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Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

# The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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## CONTRIBUTIONS:

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

editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

by **noon** on **11<sup>th</sup> February** for the March issue.

or by hand to:

7 Blythwood Gardens,  
Stansted CM24 8HG

by **noon** on **8<sup>th</sup> February** for the March issue.

The Link is produced by Stansted Mountfitchet Magazine Community Interest Company and supported by local churches, businesses and the Parish Council. Each edition is also available online at www.stanstedlink.org.uk.

## EDITORIAL



The recently installed bus shelters on both sides of the B1383 by Pesterford Bridge and on the Cambridge Road near the sadly dilapidated Three Colts, have been much used and appreciated during the December/January downpours. (The heavy rainfall also called for swift action from our local volunteer flood wardens, see page 21.) Hopefully the new shelters will encourage more people to use the buses and help ease the ever-increasing traffic congestion on our roads. This year is set to be a very busy and exciting one for the village, with the Health Centre due to be completed and work on a new community building to be started. With a new primary school also planned on the old St Mary's school site in St John's Road, Stansted is at last receiving a welcome increase in its amenities to cope with our ever-growing population. Dare we hope for at least one more bus shelter (and litter bin) to be erected on the Cambridge Road, opposite the Three Colts – or is that expecting too much?

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**Stansted network** is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The scenery flashes past us as we sit in the car, the bus or the train. Each individual scene comes and goes in an instant: horses galloping in a field, children at play, a church steeple in the distance, the sun flashing on water. It is like a series of snapshots. Like all snapshots, some are sharp and some are blurred. Some we want to discard and others we wish to keep and treasure. Always, if we see one thing, we miss another. We can only look out one way at a time. We can only really focus on one thing at a time. We have to deliberately choose to hold on to a few images.

Modern life throws many images at us. It sometimes feels like we live in a blur. We can't capture and keep everything that passes before our eyes; and that makes it easy to live superficially without ever really concentrating on anything or working out what we need to treasure. There is no depth to us.

This month will see the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. It is a time for being more deliberate in seeking out God. For God too can get lost in the blur of modern life, flashing in and out of our lives without us ever really homing in on any of our experiences of God. In Lent, we focus in on Christ and the journey he makes to the cross. As we make this effort to concentrate on Christ, we are being invited to see God more clearly and to hold that vision centrally in our lives. Through our spiritual discipline, prayer, reading scripture, a devotional aid, we are stopping the images just flashing past. We are gathering spiritual treasure to light up our whole being.



Rev'd Roy Fowler  
Stansted Free Church

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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



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Tel: 814059  
[lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### Preachers for February

7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am New Directions - The Worship Team  
14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler  
21<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Jenny Martin  
28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

### THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill  
Stansted CM24 8AE  
[www.saffronquakers.org.uk/stanstedhtml](http://www.saffronquakers.org.uk/stanstedhtml)

**Clerk** Jane Mitchell  
Tel: 503024  
Email: [sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com](mailto:sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com)

**Lettings** Richenda Whitehead  
Tel: 07773 603618  
Email: [richendajw@live.com](mailto:richendajw@live.com)

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am every week

**Light Group** 10.30am-11.30am 12<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> May.  
This is a guided meditation for personal enlightenment. You are warmly invited to attend.



[www.stanstedchurches.com](http://www.stanstedchurches.com)

#### Lent Groups

This year we shall be following a course entitled *Hope Actually*, produced by the Church Urban Fund. The course explores the hope we find in Jesus Christ, and its power to transform our increasingly anxious and cynical society. Each session has a mix of discussion, bible study and video stories. It ends with suggestions for prayer and ideas for action – some of which can be taken between sessions, while others would require more long-term planning and commitment. Meetings are in the Free Church Hall on four Wednesdays 8.00pm-9.30pm beginning on 17<sup>th</sup> February. Sessions will be led by one of the Stansted Churches. Coffee will be served from 7.45pm. All are very welcome to join us.

Francine Cope  
Tel: 814562



www.stanstedchurches.com



### Celebration of Christmas

It was a real privilege for St Theresa's Church to host this fine village tradition for the first time, bringing people together as a witness to the wonderful good news of the birth of Jesus and all that this entailed for the salvation and transformation of our world. As always, this heart-warming experience was enjoyed by a packed and joyful congregation. Particularly moving were the contributions from St Mary's and Forest Hall Schools and St John's Junior Choir. On behalf of the organising committee, I would like to thank them and their teachers. It was fitting that we should think of others at this time and the collection for Red Cross Europe Refugees amounted to over £500.



An event like this does not take place without hard and dedicated work behind the scenes. Mention must be made of Kathy West who organised the music; Ros Page, conductor of the excellent choir; Alan Wheeler who organised the readings; and Helen Baker who co-ordinated arrangements in the Church. Thanks also to readers Rev'd Paul Wilkin, Anna Watkins, Steve Cox, Sue Moloney, and Judy Colliver; trumpeter Simon Wilson; organist Mark Sullivan; and to Brian and Eileen Quinn, whose hospitality and welcome was much appreciated. Finally, many thanks to Fr John Garrett whose inspiring reflection and blessing was a most fitting conclusion to this beautiful event.

David Morson Tel: 850209

### Carol Singing in the Village

This Christmas we enjoyed the mild weather and did not let the rain dampen our spirits too much. It was encouraging to have a greater number of singers than in previous years and we are grateful to all those who responded to our flyers that had been distributed in the Bentfield and Foresthall areas. We were delighted at the generosity of residents who were in earshot of our singing. Surely it was not bribery to move us quickly on! Special thanks are also due to our hostesses Alice and Margaret who plied us with seasonal refreshments on the two evenings. A record amount of £525 was raised, and when added to the donations at Celebration of Christmas, a total of £1,056 has been sent to the Red Cross Europe Refugee Crisis Appeal fund. Well done Stansted!

Mike Dyer Tel: 814059 and Helen Baker Tel: 814865

### Shoe Boxes

Stansted sent 239 boxes which were destined for children in Iraq. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Catherine Dean, Helen Baker and Eileen Quinn

There will be no @27 meeting this month because of Churches Together Lent Course, so the next one is on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, including contemporary worship and a Bible-based talk and discussion – please contact us for information about topic and venue.

Our recommended book for Lent is *What's So Amazing About Grace?* by Philip Yancy. Easy to read with real-life stories, clear scriptural explanation and applications for our daily lives, it is available from Amazon and all Christian booksellers, and we have copies available to borrow. For other titles in our lending library, suitable for committed Christians and for anyone investigating the evidence and reasons for Christian beliefs, please contact us.



Ros Page

### ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the November and December draws who, collectively, scooped a total of £550 in prize money with the extra draw in December for £200 – hopefully this will have helped to alleviate some of their extra Christmas expenditure! The winners were:

#### November

- £100 No 259 – Ollie Pocknell
- £ 50 No 262 – Dorothy Barker
- £ 25 No 246 – Pamela Seavers

#### December

- £200 No 189 – Roland Pelly
- £100 No 233 – Peter Ballard
- £ 50 No 130 – Katy Dockerill
- £ 25 No 118 – Mary Greaves

The February draws will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February following the 9.30am service in St John's Church.

Francine Cope  
Tel: 814562



We only have one meeting in February, which is our 'At Home' on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8.00pm at 49 Recreation Ground.



Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059



**3 pm Sun 7th Feb**  
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**Defibrillator Launch**

**7.30 for 8 pm Mon 8th Feb**  
**Day Centre**

An evening to launch the fixed defibrillator and pay tribute to the work of Stansted First Responders

**Refreshments ~ All Welcome**  
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**Saturday Seminar**

*The History of Communicating with Light, from Fire to Fibre.*  
by Richard Epworth

**9.30 am - 12.30 pm Sat 13th Feb**  
**Stansted Free Church Hall**

Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members from Alan tel 07790 213510  
Email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com  
Limited places - advance booking only

**WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY**

2	Tue	Stansted Seniors Group	Day Centre 1.30 - 3.30 pm
3	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
4	Thu	Stansted History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
5	Fri	Business Forum	Linden House 7 for 7.30 am
7 & 21	Sun	Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
7	Sun	S W S O Film Music	Saffron Hall 3 pm
8	Mon	Ladies' Night	Tennis Club from 7 pm
		Defibrillator Launch	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
9	Tue	Dementia Café	Quaker Meeting House 10 am - noon
		RSPB Talk	Bishop's Park 7.30 pm
11	Thu	<b>Link copy due in today</b>	<b>before 12 noon</b>
		WI	Day Centre 7.45 pm
13	Sat	U3A Seminar	Free Church Hall 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
		Granta Chorale Concert	Saffron Hall 7.30 pm
17	Wed	Windmill Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon
		Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
		Lent Groups start	Free Church Hall 7.45 for 8 pm
18	Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
20	Sat	Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
21	Sun	Tennis Club AGM	Tennis Club noon
		Snowdrop Sunday	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 4 pm
		Talk on the Quaker Tapestry	Friends Meeting House 12.30 pm
22	Mon	Shalom At Home	49 Recreation Ground 8 pm
23	Tue	Hearing Help	Quaker Meeting House 2 - 4 pm
25	Thu	Huw Johnson Club restarts	St John's Hall 7 - 8.45 pm
27	Sat	Lib Dem Quiz	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm

**GRANTA CHORALE**

**Music for Valentine's Day**

Purcell - Holst - Rutter - Monteverdi

**7.30pm Sat 13th Feb**

Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Tickets £14, under 18s £4 from S Walden Tourist 01799 524002  
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**Stansted Millers**

**Coffee Morning**

10 am - noon Wed 17th Feb

Day Centre

**Mill Goods ~ Bric-à-Brac**  
**Cake Stall ~ Raffle**  
**Entry £2**  
**incl refreshments**



20th Anniversary Concert

**6 pm Sat 5th March**  
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**Wells Virtuosi String Orchestra**

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



**The Quaker Tapestry**

**12.30 pm Sun 21st February**  
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Free light refreshments from 11.45am

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Stansted & District  
Liberal Democrats

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**7.30 for 8 pm Sat 27th Feb**  
**Day Centre**

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*Bar ~ Raffle ~ All Welcome*

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## Nature Notes

### The Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Starlings are small to medium-sized passerine birds in the family Sturnidae; passerine is any bird of the order Passeriformes, which includes more than half of all bird species. A notable feature of passerines is the arrangement of their toes, three pointing forward and one back. Sturnidae is a songbird family (which consists of birds such as starlings and mynahs with nearly 120 species of birds that are distributed worldwide) of length 22 cm (9"), wing span 37-42 cm (15-17"), and weight 75-90 g (3-3½ oz.) Starlings are strong fliers that can get up to speeds of 48 mph and records show they can live to be over 15 years old. The colour of the bill depends on the season - it is yellow during the spring and black during the winter - and is designed to open with force, different from other birds that have stronger muscles to close down their beaks. The strong opening beak is an adaptation for probing in the soil for insects and worms, pushing rocks and soil out of the way.



A starling is an omnivore (it eats plants and meat); its diet is based on spiders, snails and worms during the winter and berries, seed, grains and fruit are the main source of food during the summer. Being a member of the Sturnidae family, and cousins to the mynah bird, they are outstanding mimics. Individuals have been known to mimic many calls and can even mimic human speech. Starlings have an impressive array of songs and may have a repertoire of over 60 different types. Some people even keep starlings as pets! In the 1890s, 100 starlings were released into New York City's Central Park. It is said that Eugene Schieffelin wanted all New York to see the birds mentioned in Shakespeare's plays. Since their introduction into America, starling populations have grown to over 250 million birds and they can now be found coast to coast and even in Alaska, causing an estimated \$800 million in damages to agricultural crops.



Steve Leaney  
Tel: 647177

## JAM JARS

All my jars are now filled with marmalade, so I need more empties for the jam-making season (1lb size or less, not those that have contained coffee or pickle). Thanks to those who have previously donated – please keep them coming!



Sandra Ayres  
Tel: 814471



## Stansted Cricket Club

After seven matches the Club are fourth in Division 3B of the six-a-side HECC Sport Indoor Cricket League, having won two and lost five matches. Club nets have been arranged from 11.00am-noon at Birchwood High School for ten consecutive Sundays from 7<sup>th</sup> February until 10<sup>th</sup> April. We have reserved all four net lanes, two for seniors and two for juniors. It is hoped that this will help the 15/16 year olds transition to the seniors more easily as they can try batting and bowling against adults in a stress-free environment.

It is with great regret that the Club has recently lost two of its senior members. John Rodgers died on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, and Colin Finbow, who had been Treasurer of the Club for the last 15 years, passed away the following day. We send our condolences to the families and friends of John and Colin. Both were true gentlemen who played the game in the correct spirit and will be sadly missed. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring next season on a regular basis to contact the Secretary. Any adults wishing to join the Club should contact me and juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



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



## THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

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

I recently gave a short interview about the Hundred Parishes for the Bishop's Stortford and District Talking Newspaper that covers much of the Hundred Parishes area. The interview was added to readings of the week's Herts and Essex Observer news, which is distributed to about 100 visually impaired people. Preparing for this made me even more conscious of how fortunate I am to be able to see clearly the beauty and variety that is all around us, and to be mobile enough to explore it. Use of our footpaths has been more challenging than usual recently after the persistent rain, and a decent pair of walking boots is essential. However, a few hours in the fresh air are rewarding in any conditions, especially if accompanied by rest and refreshment at one of our tea rooms or pubs! If you need inspiration, please consider one of the self-guided walks on our website or simply stroll around a new village or town aided by our parish introduction. There are guided walks on our What's On page. We regularly change the image at the top right of each page of our website to show somewhere within the Hundred Parishes. A few weeks ago the image was of more recent heritage – prisoner of war camp buildings that have survived since WWII. We include a better picture and a short reference to the camp within our introduction to the parish of Hatfield Heath.

Ken McDonald  
Secretary  
Tel: 813226

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## CLOSURE OF ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD STANSTED

Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for Justice, acting on an application by the incumbent and churchwardens, to apply to the Privy Council for an Order requiring the discontinuance of burials in the above churchyard. Provision would be made for the following exceptions:-

- 1 In any vault or walled grave in the churchyard, burial may be allowed but every coffin in such vault or grave must be separately enclosed by stonework or brickwork properly cemented
- 2 In any existing earthen grave in the churchyard, the burial may be allowed of the body of any member of the family of the person or persons previously buried in that grave, but no part of the coffin containing the body shall be less than one metre below the level of the surface of the ground adjoining the grave
- 3 In any grave space in which no interment has previously taken place, the burial may be allowed of any person for whom, or any member of the family for which that grave space has been reserved and appropriated, with the exclusive right of burial there, but no part of the coffin containing the body shall be less than one metre below the level of the surface of the ground adjoining the grave.

Any representations about the proposed closure should be sent to the Coroners and Burials Team, Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ (quoting reference OPR/075/315) within 21 days of this publication.

Kathryn West  
St John's Parochial Church Council

## LONG-SERVICE AWARD

In December, Stansted resident Robert Robinson received a gold watch from Daniel Robinson and Sons in recognition of



his 25 years' service on the Board of the family funeral service, which was founded in Stansted in 1892. Robert (left) currently holds the position of Chairman and is shown receiving his watch from Managing Director, Gary Neill.

Sally Payne  
Secretary  
Daniel Robinson and Sons



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### Luton Riots of 1919 by Jenny Wraith

On Peace Day, 19<sup>th</sup> July 1919, a riot started at a banquet when the Mayor arrived at Luton Town Hall to read out the King's proclamation. The crowd, ex-servicemen unhappy with unemployment and other grievances, including objections to the Mayor's indulgencies, expressed their disapproval. Tension boiled over into violence, protesters broke through the police line and forcibly entered the Town Hall setting it on fire, causing £200,000 in damages.

### Numismatic by Roger Barrett

Roger gave us a brief look at Numismatic (the study or collection of currency, including coins, tokens, paper money, and related objects). He spoke to us about future Essex and UK meetings, and about Hoards that were found locally, including Corringham, Colchester, Ashdon, Braintree and other finds found in Stansted village and Airport grounds.

### Essex Industrial Archaeological Group by Tony Crosby

The UK and Essex Industrial archaeology groups study buildings, structures, engineering, weaving, manufacturing, pottery kilns, maltings, brewing, brick-making, and ironworks. Those of local interest included Ridley, Hunt, Bentall, Hoffman, Crittal, Courtauld, Marconi and Crompton.

### Mud, Muck, Make do and Mend by Tony Wellings

Tony gave us an enthusiastic insight into a number of tools that were used in the past and were involved with mud and muck to make do and mend things - including a bottom spade, a mole catching spear, and a converted saw.

### Agar Scientific Ltd by David Loynds

Founded by Alan and Margaret Agar, David explained how they established the successful company working from their house in Rye Street, later at Hargrave Mews - now at the M11 Business Link. The couple, who retired to Yorkshire, were enthusiastic amateur musicians, great supporters of education and aware of the way fresh challenges can inspire people, opening doors to new options. The Agar Trust was formed in 2014 from Alan's estate.

The next meeting is at 8.00pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February at the Day Centre when Dr Richard Nunn will be giving a presentation on 'Early General Practice'. All welcome.



Steve Leaney  
Tel: 647177



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We finished 2015 on a high. We had great fun at our disco, thanks to John Barber, who generously donated his time and spectacular light show – and our annual fireworks display at the Ropkins' house was very impressive, if a little

soggy! Thanks to everyone who came to our carol concert in St John's Church - it was lovely to see the church so full. In January, 43 of us went to the Cinderella Pantomime in Cambridge when we had a great time booing and hissing the Ugly Sisters, and even heckling poor Buttons! A huge thank you to the Rotary Club of Bishop's Stortford for donating so generously towards our trip. We are really looking forward to our New Year's Party in February, which is very kindly being hosted by the Inner Wheel Club of Bishop's Stortford – it will be a great way to start the new term, which begins on 25<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm-8.45pm. Ellen Brooks, who grew up in Stansted and who has been volunteering for the Huw Johnson Club for over 20 years, has secured a place to run the London Marathon in April, raising money for the Club. Come rain or shine, she will be pounding the streets for 26.2 miles, so every bit of support we can give her will hopefully help her along her way. If you would like to sponsor her, please contact me or log on to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/EllenBrooksLondonMarathon>. For more about the Club, please contact Sandra Embleton (812627) or myself (461270); we desperately need new minibus escorts so do get in touch!



Katharine Collis



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our November meeting saw the very welcome return of Barry Kauffman-Wright, a very entertaining speaker who delighted us all with his presentation of the wildlife and landscape of Scotland. He took us on a breathtakingly beautiful photographic tour of this magic place - you could almost smell the heather! This meeting was a very special one as one of our members, Lilian Bowman, celebrated her diamond wedding anniversary in November and was presented with a commemorative rose and congratulation card from the members. This special meeting ended with Mr Wright judging our competition for 'anything Scottish'. Our December meeting was held in the beautifully decorated home of our president Dorothy Wallace, and took the form of an afternoon tea to which members from other institutes in our group were invited. A well-stocked bring and buy stall and a heavily laden raffle table gave us all a chance to stock up on last minute Christmas gifts. Our speaker, Quintus Benziger, gave us a very entertaining talk on the history of musical instruments. The Committee performed a sketch based on a Committee meeting of the 1970s and then came, what for many was the highlight of the afternoon, the arrival of the sugar-plum fairy - a role played to perfection by Betty Francis who proceeded to hand out gifts to everyone!! This most enjoyable meeting ended with the presentation of the competition cup to Joyce Russell. Our February meeting will be held as usual in Ugley Village Hall on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 2.15pm when we will be learning about the Tennant family of Orford House. Why not come and join us? You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922

## DANCE SUCCESS

Mitchell School of Dance performed in a fantastic dancing display with the proceeds donated to Save the Children. They entertained their parents and friends with classical ballet, character dances and national dances from around the world. Classes are normally held in St John's and Birchanger Halls, so they were very excited to perform in the theatre of St Nicholas School in Old Harlow, and gained so much from the experience.



Ami Shad had the opportunity to dance at Sadler's Wells when she entered the Classical Cecchetti Ballet Children's Award and Olivia Stokely entered the younger section, held in London, and was awarded a Commendation. Many congratulations to all the children for their achievements.

Wendy Mitchell  
Tel: 01992 812781  
Email: [wmitchelldance@gmail.com](mailto:wmitchelldance@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU

To my pleasure and surprise I have received cards and presents from the people of Stansted following my retirement due to both an accident (not work related) and increasing age. Thank you to the villagers for their goodwill and appreciation of my efforts. Specifically, may I say how much I appreciated the cups of chocolate that helped me thaw out at the Day Centre - thank you Julie and your team. I should also like to thank all the pensioners who made me feel part of the community and were my network of informers as to where I was needed most. I am pleased to be departing to Peacehaven before real winter sets in!

With best wishes  
Gerard William Frogley

PS Should I thank the children, who thought that if they did not leave litter on the recreation ground I would have nothing to do?!

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## IN MEMORIAM JOHNNY RODGERS

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I first met Johnny in 1972 through a mutual acquaintance while jazzing at the Rose and Crown on Bentfield Green. He introduced me to the Cambridge crowd and I joined him and Tim Phillips with the Jumping Jazzmen. Johnny also played



with my band for our monthly gig at the Jolly Waggoners in Much Hadham and our annual concert at St John's Church. Born and raised in Stansted, Johnny attended Newport Grammar School and, after a brief struggle with the violin, he took up the clarinet and proceeded to teach himself, and eventually joined the school's jazz band. His first 'proper' band was 'All the King's Jazzmen' and then he joined the Savoy Jazzmen for the next 35 years, before teaming up with Pete Ley's Gambit Jazzmen. Inter-

mittently he also worked with Mike Barry's Uptown Gang and the Yerba Buena Celebration band and it was not uncommon for him to be out gigging six nights a week and very often two or three times on Sundays! Johnny was great company, a true professional and loyal and supportive to his friends and fellow musicians. Above all he had a great sense of fun and even tolerated my humorous quirks. He will be sorely missed by his family, his friends, his fellow musicians and the many punters and supporters from jazz clubs here and in Europe.

Pete Baker



We have delivered leaflets about our online business directory and the new website; the leaflet also has Forum members' contact details. You will also get offers and discounts on local products and services. We have linked up with the Parish Council to produce maps of Stansted showing locations of our businesses. Maps will be located outside Murdochs, the Cork House and Stansted Chiropractic; in the Crafton Green and Lower Street car parks; and possibly at the station.

Our next meeting is 7.00am for 7.30am on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February at Linden House. If you are a local business and interested in what we do, please come along. Simon Jackson from Uttlesford Business Council will update us on what is happening with business across the area, and Anthea Harrison will be giving us information on her landscape and gardening business. Please contact Peter James at Murdochs Estate Agents on 813318 to book your place. We look forward to seeing you there.



Iris Evans  
Treasurer

## VALENTINE'S DAY



February 14<sup>th</sup>, known as Valentine's Day, Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine is celebrated in many countries around the world, with the Chinese and South Koreans spending the most money on gifts. There are several different saints known as Valentine, but according to legend, the Roman Saint Valentine is said to have cut hearts from parchment to give to persecuted Christians and soldiers, as a reminder of their vows and God's love; possibly the origin of the use of hearts on Valentine's Day cards etc. The same Saint Valentine supposedly wore a purple amethyst ring, usually worn by Christian bishops, with an image of Cupid engraved on it, and would perform marriages for Roman soldiers. This is probably why amethyst, thought to attract love has become the February birthstone.

It was in the Middle Ages when Valentine's Day was first associated with romantic love, and by the 18<sup>th</sup> century flowers, confectionery and greeting cards were being exchanged. The modern cliché Valentine's Day poem is from the 1784 collection of English nursery rhymes *Gammer Gurton's Garland*:

*The rose is red, the violet's blue,*

*The honey's sweet, and so are you.*

*Thou art my love and I am thine;*

*I drew thee to my Valentine:*

*The lot was cast and then I drew,*

*And fortune said it shou'd be you.*

In Europe Saint Valentine Keys are given to lovers as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart. They are also given to children to ward off epilepsy – also known as Saint Valentine's Malady.

The day of love now associated with Valentine's Day on 14<sup>th</sup> February was traditionally 12<sup>th</sup> March on Saint Gregory's Day or 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Saint Vincent's Day. The patron of love was Saint Anthony whose day has been celebrated on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Perhaps everyone should recognise and celebrate on all these dates and spread the love!



Yvonne Ayres

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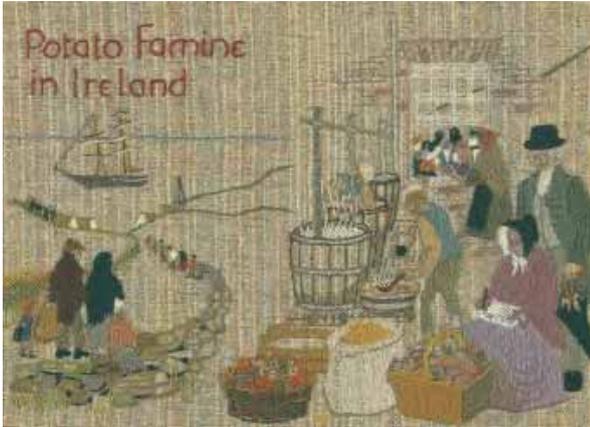
# FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S FESTIVAL OF ANGELS AND CHRISTMAS TREES



*Photographs by Judy Colliver and Yvonne Ayres*

## THE QUAKER TAPESTRY

There will be an illustrated talk about the famous modern embroidery panels depicting social change on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 12.30pm in the Friends Meeting House. Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection for the Stansted Foodbank. Free light refreshments will be served from 11.45am.



The Quaker Tapestry began out of a collaboration between a Quaker embroiderer and an 11 year old boy in Somerset in 1981. Ann Wynn Wilson and Jonathan Stocks, trying to discover new ways of illustrating some of the stories from Quaker history, hit upon the idea of embroidery rather than painting and drawing, and from those small beginnings a community project of international renown has grown. In the ten years following the start of the project, over 2000 people worldwide took part in developing it and today the 77 permanent panels of the tapestry are housed in a special exhibition centre in Kendal, Cumbria. They mark social and economic change over the centuries in Great Britain: Banking, Commerce, Wartime Relief, and the development of Science and Law, as seen through the Quaker perspective but not solely about Quakers. The talk will be of interest to social historians and embroiderers as there is a lot to discover about the techniques used in the making of the panels. There will even be an opportunity to have a go at one or two stitches!!

Sue Moloney  
Tel: 771405

Email: suemol@uwclub.net



## HATFIELD HIGHLIGHTS

As I write this in January and there are already signs that spring is on the way, by the time this is published in February, who knows what the Forest will look like! The very mild winter is confusing our wildlife and plants. We spotted catkins before Christmas and the first wild primrose in bloom on New Year's Day. Hopefully there won't be a sudden cold snap which will confuse things even more! We are busy preparing for our seven day a week opening of our visitor facilities at Easter. Fingers crossed the grass car parks will have dried out by then. We have nearly 100 volunteers who help us to look after this special place and do a wide variety of roles. Do you love talking to people and would be good at welcoming people as they arrive? Want to do something more physical – why not join our conservation rangers on their weekday sessions? To find out more about the roles you could get involved in, visit our website at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/join-and-get-involved>. We would love to hear from you.

Fiona Harrower  
Visitor Experience Manager

## CARDBOARD COFFINS

I recently came to the conclusion that it is a funny thing being a vet. Why has it taken me 25 years to reach that conclusion? Well the event that brought it to a head was driving to the surgery with several cardboard coffins; half-way there I realised that I was driving with more than my usual care and attention as I certainly did not want to get stopped by the police and questioned about my unusual cargo. There are more and more products on the market for pets, and we try as many of them out as possible to see what people like (the reindeer jumpers for dogs were a big hit this year!). One of our clients asked what she should bury her recently deceased cat in, and we found several types of cardboard coffins on the market - hence my journey. (If you ever have any thoughts about a particular item for a pet, just ask one of our receptionists and she'll find out for you or you may see it already in our waiting rooms). It did remind me, however, of one of the many times my son embarrassed me in front of friends; I had been running late and collected him from school on my way back from a visit to euthanase a much loved dog, who I had wrapped in a blanket and placed in the boot of my car. Telling my son that we had to pop into the surgery to drop off an important package, I pulled into the car park, retrieved the dog and delivered him safely. Of course the eagle eyes of a five-year old can't be deceived, and I eventually had to admit that it was in fact a recently deceased dog, and spent the journey home answering questions about how you can tell if something is actually dead, where pets go when they die, etc, although he later admitted that he misheard Heaven for Devon which was why he burst into tears when we said we were going to Devon for our summer holiday! Eventually he seemed satisfied and I thought, phew, that's one of those important life discussions tackled. Of course the next day when I picked him up from school, he shouted "Hi mum, have we got a dead dog in the car today?" The whole playground went silent, and a hundred pairs of eyes turned to look at me ... So it is a funny thing being a vet, not only for me but for my family. It has certainly given us a few laughs, and several embarrassing moments, as well as teaching us important life lessons - and if anyone wants a cardboard coffin, we now sell them at the surgery!



Ilse Pedler  
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons

## ITEMS FOR THE LINK

**Recipes:** It has been suggested that we feature a simple seasonal recipe in The Link just three or four times a year.

**Puzzles:** We would like to include crosswords, quizzes or puzzles from time to time (especially ones suitable for children during the school holidays).

**Front Cover:** We're always looking for different images of Stansted for the cover. If you have taken any photos around the village, or at local events that you think may be suitable we would like to see them (portrait orientation works best).

**Please get in touch if you think you can help with any of the above. Thank you.**

Yvonne Ayres  
Tel: 814706  
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For our Christmas event, the adults and children, assisted by our helpers, made Christingles. We then watched a lovely children's video entitled *The Christmas Poem* followed by a visit from Father Christmas. Judging by the photograph, everyone had a great time!



The Place is open every Wed and Fri 9.30am-12.30pm with Art for All on the first Friday, and storytime on the third Friday of each month. Free refreshments and internet, good company, space for the children to run around, plus a quiet area with comfy seating. Come and join us – all ages are welcome. We are very pleased that thanks to the generous grant of £19,000 from Viridor Credits, we have been able to replace some of the windows and fit secondary glazing and blackout blinds to the church. This will make it a warmer, more comfortable venue for community use and worship. We are sure that all those who use the building will appreciate the improvements.



Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059



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

Uttlesford Frontline, a local community initiative initially targeted at health professionals, has proved to be so successful that it has been funded by West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and Essex County Council to enable the public to benefit from the service. Two years ago a number of different charities and organisations in Uttlesford decided they could work better together with a single, secure website to make referrals between their services. The concept caught on and now over 100 different health and wellbeing services appear on the system's library, and around 450 professionals including social workers, GPs, district nurses, council officers and educational workers regularly use the Frontline to make referrals. Extra funding has now allowed Frontline to be available to the general public. By visiting the website and searching under a particular section, such as older people, families or mental health, you can easily find out which organisations are offering relevant services within your local area - you can even request call backs from many of the services. The system is easy to use and it also allows people to comment on a service or chat with someone if they can't find what they need. For more information please call Kirsty at Uttlesford Council of Voluntary Services on 01371 878400 or Kate at Uttlesford Citizens Advice on 01799 526557.



Looking through my study window in the first week of January, the view shows a calm windless day, a fair bit of blue sky and the temperature, mild. The morning mist has, however only just disappeared and the forecast is rain again later. Everywhere looks damp and soggy and **wet** is definitely the predominant word. All you regular users of Birchanger Wood will know that this doesn't matter much, because our all-weather paths are pervious to water and so are pretty dry and kind to the user - except the water table is now quite high and not all the rainfall is soaking through. Let me say, however, that our local fields are extraordinarily wet, muddy, cloggy, slippery, and a 'great weight' on the boot!! Come along to Birchanger Wood and use this great foot-friendly community facility. Besides being a good walk, there are no leaves on the trees and there is the opportunity to see the squirrels and birds. Few deer and rabbits come over to the Stortford side of the Wood owing to the traffic along the A120 - but yes they do, and some of our trees show where these animals have gnawed our tree-trunks and broken branches and later in the year, eaten any fresh shoots which are not protected by tree baskets. We also have small mammals in the undergrowth too which are looking for sustenance. You know you could do with a walk or run - come on your own, with the family and bring your dog (plus poo bag please) and take a circuit or two in the Birchanger Winter Wood! The hedgehogs in our sanctuary are not sleeping as normal hedgehogs do. The Trust takes in underweight hedgehogs which would not make it through winter, and our warden feeds them every day. They are kept in their secure house, and, in the spring, when each has reached a suitable weight, the local sanctuary will approve each one's release into Birchanger Wood. Thank you everybody who has donated food for these endangered animals.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis  
Email: [secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org](mailto:secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org)



We will be holding a Quiz on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre. Tickets £10 (includes ploughman's supper) from me. There will be a bar and raffle. Everyone is welcome.



Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579



Our annual Quiz is on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Forest Hall School. It's a great evening which is always very popular and attracts around 100 'quizzers' (of varying ability!) each year. Tickets are £10 (includes ploughman's) available from Caroline on 813938 email: [carolineebore@gmail.com](mailto:carolineebore@gmail.com) or myself. Teams of up to eight people. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

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# Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

## 2015 REVIEWED AND THE YEAR AHEAD

As this is the first Link of 2016 it is a good time to look back on 2015 and also look forward to what we hope to achieve in 2016. At the beginning of 2015 we focused on three projects. The refurbishment of the Bentfield Green Play Area was completed in April and has been very well received. The construction of a new skatepark which was completed in July and is being very well used and amazingly well looked after. We are very frustrated by the fact that we have not been able to use the floodlights this winter, but hopefully this will happen when work on the new Health Centre is complete and improved lighting in the Lower Street Car park is put in place by the developers. Design work for the new community building has now been agreed and by the time you are reading this magazine we should have opened the returned tenders. All being well actual construction should start in May 2016.

Other than the community building there are no major construction projects planned by the Parish Council in 2016, but we have funds available to progress with the "make over" of the Day Centre and we will be making improvements to some of our street lighting. In particular, "heritage" lighting kits are to be added to the columns around the Recreation Ground to improve the appearance of this Conservation Area. We hope to implement a new litter collection regime and you should see our litter pickers out with new vacuum litter collectors in the near future. We also hope to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday with a village picnic. Work on our Neighbourhood Development Plan is ongoing and is a major commitment of time and resources.

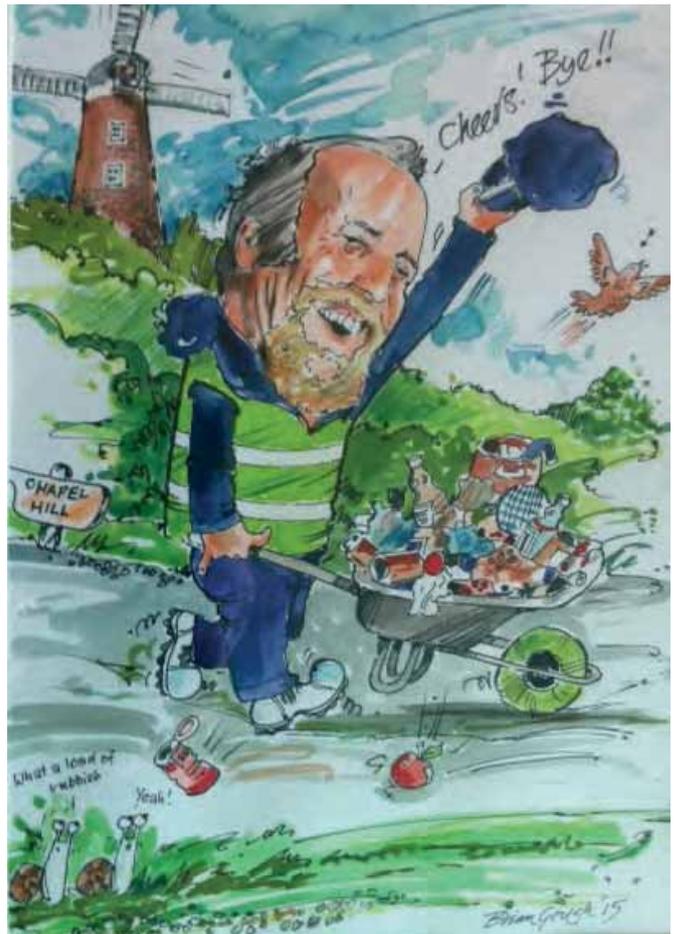
## CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

In the run-up to Her Majesty's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 21<sup>st</sup> April, a national campaign is being launched with the "aim to inspire a million people to take action and enjoy a few hours together litter-picking to make the places where we live more beautiful. For Her and for us all, we want to attack the blight of litter and reclaim our beautiful countryside, our fabulous cities, our world-class parks, our wonderful beaches and waterways." It has been agreed that our spring litter pick should support the campaign, so we hope that we can attract a record number of volunteers to help clean up the village on Saturday 5th March. Please put the date on your calendars and be ready to report at 9.45am outside the Council Offices in Crafton Green. We will give more details in the March edition of The Link.

## AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION

Our new CCTV cameras, which have been operating for several months, have now been enhanced with the addition of two Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras, which will help the police identify any vehicles linked to criminal activity along the B1383.

## RETIREMENT OF GERARD FROGLEY



The Parish Council officially thanked Gerard for his thirteen years of outstanding service as the village litter picker at an informal ceremony in the Council Office just before Christmas. He was presented with a specially commissioned picture drawn by local artist Brian Gough (see above), a voucher for him and his wife to enjoy afternoon tea at the Grand Hotel, Brighton and an inscribed key ring - (an in-joke with the office staff, who had a number of lost key epics with Gerard over the years). Gerard and his wife Sharon have now moved down to Peacehaven on the South coast and are looking forward to spending more time with their grandchildren who live nearby. Gerard was very moved by all the messages of goodwill he

received from villagers (see his letter on page 11) and in particular the send-off from his friends at Bentfield School, where he has worked on Monday mornings for a number of years.

### CHRISTMAS MARKET

The effects of 'storm Desmond' certainly had an impact on the stalls at our market and there was lots of singing of "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da" as the stalls took off. It was a real shame that the footfall was a lot less this year due to the weather, as the quality and range on offer was



excellent. Thank you to all those who supported us and see you next year. The photograph shows our Neighbourhood Development Plan Stall, which gave shoppers the chance to meet with the people working on the Plan and write any comments they wanted to make on a 'post it' note for future reference.

### PARISH COUNCIL TAX

The parish share of council tax will see little change for 2016/17 with the tax on a Band D property rising from £66.38 to £67.90.

2015/16 - net spending, at £192,800, is slightly higher than the forecast £189,000. Income from the Crafton Green car park was higher than expected and we had minimal election costs as there was no parish poll. However, we have undertaken some improvements at the Day Centre and are about to purchase two new litter trolleys with vacuum facility to assist with cleanliness in the village.

2016/17 - we had expected to feel the financial effects of the new community building and the new health centre in the next year; however it is unlikely that these will occur until 2017/18. We shall benefit, therefore, from continuing to receive rental income from the clinic. Some costs will reduce, such as play equipment maintenance, as much of the equipment is still so new, but we have increased the hours of our second litter collector, Levi.

The Council has resolved to raise a precept of £222,000 in 2016/17 which will cover our net expenditure of £212,000 and add a further £10,000 to our reserves, which remain in a satisfactory state.

### STANSTED IN BLOOM

Stansted in Bloom will be judged in June and we hope that as many residents as possible will enter the competition. Now is the time to plan your garden ready for what we hope will be a bumper year for entries in 2016! Do let us know of any new ideas you might be considering for the competition, as we need to know your thoughts on making S.I.B a really special occasion.

### ROAD SIGNAGE

In the age of the Sat Nav, road signs have perhaps become less important in helping us reach our planned destinations but they still play a key role in attracting visitors to a location and generating footfall for local businesses to exploit. The Parish Council has been looking at road signage for our Neighbourhood Development Plan and has identified a number of issues in relation to signage on approach roads into Stansted Mountfitchet. For example, from the A120 there is no indication of Stansted Mountfitchet, but Newport and Saffron Walden are signposted.



There are a number of factors that contribute to the problem. Trying to avoid any possible confusion with the airport is a major factor, which, combined with the fact that Stansted Mountfitchet is a relatively long name to fit on a signpost, presents challenges. Saffron Walden appears on some signposts as S Walden and Bishop's Stortford is sometimes abbreviated to B Stortford or Bps Stortford, but S Mountfitchet or Stansted M or even Stan Mount might be a bit confusing. Stansted Village might be a sensible compromise. The fact that we have two commercial centres, one in Lower Street and one in Cambridge Road, also adds to the challenge. The signage at the junction of High Lane and Cambridge Road, for example, doesn't indicate that this is a route into Stansted Mountfitchet and is the best way to get to Foresthall Park from that direction. It might even be the best route for anybody looking to get to the airport car parks from that direction, but do we want airport traffic coming through the village? People looking to pass through the village en route to the A120 going west may be put in a quandary as to which way to go.

Signage within the village also needs to be given some thought. The sign to the 'New Leisure Centre' has become a bit of a joke and we have issues over car parking signs. It would benefit local businesses if we could encourage more Castle visitors to explore the rest of the village as part of their visit to Stansted and better signage would certainly help achieve this. A further complication comes from the fact that District and County Councils both have responsibilities for different aspects of signage; but the Parish Council is going to take up the challenge and try to get all the different parties to take action to improve on what we currently have. We also appreciate that many of the signs are grubby and could do with a clean, so we will try to get the Highway Rangers to take action on this.

We are hoping to place village maps in key locations which will highlight places of interest in the village and encourage visitors to walk around. The Business Forum and Parish Council have agreed to share the cost of the maps. In addition, we have asked the History Society to update a leaflet we produced in the 1980s promoting a Village Trail. We have a graphic designer who will do the artwork and get the leaflet printed for us.

#### **VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREES**

A number of people used social media to express disappointment at the lack of a Christmas tree in the village. We hope to put it right this year and have a number of trees in prominent locations. Negotiations are already underway with UK Power Networks to make sure we can plug the lights in.

#### **FLOOD RISK**

The media coverage of the distressing floods in the North of England over Christmas possibly made you think back to the floods that residents and businesses in the Lower Street area experienced not so long ago. We are still working with the Environment Agency on long-term preventative measures and are hopeful that funding will be available to allow the work to go ahead; but in the meantime the village Flood Action Group is putting in place an action plan to minimise the possible



damage that might occur should we suffer flooding this winter. They actually responded to a flood warning at 3.00am on Monday 11 January clearing debris from Ugley Brook and trying to prevent potential flooding around The Mews and Gall End Lane. The plan is dependent on having enough volunteer flood wardens to man roadblocks.

Please consider adding your name to our list of volunteers by contacting the Parish Council Office on 01279 813214.

## **NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **From Cllr Alan Dean, Uttlesford District Council**

As January began the council was still working out what the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn statement means for local finance over the next few years. Several changes are afoot that makes budgeting uncertain.

The likelihood is that central government funding for UDC will reduce over coming years; but by how much and how quickly? How cautious does the council need to be? No one is certain.

What is certain and well known is that Uttlesford is presently flush with cash. It has spent less than budgeted each year for the past eight. It has benefited greatly from New Homes Bonus, receiving £2.8 million in 2014/15 to be added to other income and the receipts from council tax of £4.7 million. In that year Uttlesford underspent by £1.3 million on the council tax account, whose reserves were boosted by £1.7 million compared with what was forecast. So far this financial year the council has found itself with £2.1 million more than it forecast, and added this to its reserves in December. It is normal for this surplus to be even higher by the time the books are closed at the end of March.

So although there are uncertainties and concerns about the future, which includes the government's requirement that councils become more reliant on business rates and less dependent on grants from Whitehall, Uttlesford has no need to panic and make service cuts for financial reasons. It could, if it so wished, do more for the community to address the needs of a growing population. It might, for instance, invest in a development scheme in the centre of Stansted that would earn income for UDC in future years to offset central government funding, whilst at the same time solving at least some of our congestion and parking problems.

Geoffrey Sell and I have commissioned a piece of design work for possible redevelopment schemes on land to the rear of 14 Cambridge Road and Crafton Green. The Essex organisation that is doing the work has been asked to look at three adjacent sites as though they were one. This approach is likely to produce a more viable and effective outcome than considering each site in isolation. The sites are the Parish Council's land at Crafton Green, the land behind Green's Stores and the derelict land behind Tesco. The last site was refused planning permission for the fourth time in November. Needless to say, a successful outcome will depend on all three landowners being willing to cooperate and "give some ground". All four district councilors are behind this initiative. We think that cooperation is the best way forward and is in the interests of landowners and the wider community.

A brief word about devolution. The government wants groups of councils to take on extra responsibilities. Leaders of county and all district and unitary authorities in so-called Greater Essex have been meeting for the past few months to work up a bid that proposes doubling the economic output of the whole area in ten years. Either that means a massive boost in productivity or a rocketing population or a lot of both. I am sceptical about the proposals so far. More about that on another occasion.

All your District Councillors are given £3,000 from the new homes bonus funds which they can use to support projects in the village. Our contact details are given below so please get in touch if your organisation has a project needing financial help and include Alan Dean in any requests as he is coordinating end-of-year bids. Deadline is 10 March .

## DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

### February

10th Full Council  
 17th Open Spaces  
 24th Highways 7.00pm  
 Finance and General Purposes 7.45pm

### March

2nd Full Council  
 14th Civil Protection  
 16th **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
 23rd Full Council  
 30th Open Spaces

## CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford. Admin Assist - Anne Court  
 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

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	cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

Ray Gooding	813103
	cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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

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Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs, Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Brownies (Tuesday)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Rotary Club	Jan Durkin 01799 516186 Email: jandurkin94@gmail.com
Brownies (Wednesday)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
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Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
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Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver, President Tel: 812945
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Inner Wheel Club	June Milne, President Tel: 01371 875370 Email: june.milne@ymail.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com		
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232		
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213		
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk		

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

### BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: [announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto: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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## CONGRATULATIONS



Nearly a hundred family and friends from Church, WI and the U3A gathered with Judy Colliver to celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. After a buffet meal, Judy joined fellow members of the Stansted U3A singers to perform four of the choir's favourite songs which were enjoyed by all. Thank you Judy for a lovely afternoon.



Congratulations also to Michael and Susan Wriglesworth who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary on 18<sup>th</sup> December. With love from Selena and the family.

## GARDENING TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

If the soil is wet, frozen or under snow, keep off until conditions are more suitable as it may destroy the structure of your soil. If you need to get onto wet soil, use a scaffold board or wooden plank to spread your weight. Try to stay off your lawn until the frost has thawed. If you find large amounts of moss on the lawn, try not to be tempted to scrape it out while it is alive, as this just encourages it to spread. Make a two-pronged attack: kill it with a moss killer or lawn sand in spring, and remove the dead moss. More importantly, address the underlying issue(s) causing the moss to thrive - typically compacted soil. Alleviate this by encouraging air into the soil; in small areas you can fork the soil, in larger areas, it may be beneficial to hire an aeration machine. Another cause is excessive shading, encouraging a damp and dark environment; in this case, you can try a more shade-tolerant species of grass; but even these can struggle in heavy shade, so it may be better to plant it up with suitable plants, or even contemplate encouraging a pure moss lawn. We have had some strong winds recently, so check that any newly planted trees or shrubs have not become loosened. This can also be caused by frosts, and where required firm them back in, and try to ensure that not all air is driven from the soil. It is very important that the soil has a good amount of oxygen passing into it.



Paul the Gardener

We are really excited as 2016 is the year in which we aim to get our project to build a replica of Peto's Tree House in the garden under way. This historic structure was built for the Countess of Warwick by Edwardian architect and landscape designer Harold Peto in 1902. We have already been awarded two grants towards the total cost of around £30,000 and will be having extra events and fundraising initiatives to help reach the total. We start our year by welcoming visitors to our hugely popular Snowdrop Sundays on 21<sup>st</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March (we are **not** open on the Sunday in between) 11.30am-4.00pm, last entry 3.00pm. Entry £4 adults, with 50p per person going directly to our Tree House Appeal, children under 16 **free**. This event has become a 'must-see' feature of the garden lovers' calendar as the many thousands of blooms form a stunning white carpet beneath the trees. Delicious, warming homemade soup and bacon rolls will be on sale until 2.15pm plus hot drinks and homemade cakes until 3.30pm. There will be one guided tour at 1.00pm and as always dogs are welcome on leads. We will be selling snowdrops in the green, details and order form will be on our website from 10<sup>th</sup> February for those who would like to pre-order. We will also have snowdrop mugs and vases on sale.

We have lots planned for our main season monthly open days from April to October, including return visits from the Dunmow Rock Choir, Dunmow Wind Band and Bishop's Stortford Ukulele Society. There is also our hugely popular World War II Day in July and much more, so keep an eye out for our news in future editions of The Link or check the website. We have two sessions working in the gardens each week and opportunities to volunteer on open days and with other projects, so why not join us in 2016? We are a friendly bunch and the cake is excellent! For more information about helping with the conservation and restoration of this wonderful place, please see our website, call 01371 876979 or email: [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk).

Helen Carter  
Trust Administrator



## RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP

Our next talk at 7.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> February in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford (next to Tesco), is by Ron Kilsby, entitled *A Heron Named Bill & Flight for Survival*. Entry: Stort Valley members £2, Visitors £3.50.

The next morning walk will be on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February at the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust Amwell Reserve, Great Amwell Village, Ware, SG12 9SS, map reference TL 376 127. Park in the road and walk down the lane and take care across the gated railway crossing. This is a lovely reserve and one of our favourites. We have seen bittern here in the past - who knows what this visit will turn up! Meet at the viewpoint at 10.00am. Admission is free with donations welcome. You might wish to bring along a packed lunch.

Sheila Bowles  
Tel: 814973



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## APOSTROPHES, APOSTROPHE'S OR APOSTROPHIES?

As an avid reader and lover of the English language, misspellings and other grammatical errors irritate, especially those made by professionals. In a recent issue of a well-known Essex magazine the heading for a restaurant review began, 'DINIG OUT AT ...'. (Maybe spell check had been turned off and the proofreader was out to lunch that day.) We don't have to look far to find mistakes on public signage either. The large red sign at the entrance to our railway station car park welcomes all to 'Stanstead Mountfitchet', and there are at least two road names in Foresthall Park that have been spelled wrongly.



Then there is the apostrophe confusion; missing apostrophes, as seen on the St John's Lane road sign above, or apostrophes added when they shouldn't be **and** missing all on the same sign, as in the photo below taken outside the fire station on Chapel Hill.



When I was at school a few years ago - well quite a few years ago - correct spelling and punctuation was deemed to be of paramount importance. This doesn't seem to be the case anymore. Mistakes regularly appear in newspapers, magazines and even books. The Link is one of the few publications I can read knowing that I'm unlikely to come across any of these irritating errors thanks to the diligence and hard work of the group of unpaid volunteers who put it together. (There's a moral there somewhere!)

Loki



Our **Presentation Evening** took place at the end of November with a wonderful meal provided by Walkers Caterers. Winners were as follows:

Perrin Rose Bowl	James Rodgers
Cawkell Cup	Edward Taub
Emerson Cup	Douglas Stephenson
Bert Grub Memorial Shield	Mike Thompson
Charles Wilson Memorial Cup	Yvonne Sharp
Memorial Cup (Chris Bushnell)	James Rodgers
Last Bowl	Alan Bore
Newman Rose Bowl	John Scraggs
Dolly Thompson Cup	Pat Perry & Joan Aston
Buck Cup	Edward Taub & Barry Francis
Brett Cup	John Scraggs
Ladies Challenge Shield	Ann Conroy
Novices Cup	Joan Aston
Alcock Cup	Alan Sparrow
Eleanor Irwin Cup	Doreen Scraggs
Fletcher Cup	John Scraggs

Very well done to all participants and a big thank you to Peter Brown ably assisted by Yvonne Sharp for his pantomime production after the presentations (we will not give up our day jobs!!).

**Carpet Bowls** continues to be very popular, so please call in on a Tuesday afternoon or Friday evening, and you will be made most welcome.

**Darts Team** Good luck to all those who play darts during the closed season; this continues to support the coffers of the Club and is much appreciated.

We extend a warm welcome to Terry and Paddy - recently joined members and wish you and all other members a good season of bowling.

Doreen Scraggs  
Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178

Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net



### Poppy Appeal 2015

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously with Stansted raising £4,118.01 of the District total of £7,925.22. Many thanks to the collectors and also to the commercial outlets, pubs and schools, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to cover all the village with the house-to-house collection. Special events included The Dog and Duck Quiz Night. Thank you to all concerned. Unfortunately Sarah Murdoch has had to stand down as Stansted Co-ordinator due to work commitments and we thank her for stepping in five years ago when the Stansted Appeal was close to extinction. Her husband Jeff has shouldered most of the Stansted effort this year for which we thank him. We are now looking for a volunteer to take over from Sarah. The role could easily be shared; please contact me to discuss the responsibilities without any commitment on your behalf.

John L Segar

Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser

Tel: 813289

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## WHAT'S ON AT SAFFRON HALL

### Maxim Vengerov Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm

By popular demand, the superstar violinist and showman returns for another recital. Steeped in the celebrated Russian tradition of music making, he performs several twentieth-century masterpieces with pianist Roustem Saitkoulov, including Ravel's jazz-inspired Sonata No 2 and Ysaÿe's Sonata No 6, based on the seductive rhythms of the habanera. The concert also features works by Paganini and Heinrich Wilhelm Ernst's arrangement of the popular Irish folksong *The Last Rose of Summer*.



### Roald Dahl's The BFG FUNharmonics Family Concert Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2.00pm and 4.00pm

Join Roald Dahl's Big Friendly Giant and his sidekick Sophie as they plot to stop the ghastly giant Fleshlumppeater galloping all over the world and gobbling up humans. Experience Sophie's wonder, as she learns about the BFG's life in Giant Country and his unusual diet of disgusting snozzcumbers and sweet, jumbly frobscottle. Dahl's delightful tale is brought to life by the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** in this enchanting FUNharmonics family concert marking the centenary of the author's birth.

### The Sixteen Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm (sold out – returns only)

 Music by Handel including *Dixit Dominus*.

#### Events from the region's leading local groups:

**Saffron Walden County High School Dance Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 7.15pm** Move to the Movies.

**Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 3.00pm** An afternoon of movie score classics.

**Granta Chorale Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm** Celebrate Valentine's Day with a feast of love-songs.

**Saffron Walden Choral Society Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm** Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. Tickets for all concerts call Saffron Hall box office 08455 487650 or book online at [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com).

Samantha Walker  
Email: [samantha.walker@saffronhall.com](mailto:samantha.walker@saffronhall.com)



A reminder of our final concert this season, which also celebrates our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00pm, given by the Wells Virtuosi, outstanding players from Wells Cathedral School - an occasion to look forward to! **Please note start time.** Tickets: adults £15, under 18s free, from Absolute Travel; Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy tel 815282; or on the door. Check out our website for general information or if you have a specific enquiry please email: [contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk](mailto:contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk).

Alan Corbishley



We are delighted to welcome you to our film music concert on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00pm in Saffron Hall. After last year's success, our concert of movie-score classics is back by popular demand. Thrill to the silver-screen's most popular love themes, heroic tunes and soaring anthems, all from Tinseltown's greatest composers. The programme will include music from *Apollo 13*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Shawshank Redemption*, *Da Vinci Code*, *Dances with Wolves*, *Guns of Navarone* ... and much more. Tickets adults £12, concessions £10, children free from: Saffron Walden Tourist Information tel 01799 524002, Saffron Hall tel 08455 487650, online [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) or on the door.



Marion Dyer



### Music for Valentine's Day

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm at Saffron Hall

A feast of love-songs exploring the joys, sorrows, and the lighter side of love. Songs by Purcell, Holst, Britten and Rutter, Monteverdi's ardent *Sfogava con le stele* and *Si ch'io vorrei morire*, plus Janet Wheeler's setting of Sonnet 8 (*Music to hear, why hear'st thou music sadly?*), are joined by more contemporary pieces and a capella jazz standards such as *Blue Moon*, *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* and Elvis Presley's *Can't help falling in love*. Pianist Richard Carr will play Rachmaninov's *Vocalise* and well-loved Gershwin songs. Celebrate Valentine's Day with favourite love songs, a chocolate surprise and perhaps a glass of bubbly from the Saffron Hall bar. Tickets £14 adults, £4 under 18s from Saffron Walden Tourist Information Office 01799 524002, Saffron Hall box office 08455 487650, online at [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) or on the door.

Sue Sylvester-Bradley



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

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm Saffron Hall

Full of youthful exuberance and irresistible melodies, Puccini's stunning *Messa di Gloria* was written when the composer was just 21. The Choral Society has paired it with Rossini's setting of *Stabat Mater* (popularised by Pavarotti) for an evening of Italian sacred music at its most operatic. Conducted by Janet Wheeler, the choir is joined by a superb quartet of soloists and the Chameleon Arts Orchestra. Tickets adults £12-£20, seniors £18, students £10, under 18s £2 from the Box Office 0845 548 7650, Tourist Information Centre 01799 524002, from our website, or on the door.

Helen Sterling

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### WORRIED ABOUT DEBT?

It seems a long time ago since our last coffee morning in November, which was our first Saturday one. The day began with snow, quickly followed by rain and some gale force winds! However this did not deter our faithful supporters and it transpired to be quite a successful morning. Our next event was the Christmas Fayre which turned out to be a very good day for us, and we did extremely well. Our Christmas meal at *The Cock* was enjoyed by the Com-

mittee members and families, and a big thank you goes to Barbara for organising this event. Unfortunately Bridget was unable to join us as she was confined to a hospital bed. We all wish her well for a speedy recovery and a healthy 2016. The Windmill Christmas tree at St Mary's Church was splendid and our thanks go to Sheila for once again organising and displaying this for us.



On a more sombre note I have to report the death of our Consultant Millwright Vincent Pargeter who sadly passed away at the end of last year. He carried out our annual inspections of the Mill and gave us good advice on maintenance and repairs. He was very well known to Derek and Peggy Honour. As a member of SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings), I had the pleasure of hearing him give a talk at a meeting in London. The mention of his name had everyone standing and applauding, such was the respect for him.

Our next coffee morning is 10.00am-noon on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February** at The Day Centre. There will be a cake stall, bric-à-brac, Mill goods and a raffle. We hope you will support us. Our AGM is on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March at the Day Centre 7.30pm for 8.00pm. The Windmill will be open on Easter Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday.



Molly Clark  
Co-Trustee  
Tel: 816768



### DEFIBRILLATOR LAUNCH

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February the fixed defibrillator at the Day Centre will be officially launched. This will also be an opportunity to pay tribute to the work of the Stansted First Responders. Please arrive at the Day Centre between 7.30pm and 8.00pm for a short ceremony, followed by refreshments. For further details contact me.



Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579

The New Year is a good time to tackle any money problems and concerns over debt. The most important thing is not to feel stuck, or alone, and to know what your options are. Never forget there is expert, impartial, confidential, and above all, free advice available to help you get debt free and stay that way. If you want to talk to someone over the telephone, you can call the National Debt Line on 0808 808 4000 and speak to an expert adviser who can help you manage your money issues in an informed and proactive way. If you are confident using the Internet, the Consumer Credit Counselling Service have an excellent on-line debt-counselling service at [www.stepchange.org](http://www.stepchange.org). If you need one-to-one support, Citizens Advice is available locally and can help with money issues ranging from bankruptcy and debt relief orders to budgeting, saving techniques or help with switching energy suppliers. Last year the Uttlesford Citizens Advice money team worked with 176 people, helping them to manage £2,270,402 of debt. Our advisers continue to be concerned by the number of people turning to unregulated debt management companies which charge for their services. If anyone is worried about debt or needs some help to manage their finances, they can call us Monday to Friday 9.30am-3.30pm to arrange an appointment with one of our money advisers, who are in Stansted 9.30am-12.30pm Thursday (weekly – appointments only) and 9.30am-12.30pm Monday (fortnightly – appointments only).

Uttlesford Citizens Advice

Tel: 01799 618840

Email: [bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk)



[www.farnham-school.org](http://www.farnham-school.org)

In November we received the result of our latest OFSTED inspection and are delighted that Farnham has been graded good with some outstanding features, including children's behaviour. For the full report see [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk). Congratulations to staff and children for their hard work in achieving this much-deserved result. Willow Class are studying seas and oceans, including learning about the Great Barrier Reef in geography and looking at J M W Turner's paintings in art. They are also having lessons in computer coding, and are following the Charanga interactive music scheme to find out about different styles of music. Our older class, Horse Chestnut, are concentrating on rivers and coasts in geography lessons, space in science lessons and children's rights in PSHE. The children are working hard on the new and more demanding maths curriculum and are learning about celebrations in various faiths, with particular emphasis on Easter after half term. Farnham is a small school achieving excellent results which is open to children in Essex and Hertfordshire. Call the school on 771339 for more information or see our website.

Katherine Aiken

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The Club's December meeting was a fun evening followed by our Annual bring and share Christmas supper. The Club does not meet in January as our meeting night is so close to New Year's Eve and normally members are content to take it easy after the holiday period. However, due to the very mild weather throughout December and the early part of January, I suspect members have been busy in their gardens taking advantage of this extra period of outdoor weather, and have been pottering around, tidying up and being surprised by the many summer and autumn plants that are still flowering and sharing the garden with Spring flowers and bulbs which are early! Fingers crossed the cold snap forecast for the end of January does not kill everything off.

#### Future dates

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February we welcome Michael Perry of Thompson and Morgan who will be telling us all about 'New, Different and Unusual Plants'. Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 'Growing for the Flower Arranger All Year Round' by Maike Windhorst. Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April Mini Spring Show and AGM. Show schedules are available from the Secretary's desk. The programme of events for the 2016-17 season which starts on 4<sup>th</sup> May is being finalised. Printed programme cards and an update on our website will be available once the AGM has been held. Club meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre (adjacent to the Library and car park). Refreshments are available from 7.35pm. Visitors are always very welcome to our meetings, entry £2.50.

Maralyn Harris  
Tel: 07919 478144



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

### Stansted Mountfitchet Strummers

This is the name of the U3A ukulele group. The Spring workshops began on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and continue fortnightly until Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March (with optional sessions on the intermediate weeks) at the Day Centre, Crafton Green 1.15pm-3.15pm, which gives time to practise together in addition to the one-hour tutorial. New members are always welcome so don't miss out on a lot of fun. For further details contact Patricia Cooper on 07884 253865, email: jumpingflea2@gmail.com or just pop in to see us any Monday at the Day Centre!

The next **Saturday Morning Seminar** is on 13<sup>th</sup> February at the Free Church Hall 9.30am-12.30pm when Richard Epworth will be presenting and demonstrating *The History of Communicating with Light, from Fire to Fibre*. Tickets (£4 members, £5 non-members) always sell fast for these seminars, so to secure your place call Alan on 07790 213510 or email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com.

The **monthly meeting** is on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30pm in St John's Hall when the speaker will be Tony Earle talking about the story of the London Underground. Contacts: Helen (Chair) 812945, Liz (Secretary) 813270. For more information see our website or email: stanstedu3a@live.co.uk.



Suzanne Parra

## STANSTED PUBS



Although strategically positioned on the road from London to Cambridge, The Cock's history is not well documented. The first licensee was William Amey. In 1851 he is listed as living at the premises as an agricultural labourer, but by 1861 he is shown as being a victualler. Following the Beer Act of 1830 it was easy for enterprising individuals to obtain licences to sell beer from their homes, whilst pursuing other employment. Prior to moving to The Cock, William appears to have been resident with other family members in the workhouse at Gall End, so he clearly made good.



There is a sad story involving the next licensee, Lewis Conway, who had taken over by 1894. His occupation in 1901 was a beer seller and blacksmith. According to an article in the Essex Newsman (dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 1908), he came home one Sunday lunchtime to find his wife drowned feet first in the water tank. The jury returned a verdict of 'suicide during temporary insanity', and was probably influenced by the table with a chair upon it alongside the tank. The wife had also made a previous attempt at suicide whilst heavily under the influence of drink, which no doubt was freely available on the premises. However, two other facts make me wonder whether Sarah Ann Conway really was responsible for her demise. Firstly, the article mentions previous altercations between the publican and his wife - 'he had struck her when she threw the dinner things at him!' Secondly, in 1909 Mr Conway married Annie (11 years his junior) and they had a baby, whereas Sarah Ann had been five years older, and childless. Sarah Ann was the daughter of previous landlord, William Amey, and lived at The Cock for all her 48 years. Whatever the truth surrounding her untimely death, Lewis must have prospered, because Kelly's Directories record him as the landlord from 1894 until at least 1933, when he would have been aged 67. He died in 1949 at the ripe old age of 83.

The landlords since Conway were Turner, Simmons, Shaw, Overall and Emery. The Emerys handed over to the present licensees, Paul and Samantha Salmon in January 2007, and they are ably assisted by Samantha's parents John and Noreen Felts, making it a true family business. It is comforting to know that there is no longer an open water storage tank on the premises, and rumours about crockery being thrown by a ghostly figure are probably untrue!



Michael Dyer

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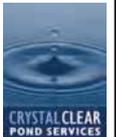
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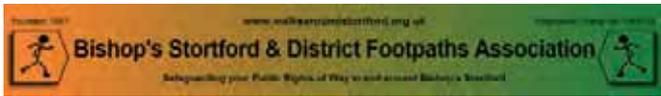
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**Walks for February:**

**7<sup>th</sup>:** 5/6 miles 10.00am Prince of Wales, Green Tye. G/Ref: TL443183. SatNav: SG10 6JP

**21<sup>st</sup>:** 5/6 miles 10.00am Albury Village Hall, Clapgate. G/Ref: TL442248. SatNav: SG11 2JD

Walking is one of the cheapest ways to stay healthy! Weather ... please check out the weather forecast before leaving your house and dress appropriately. The walk leaders will try and take the best route in consideration of the circumstances on the day. However, there are times when there is no alternative but to splish through the mud. The Essex/Herts border is an arable area with vast quantities of clay soil, which in the wet will be sticky, slippery and heavy. It is not an area with magnificent hills, but has some 'good little bumps' from which on a clear day, you can see for miles. February, in this part of England, can often display brilliant sunshine and beautiful deep blue skies. It is equally true that on a misty day, some certain amount of imagination is required - the odd bird will still decide to sing; there can be the noise from road traffic; a church bell may toll. Halfway, it is grand to stand and stare, to be warm, carefree and know that the halfway point has been achieved. And what next? Well it would be wishful thinking to imagine that the second half of a BSDFA Sunday walk is always downhill and back to the pub, but having said that, the steps along the return journey always seem to pass more swiftly. Arriving back at the start point, yes, you have just completed 5-6 miles - who else has achieved that today?

Ramblers' notes: Thorley footbridge (FP12) has been repaired and the Twyford Railway Crossing remains to be determined. Don't forget to inform the Secretary of any other issues concerning our Rights of Way (ROW).



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis  
Publicity Officer

Email: [secretary@walksaroundstortford.org.uk](mailto:secretary@walksaroundstortford.org.uk)



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

**Annual General Meeting**

In an effort to try and increase the number of members attending the AGM, the Committee has decided to try a change of day, time and venue. With this in mind, the AGM will be held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 12 noon at Stansted Tennis Club. Light refreshments will be available. All current members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Ladies' Night**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February from 7.00pm. All lady members (especially new ones) are welcome to come along and play.

**Tennis balls**

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

**Contacts**

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



Chris Hollis



Lesley Murdoch  
Community Engagement and  
Volunteer Coordinator

**STANSTED EVENING  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**



I look back to December to report on the talk *Artistry in Cocoa* given by Cheryl Blighty, who 12 years ago decided to raise money for her daughter's trip to Peru by making homemade truffles and Easter eggs. They sold them at the Farmers' Market in Newmarket and found them to be very popular. She and her daughter loved it and so began a new career in chocolate making, including using different flavours of chocolate and, would you believe, producing chocolate covered sausage meat! She didn't bring any with her. Their stall attracted a lot of attention including that of a renowned chocolatier. Her daughter became very proficient and they were soon making models in chocolate, which were commissioned by people to give as prizes for organisations, including football boots, world-cup trophies, animals, buildings and gardens. The most amazing thing though is that they learnt how to make their own chocolate from the cocoa pods, a sample of which she brought along. It was fascinating to hear how this is achieved, but I think most of us decided to stick to buying chocolate at the supermarket for our home-made sweets! Cheryl gives classes and workshops as well as parties in her shop at Newmarket.



It was good to be part of the Festival of Angels & Christmas Trees; we dressed our angel in the costume of 1915 to celebrate the 100 years of the WI. I think all members are delighted that so many younger women are joining the WI and indeed the new one at Chelmsford has over 100 new members and meets in the Cathedral!

The Speaker for 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7.45pm in the Day Centre is Graham Bendall 'A Gamekeeper's Life'. Visitors are always welcome.



Judy Colliver  
President  
Tel: 812470



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If you are looking for things to do with the little ones this Half Term, look no further than Rhodes in Bishop's Stortford. On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30pm come along to our interactive screening of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. Your little princesses can enter the fancy dress competition, meet a real life Belle and join in all the fun and games before watching the magic unfold on screen. Tickets £8/£6 concs/£24 family.



We have a special treat for the young ones aged 1-5 years on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am and 1.00pm when **Lyngo Theatre** are coming to Rhodes with their interactive show, *Egg and Spoon*. No need to sit still through this show as you take an interactive romp through the seasons where you come in and out of the magic circle. This is a perfect gentle introduction to the magic of theatre! Tickets £8/£6 concs/£24 family.

Do you remember **Count Duckula**? Well he is on his way to Rhodes on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00pm. The classic Count Duckula will be live on stage for the first time in *The Jewels of Duckula*. This action packed adventure is perfect for all the family as you join Duckula, Nanny and Igor in a race against time to solve the clues and find the long lost treasure! Tickets £12/£10 concs/£40 family. For all tickets visit our website or call the Box Office on 710200.



## NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN STANSTED

Burnt Mill Academy Trust are opening the Magna Carta Primary Academy in September 2016 for reception children whilst new buildings are being prepared ready for the full school to open September 2017. It will be a new state of the art building on the former St Mary's School site, although based in the Peter Kirk Centre for the first year. The Trust took over Forest Hall School in February 2015 and the school achieved record GCSE results that year. Its vision for the Magna Carta Academy is to ensure the provision is outstanding and that the children make exceptional progress whilst becoming happy, confident young people. Children will have access to a wide enriching curriculum, including high quality sport and musical tuition. Any enquiries email: [magnacarta@burntmill.essex.sch.uk](mailto:magnacarta@burntmill.essex.sch.uk)

Twitter: @bmatmagnacarta

Adam Smith  
Acting Media Co-ordinator



## STANSTED SURGERY

The Stansted Surgery acknowledges many of the items raised following the Care Quality Inspection in April 2015 and is committed to working with its patients, West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England to improve and address the issues raised. Since the inspection, a number of steps have already been taken to address the issues raised in the report. In particular, we have:

- put in place a robust management structure to ensure staff are kept better informed and involved in all decision makings and developed a shared vision, objectives and values for the surgery
- established new processes and procedures to mitigate risk, manage incidents, control health and safety and address governance issues which will help monitor and address any issues early on
- acted directly on patient feedback, especially around access to appointments and made improvements to the booking timeslots and installed a second telephone line to meet demand
- recruited two new GPs, a primary care practitioner and a full time practice manager to support the team in delivering high quality service to our patients
- trained our team in infection control and have put the appropriate mechanisms in place to support the infection control lead in their duties, providing protected time to ensure processes are improved
- set up an appraisal system for staff to identify development needs to deliver high quality and standards of care
- re-ignited our Patient Participation Group to ensure we are integrated within the community, to help garner feedback and continue to make improvements
- focused on capturing feedback from patients by including the Friends and Family test on the touch screen pad in the surgery so that patients can feedback directly after their appointment, provide it to staff in order to learn and share from the experiences. We also have a patient suggestion box on reception and a staff suggestion box in the staff area.

We are dedicated to providing good care to our patients and will continue to work on the recommendations in the report, as we prepare to move into our new premises. We would like to thank all the staff at the practice for their support - and of course our patients - who have shown great understanding while these changes are taking place.

The CQC will re-inspect the premises in February to assess our progress.

### New Staff

Dr Angus Henderson started with the practice in January and is working Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

Barry Chandler  
Practice Manager  
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## DID YOU KNOW?

Religious intolerance in the village was even greater than that practised against the Quakers (see September 2015 Link). Before the Reformation in 1536 there were three Roman Catholic establishments within our parish. The first was Thremhall Priory (see February 2015), then St Mary's Church, formerly the Parish Church, and lastly the De Vere Wayside Chapel. Thremhall Priory was sold off to John Gary and Joyce Walsingham who were about to marry. The De Vere Chapel became a blacksmiths shop and remained so until demolished in 1901. Only St Mary's Church, who like 'The Vicar of Bray', (see the text of the melody) survived by noting which monarch reigned. The Catholics didn't have a presence in the village for upwards of 400 years, until the Catholic Herald printed an article in October 1958, stating, *Belle Vue is the New Chapel. The Stansted area of North West Essex now has a Mass Centre of its own. For the past seven years Mass has been celebrated, first in a private house and then in a hired outhouse.* Their Silver Street church was a centre for Catholic worship for more than 40 years until 2002 when a new Church was built in High Lane.

Not that intolerance was one sided. In nearby Bishop's Stortford an area named 'The Martyrs' Corner' existed up to the 1930s, positioned roughly between the river and Jackson Square, formerly Hughes Wood Yard. The Bishop of



An illustration of Thomas Pound being shackled in the Gaol

London, Bishop Bonner, who gave the name *Bishop's* to Stortford, kept convicted Protestants in jail, a deep and dark dungeon on this site. Though no documentary evidence has been found, it has long been said that John Denley was burnt as a Protestant in 1555. In the 1990s a number of skeletons, many of whom it is supposed were Protestants, were unearthed in an excavation before development.

Source: *Bishop's Stortford website and A Short History, The Book of Bishop's Stortford & Sawbridgeworth. Bishop's Stortford Museum illustration of Stortford Gaol.*

Ralph Phillips

## HENHAM CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our event for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital - donated cakes and raffle prizes, helped on the day, drank the tea and bought raffle tickets; and to Mullucks Wells and Aquaid for their generous donations. You all made it a huge success and we are very pleased to say that we raised £2,321.18.

Lara Laycock  
Tel: 851942

## STANSTED SUPERS

### Essex Blades scythe through Stansted Supers

After their recent victory, Stansted Supers were looking forward to their outing on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November versus the Blades of Essex University in Colchester. It was a much lower profile game for the Club, at a less prestigious venue and it was a very different match for a number of reasons. One of the main reasons why Supers were able to run rampant at the Copper box was the lack of possible substitutions for the home side. Unfortunately, this was the case for Supers vs the Blades, while the latter had two full squads of players to use. In addition to this, the Blades had a team of players in their 20s, a significantly lower average age than Supers, who had players well into their 50s. This had a knock on effect for fatigue, and as Supers had fewer players already, by the end of the match they had very little energy left.

Things didn't get better for Supers though as right from the start it was clear the difference in quality between the two teams. It was suspected that the Blades had been playing handball for most of their lives since they were very young, giving them an extreme advantage over Supers, of which many players have only started in the past couple of years. On the plus side though, Supers did not disgrace themselves and came away 38-33 losers, a very respectable score line against a team who were much better with regard to ability, but needed to play all their best players at the same time just to get a five goal advantage. This is a clear sign of improvement for Stansted Supers, considering the Club was only set up a few years ago.

Hamish Arnold

Email: hamish.arnold11@gmail.com

## STANSTED HERITAGE EMBROIDERY

We are very grateful to Chelmsford Library for displaying the Embroidery from September-December. Many people saw it, and there were lots of appreciative comments. It is on show in Saffron Walden Museum for the next few months.



Leila Riddell

Email: leilariddell@gmail.com

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	Gillson Carpentry & Joinery	36		Hilton Rental	16
	Nouvelle Carpentry & Building	34		J & R Cars	16
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	Domestic Goddesses	IBC	<b>Painting &amp;</b>	Ada Decorating	32
	Ecaterina Domestic Cleaning	16	<b>Decorating</b>	Brown's Painting & Decorating	32
	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	16		CSC Plating	34
	Herts & Essex Carpet Cleaning	16		David Duncan Decorating	32
	Oven Bright	16		Lesley Anne (Decorating)	32
<b>Community &amp;</b>	Hearing Help	12		MWR Interiors	32
<b>Care</b>	Helpline	16		Prime decor	32
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<b>Computing</b>	MCM Computer Services	10		T F Plastering	34
<b>Dance</b>	Graham School of Dance	8	<b>Personal</b>	Make Up Forever (Beauty)	12
	Mitchell School of Dance	8	<b>Services</b>	George Cooper (Physiotherapy)	6
<b>Dental</b>	Simply Teeth	8		R Handford (Chiropody)	6
<b>Education &amp;</b>	Jan Rickwood (Baby Massage)	12		Julie Golden (Chiropody)	12
<b>Children</b>	Music Lessons	10		Lower Street Clinic	6
	Rainbow Pre-School	18		Stansted Chiropractic	6
	Tuition	10		Stansted Psychotherapy	12
<b>Electrical</b>	Albury Electrical Services	30		Williams (Osteopath)	6
	Dean Mason	34	<b>Pest Control</b>	Pesteco	16
	Stansted Electric	30	<b>Photography</b>	Saffron Photo	18
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<b>Food</b>	Crimson 8 Chinese	IBC	<b>Plumbing &amp;</b>	Harpers Plumbing & Heating	OBC
	Dog & Duck	24	<b>Heating</b>	JDW Gas Heating Specialist	30
	Linden House	OBC		Jones (Plumbing & Heating)	30
	Lower Street Brasserie	IBC		Knight Plumbing	30
	Mayflower Chinese	24		KS Group Heating & Plumbing	30
	Sonargow Indian	24		Newman's Home Services	30
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	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC		Finch and Son	OBC
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<b>Hairdressing</b>	Barnet Fayre	12	<b>Travel</b>	Absolute Travel	IBC
	Lino Thomas	OBC	<b>Will Writing</b>	Herts & Essex Wills	10
<b>Halls for Hire</b>	Quaker Meeting House	10		The Will Practice	IBC

IFC - Inside Front Cover

IBC - Inside Back Cover

OBC - Outside Back Cover

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