They had some interesting views on the impact of Stansted schools on the property market. Many parents have viewed secondary schools in Bishop's Stortford, Newport and Saffron Walden as a better option for their child than Forest Hall School, so look for properties where they have a better chance of getting their children into those schools. Hopefully, the recent significant improvements in the results at Forest Hall School will make it a more attractive option, but the lack of post-16 provision doesn't help their cause and it takes a long time to change people's perceptions of an institution.

Incidentally there is no recognised collective noun for a group of estate agents, but a quick 'Google' produced "a smarm" or "a guesstimate" as possible suggestions!

DOGS ON THE RECREATION GROUND

A recent Open Spaces meeting considered a request from a resident that an order be put in place requiring all dogs on The Recreation Ground to be kept on a lead. This followed incidents where dogs entered the gardens of properties fronting The Rec and left dog mess which was not picked up by their owners. There were incidents on The Rec where other users were intimidated by dogs off their leads. Control Orders can only be put in place if there is an alternative area where dogs can be exercised off their leads which isn't the case in Stansted.

There are Control Orders on the Rec, as on all our open spaces, requiring the removal of dog faeces, and an Exclusion of Dogs Order on the fenced play areas.

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act passed 1996 imposed a fine of £1,000 if you are convicted of not clearing up after your dog.

Under Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 you are required, as a dog owner, to keep your dog under proper control. This applies to ALL dogs. It is a criminal offence to allow your dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place.

VILLAGE BONFIRE

A big thank you to the Stansted Scouts who did a fantastic job in setting up this year's bonfire event. It was a fine, if somewhat chilly, evening so there was a good audience and we had record takings on the gate. Judging by the feedback on the night and on Stansted Matters everybody really enjoyed the event.

GARDENING ISSUES

As reported in previous editions of The Link we are looking at ways that we can make sure that the problems we have had this year with our gardens don't happen again. The contract with our current gardening contractor has been terminated. This means that the flower beds will not have a winter planting this year but on the positive side, our horticultural experts tell us that giving the flower beds a rest will help ensure better displays in the summer.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

If you are aware of an open public space that looks a bit neglected and could do with a bit of a makeover, why not consider forming a community garden group and get the job done yourself? Your first step would be to contact the Parish Council to establish ownership of the land and make sure you have the landowner's consent to start work. The Royal Horticultural Society supports community gardens and you can find more information at:

www.rhs.org.uk/Communities/Get-Involved/Volunteer

We hope to have a Community Garden Category in next year's Stansted in Bloom Competition.

LITTER PICK



A big thank you to the small but enthusiastic group of volunteers who turned out for the Autumn Litter Pick. A really nice aspect of the turnout this time was getting volunteers from across the age range as shown in our photograph.

STANSTED POPULATION STATISTICS

According to the 2001 census Stansted had a population of 5,533, increasing to 6,011 at the 2011 census. In the five years since the last census the population has grown and is now nearer 7,000. This means that we could still all be accommodated on the world's biggest-ever cruise ship, the 227,000-tonne Harmony of the Seas, a luxury home on the waves for 8,500 passengers and crew. If you're interested in a village cruise contact Sue in Absolute Travel.



STANSTED LINK NOVEMBER

The Parish Council wish to clarify that the article in last month's Link regarding Anti Social Behaviour did not reflect any view of the Parish Council in relation to young people playing football on the Green. The Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee will be meeting with representatives involved to discuss issues surrounding Bentfield Lower Green and how this can be amicably managed.



NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Thom Goddard writes

As this year of election shocks, new female heads of Government, and unlikely Premier League winners comes to a close, the District Council prepares for a busy 2017.

The Local Plan

The District Council has been working on the Local Plan and identified three potential new settlements in Uttlesford along with growth around Saffron Walden. The new sites are at Great Chesterford, Easton Park (land west of Great Dunmow) and "land west of Braintree" (around Stebbing). However, after Councillors raised a number of questions and tested the evidence, Uttlesford District Council agreed to pause the Local Plan timetable.

The delay in the Local Plan gives Council officers more time to strengthen the case for the proposed sites in Uttlesford and work with your Councillors on all the details. We all want clarity on the Local Plan so it does not fail and works best for our area!

This does mean the consultation on the Local Plan, scheduled to begin in November, has also been delayed. In the meantime, you can contact any of your District Councillors any time to discuss the Local Plan. There will be a consultation on the Local Plan and plenty of opportunities to have your say in 2017.

FREE Christmas Car Parking

Who says Uttlesford District Council doesn't give anything away for free?

Free parking after 2pm in all District council car parks (except Fairycroft/Waitrose, Saffron Walden) from 1st until 24th December.

Free parking all day in all District council car parks (except Fairycroft/Waitrose, Saffron Walden) from 25th December until 2nd January 2017.

MP Surgeries

Sir Alan Haselhurst MP is available, without appointment, on 2nd December:

5.45 - 6.30pm, The Guildhall, Town Street, **Thaxted**
7 - 7.45pm, The Old Armoury, 3 Museum St, **Saffron Walden**, CB10 1JN

And on 6th January:

5.15 - 6.00pm, Village Hall, Main Road, **Boreham**
6.30 - 7.15pm, Foakes House, 47 Stortford Road, **Dunmow**

Councillor Initiative Grants - FREE MONEY, MUST GO!

Yes, honestly, free money! At the start of the Council year, in May 2016, each of your District Councillors was given £3,000 for community initiatives AND was able to carry over their money from last year. This must be spent by the end of April. Please contact us with ideas for how we can help fund initiatives that will improve people's lives in our area.

So that just leaves to say a Merry Christmas from all your District Councillors and we hope you have a prosperous New Year!

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

December

7th F & GP (Budget)

14th Full Council (Precept)

January

11th Open Spaces

18th Full Council

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford. Admin Assist - Vacant

Assistant to the Parish Clerk-Trevor Lloyd

Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net

Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10.00am - 1.00pm

www.stansted.net

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Maureen Caton (Chairman)	813914 m.caton@hotmail.co.uk
Catherine Dean	813579 catherinemarydean@btinternet.com
Samantha Dunn	810859 cllrsamanthadunn@stansted.net
John Hudson	814489 john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk
Matthew Jessup	816591 matthew@in2it.biz
Peter Jones	813252 peter@lowerstreet.com
Jo Kavanagh	815157 jo.kavanagh.248@gmail.com
John O'Brien	816772 johndobrien@gmail.com
Rachel Rands	817413 rachelrands@btinternet.com
Frances Richards (Vice Chairman)	812748 frannie.richards@gmail.com

Juliet Richards	496531 julz_dot_com@yahoo.co.uk
John Salmon	814789 dandjsalmon@gmail.com
Geoffrey Sell	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
Daphne Wallace-Jarvis	812259 dwjjwj.444@gmail.com

As we go to press we have one vacancy in the South Ward which we need to fill.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alan Dean	813579 cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
Terry Farthing	661555 cllrfarthing@uttlesford.gov.uk
Thom Goddard	01371 879122 cllrgoddard@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell	815925 cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Ray Gooding	813103 cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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

POLICE	Non-emergency 101 James.graham@essex.pnn.police.uk
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

PARISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Valerie Trundle - 813433 Joy Thomas - 813871

STANSTED LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Temporary service for our Stansted Library

Stansted Library has a temporary home for the coming months, while work is undertaken to create a new community hub at Crafton Green. During this period a temporary mobile service will operate from the Crafton Green car park. For more information contact

Jenny.Salisbury@essex.gov.uk or
Anthea.Wearn@essex.gov.uk

or the Parish Council website www.stansted.net

The Baby and Toddler Time is suspended during construction work. For Renewals and Enquiries tel:0345 6037 628 Email:stansted.library@essex.gov.uk

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK	Vivian Falk, Chairman
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Arts Club	Michelle Wray Tel: 007528 317907 Email: michelle.wray@gmail.com	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs, Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rotary Club	Martin Budzinski Tel: 07803 878961 Email: martin@voucherpacks.com
Brownies (Tuesday)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Wednesday)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Spangles Children's Centre	Sarah Mason Tel: 812348 Email: smason2@spurgeons.org
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Friends of St Mary's Church	Keith Ayres Tel: 07768 023830	Tennis Club	Chris Hollis Tel: 319155 Email: chris.hollis2@btinternet.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Grove Cottage	Andrea Charity Tel: 656085/ 07795 483674	U3A	Helen, Chair Tel: 812945
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis, District Commissioner Tel: 814434	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Brenda Ryan, President Tel: 812725
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Inner Wheel Club	Kate Muskett, President Tel: 850228		
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com		
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232		
Millers (Windmill)	Molly Clark Tel: 816768		
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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



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Thu	12am - 11pm	
Fri	12am - 12pm	
Sat	12am - 12pm	
Sun	12am - 6pm	



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HUW JOHNSON CLUB

In the past few weeks we have been to the Chequers Pub in Ugley for sausages and mash, dressed up in terrifying costumes for our Halloween Party, and enjoyed both a quiz and a bingo evening. Coming up, we will be having our annual fireworks party at the Ropkins' house and a trip to see *Calamity Jane* at the Rhodes Centre, as well as a Christmassy crafts evening and our now traditional Carol Concert to finish the term. We then have a few weeks' break from our Thursday evenings, but have both a trip to the Cambridge pantomime and our New Year's party to look forward to in early 2017. We are delighted that Bishop's Stortford Rotary Club has chosen to support the Club again this year with a very generous donation towards our pantomime trip. The Inner Wheel Club has also agreed to host our New Year's party, which is excellent news! Thank you also to everyone who has supported us through the Co-op Local Community Fund – we have already raised over £160 in just a month. As 2016 draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the Huw Johnson Club in some way this year. If your New Year's resolution is to get involved in a local organisation or to get volunteering, please contact Sandra on 812627 or myself for more information. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a very happy, healthy and successful 2017.



Katharine Collis
Tel: 461270



Everybody at Farnham is delighted that former deputy Alan Gardiner is now officially our new head teacher. Mr Gardiner has been a very popular and effective deputy and we are sure he will make a wonderful head as well. Horse Chestnut Class visited the British Museum shortly before half term and had a fascinating tour around some of the Egyptian objects to tie in with this term's topic. Willow Class have been learning all about Diwali and making diva lights to take home. We enjoyed a morning at Joyce Frankland Academy competing in the inter-schools cross-country races. All the children at school take part in a daily run before lunch, which has helped to improve their stamina and co-ordination. Everyone did really well and Olly Aiken won the silver medal in the Y2 group. Farnham, and federation partner school, Rickling, had a visit from Paralympic triathlete Claire Cunningham in November. She spoke about her life and achievements and then led the children in a sponsored exercise circuit to raise money for Sports for Schools. Farnham is a small village school, graded *Good* by Ofsted. We have small class sizes, excellent adult to child ratios, strong results and happy children. There are places available and Stansted children are eligible. Several Stansted families send their children to the school and would be happy to talk to interested parents. Please call the school on 771339 or see our website.

Katherine Aiken
Friends of Farnham



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

At half term the children took part in a *Smartie Challenge*. They were given a tube of Smarties and were encouraged to do jobs and put their earnings in the tube (having eaten the Smarties first!). We have raised £120, which we are putting towards some log seats for our garden. All the children have received a certificate congratulating them on taking part. This half term lots of focus has been on number activities, they have also created firework pictures, and poppies for Remembrance Day. We held a minute's silence on 11th November and all the children held their poppies.



We are expecting many parents, friends, grandparents, aunts and uncles to watch the Adventurers Group nativity play in St John's Church on 9th December. On 13th December they are visiting the residents of Mountfitchet House to sing a few Christmas carols for them. Both Rainbow groups are having a Christmas treat and the Reception children from the Magna Carta School will be joining us. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising five. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down, however young to ensure a place. The staff and Committee Members at Rainbow wish everyone a very merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Gill Pursglove
Administration Manager
Tel: 814242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net

Stansted Family Café

www.stanstedfamilycafe.org

New Website for Family Café

As well as a new logo, the café now has a brand new website (still at the same address) with information and dates for the café, as well as a new Gallery section where you can view some of the art and craft projects we have done recently. If you have been to the café in the last few months your children may be able to spot some of their creations. We will continue to add more pictures of the most recent craft projects over the coming weeks. If you did not join us for our five-year celebration in November, why not check out the website or join us for our Christmas themed café on Sunday 11th December 10.00am-11.30am? The café is also open on Saturdays 14th and 28th January. More details can be found on the website!



Ros Page
Tel: 810813



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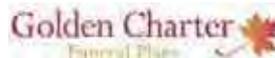


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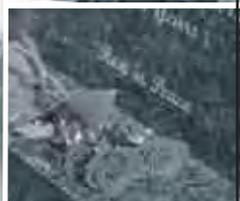


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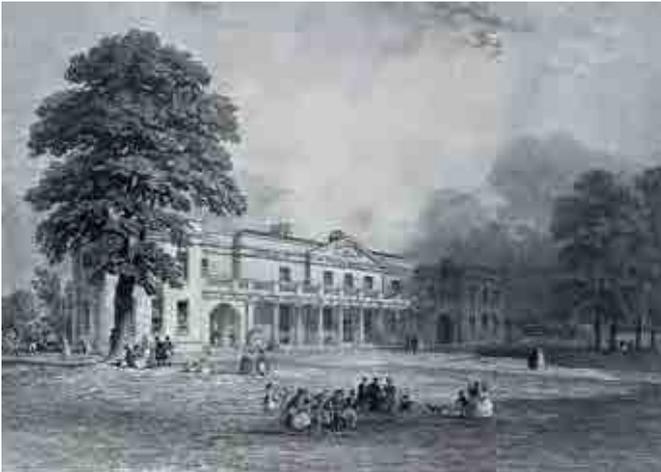
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INNER WHEEL

Our October meeting began with an interesting talk by Nicky Newton, community fundraising manager of Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (ACT). This is our Club's chosen charity for the year, so it was all the more relevant, particularly as many of us have had cause to visit Addenbrooke's Hospital at some time or another. We learned a lot about the history of Addenbrooke's, which began 250 years ago when a Dr John Addenbrooke left a gift of £4,676 in his will to "hire and fit up, purchase or erect a small physical hospital in the town of Cambridge for poor people". The original hospital shown below in a lithograph by William Fleetwood Varley, opened in 1766 in Trumpington Street with just 20 beds, but



then the hospital grew rapidly during the 19th and 20th centuries as medical science developed. In 1959, building began on the new 66-acre hospital site at Hills Road, the first phase of which was opened by the Queen in 1962. The hospital became one of the first NHS Foundation Trusts in 2004, and now enjoys a worldwide reputation as a centre of excellence for clinical research, and continues to expand with over 1,000 beds. The aim of the ACT charity is to provide services and equipment which cannot be funded by the NHS, to assist patients and their relatives in many various ways. One of the charity's current projects is to provide an outpatients' garden and also the provision of quiet restful places for relatives of patients in the intensive care unit. New members are warmly welcomed at our monthly meetings which are held at the Stansted Day Centre; further details from President Kate Muskett on 850228 or me.



Brenda Cox
Tel: 812191

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on Tuesday 6th December at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck in Lower Street. We will be discussing a selection of short stories by Roald Dahl which we are reading to commemorate his centenary. We will also be holding our Christmas book swap where we all wrap a favourite book and exchange it in a lucky dip. We will then each read the book we have picked to discuss at our January meeting which will be on 3rd January. You are welcome to join us.



Anne Watson
Tel: 898693
Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com

GARDENING TIPS FOR WINTER

If the soil is wet and goey enough to stick easily to the boots, then stay off it! Winds can be fierce in winter, so prune taller bush roses by half to reduce the risk of strong winds rocking them and breaking branches. Keep greenhouse/house plants virtually dry so that you can only slightly feel moisture in the compost. Barely damp is the optimum soil condition for most plants in a protected environment. If you took some photographs of the garden in the peak of summer, and noticed any gaps that will need filling for future years, non-frosty days when the soil is not too sticky can be used for planting shrubs or bare root plants that you may like to use to fill those gaps. Pelargoniums are quite slow to grow from seed, it can be worth starting them off early after Christmas to give them a good head start for the summer; if you do not have a greenhouse, a bright windowsill will suffice. If you do have a greenhouse and have not already done so, then give it a thorough clean, paying attention to disinfecting those hard to reach crevices. There are some trees and shrubs that can bleed if they are pruned too late in winter, pruning limbs greater than 50mm in diameter can cause significant sap loss. Grapevines, birches, magnolias, hornbeams, walnuts and willows amongst others should be pruned before mid-January, or if this is not possible, wait until the summer pruning season. Some super plants available to buy in nurseries that produce lots of fragrant colourful flowers in winter include winter flowering honeysuckles, Lonicera fragrantissima or Lonicera x purpusii are semi evergreen and not excessively vigorous. Grown in a group with mahonia and sarcococca (Christmas box) can make a bright and attractive area in the garden.

Paul the Gardener



SHOE BOXES

A total of 238 Christmas boxes were packed in Stansted, destined for children who would otherwise not receive a present. The knitters of Stansted and Bishop's Stortford came up trumps again with hats, scarves, gloves, puppets and bags; the tennis club gave a ball to put in every box;



Millways donated paper; and many people generously gave the other items. We were disappointingly short of packers on the Wednesday evening, but thanks to the U3A Pilates class we completed the boxes the next morning. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed. Because of you 238 children will experience the delight of opening a special Christmas box filled with wonderful goodies.

Catherine, Eileen and Helen

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ST JOHN AMBULANCE NEEDS YOU!

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Organisers of the St John Ambulance unit in Bishop's Stortford are appealing for new volunteers to step forward to train as adult first aiders. Adult volunteers at the unit regularly carry out first aid duties at local events including Cazfest, St Mary's Motor Show, the Bishop's Stortford Carnival and other public gatherings in the local community such as village fêtes and fun runs. They also occasionally travel further afield to assist at larger events such as the annual V Festival and Virgin Money London Marathon. No prior first aid or volunteering experience is required as all necessary training will be given at weekly unit meetings. Dedicated adult trainee first aiders can expect to reach a good standard of competency within six to nine months.



We are hoping to grow the Bishop's Stortford unit over the next few months so we can offer first aid cover at a larger number of local events and would like to hear from enthusiastic local people who are willing to give up a few hours a month to train how to be a life saver. Volunteering with St John Ambulance is so fulfilling and it is an amazing feeling to know that you are potentially the difference between a life lost and a life saved. We meet on Wednesdays 8.00pm-9.30pm at the Havers Community Centre, Knights Row. If you are interested, please contact me for an informal discussion. All potential volunteers will need an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. For more about St John Ambulance, visit our website or contact Ian Groves, Regional PR Officer (East) on 07973 839285 email: ian.groves@sja.org.uk.

Laura Watson
Volunteer First Aider
Tel: 07504 130844
Email: laura.watson@sja.org.uk



Christmas Market Thursday 1st December noon-8.00pm at Great Hadham Golf Club. Please join us and get in the festive mood. There will be over 50 stalls with great gift ideas, festive food, Santa's Grotto, carol singing and much, much more. You may find that special something to help with your Christmas shopping. There will be a free shuttle bus from Coopers of Stortford car park every hour 11.30am-4.30pm, returning on the hour 1.00pm-4.00pm.



Natalie Trapmore
Tel: 07876 478717

WHAT TO WEAR FOR CHRISTMAS?

Quite a dilemma, isn't it? Should you go for the little black dress or the reindeer onesie; sophisticated or festive fun? Well now at Mercer and Hughes we have added to your Christmas decisions by stocking a range of festive jumpers and coats for your pets. Your dog can join in the fun by dressing up as, among other things, Father Christmas or a snowman! Our very own Christmas Grinch; who shall remain nameless but he's Irish and his name rhymes with blood, gave a quite audible 'humph' when he saw them in the waiting room and muttered something about dogs being dogs and not fashion accessories; however Wendy and the other receptionists report that they've been flying off the shelves along with our animal-themed Christmas cards and diaries. Actually, as the weather gets colder it is important to make sure all our pets are kept warm. Horse owners are usually very proactive with rugging up their horses in the winter and they also need to make sure that the ice on their water is broken every day. People often ask if rabbits and guinea pigs can withstand such cold weather; the answer is usually yes, as long as they are used to being housed outside. Many people will bring rabbit hutches inside a shed or garage for the winter but you can keep them outside provided they are in a sheltered position with extra insulation around the hutch. I usually advise a couple of layers of old carpet over the top, with suitable flaps that can be brought down over the front for added protection overnight. A large amount of extra bedding for added warmth is also important and extra food may also be necessary. So, whether it's a reindeer jumper or extra hay, make sure your pet is warm this winter!



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



BEEKEEPING

This month's hot topic is the Asian hornet, which has gradually migrated from China, imported into France through cheap Chinese earthenware pots. It killed 50 people last year in China, and is now quite common in the south of France. It has now crossed the Channel and has been found in Gloucestershire. It feeds on honey bees, waiting outside hives and attacking unsuspecting bees flying in and out of the hive. French bees have developed a defence mechanism by communicating with each other when the Asian hornet is near the colony, and avoiding flying in and out. British bees will not have developed that mechanism. Nests are found high in trees and are about a metre long. The Asian Hornet abdomen is almost entirely black, in contrast to the European Hornet which is yellow and wasp-like. If you see a nest, do not go near it. Take a picture if you can and email it to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk. The Government has a policy of extermination, so will send a team to destroy the nest.



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

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



We were delighted to welcome Rob Burles, who is a chaplain of Stansted Airport as well as the Vicar of Holy Trinity Church in Takeley. Rob spoke of the airport not only as a place of travel but of somewhere that employs 12,000 people, which makes it very important to our area. He is part of a team of four chaplains. Their role is to support not only those that pass through the airport but all those that work there. They do not have an office but can be seen around the place all the time and are available to talk with anyone who needs them. They support people with anxieties, if they become ill or even if a death occurs, which has happened. He told us a lot about the airport itself - including how far you have to walk - and of the wonderful Schools Aerozone Education Centre which was set up in 2015 to inspire young people and is proving tremendously popular with local schools.

Later we welcomed David Richardson, featured last month in The Link for raising money for Act One Arts Base, by sponsored swimming. With him were John Ley and his daughter Katie, who has been dancing with this organisation for 10 years. Their aim is to include all ages and abilities into the world of dance and their motto is 'putting ability, not disability, centre stage.' David, who has cerebral palsy and poor hearing, together with Katie, who has Downs Syndrome, gave us a short talk which they had written themselves to tell us what it means to them. John then told us how the project was started in 2002 by Suzie Birchwood, when her dance training was curtailed by the onset of dystonia. She has inspired all who work in it and have had their lives transformed. Recently Arsenal Football Club has sponsored them so that the project can carry on. They are about to change the name to Silverbirch.



Our craft afternoons on the last Friday of the month 2.30pm-4.30pm in the Day Centre are proving very popular and we welcome everyone - you do not have to be a WI member. Our hand-knitted poppies have been well received and we raised £106 for the British Legion from these. On 8th December our speaker is Alan Haines: *A Kick up the Sixties* and on 12th January Linda Ketteridge: *The History of Saffron Walden and Neighbouring Market Towns*. Both meetings are at 7.45pm in the Day Centre and visitors are welcome. For more information please contact our president Brenda Ryan on 812725.



Judy Colliver

Our final open day of 2016 on 16th October was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone despite the variations on a theme of weather that Mother Nature chose to hurl at us. We have now closed the Gardens to visitors until our hugely popular Snowdrop Sundays in February, although we continue to provide illustrated talks about the Garden to interested groups. We have had more than 3,000 adult visitors to the Gardens this year and hundreds of children who between them enjoyed gallons of homemade soup, hundreds of bacon rolls and more cake than you could shake a stick at, not to mention the diverse musical entertainment, guided tours, craft stalls, nature activities and general loveliness of the gardens. Volunteers will now be working hard getting ready for winter and we always welcome new recruits. We have two volunteer days: the main one on Thursdays, plus alternate Saturdays until April; so if that takes your fancy please email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk or call 01371 876979 and leave a message - we will get back to you.

We already have lots planned for 2017: **Snowdrop Sundays** 19th and 26th February plus monthly **Open Days** from April until October. We thank everyone for their support over the past season and hope that anyone who visited this year will not only come back but encourage others to come and enjoy the magic of this very special place.

Helen Carter
Administrator



Many events in nature are influenced by the vagaries of climate and weather and we experienced such an event in a field in Norfolk at the end of October. As the sun rose it turned into a beautiful warm autumn day and by mid-morning everywhere was smothered with spiderlings, small newly hatched spiders, which were drifting along on the gentle breeze borne aloft by strands of gossamer. There were thousands, probably millions of them. This is something that happens usually in the autumn and is triggered when the weather conditions are just right, and the spiderlings have the opportunity to drift off and hopefully land on a suitable spot to start a new life during the following year. There had been a few fine days but after that particular day the weather changed for the worse and has not really improved much since then. One wonders if the little spiders knew that it would be their last chance of an exodus from their overcrowded home patch. We noticed another unusual occurrence that weekend. We regularly travel the same route and generally see a number of dead badgers and deer at the roadside as well as the occasional fox. This time there were no badgers or deer but the corpses of no less than five foxes along the way. Generally wild animals travel about hunting for food, so did this mean that the badgers and deer were all well fed near their homes and the foxes were suddenly on short rations? There are other reasons why animals go wandering but on this occasion it was a couple of months before the foxes might think about going courting.



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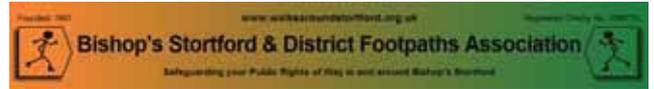
RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP

Our next evening meeting will be a social gathering on 13th December at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford (next to Tesco). Bring a plate of food along; this will be a great chance to talk and socialise with other members, enjoy a mince pie and a glass of punch. On Sunday 1st January we are going for a morning walk in Hatfield Forest. Meet there in the car park at 9.00am (note National Trust charge unless you are a member). Hatfield Forest is the best surviving example in Britain of an almost complete Royal Hunting Forest. It has seen many owners, from kings to commoners. No other Forest on earth evokes the atmosphere of a medieval hunting forest so completely. It is a managed landscape, which has been created by centuries of human intervention. The traditional woodland management techniques of coppicing, pollarding and grazing are continued today. It is home to over 3,500 species of wildlife, some of which are rare and threatened. Call Lee Jaques on 07454 801894 for more details. You might wish to bring along a packed lunch or snack.



On Tuesday 10th January at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, our talk will be *Rye Meads through the Seasons* by Derek Girvan. This is our local reserve, which some of us think we know quite well, but Derek works there and should provide some insider knowledge. This fantastic Hertfordshire reserve is home to a wealth of wildlife, and Derek's talk will give us a wonderful insight! Entry £3 members, £5 visitors.

Sheila Bowles
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December Sunday Walks Leaving 10.00am. All 5/6 miles.
4th Allens Green Park on verge along by the Queens Head TL 455169 CM21 0LS

18th Manuden Park on the road opposite Manuden House TL 489268 CM23 1DF

26th Stansted Castle Car Park (free on Sundays). TL 515248,
Sorry - No Walks in January!

The weather? Well it could be soggy, misty, wet, crisp and snowy and all stops in between, or, even, beautiful. So we look forward to seeing a happy band of well-booted and ready to go walkers. I would also like to say a big 'Thank you' to our specialist two-person team of apple-providers. Inside the boot of their car is a Vitamin 'C' tree-machine which in October and November dispenses apples after our walks. A truly marvellous invention and a very impressive car-add-on.

I am also impressed with those persons who have a direct line to The Almighty, because so far, our walks have been blessed with excellent weather. So let it be.



The photo is entitled 'Winter Chill' and was taken by Sylvia Hayes, one of our BSDFA walkers. Have a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year! My very best wishes to you all.

Daphne Wallace-Jarvis

Publicity Officer

Email: dwjwj.444@gmail.com



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tripe and trotters, spam, powdered egg, corned beef and a packet of Omo; just some of the ingredients of Brian Carline's very entertaining talk at our recent meeting. A retired teacher, he spoke very humorously and touchingly of growing up in Salford in the 1940s and '50s. A place with a 'Lowry-esque' landscape and a large number of 'dark Satanic mills', it was the setting for at least two films *A Taste of Honey* and *Hobson's Choice* and, of course, *Coronation Street*. In just 45 minutes Mr Carline recalled the days of Wilfred Pickles, Archie Andrews, Victor Sylvester and 'Uncle Mac', The Hippodrome and the various acts he'd enjoyed, regaling us with jokes and anecdotes from just some of the performers. At the end of his talk he kindly judged our competition for an old household gadget and enjoyed a cup of tea with us. Our December meeting is for members only, so our next open meeting will be held in Ugley Village Hall on 18th January at 2.15pm when our speaker will be Tim Turner of Swords who will be speaking on the history of tea. So, if that sounds like your cup of tea, why not come and join us? You would be most welcome!

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STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

November saw the team string together a run of impressive victories which has pushed us into the higher positions of the league table. With every win increasing team confidence the management are having a hard job trying to keep the players focused on the old saying, "We only take each game as it comes along". Thoughts of finishing in the top four has seen our name being mentioned as serious challengers by regular watchers of the Essex Senior League. The League Fixtures Secretary has been pushing all clubs to play as many games in the first half of the season, thus we come into the months of December and January having played 24 league games of a 42 League game season. It's been important that the squad of players retain their fitness and stay injury free.

Off the field the Club managed to pull in a further six Club sponsors, which obviously brings in additional welcome finance. We welcome our new sponsors and hope that they all find the Club a friendly association to be connected with. As this article covers the next two months the Committee of Stansted Football Club, its Management Team and players would like to wish all those supporters who attend our home and away games a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year; the players really appreciate all your support.

Upcoming home games in December and January:

3 rd December	Eton Manor	League	3.00pm
10 th December	Takeley	League	3.00pm
17 th December	Waltham Forest	League	3.00pm
7 th January	Clapton	League	3.00pm
14 th January	Sawbridgeworth	League	3.00pm
17 th January	FC Romania	League Cup 2 nd Round	7.45pm

For all the up-to-date news on the team please see our website or Twitter account or Facebook:
www.pitchero.com/clubs/stanstedfc2011
<https://twitter.com/fcstansted>
<https://en-gb.facebook.com/stansted.fc.9>



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842

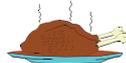
UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 17th December



Ugley Village Hall

10.00am-12 noon



Come and buy your Christmas food:
meat, poultry, fish, bread, home baking, eggs,
fruit and veg, honey, preserves, chocolates
also cards, knitting, needlework, ceramics,
skincare, last-minute gifts

Don't forget, we are also open on:

Saturday 21st January

Same time, same place

Refreshments on both days



LEEK AND POTATO SOUP



Ingredients

- 2 leeks, finely sliced and washed
- 2 white onions, chopped
- 2 sticks celery, peeled and chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, peeled and chopped
- 4 potatoes (preferably Maris Piper), peeled and diced
- 1 tbsp extra virgin rape seed oil
- 1 tsp English mustard
- 1 pint vegetable stock
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh thyme
- salt and pepper
- crème fraiche to garnish

Method

- Heat the oil in a pan, add the onions, potatoes, celery, mustard, garlic and thyme and sweat until soft, but take care not to colour.
- Season and add the stock. Bring to a simmer and allow to cook for 20-25 minutes.
- When the potatoes are cooked add the leeks.
- Let the broth come back up to a simmer, check the seasoning and your broth is ready to serve. If you prefer a smooth soup, just liquidise in batches. Serve with a little crème fraiche. Serves 4.

Recipe courtesy of Luke's Cooking Club which meets every 3rd Wednesday 10.00am and 6.30pm at The Lemon Tree Restaurant, Bishop's Stortford. Luke demonstrates several dishes based on a theme, followed by an opportunity to taste the dishes and match the food with wines. See www.lemontree.co.uk/luke-cooking-club or call 757788.



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*Stansted
Cricket
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At the presentation evening on 17th September, Ben Tait received the Bob Stoddart Junior Cup for 2016 from Head Coach, Keith Ayres.



The Club's autumn tour to play in a T20 competition in La Manga, Southern Spain, over the weekend of 7th-9th October was a great success. Over three days of competition the squad of 13 players made 138-4 to beat Penydarren (137-4) by 6 wickets; were all out for 99 in losing to United (287-4) by 188 runs; made 217-8 to beat Phoenix (143-7) by 74 runs; and scored 205-5 to beat Menai Bridge (119-10) by 86 runs. Notable individual performances came from C Kirby (91), J Monk (83) and R Naylor (66, 41) (NB One of the United players scored 152 NO! It is a far cry from my early years at Stansted in the 1970s when we used to think 150 was a good score to defend in 40-45 overs in a Sunday afternoon match.) The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact me. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



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

Stansted Tennis Club



Singles ladders

Congratulations to this year's singles ladder winners. Matches have been arranged and played over the last six months.

Ladies' Singles winner - Rebecca Doe

Men's Singles winner - Jon Budd

Junior (Secondary) winner - Sam Philp

Junior (Primary) winner - Finley Slater

Wilby Tournament

Unfortunately, this adult doubles tournament, rescheduled for Sunday 6th November had to be cancelled due to wet weather.

Ladies' Nights

The next two Ladies' Nights are Monday 12th December and Monday 9th January from 7.00pm. All lady members (especially new ones) are welcome to come and play.

Used tennis balls

£1 for a tube of four from Jan Hollis at 105 Cambridge Road.

Contacts

Jon Budd (Secretary) 647020, Chris Hollis (Acting Chairman) 319155. For more information please visit our website.



Chris Hollis



**STANSTED
BOWLING
CLUB**

As this goes to print we had our AGM and also the Presentation Evening for the Club competitions. The winners are as follows:

- Cawkell Cup – Joan Aston
- Bert Grub Shield – Peter Short
- Charles Wilson Cup – John Scraggs & Brian Quinn
- Memorial Cup (Chris Bushnell) – Peter Page
- Dolly Thompson – Pat Perry & Joan Aston
- Buck Cup – John Scraggs & Mike Thompson
- Brett Cup – Stephen Hill
- Novices Cup – Peter Beattie
- Alcock Cup – John Scraggs
- Fletcher Cup – John Scraggs

Anybody wishing to play darts (friendlies with Elsenham and Takeley) or carpet bowls during the winter months, please contact me; these are very friendly and social evenings. It all helps to keep the Bowls Club ticking over during the closed season. We hope to take part in the Festival of Angels and Christmas Trees at St Mary's Church on 10th and 11th December. Please support this festival. Merry Christmas to you all and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Doreen Scraggs

Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178

Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net

THE CRAFTON ROOM

STANSTED DAY & COMMUNITY CENTRE

As the year draws to a close, I have a couple of special lunches to tell you about. On Tuesday 13th December at 12.00pm we will be hosting our annual Christmas lunch which is always a sell-out success. Tickets are £9 and include a traditional turkey dinner followed by a choice of Christmas pudding or pavlova, accompanied by wine or soft drinks, plus a raffle. Then on Tuesday 20th December we are delighted to be joined by the choir from Forest Hall School at 11.30am, who will be delighting us with Christmas carols (which we will be encouraging you to join in). Everyone is thrilled that the school is once again supporting our Day Centre. Please join us for a glass of sherry and nibbles before you stay for lunch and a raffle for £5.50. Booking essential for both events as numbers are limited. The Centre will close after lunch on the 20th and will re-open at 10.00am Tuesday 3rd January.

Our popular Burns Lunch will be held on Friday 27th January where we will be serving Scottish fayre including haggis, tatties and neeps and cranachan. There may even be a wee dram of whisky to wash it down with! If you are interested in attending these events or would like to join us on any other Tuesday, Thursday or Friday for a delicious home cooked lunch please do not hesitate to contact myself or Jo on the number below. May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.



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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

October Events

A double decker bus full of U3A members set off to Windsor. We enjoyed a tour of the castle, which is extensive and full of amazing treasures. We also had the bonus of seeing an exhibition of some of the Queen's dresses, worn on many a great occasion. A lovely trip.



Our Saturday Seminar was about Epigenetics. Professor Nessa Carey introduced this rather complicated branch of biology in such a way, that she intrigued and fascinated the audience, describing how variations in DNA occur, even in identical twins! The Stansted U3A Singers' concert was well attended. Entitled 'A Song for all Seasons' we enjoyed songs both old and new, interspersed with poems. More singers are needed (no audition). Call Jenny Jordan on 815409. The barn dance in Manuden Village Hall was a great success; everyone danced and enjoyed the Churchill's supper. It was a very entertaining evening, with lots of fun and laughter, following instructions from the 'caller' Peter Skiffins. We will do it again next year!!



The Philosophy group gave a presentation at our November meeting. The audience was invited to question the speakers who delivered diverse opinions (not their own) regarding the ethics of killing civilians as part of the conduct of war. It was thought-provoking and encouraged much opinion and debate. Also in November a group saw *Stepping Out*, a lively, entertaining comedy starring Amanda Holden, at the Cambridge Arts Theatre.

The December meeting will be tea and a quiz on Thursday 8th December - a week earlier than usual because of the Christmas lunch at Bury Lodge on Thursday 15th December. Our January meeting is on Thursday 19th when Andrea Fitt is talking about Edith Piaf. Monthly meetings are at 1.30pm in St John's Hall. Contacts: Helen (Chair) 812945, Liz (Secretary) 813270, email: stanstedu3a@live.co.uk.



Suzanne Parra



SSE Responds to Heathrow Runway Decision

After more than four years of deliberation, the Government has finally announced that it will support the development of a new runway at Heathrow. This long-awaited decision is consistent with the unanimous recommendation of the independent Airports Commission set up by the Government four years ago under the Chairmanship of Sir Howard Davies. Gatwick was also on the Airport Commission's shortlist for a new runway but the Government was virtually silent on the Gatwick option today, saying only that it "wants to see the continued prosperity of the world's busiest single runway airport". Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) is obviously relieved that Stansted was not even mentioned in today's Government announcement. However, there may now be considerable pressure to make maximum use of the available capacity at Stansted. The Government is expected to say more about this in January, when it publishes its draft National Policy Statement (NPS) for UK airports. A new runway at Heathrow will take ten years to build and, with Heathrow and Gatwick already close to full capacity, other airports in the south east, including Stansted, will be expected to accommodate the growing demand in the meantime. Stansted currently handles 24 million passengers per annum (mppa) and it has permission for 35mppa. Technically, Stansted could potentially cater for up to 45mppa on its existing runway. However, this would need planning consent, and we would not expect consent to be granted unless the airport could demonstrate that this level of throughput could be achieved without significant detriment to local residents and the local environment. Not so long ago Stansted was first in the queue for a new runway and so it is a great relief not to be in that position today.

However, we had to fight that runway proposal tooth and nail for eight years until it was finally abandoned. There will undoubtedly be a similar campaign of opposition to a new runway at Heathrow and so it would be premature for anyone to assume that this issue has now been settled. It is also important to recognise that even without an extra runway, the number of passengers handled by Stansted could increase by 90%, so this is no time to be complacent. There will be important planning battles to be fought in the coming years.



Peter Sanders
Chairman

Tel: 870558

Email: info@stopstanstedexpansion.com



A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year
to all our Readers

Next edition: February

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