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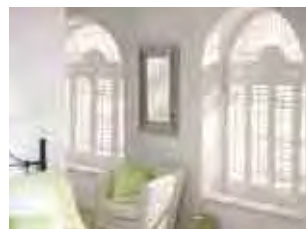
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**Front cover:**  
Health Centre  
Photo: Yvonne Ayres

# Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

# The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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## EDITORIAL



With the joys of Christmas and New Year celebrations a fading memory, we are now faced with getting back to the realities of everyday life. The major topic dominating the headlines - because it affects us all - is the crisis facing our wonderful Health Service. Once the envy of the world, we are now being told hospitals across England are at breaking point! However, our new Health and Wellbeing section on page 27 provides hope, with the outline of a new healthcare vision for the communities of West Essex and East Hertfordshire. Would you like to put something back into your local community by volunteering a few hours per month as a Special Constable? Essex Police would love to hear from you; details are on page 39. If, like me, you are concerned about the situation with the Lower Street pedestrian crossing, there is an accurate update of the situation on page 37. To finish with a bit of humour; if you have already fallen short of your New Year's resolution - don't despair, there is still hope on page 31.

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### CONTRIBUTIONS Up to 300 words in Word format. Photographs to be sent separately (jpeg)

By email (preferred) to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by noon on 11<sup>th</sup> February for the March issue or by hand/post by noon on 8<sup>th</sup> February to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG

**DISCLAIMER** Opinions in The Link reflect those of the authors and contributors. Publication (on paper or electronically) of articles, advertisement or product/services information does not constitute endorsement by The Link nor is any culpability accepted for work undertaken by advertisers.

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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The first thing I do in the morning, before I even get out of bed, is to put on my glasses. I am very short-sighted and without my glasses the world is just a meaningless blur. When I put them on everything comes into focus and the world makes sense. I did not realise I needed glasses until I was 12 years old. People said to me, "Why didn't you tell us you couldn't see the board?" but for me that was just the way the world was. How was I to know that others saw more clearly than I? That for them, the chalk marks on the board made sense, when to me they made no sense at all. And then, one day I had my eyes tested and I was given glasses. The world snapped into focus. It was not easy seeing clearly at first. Sometimes the glasses made me feel sick or made my head ache and I would often take them off because the blurry world was more familiar even when it made no sense. Today, I would be lost without my glasses. They enable me to function in the world in a way that I simply would not be able to without them.

My glasses remind me of why I follow Jesus. Without him the world makes no sense. Without him the world is, as Shakespeare said, "*a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing*". When I see the world through the lens of Jesus, then it makes sense. It does not always look good, but at least I can see where the messes are and avoid putting my foot in them. I am able to live a better life because Jesus brings the world into focus for me. And that is why I want others to know about Jesus; because I believe that if we are going to solve the world's problems we need to see the world clearly; because Jesus is the one who brings life into focus.



Paul Wilkin  
Rector, St John's Church



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**Minister** Rev'd Roy Fowler  
Tel: 814809  
[minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

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

### Preachers for February

5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am New Directions - The Worship team  
12<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins  
19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Janet Bottoms  
26<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

**Priest** Father John Garrett  
**Office** Tel: 816889  
Email: [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

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

**Confessions**  
Saturday 10.00am  
and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment



Our next meeting is on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7 Blythwood Gardens when Stuart Veitch will be leading a Bible study on the parable of the blind beggar and Zacchaeus. Our informal coffee and chat *At Home* is on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 49 Recreation Ground. Both meetings start at 8.00pm. All welcome.



Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059



**Contact:** Howard and Ros Page  
Tel: 810813

**Email:** [contactstanfam@yahoo.com](mailto:contactstanfam@yahoo.com)

Our Christian beliefs are conventional, we are just doing church differently.

February's @27 (house-church) meetings - modern worship music, talk/discussion on a Bible-based theme - will be on Tuesdays 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Please contact us for venue, topic, etc. For details of all other activities, please see the church website or contact us.



Ros Page



## THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

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

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

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

**Meeting for  
Worship** Sunday, 10.30am every week

**Light Group** 10.30am-12 noon 11<sup>th</sup> March.  
This is a guided meditation for personal  
enlightenment. You are warmly invited to  
attend.



### CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other)

In January we enjoyed celebrating Burns Night together and it was good fellowship and learning for all involved! This was run by one of our local members, Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Hart and was a nice contrast to the rest of the year when we have a good variety of speakers coming in. On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 7.00pm-8.30pm at the Day Centre, we welcome Rita Morson who was involved in a serious accident and faced the consequences with the question "Who says?", when told she would not be able to do things ever again. Come and meet her and hear her story, which she has now published into a book of the same questioning title. We hope you will join us.

Lieutenant Megan Lowe  
Tel: 507464

Email: megan.lowe@salvationarmy.org.uk

### 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 Christmas expenditure! The winners were:

#### November

£100 No 253 Eric Gale  
£ 50 No 227 Ruth Clifford  
£ 25 No 215 Kath Johnson

#### December

£200 No 233 Peter Ballard  
£100 No 27 Janice McDonald  
£ 50 No 50 Janet Hollis  
£ 25 No 132 Katy Dockerill

The February draws will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February following the 9.30am service in St John's Church.

Francine Cope  
Tel: 814562



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

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

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

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

### St John's Diary

#### Sunday

8.00am Said Holy Communion  
9.30am Choral Eucharist (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
9.30am Family Communion (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

#### Tuesday

9.15am St John's Tots

#### Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer  
10.00am Holy Communion

#### Thursday

10.30am-noon The Coffee Pot

#### Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

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

### From the Registers

#### November

##### Baptism

20<sup>th</sup> Molly Grace Buckley

##### Funerals

14<sup>th</sup> Jean Mary Start, age 74 - at  
Parndon Wood

28<sup>th</sup> Beatrice Patricio Pepperell, age 99 -  
at Parndon Wood

#### December

##### Funeral

5<sup>th</sup> Evelyn Ella Patricia Homan, age 92 -  
at Parndon Wood



### WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2.00pm Quaker Meeting House

The theme of this years' service is *Am I Being Unfair to You?* It has been written by the Christian women of the Philippines and focuses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard: Matthew 20 v 1-16. The Day of Prayer is not just for women. Everyone is invited to attend the service, followed by refreshments and a Traidcraft Stall.



Brenda Veitch  
Tel: 815819

## AN AFTERNOON WITH MABEL FAWCETT DODDS

Lose your Winter blues and come for an Afternoon of AmDram Fun (more like an extended charade really!) at the Quaker Meeting House on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm. There will be a cup of something hot in the interval! No need to book in advance. Free entry but there will be a collection for Christian Aid.



*For over 40 years Mabel was Mistress and Chatelaine of the Fabulous Bartlesham Towers. Her Fascinating Memoirs 'Born to Rule' are still to be written, and her Son Henry has given her a Recording Thingummy for Christmas to help with the process. But there's Just Too Much Going On - Too Many People relying on her to Manage Their Daily Lives! And so The Thingummy becomes her Confidante and Comrade at Arms in her Battle against the Forces of Ghastliness and Mayhem!*

The cast of four supporting and assisting Mabel (not always successfully) take on a variety of characters as the stories unfold. There is her unfortunate son Henry; her frustrated daughter-in-law, Deirdre; her faithful cleaner, Myrtle; Myrtle's ex-convict son Clifford; a con man, Gerald Stamper; assorted village ladies; and other minor players. Oh, and her grandson, Henry Junior who makes a brief appearance, as does Gerald Stamper's dog. The play is based on *The Secret Recorded Diaries of Mabel Fawcett Dodds* which first appeared on CD; see also [www.notgoingquietly.co.uk](http://www.notgoingquietly.co.uk).

Sue Moloney  
Tel: 771405



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

Here is a list of forthcoming meetings to put in your new diaries and calendars:

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February** Claire Matthews will be talking about The Gardens of Easton Lodge.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March** John Dockerill of the Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers' Association will tell us about *A Bee Friendly Garden*

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April** Mini Spring Show and AGM - more details to follow. Our meetings are held at The Day Centre, Crafton Green (which is adjacent to the car park at the top of Chapel Hill). Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Refreshments available prior to meeting. Visitors are very welcome.

Maralyn Harris  
Tel: 07919 478144



## LUNCH INVITATION FROM CHRISTIAN AID

Enjoy a warming bowl of tasty soup and a chunk of crusty bread for only £5, to brighten up a February day. Join us on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February, any time between noon and 2.00pm in Stansted Free Church Hall. Proceeds to Christian Aid.



Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579



Fairtrade Fortnight is 27<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a **Big Brew** Coffee Morning and Traidcraft Sale on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am-noon in Stansted Free Church Foyer (not the hall). Everyone welcome. Entry **free**.



Brenda Veitch  
Tel: 815819

## RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP



On **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30pm in the Bishop's Park Community Centre, the talk will be *"Birds without borders - the wonders of bird migration"* by Peter Holden, who worked for the RSPB for over 40 years and has written many books. He was awarded an MBE in 2009 for services to nature conservation, and devised the Big Garden Birdwatch and has contributed to TV programmes such as *Springwatch*. Entry £3 members, £5 visitors.



### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February Day Trip to WWT Welney

Meet at WWT Welney Car Park 10.30am. Car park charges apply unless you are a member of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. The centre is one of nine wildfowl and wetland reserves managed by the Trust. The eco-friendly visitor centre features exhibits about the natural history and culture of The Fens and its inhabitants, art gallery, gift shop and café. The nearby reserve has been the winter home of thousands of swans and ducks from northern Europe and the Arctic for more than 35 years. Over 8,000 Bewicks and whooper swans now over-winter here, together with thousands of wigeon, lapwing, mallard, pintail, pochard, teal, and plover ducks, and hundreds of others. The regular floodlit evening feeding is an unforgettable sight, and is a personal favourite of mine! Call **Lee Jaques** on 07454 801894 for details. You might wish to bring a packed lunch.

Sheila Bowles  
Tel: 814973



## An Afternoon with Mabel Fawcett Dodds

2.30 pm Sat 11th February

Friends Meeting House

No need to book - just turn up!

An Afternoon of AmDram Fun  
(more like an extended charade really!)

*Free - All Welcome*

Retiring collection for Christian Aid

## UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

10 am - noon Sat 18th Feb  
Ugley Village Hall

*Meat ~ Poultry ~ Fish ~ Eggs  
Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Chocolates  
Preserves ~ Fruit & Veg ~ Plants  
Cards ~ Ceramics ~ Skincare  
Knitting & Needlework*

Refreshments with cake and bacon rolls

*Free Parking ~ All Welcome*



## SNOWDROP SUNDAYS

19th & 26th February

11.30 am - 4 pm (last entry 3 pm)

Adults £4 Under 16s Free

*Homemade soup, baps & bacon rolls  
until 2.15 pm*

*Homemade cake & drinks until 3.30 pm*

*All Welcome Tel: 01371 876979*

## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
2	Thu	Stansted Local History Soc	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Fri	Business Forum Breakfast	Home and Eat 7 - 9 am
7	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
9	Thu	Stansted Evening W I	Day Centre 7.45 pm
11	Sat	<b>Link copy due in today</b>	<b>before 12 noon</b>
		Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
		An Afternoon with Mabel Dodds	Quaker Meeting House 2.30 pm
13	Mon	Ladies' Night	Tennis Club 7 pm
		Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
14	Tue	RSPB	B Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
15	Wed	Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
16	Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 pm
18	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
		B S Footpaths AGM	Rhodes, B Stortford 2 pm
19	Sun	Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
		Snowdrop Sunday	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 4 pm
21	Tue	CAMEO	Day Centre 7 - 8.30 pm
22	Wed	Care Fee Planning	Mountfitchet Hse 10.30 am - noon
23	Thu	U3A Astronomy Seminar	Day Centre 7 - 9 pm
25	Sat	Christian Aid Lunch	Free Church Hall noon - 2 pm
26	Sun	Snowdrop Sunday	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 4 pm
		S Walden Symphony Orch	Saffron Hall 3 pm
27	Mon	Shalom At Home	49 Recreation Ground 8 pm
28	Tue	Hearing Help	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Tennis Club AGM	105 Cambridge Rd 8 pm



## Free Event

10.30 am - noon Wed 22nd Feb  
Mountfitchet House, High Lane

### Care Fee Planning

by Nicky Cave (Eldercare Solutions)  
and Alexandra Denison  
(retired local solicitor)

*All welcome but booking essential*

Please tel Sharon 818230

Email: sharon.butler@careuk.com



## Astronomy Seminar

*The Beauty and Science  
of Nebulae*

by Dr Carolin Crawford

7 - 9 pm Thur 23rd Feb  
at the Day Centre

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## An Invitation to Lunch

Noon - 2 pm Sat 25th Feb

Free Church Hall

*Enjoy a warming bowl of tasty  
soup and a chunk of crusty  
bread for only £5*

All Proceeds to Christian Aid



## QUIZ NIGHT

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 11th Mar  
Forest Hall School

Tickets £10 incl Ploughman's

From Caroline 813938

or Christine 815007

Tables of up to 8 or individuals

*All Welcome ~ BYO Drinks & Nibbles*

## Women's World Day of Prayer



2 pm Friday 3rd March  
Quaker Meeting House

*Am I Being Unfair to You?*

*written by the women of The Philippines*

*Followed by Refreshments and  
Fairtrade Stall*

*All welcome - Men & Women*



Sun 26th Feb 3 pm  
Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Sibelius Symphony No 1

Chopin Concerto No 1

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## FOREST HALL SCHOOL BRINGS BROADWAY TO STANSTED



This winter the students performed a stunning production of the musical 'Guys and Dolls'. Months of preparation went into the show which was performed three times to full audiences. Jake Mullens took on the lead role of Nathan Detroit, with Daisy Pearce-Allen starring as Miss Adelaide.



All of the musical numbers were performed live, with Sister Sarah Brown's (played by Beck Parrish) rendition of 'If I were a bell' a real stand-out moment. Technical duties were handled by students, with custom stage set created by contributors from around the school. The show was directed by Head of Performing Arts, Miss White, with music co-ordinated by Mrs Lysons. A matinee show was performed in front of guests from neighbouring Bentfield Primary School, with two evening performances opened up to friends, family and the wider community.



Head of School, Stephen Hehir, said the production "showcased all that was fantastic about Forest Hall School. It was a privilege to see students from years 7 to 11 performing front of house, leading the lighting or working back stage. Well done to all involved in our Christmas matinee as it shows that we are here at Forest Hall School to not only achieve highly but to participate and take part fully in the wider life of our community!".

Adam Smith  
Media Co-ordinator

## St Mary's C of E Foundation School



We are well into our exciting Spring Term here at St Mary's and although this is a short term we are cramming a lot into it and the children are ready to learn. As we hurtle towards the middle of the academic year our reception intake of 45 are fully integrated into school life; they join in with our singing and celebration assemblies with aplomb, move around the school with confidence and independence and are now old hands in all our ways. The children are exploring various subjects including carnival, local history, rocks and sculpture. Our Year 3 and 4 pupils will be sculpting out of bread and sugar cubes amongst other materials. At the time of writing plans are underway for our annual trip to the Natural History Museum, taking our Year 5 cohort to sleep with the dinosaurs. This is a very exciting visit and it is a credit to our wonderful teachers and teaching assistants that these extra-curricular and enriching trips can occur. Luckily the children (and staff) will have the rest of the weekend to catch up on their sleep!

All our staff recently undertook updated First Aid training and are now qualified in Emergency First Aid in Schools; 13 staff are also paediatric first aiders and eight members of staff completed further in-depth training in use of a defibrillator. There is now a defibrillator located in our school office, which is available not only for the school but for the wider community when the school is open. If you are new to the area and wish to visit the school, please contact the school office for an appointment.

Christine Tonkins  
Headteacher  
Tel: 812212

Email: [admin@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk)



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

After a busy end to the autumn term, with visits to the pantomime in Stortford and the Roald Dahl Museum, a fabulous nativity play by Willow Class and energetic end-of-term disco, the children are back to school and refreshed after the Christmas break. This half term will be busy with years 3-6 taking part in the Big Sing at Saffron Hall, a visit by children's sci-fi author, Luke Temple and our first movie night at school. We begin the new term with our new reading scheme, which operates across the whole school. The children are enjoying reading the new books and getting to know the new curriculum requirements. We have a new digging area in the garden for our reception children to practise their horticultural skills and are planning to install a kitchen area and new toilets in our learning resource centre to improve our facilities for the children. Farnham is a small village school near Stansted. We have small class sizes, good results and happy children. There are some places available and Stansted children are eligible. Several Stansted families send their children to Farnham School and would be happy to talk to any parents. For information call the school reception on 771339 or see our web-site.

Katherine Aiken  
Friends of Farnham



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## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

As both our First and Reserve teams move into the final third of the season, now is the time for them to consolidate their current league positions in the top half of their respective leagues. Unfortunately for our First Team squad we saw them miss opportunities to start the new year in the top three when we drew our two local Derbys against Takeley and Sawbridgeworth, having been in front in both games with 15 minutes remaining. Our Reserve team have had a period where games have been affected by the weather; however when they have played they've put in performances which have shown to the Club's management team that we have a good depth of talent. We expect to see some of our younger players experiencing first team football before the season ends. The Reserves are due to play away against Hullbridge Sports Reserves in the semi-final of the Reserve League Shield. So fingers crossed the Club can look forward to a Final at the end of the season.

The philosophy of our Club is not only to always be competitive in any competition we play in, but also to give opportunities to our players to move up to a higher level within the game. Recently we were approached by Ryman League North teams to sign up two of our regular first teamers. We released goalkeeper Reece Paine to Witham, and defender Connor Martin to Brentwood Town. We wish them well and will closely monitor their progress.

### Below are our upcoming home games in February

4<sup>th</sup> Waltham Abbey Reserves League 2.00pm  
11<sup>th</sup> Tower Hamlets League 3.00pm  
25<sup>th</sup> Redbridge Reserves League 2.00pm

For all the up-to-date news on the team please see:

[www.pitchero.com/clubs/stanstedfc2011](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/stanstedfc2011)

<https://twitter.com/fcstansted>

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/stansted.fc.3>



Tom Williams  
Secretary  
Tel: 07921 403842



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

### Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 8.00pm at 105 Cambridge Road. All Club members are warmly invited to attend.

### Ladies' Night

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm. All lady members are welcome to come along and play.

### Used tennis balls

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

### Contacts

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



Chris Hollis



I hope you are gearing up ready for the 2017 season. I need to make an amendment to the winners of the Memorial Cup (Chris Bushnell) winners who were Michael Shewry and Peter Page (apologies to Michael I was given incorrect information!).

**Carpet Bowls** continues on Tuesday afternoons and Friday evenings during the closed season. All welcome. For more information required, please contact me.

Doreen Scraggs

Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178

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



*Stansted  
Cricket  
Club*

Work is continuing on applications for grants from a number of local and national bodies. Winter nets are being arranged for a 10-week block on Sunday mornings during February and April. More details will appear in the next edition. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact me. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



David Hedge

Hon Secretary

Tel: 812509

Email: [dchedge49@gmail.com](mailto:dchedge49@gmail.com)

## HENHAM FUN RUN

[www.henham10k.co.uk](http://www.henham10k.co.uk)

The next Henham and Ugley School Community Hall ('HUSCH') Fun Run will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018. This has been postponed for a year due to the Stansted 10K becoming an annual event and a lack of other available dates in 2017. The 2015 Fun Run attracted 350 entries and we would love to increase numbers at the next one. There will be a 3K and 10K course. Please contact me for more information or if you would like to help in any way.

Jane Smith

Tel: 850016

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Chris **01279 817111** [info@mvcc.manuden.org.uk](mailto:info@mvcc.manuden.org.uk)





www.birchangerwoodtrust.org

Well firstly, I am picking up on a comment that came in to me last year regarding the cherry tree which sadly came to the end of its life. Regrettably this tree had to be felled; we had been monitoring it over the years and noticed that there was some recent movement. Given its precarious position over the path, we decided against leaving it any longer as there was a risk it could come down unexpectedly when a person or animal was in the vicinity. A shame, but this is all part of woodland management and positive consideration to public safety. However, there are a good number of other cherry trees growing in Birchanger Wood and woodland users will still have the pleasure of their flowering when Spring arrives. Another thing you may have noticed recently is that some of our paths have been covered in leaves making them quite difficult to find, particularly over in the smaller section of Wood on the Birchanger side of the A120. We have not been experiencing strong winds so far this winter as these would naturally move the leaves away and into the woodland floor, where they would break down to produce food and cover for small animals, and insects. Finally, just to remind you, Birchanger Wood is owned and operated totally by local volunteers and this ancient woodland is kept available and free for everyone to use 365 days of the year. The photograph below was taken in 1906.



Do come and enjoy this most valuable green lung right on your doorstep, and please do feel free to contact me if you would like to be a volunteer or have any interesting ideas in this respect.



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

## JAM JARS AND USED STAMPS WANTED

By the time you read this I will have finished making my annual supply of Seville orange marmalade. A big thank you to all who donated jars - please do keep them coming (1lb size or less, not those that have contained coffee or pickle). I am also collecting used postage stamps for Guide Dogs for the Blind through a friend in Surrey.

Sandra Ayres  
Tel: 814471



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

The ukulele group, now officially known as the Stansted Mountfitchet Strummers, gave their debut performance at the November meeting and presented a selection of their increasing repertoire to a most appreciative and enthusiastic audience. This group is going from strength to strength, led by Keef Jackman, who has been their tutor from the outset, when more than 20 complete beginners took up the ukulele and thus began a joyful journey. Meetings are Mondays 1.00pm-3.00pm at the Day Centre. There is always room for new members, so contact Pat on 07884 253865 or email: [jumpingflea2@gmail.com](mailto:jumpingflea2@gmail.com).



The U3A Christmas tree was on display at the festival of Angels and Christmas Trees. The December monthly meeting was a Christmas Quiz with tea, coffee and mince pies. Many thanks to Sally and Alan Rich for organising and delivering a fun afternoon of Christmas music questions. The Christmas Lunch at Bury Lodge Hotel was well attended as usual, with singing from the Stansted U3A choir to set the mood before members enjoyed a lovely meal.

The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30pm when Karen Adams will be speaking about her work as an artist. Unfortunately, the trip to France in April, has been cancelled, but there are details on the website for a four-day trip to Yorkshire in September. Booking deposits will be taken at the March meeting. A literature study group has started this year looking at various authors and their works. Meetings are held once a month on Wednesdays 10.00am-noon at the Day Centre. U3A contact details: Helen (Chair) 812945, Liz (Secretary) 813270 email: [stanstedu3a@live.co.uk](mailto:stanstedu3a@live.co.uk).



Suzanne Parra



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## Nature Notes

**Snowdrop** *Galanthus nivalis* aka Fair Maid of February, Candlemas Bells, Mary's Tapers. According to legend, an angel appeared to Adam and Eve after their expulsion from the Garden of Eden and offered the snowdrop as a sign of hope. For us it brings the hope of the approaching spring. Not a native British plant, the snowdrop originated in the cold regions of the Caucasus. A few were recorded in English gardens during the 16<sup>th</sup> century; however during the Crimean War the soldiers were attracted to this pretty plant, flowering white among the carnage of the battlefields. Bulbs were brought home to Britain, where they now flourish. It is not just a pretty flower. Last century Bulgarian peasants were observed rubbing bulbs and leaves of the snowdrop onto the forehead. The treatment appeared to have a beneficial effect on certain neurological conditions, including treating cases of polio. Apparently, the paralysis did not develop after the use of the snowdrop bulb. In 1951 two Russians pharmacologists, Mashkovsky and Kruglikova-Lvovastarted, isolated the ingredient galantamine from the snowdrop. By 1958 the first industrial process of galantamine had begun in Bulgaria by Professor Dimitar Paskov. This helped alleviate the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. In Eastern Europe galantamine has been used to treat neuritis and neuralgia, myasthenia gravis (chronic muscle weakness), myopathy and post-polio paralysis.



Have we always known about the properties of the snowdrop? Many of us remember the story of Odysseus and his encounter with the goddess Circe. She bewitched his sailors by muddling their brains and turning them into swine. Hermes intervened, and gave Odysseus 'moly' to restore the wits to his sailors. In 1983 two scholars suggested that 'moly' was in fact, the snowdrop. It is certainly a plant of hope!

Bee's Daughter

## Little Hadham Antiques Fair

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## TORTOISES

Maybe it was the effect of having a busy night on call or just the mind wandering after 25 years of being a vet but I found myself saying to a client the other day, "*Tortoises are a bit like snowdrops aren't they?*" Before you think I have gone mad, my mind was working along the lines that both of them hibernate over the winter months and then start to show signs of waking up in January/February; so snowdrops pushing through the soil and tortoises' heads emerging from their shells could be considered a couple of the earliest signs of Spring - see, not mad at all! Looking after tortoises can be a bit of a challenge. The old garden tortoises that have been around since the days of Blue Peter seem to cope quite well with minimal intervention but younger tortoises need specialist accommodation including UV(b) lights and strictly regulated temperatures. We have a special fondness for tortoises at Mercer and Hughes and have a range of information leaflets that you can pop in and get. We also run a tortoise information evening every year and this year it is on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at our Saffron Walden surgery and will be a more informal event this time, with demonstrations, games and a quiz and we are inviting people to bring their tortoises along for a free health check - it should be tortoise heaven! Ring us on 01799 522082 to book place as spaces are limited. Some vets are not keen on tortoises as they say they do not have much of a personality but I have known tortoises that like to play football, ones that tease the family dog and ones that refuse to be confined and set off on their travels every day regardless of fences, gates and brick walls! I love them; their prehistoric appearance, the slow determination with which they munch through a plateful of veg, and that mischievous glint in their eyes when they try and bite your toes and, of course, their similarity to snowdrops.



Ilse Pedler  
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



In 2016 we published two very successful business directories. We are now looking to introduce a new initiative based on what we would call a 'passport'. This is a pocket size information booklet about our businesses that will make it easier for you to contact them with any special offers they may have. We are also very pleased with our links with Forest Hall School and our mentor programme. This is where people from ten of our businesses are mentoring young people to help them with their future careers. Students spend time with their mentors and are also able to visit the businesses to experience a real working environment. We will continue with this mentor programme in the New Year as it is very important that the Stansted Business Forum maintains active links with schools and our community. Our membership has grown over the year and our next meeting is on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 7.00am at Home and Eat. Please contact me to book a place. We will be very pleased to see you.



Iris Evans



## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS ROUNDUP



### CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

St Theresa's Church was full for this joyful family event, with participation from St Mary's and Forest Hall schools, and St John's junior and adult choirs. Many thanks to the readers, singers, conductor Ros Page and organist Stephen Rapkin. The collection for the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal amounted to a record £630.



Photo by Tony Aldridge. See more photos on our website [www.stanstedchurches.com](http://www.stanstedchurches.com).

David Morson  
Tel: 850209

### THE FESTIVAL OF ANGELS AND CHRISTMAS TREES



The festival was, as usual, very well attended with lots of wonderful displays. The committee would like to thank all organisations for their time in participating in this event; without you, we would not have had a festival, so a very big thank you to you all, your exhibits were first class and we hope you will join us again in 2017. On the Saturday, Carols For All was once again attended by a congregation which filled the church to full capacity. The Rev'd Paul Wilkin welcomed everyone and Anne Brooks, Director of Music for St John's Church conducted the choir. Well known carols were sung, interspersed with readings. After the concert, mulled wine, teas and coffees and mince pies were enjoyed. All the proceeds from the refreshments went to The Friends of St Mary's Church which helps the Churches Conservation Trust in its work to maintain and keep this beautiful church. The weekend festival cannot proceed without the help of so many people, from cleaning the church, decorating the church for the festivities, sound and lighting, choir, organisations for their displays, and of course not forgetting the ladies for serving the refreshments. Without you all, this event would not take place so a very big thank you from the Chairman, Keith Ayres, Vice Chairman, Lynda Dale, and the committee.

Sally Argent  
Secretary  
Friends of St Mary's

### HENHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET

We would like to say thank you to everyone who came to our event, or donated cakes and raffle prizes. You all made it a huge success and we are delighted to say that we raised an enormous £3,515.48 for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Many thanks from Jo, Lara, Lesley and Anna.

### COME AND MAKE CHRISTINGLES!



During the second week in December, 42 adults and 14 children joined our special three Christmas events at **The Place**, which included making Christingles, watching a video of the Christmas story and seeing Father Christmas, who gave a present to each child!



**The Place on the Hill** is a free drop-in held at and organised by Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, which is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Do come and join us - all ages are welcome.

Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059

Email: [theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

We enjoyed mild weather and were encouraged to have a good number of singers. It was good to start our second evening singing to the residents of Mountfitchet House.



Photo by Malcolm Lloyd

Special thanks go to our hostesses Maureen, Melvin, Roy and Christine who plied us with seasonal refreshments. Residents generously donated £318.75, and when added to the Celebration of Christmas donations, a total of £948.75 has been sent to the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal.

Mike Dyer Tel: 814059 and Helen Baker Tel: 814865

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Royal British Legion



St Mary's School



Stansted Evening W I



Rainbow Pre-School



Huw Johnson Club and Mountfitchet Garden Club



Helpline



St John's Tots



Stansted is Well Read

*Photographs by Sue Bone and Yvonne Ayres*



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## MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY

Staff and pupils at the school enjoyed a variety of events throughout the first festive period for the school. Staff organised Christmas themed dinners and parties whilst pupils helped decorate the school, including hanging ornaments on their own Christmas tree. A traditional pantomime was performed to the children in school and a trip to Audley End was arranged so pupils could ride on the famous Christmas train where they met none other than Santa Claus himself! Whilst enjoying the school's first Christmas, the pupils were also educated about the origin of Christmas through their own Nativity performance. The Nativity was performed in St John's Church, in front of an audience of friends, family and members of the community.



The children were in fine voice as they performed songs and acted out scenes whilst wearing some wonderful costumes. The performance was praised by Rev'd Paul Wilkin, who congratulated the school's pioneering class. The staff and pupils were also invited back to St John's Church to perform as part of a traditional carol service.

Adam Smith  
Media Co-ordinator



STANSTED  
MOUNTFITCHET  
WINDMILL

The Huw Johnson Club is on its winter break at the moment, but we have both a trip to the Cambridge pantomime and our New Year's party to look forward to over the next few weeks. We restart our regular Thursday evenings on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Thank you to everyone who came to our Carol Concert in December. The church was packed which was lovely to see and it is great to have such support from the local community. We are seeking volunteers to help out on Thursday evenings, as well as car and bus drivers and bus escorts - the latter opportunities only require about one Thursday per month commitment. We are also a great place to do your Duke of Edinburgh Award community volunteering. So if your New Year's resolution is to get involved in a local organisation or to get volunteering, please contact Sandra on 812627 or myself for more information – we would love to hear from you!



Katharine Collis  
Tel: 461270

Our Christmas Event on 10<sup>th</sup> December was a great success. The children loved the grotto and their gifts from Santa. The adults enjoyed the mulled wine and mince pies. We were very delighted to see all the elves and fairies for the fancy dress. Unfortunately, we were forced to finish the evening earlier than planned due to the dreadful weather conditions. By the time most of you read this you will have enjoyed our first coffee morning of 2017. Our AGM is on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 7.45pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre. There will be wine and nibbles as well as soft drinks for, as always, a very sociable evening. I do hope we can depend on your continued support in 2017 to help keep our Windmill going. Our first opening is on Easter Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 1.30pm-5.30pm.



Molly Clark  
Co-trustee  
Tel: 816768

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# Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

## FESTIVE DECORATIONS



Lower Street had a really nice "christmassy" feel to it over the festive season.

This was due to the efforts of traders, the village tree, funded by the Hilton family and the lights funded by the Parish Council.

It was also nice to be able to light up the fountain on Cambridge Road thanks to the support of Leisure Plan, Lino Thomas and Squires 'pop up' Christmas shop.



## MEMORIAL GARDENS ENHANCEMENT

We are pleased to report that we were successful in our final funding bid for the Memorial Gardens project and have been given a grant from Essex County Council Community Infrastructure Fund of £6,500. This means that we should be able to award the contract for the hard landscaping work early in the new year and hopefully work will start early in the Spring.

## BUS SERVICES

Copies of timetables for the 7/7a bus routes can be found in the Council office, the Surgery and the Day Centre. Posters and lose-leaf time tables are also available for the revised timetable for the 301. The Village notice boards also advertise the revised timetable for the 301.

## RATS

We have received reports of rats being spotted in Bentfield Gardens and on the Foresthall Estate. We don't want to panic people by listing all the diseases rats carry, but it is obvious we should do everything we can to minimize the risks that rats create, and not do anything that might make rat infestation more likely.

The preferred foods for rats are cereal products, although rats are omnivorous and will eat almost anything that humans eat. Please take care over the way you dispose of food waste and be aware that if you leave out food for birds and other wild animals you could attract rats to the location.

The advice from The British Pest Control Association is:

- Eliminate any harbourage points such as sealing gaps around pipes and under sheds; rats only need a gap of 15mm to gain entry
- Remove potential nesting sites by keeping yards and gardens clean and tidy, by cutting back overgrown areas and clearing any piles of wood/debris
- Ensure that drain inspection covers are in a good state of repair
- Cover any household waste where rats can get access to it, close dustbin lids and cover compost heaps.

If you feed garden birds, do not do this to excess and use a bird table or feeder basket if possible.

## FLOOD GATES AND DOORS

The Parish Council were pleased to support a planning application from a property in Lower Street, which is seeking to install a flood gate and door to protect their property in the event of the area flooding again. They hope that other property owners in the high flood risk areas will consider taking similar measures. Government funding in the form of the "repair and renew grant", which provides financial support to pay for work that improves a property's ability to withstand future flooding, may be available to help pay for such measures. Contact Uttlesford District Council for further details.



## LITTER BINS

Our Environmental Rangers are reporting more incidents of our litter bins being used for household and business waste. When this happens the litter bins need emptying more often and other important work gets delayed. Please use the recycling services provided by Uttlesford District Council for any household or business waste. We hope to trial a different bin design which will make it harder to dump bags of rubbish at the locations where we have had particular problems.

## RED BAG COLLECTION

When Lucy and Levi empty our bins and collect litter from our streets, they leave the red bags at strategic points around the village and these are collected and disposed of by Uttlesford District Council. We have just heard from UDC that their collections are reducing from three days per week to two which means that you will see the red bags sitting around for a longer time. We apologise for this as we know they look unsightly, but we have no other option at the present time.

## DOG FOULING

We are getting more reports of owners not cleaning up after their dogs on our open spaces including children's play areas, which should be dog-free. We appreciate it is only a tiny minority of dog owners who are responsible for this and we would appeal to them to make sure they have suitable bags with them when they walk their dogs and use them to clear up any mess.

Being unaware that the dog has fouled, or not having a suitable means of removing the faeces, is not a reasonable excuse for failing to clean up after your dog. There are no excuses, fouling is unacceptable! Be part of the responsible majority and clear up.

## LOWER STREET TRAFFIC ISSUES

A number of residents have been in touch with the Parish Office or have contacted Parish Councillors to express concerns about the new roundabout at the bottom of Chapel Hill.



Highways issues are the responsibility of Essex County Council so all we can do as a Parish Council is make ECC aware of our concerns and suggest any improvements we think might help the situation. The Highway Code (item 188) states the following:

*Mini-roundabouts. Approach these in the same way as normal roundabouts. All vehicles MUST pass round the central markings except large vehicles which are physically incapable of doing so. Remember, there is less space to manoeuvre and less time to signal. Avoid making U-turns at mini-roundabouts. Beware of others doing this.*



Our photographs show the kind of thing that is happening on a regular basis at the moment with drivers choosing to ignore the roundabout. If we can all follow the Highway Code the risk of accidents can be reduced.

Whilst the Police objected at the eleventh hour to the siting of a new pedestrian crossing in Lower Street, we hope to have sight of the new proposal very soon. The Department of Transport recommend that when planning improved pedestrian facilities, it is important to understand where pedestrians may wish to cross. Consideration should be given to established and possible new pedestrian routes. These are often referred to as 'desire lines'. Pedestrians heading for Castle Maltings, or who want to make their way up Church Road, including a lot of school students, obviously wish to cross as close to the traffic island as possible and there seems to be widespread support for a crossing. In addition, and working with Uttlesford DC, we hope to provide an additional crossing from the Social Club to the Castle Maltings building.

## NEW COMMUNITY BUILDING

In late August, following demolition of the old library and having commenced construction of our new community building, it was brought to our attention that a third party had a legal easements granting him rights relating to access to utility services running under our site. This meant that we had to stop work pending a resolution of the legal issues. As we go to print, no agreement has been reached, but we are working with our solicitor to bring this to a conclusion and get back on site as soon as possible.

## COME BACK COUNCILLOR!

As there were no nominations for the vacancy on the Parish Council created by the resignation of Mark

Capel-Helm, Valerie Trundle has been co-opted to the Council.



Valerie tried to retire at the last election after a ten year spell as a councillor, but has been persuaded to make a comeback!

## INTRODUCING ESSEX ACTIVITIES

Dr Paul Probert, Head of Community Resilience at Essex County Council writes:

*Do you organise local events? Do you want to find out about things happening in your area? If you can answer 'yes' to either of these questions, then Essex Activities may be just the thing for you - it's a free-to-use site to help you promote your own events and to find out what is happening in Stansted Mountfitchet and beyond. Uniquely, it's a website owned by local people – the content is yours and the events are yours as well. It's all about connecting local people to fun, local things to do. Why not take a moment to visit the site – [www.essex-activities.org.uk](http://www.essex-activities.org.uk) – and add your coffee morning, regular sports fixture or children's play date? You might just find an ideal thing to do this weekend! You can also keep in touch with what is happening by following Essex Activities on Twitter @EssexActivities and Facebook [www.facebook.com/essexactivities/](http://www.facebook.com/essexactivities/)*

**Sara Ward, Administrator for the Rural Community Council of Essex writes:**

Since it was set up in 2015 Community Agents has helped over 8,000 older people to remain living independently in their own homes. Community Agents are local, trusted supporters working in the communities in which they live, and are all aligned to well-known charities such as Age UK, British Red Cross and Neighbourhood Watch. They provide a free service - without an assessment - and a timely response to calls for help and information. To explain Community Agents more concisely and how it works, we have put together a simple step-by-step online learning tool. It comes in five sections and takes about 30 minutes, but is an invaluable tool for people who are new to Community Agents or for those who need a refresher. People are at the heart of Community Agents. We have already won an award for our collaborative person centred approach - and are in line for another – for our voluntary/public sector partnership which effectively uses local community based resources and does not duplicate any other available services. Visit [www.communityagentsessex.org.uk/e-learning.aspx](http://www.communityagentsessex.org.uk/e-learning.aspx) or call 0800 9775858 email: [enquiries@caessex.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@caessex.org.uk)

## NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Geoffrey Sell writes:

### Lower Street Car Park

The construction of the Castle Maltings has meant that Stansted's infrastructure has seen some badly needed improvements - a doctor's surgery fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a NHS dentist and a larger Coop store. These undoubted benefits have, however, been affected by the poor layout of the car park and issues of road safety at the junction. A productive meeting was held recently at UDC council offices between Leader of the Council Howard Rolfe and Stansted councillors. It was recognised that the Lower Street car park had not shown UDC at its best.

A car parking order consultation began on 5th January. This will enable a better layout with short term parking at the front and long term at the back. It will create six zones with Zone 3 reserved for residents of Castle Maltings; Zone 4 is reserved for Surgery use Monday-Friday; Zones 1 & 2 will be for short term use up to 2 hours whilst Zones 5 & 6 will be for longer term use. A copy of the Order can be inspected at the Council Offices in Saffron Walden. The poor signage will also be addressed. UDC were left in no doubt about residents' dissatisfaction and the need to address it. This I believe and hope we have got. UDC officers were due to visit the car park in the early New Year and be shown around by the Parish Clerk. There still remains a capacity issue. With the castle reopening in the Spring demand for spaces will be high. Contact has been established with an adjacent landowner who may be willing to sell some land.

### Apply now for Leisure and Sports Projects Grants

Leisure and Cultural grants and Sports Project grants are available to help pay for things such as training and equipment. Talented individuals, non-profit-making organisations and local charities providing services to or for the community, or for the purpose of assisting the arts and cultural clubs, are eligible to apply for the Leisure and Cultural grant. Local branches of national organisations can also apply. The Sports Project grant is designed for sporting organisations and individuals who want to develop further by purchasing new equipment, undertaking training or delivering courses in the local community. Local branches of national organisations can apply. Applications for both grants schemes are considered on a monthly basis and can be no larger than £500. Applicants must have match-funded the grant. Application forms are on the Community Grants page. For paper copies or more information contact Sue Hayden, Community Development Officer on 01799 510563 email: [shayden@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:shayden@uttlesford.gov.uk)

## DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

### February

8th Full Council  
15th Open Spaces  
22nd Highways 7.00 pm F & GP 8.15 pm

### March

1st Full Council  
13th Civil Protection

### 15th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

22nd Full Council  
29th Open Spaces

## CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford. Admin Assist - Vacant  
Assistant to the Parish Clerk-Trevor Lloyd  
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net  
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10.00am - 1.00pm  
www.stansted.net

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Geoffrey Sell	815925
	cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

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cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk

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alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

## PARISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Valerie Trundle - 813433 Joy Thomas - 813871

## STANSTED LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

### Temporary service for our Stansted Library

Stansted Library has been operating from a temporary home for several months, while work is undertaken to create a new community hub at Crafton Green. During this period a temporary mobile service has been operating from the Crafton Green car park. The Library Service are making some changes to times they attend so in future the hours will be the same every week:

Monday 10.00am - 4.00pm Mobile Library

Wednesday 1.00pm - 6.00pm Day Centre - Click and Collect Service.

Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm Mobile Library

For more information contact

jenny.salisbury@essex.gov.uk or  
anthea.earn@essex.gov.uk

or the Parish Council website www.stansted.net

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



## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK	Vivian Falk, Chairman
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Arts Club	Michelle Wray Tel: 07528 317907 Email: michelle.wrayj@gmail.com	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs, Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rotary Club	Martin Budzinski Tel: 07803 878961 Email: martin@voucherpacks.com
Brownies (Tuesday)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Wednesday)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Spangles Children's Centre	Sarah Mason Tel: 812348 Email: smason2@spurgeons.org
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Friends of St Mary's Church	Keith Ayres Tel: 07768 023830	Tennis Club	Chris Hollis Tel: 319155 Email: chris.hollis2@btinternet.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Grove Cottage	Andrea Charity Tel: 656085/ 07795 483674	U3A	Helen, Chair Tel: 812945
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis, District Commissioner Tel: 814434	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Brenda Ryan, President Tel: 812725
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Inner Wheel Club	Kate Muskett, President Tel: 850228	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.)	
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com		
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232		
Millers (Windmill)	Molly Clark Tel: 816768		
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

### 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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## QUIZ - OPENING WORDS

For which literary work (title and author) is each of the following the opening words?

- 1 Call me Ishmael
- 2 It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife
- 3 Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way
- 4 It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen
- 5 It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ...
- 6 Somewhere in La Mancha, in a place whose name I do not care to remember ...
- 7 He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream ...
- 8 It was a pleasure to burn
- 9 The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there
- 10 All children, except one, grow up
- 11 Hale knew, before he had been in Brighton three hours, that they meant to murder him
- 12 Two households both alike in dignity, in fair Verona, where we lay our scene
- 13 Mr and Mrs Dursley, of number four Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much
- 14 Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again
- 15 Marley was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that
- 16 Scarlett O'Hara was not beautiful, but men seldom realised it when caught by her charms as the Tarleton twins were
- 17 I had a farm in Africa, at the foot of the Ngong hills.
- 18 Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank...
- 19 "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents", grumbled Jo, lying on the rug
- 20 "I ran into a snake this afternoon", Miss Shepherd said, "It was coming up Parkway."
- 21 Among other public buildings in a certain town ... there is one anciently common to most towns, great or small; to wit, a workhouse
- 22 Mr Jones of the Manor Farm had locked the hen-houses for the night but was too drunk to remember to shut the pop holes
- 23 A squat, grey building of only thirty-four storeys. Over the main entrance the words "Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre".
- 24 My father's family name being Pirrip and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip
- 25 The boy with the fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon

I have a set of 16 8vo books in good condition which I have finished with and would be happy to give away. They contain works by Daphne du Maurier. I cannot guarantee that they are the complete works but they certainly contain the major novels and short stories, one of which is used in the quiz. Please contact me if you are interested.

Cliff Gilbert  
Tel: 814291

*Answers on page 39*

## THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

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



Our website is the main channel through which the Society seeks to achieve its charitable objectives. The first of these aims is *to advance the education of the public in the character and history* of the Hundred Parishes. We hope that those with an enquiring mind will dip in from time to time and see what we have to say, about a particular parish or a local 'celebrity'. We like to challenge your local knowledge with the photo that appears at the top of each web page. The picture changes every couple of weeks and on the homepage we explain where the last one was taken. Sometimes the image is seasonal.



For example, in November we showed the war graves in Saffron Walden cemetery. In December, there was a view of the Rib valley from Cold Christmas in the parish of Thundridge.



Currently ... sorry, I'm not allowed to tell you! But if you think you know please feedback a response. Many of the photos on the website will appear in a guidebook to the area which the Society plans to publish later this year. We will let you know when it is available. In the meantime, we encourage you to get out locally. You do not have to travel far to discover another parish, an untried lane or footpath, a new listed church, or somewhere new for lunch or tea. Please check the parish introduction on the website before you set off – it may help with ideas, phone numbers etc.

Ken McDonald  
Secretary  
Tel: 813226





## Mountfitchet House Care Home

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[www.careuk.com/mountfitchet-house](http://www.careuk.com/mountfitchet-house)

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## NEW VISION FOR 'A HEALTHIER FUTURE' FOR HERTFORDSHIRE AND WEST ESSEX

A wide-ranging plan to improve health and care in Hertfordshire and West Essex was published on 12<sup>th</sup> December. Called a 'Sustainability and Transformation Plan' (STP), the Hertfordshire and West Essex publication 'A Healthier Future' brings together and highlights the challenges and opportunities that face local NHS and care services as they work together to improve health and wellbeing within the funds available, including:

- a 37% predicted increase in the population of over-75s in the next ten years. More older people and people living with long-term conditions means higher care costs
- obesity, smoking, alcohol and not enough exercise are all causing health problems
- recruiting enough doctors, nurses and care staff is difficult; high living costs make it hard to attract and retain people with the right skills
- some patients are admitted to hospital who do not need to be there.

The report sets out the four main ways in which local NHS health and care organisations plan to improve health and care in the area:

- helping people to live healthier lives, avoiding preventable illnesses
- improving the health and care services offered at home or in local communities
- using hospital care for specialist and emergency treatments only
- improving the efficiency of health and care services.

**In Hertfordshire:** NHS and care organisations have committed to working even more closely to provide high quality care, supporting patients who do not need to be in hospital to be looked after in the community, while at the same time putting greater emphasis on prevention.

**In West Essex:** Deborah Fielding, Chief Officer, NHS West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group said: "We have already been advancing our programmes and services to provide care closer to home and in a much more integrated way with our council colleagues. Our neighbourhood programme sees primary, acute, community, mental health and the voluntary sector working together in a much more intuitive way." Leading the new vision, Tom Cahill, Chief Executive of Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation NHS University Trust said: "Please take a little time to read *A Healthier Future* and have your say. We can't meet the health and funding challenges we face without everyone getting involved. Making real change relies on us all taking more responsibility for our own health and wellbeing and we want to work with people of all ages to make sure that happens." You can read *A Healthier Future* online at [www.healthierfuture.org.uk](http://www.healthierfuture.org.uk)

Nuala Milbourn  
Assistant Director, Communications  
NHS East and North Herts CCG  
Tel: 01707 361251  
Email: [Nuala.Milbourn@enhertscg.nhs.uk](mailto:Nuala.Milbourn@enhertscg.nhs.uk)

## THE STANSTED SURGERY

[www.thestanstedsurgey.nhs.uk](http://www.thestanstedsurgey.nhs.uk)

### New Surgery

Having finally moved surgery at the beginning of November the new surgery is starting to overcome the snagging issues that inevitably cropped up in the move; we appreciate all of the people that have made constructive comments about the building and the service during this time.

### New Staff

We have recruited a new GP, Dr Elena Andrei, who started in October and we are currently in the process of recruiting to replace Dr Humphrey who leaves us at the end of March.

### Services at the centre

Whilst the practice staff are well embedded in the new premises we still await our community colleagues to join us. We hope that both District Nursing and Health Visiting staff will be able to co-locate with us and we have already offered accommodation to mental health and diabetic services which have been providing more local services since November. The surgery is also a partner with Active Essex, local schools and leisure centres on a project aimed at improving the participation in physical activity of our school age children.

### Join our virtual PPG (Patient Participation Group)

Look for the Stansted PPG on Facebook. The next face to face meeting will be on 26<sup>th</sup> January 7.00pm at the surgery. Dates of future meetings can be found on our website.

Barry Chandler  
Practice Manager  
Email: [stansted.surgery@nhs.net](mailto:stansted.surgery@nhs.net)

## HEALTH HELP NOW

### New digital tool to help people find the right treatment

Launched in November in West Essex, the *Health help Now* website and app gives detailed advice and guidance on the most common ailments and symptoms, and recommends the best place for treatment, showing which local services are open. Visit [www.westessex.healthhelpnow.nhs.uk](http://www.westessex.healthhelpnow.nhs.uk) or download it from the App Store or Google Play. The app is broken down into different age groups: baby, child, teenager, adult and older adult - making it easier for people to find the right treatment for them. *Health help Now* also offers advice on lots of health problems, such as what to do if you accidentally run out of medication and links to local pharmacies, the community and voluntary sector and social care. Often people do not know where to go for help and might end up at Accident and Emergency when they do not really need to. This new website and app is the perfect first point of contact for any health help and advice. *Health help Now* forms part of the Evening and Weekend GP service which is managed by Stellar Healthcare, in partnership with West Essex CCG and Uttlesford Health.

Kay Odysseos  
Communications Lead, Stellar Healthcare  
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## STORT VALLEY ROTARY CLUB

We would like to thank everyone who kindly donated to our Christmas Santa collection, helping us raise just over £2,000 that will assist a number of local charities during the year.



We will be holding our annual **Quiz** on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.30pm in the Charis Centre, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford with the same successful formula: good venue; good grub (ploughmans); same price (£10 per person), but different questions! In previous years we have raised nearly £5,000 for our local food bank, but this year we are also supporting our other main charity, Life Education, of which many of you with children and grandchildren at our local primary schools will be aware. For more information on this worthy cause please visit [coramlifeeducation.org.uk](http://coramlifeeducation.org.uk). Book your table now (maximum eight people - if you are fewer please book anyway, as we are often able to make up tables). Please contact Derek Crowther on 832580 or email [john.crowther2@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.crowther2@ntlworld.com).

We meet weekly on Tuesday evenings at the Lemon Tree Restaurant from 7.00pm.

Martin Budzinski



## WILL YOU BE WARM THIS WINTER?

Uttlesford is a beautiful place to live, but many houses here were built hundreds of years ago, so are expensive to heat and fuel efficiency is poor. Furthermore, 19% of houses are not on mains gas and, at the time of the last census, over 450 were without any form of central heating. Living in a cold home is bad for anyone's health, but older people, very young children and those with long term health problems are particularly vulnerable. Cold, damp and draughty homes can make certain health conditions, such as respiratory problems, much worse. Keeping warm over the winter can help to prevent colds, flu or more serious health conditions such as heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia and depression. Almost ten percent of households in Uttlesford are thought to be in fuel poverty, and with fuel costs on the rise again even more people are finding it hard to keep their homes warm. Possibly as a result, shockingly, this district has a far higher number of excess winter deaths than the national average (24.6% as opposed to 11.3%). Fortunately, there is a new way for people living in Uttlesford to get practical support to help them keep warm during the winter. Visit [www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk](http://www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk) and search 'cold' or call

Uttlesford Citizens Advice's dedicated number on 01799 618858 to access help and advice regarding:

- **Benefits**, including cold weather payments and disability benefits
- Money or **debt**, including debts to utility providers
- **Switching**, to get lower fuel bills,
- **The priority services register**.
- **Home improvement grants and handyman services**
- **Energy efficient behaviours and home improvements**
- **Home safety**
- **Personal alarms**
- **Flu jabs**
- **Fall prevention services**
- **Community services**, including transport, food delivery and home library services

Jo Hancock  
Uttlesford Citizens Advice  
Tel: 01799 618840

## WHAT ARE PRISONS FOR?

This was the question at the heart of the workshop on Criminal Justice, held at Stansted Quaker Meeting House on 26<sup>th</sup> November. This is a subject which has frequently been in the news recently, with a prison riot, escaped prisoners considered to be dangerous and even a strike by prison officers about conditions. The workshop was run in a quiet and thoughtful manner by Rajiv Chelani, who has just spent nearly six years on a national Quaker committee looking into criminal justice. We heard of Catholic experience of prison work, a repeated concern about the link between educational difficulties and offending and even one former solicitor who had been involved in running a public enquiry into the death of a prisoner in Chelmsford prison. We considered what were the good and bad things about prisons, adding our points to sheets pinned up for each viewpoint. Rajiv broadly divided our good points into protecting society from dangerous people, opportunities for rehabilitation, education and skills, justice for victims and deterrence. Our bad points covered 'schools' for criminals, violence and drugs, institutionalisation and recidivism, harm to families and relationships, failure to rehabilitate and educate, and cost. It was apparent that the bad list was longer than the good, but there were clearly arguments on both sides.

One of the group had asked about restorative justice, and Rajiv spoke of his experience of this, which was informative and led to further thought and discussion. Then he threw a spanner in the works. Having acted as a facilitator throughout, without telling us what to think, he concluded by saying that his personal view was that there should only be one point on the good side: protecting society from dangerous people. He suggested only the 2-3,000 people in this country who are dangerous should be locked up, and all other criminals should be dealt with without incarceration. This radical view was food for thought indeed. Perhaps we might consider that the system does not need propping up, or tinkering at the edges to make it work better, but should be completely rethought and approached in a different way.

Jane Mitchell  
Clerk of Stansted Quaker Meeting

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[www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk](http://www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk)

We joined the Magna Carta School children for a performance of 'The Missing Stockings' by the Theatrebugs pantomime group. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, the children being totally captivated by the naughty fox's actions! It was a lovely way to end the Autumn Term. Congratulations to staff member Sarah, who took part in the four races that made up the Dopey Challenge at Walt Disney World Orlando Florida. She brought in six amazing medals to show the children plus a map so they could track where she had run.



We are now refreshed and looking forward to a busy Spring term, starting with the project 'Ourselves' moving onto celebrating Chinese New Year, where they will be tasting Chinese food and making musical instruments to accompany the dragon dance. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising five. If you are interested in applying for a place, please visit our website. You need to put your child's name down, however young to ensure a place.

Gill Pursglove  
Administration Manager

Tel: 814242

Email: [admin@rainbowpreschool.net](mailto:admin@rainbowpreschool.net)

## RESOLUTIONS



I vowed to cut down on sugar and wine  
But it's so hard in the wintertime.  
On dark, cold nights it feels so good  
Gorging on cake and chocolate pud  
Drinking mulled wine in front of the telly  
Nectar to the soul – and the belly.

I'll start my New Year in March instead  
Easier to stick to the water and bread  
With Spring nigh I must be able  
To resist naughty treats from the table?  
But if that doesn't work – hey it's okay  
There's always next month or New Year's Day.



Loki

## MOUNTFITCHET HOUSE

Care Fee Planning Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 10.30am-noon

The specialist presenters will be Nicky Cave from Eldercare Solutions Ltd and Alexandra Denison, retired local solicitor. Entry free but booking essential. Contact Sharon Butler on 818230 or email: [sharon.butler@careuk.com](mailto:sharon.butler@careuk.com).



## ST CLARE HOSPICE QUIZ

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Forest Hall School. Tables of eight people maximum. Tickets £10 (includes ploughman's) from Christine on 815007 or myself. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.



Caroline Bore

Tel: 813938

Email: [carolineebore@gmail.com](mailto:carolineebore@gmail.com) or

## GARDENING TIPS

Many common questions I receive often relate to winter interest. By February, some of the earlier flowering daffodils (narcissus) are starting to flower. For more framework and structure consider Daphnes; some can reach 2m or more. Their flowers have a wonderful fragrance that benefit from planting near a path or window so the scent can be appreciated. They require a fertile well drained soil in sun or partial shade. Choose your location carefully as none of the Daphne varieties tolerate being moved once established. They also do not overly enjoy being pruned either. If you do have to prune, bear in mind that the sap can be irritating to skin. All parts of the plant are poisonous too. Another winter favourite with splendid fragrant flowers and foliage that will drift around the garden is Chimonanthus praecox 'Luteus'. Position against a southerly or west facing wall in well drained soil, where they bloom nicely producing clusters of yellow flowers. Prune immediately after flowering for the best show and the most intense aroma.



For fine year round structural displays in shady difficult areas, consider ferns; many are evergreen and have architectural foliage, which erupts up and out in a fountain-like shape. Evergreen varieties include Blechnum pennamarina, Asplenium scolopendrium, Adiantum venustum. Dicksonia antarctica (tree fern) has become very trendy in recent years, but is not truly hardy and would require some winter protection in the cold frosts that we receive. Other ferns to consider are Polypodium's and Polystichum setiferum (soft shield fern). All these ferns prefer a shady moist soil without excessive winter waterlogging; all appreciate a generous helping of well-rotted organic matter. During wet periods avoid walking on or working your soil, but if you need to get onto wet ground, consider using an old scaffold board or plank of wood to spread your weight to avoid damaging your soil.



Paul the Gardener



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## STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



In December we were entertained by Alan Haines looking at the 1960s with fascinating film reminders of life then. Memories of Tupperware parties, the new dance craze of the Twist, National Strikes, which were all too frequent, and the Great Train Robbery - this appeared to be absurdly easy to perpetrate! Did you know you can now get an OAP version of the game *Twister* which we played in the sixties? The mini-skirt was introduced by Mary Quant favoured by many of us then and of course England won the World Cup! Sandy Shaw won Eurovision with *Puppet on a String* and the Beatles were all the rage too. Alan interspersed these fascinating facts with conjuring tricks ably assisted by two members and lots of jokes. Some members dressed up in 60s clothes and good fun was had by all!



Our Christmas tree exhibit in St Mary's Church was adorned with yoghurt pots, painted and transposed into jars of jam with little scrolls of 'Jerusalem', that is our popular image so we go along with it! We also entered our angel once again which stood by the crib. The craft group are now concentrating on knitting dogs for the *Hearing Dogs for the Deaf* charity and some members and friends are still knitting squares for blankets. We

received a second letter from Buckingham Palace to thank us for the beautiful handstitched card we sent to the Queen - thank you Sally Smith for making it. We look forward to the year ahead to which we welcome new members as well as visitors. *The Kings and Queens of England* with speaker Colin Street, is the subject of our next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February at 7.45pm in the Day Centre. For more information contact our president Brenda Ryan on 812725.



Judy Colliver



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our December meeting, which took the form of a Christmas party, was held in the delightful surroundings of our President's home, which was beautifully decorated and lit for the occasion. Our entertainer for the festive afternoon was magician Peter Gardini, who thrilled us all with his humour and magic. A delicious afternoon tea was prepared and served by members of our hard-working Committee; and then came the surprise of the afternoon - an unexpected visit from the Essex county fashion and beauty advisor, Gertrude. She had been informed that members of Ugley WI would benefit from her advice. A very versatile lady, she had even made her dress out of a duvet cover! Amazing! After giving her much needed advice she presented everyone with a Christmas parcel. A lovely end to a very special afternoon and to our calendar of events for 2016. Our February meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall will see the welcome return of popular sports journalist Sue Mott. Why not come along and meet her? You would be most welcome.

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922

## GALLOPING HORSE VILLA

Last November Cambridge Road lost a valued friend and neighbour when the Co-op moved to its new home in Castle Maltings. The food store had been at the same premises for as long as most can remember. Built in 1901 by H Thurston of the famous showground family, 22 Cambridge Road was originally named Galloping Horse Villa. The building was adorned with elaborate decorative details - some of which are still visible - including a galloping horse above the door.



Travelling fairgrounds have been a popular form of entertainment for centuries, and for the families involved it is a traditional way of life. The Thurstons are just one of the showground families who still tour the country with their rides and stalls. In the 1900s East Anglia seems to have been the area the Thurstons concentrated on, attending various fairs in Cambridge, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, Norwich, Peterborough and also Oxford and Wanstead. As well as the *Gallopers* they provided *Gondolas*, a *Motor Switchback* ride, and a *Bioscope*, often in conjunction with the Barker family.



Once the summer was over Galloping Horse Villa in Stansted was where the Thurston family stored their equipment over the winter and carried out the necessary maintenance on their fairground rides. In 1909 Matthews cycle store was housed in the building and by 1913 the villa had become the shop for Matthews and Kirk, motor garage and cycle agents. By the 1920s it was known as Green's Garage, and sometime around 1930 Galloping Horse Villa became the Co-op. At the time of writing the property is empty and rumours as to its next occupant vary from another supermarket to a funeral director. Whatever the future holds for Galloping Horse Villa let us hope it is not left vacant for too long.



Yvonne Ayres

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our December meeting was a special night, as Peter Saunders presented his new book to us *On the Beaten Track - A History of Stansted Mountfitchet*. The book is Peter's historical research into our village, dedicated to the Stansted History Society that Peter has been a member of for 40 years. For me personally it was the best History Society night I have attended. It was heart-warming to see the number of people from the village who turned out to support Pete - virtually everyone had purchased a copy and had it signed by the man himself! Peter gave us a taster by detailing a number of the illustrations, explaining some of the things that make our village what it is today. He stopped midway for us to enjoy lots of seasonal treats. *On the Beaten Track* is a fascinating, well-written, endlessly researched book with plenty of illustrations covering Peter's study into all aspects of the history and village life of Stansted. I would encourage everyone to find out more about this book. I am sure that I can say, on behalf of the History Society here at Stansted, a big thank you to Peter for all his hard work and time putting together one of the best local village history books to be published.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January was our members' evening, where volunteer members of our society give a short presentation on any subject they wish.

**Janice McDonald** opened the evening with a presentation on Stansted Mountfitchet's *Model Dairy*. Janice went through the history of Blythwood Dairy and James Blyth. In 1875 Blyth bought Wood House and employed the architect Caroe to remodel the house and create an imposing residence, which was renamed Blythwood House. Blyth had a keen interest in dairy farming and in 1892 Caroe designed a dairy with electricity installed and marble surfaces. Cows were imported from Jersey. All this was with the aim of producing the highest quality milk. The dairy was opened by the Lord Mayor of London and visited shortly afterwards by Edward, Prince of Wales (later Edward VII).



Photo reproduced with permission from Paul Embleton's book *Around Stansted Mountfitchet*

**Toby Lyons** gave a short talk on *local finds*, such as axe heads, tokens and coins. He brought with him a 2000 to 4000 year-old axe head and several images of artefacts such as Roman rings, seals and dress clasps. Toby also gave us a brief introduction into tokens, staters and coins.

**Peter Webb** then gave us a short talk about his profession as a *handicraft instructor*, explaining his tools and the crafts that he instructed on. He also ran through the subjects he taught such as woodworking and metalworking. **Tony Crosby** gave a presentation on our *local industrial past*. This included a brief insight into Stansted's various mills, our steam mill (now Spencer Close), windmill and water mill (Watermill Lane). He talked about our brickworks, gravel pits, the brewery and maltings, Rochford nurseries and the Mica insulation factory.

**Tony Wellings** finished off a great meeting by showing us an early Laurel and Hardy film that I had not seen before.

The next meeting is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 8.00pm in the Day Centre, when **Roger Barrett** will be talking to us on *Art and Artists from Stansted*. Please join us for an informative evening with refreshments, all for £2.



Steve Leaney  
Tel: 647177



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

The year 2017 started with a celebration - for successfully obtaining planning permission to replace the Countess of Warwick's treehouse in the old oak. Many local people will remember with fondness playing in the original treehouse at the Gardens and the Trustees look forward to making this a possibility for future generations. We are aiming to have a new treehouse built in line with the design of the original. It will be high up in the tree, with steps up to it, and so will have lovely views into the surrounding trees, and beyond. We have already made good progress with fundraising, and are now appealing for further donations to contribute to its completion. We are planning to have the treehouse in place during this coming season. It is very exciting to see this long-cherished project moving to fruition and we will report as soon as we can the expected timing for its unveiling.

More immediately, we are getting ready for our snow-drop Sundays on 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 11.30am-4.00pm (last entry 3.00pm). We stand ready to pot up snowdrops into a variety of lovely containers for sale. We have had some gorgeous crisp blue sky days at the gardens over the winter, with the sun warm in sheltered spots in the Italian and walled gardens. The trees, without their leaves, reveal their very varied shapes, and how they have grown to make their space their own. We are keeping our fingers crossed for more blue skies in February and will have hot drinks, soup and bacon rolls at the ready for the Galanthophiles amongst you (snowdrop lovers!). Entry: adults £4, children free. We have welcomed a few new volunteers over recent months, and can always find plenty for all of us to do on our Thursday and Saturday workdays, or on Sunday Open Days. For more information, see our weekly Garden News on our website, email: [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk) or leave us a message on 01371 876979.

Jill Goldsmith  
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On **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** at 10.00am, all aspiring actors and actresses are welcome to join the *Play in a Day* cast in Phil Dale's very popular event for primary school aged children. The budding stars join together to create a fun, new piece of theatre in just one day. With family and friends asked to join in at 7.00pm, to see the play! **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February** at 11.00am and 1.00pm sees Glastonbabies present *Gardener Jack and the Green Beanstalk*. Packed into one hour are eight interactive songs and games, the funky shaker 'n' live saxophone groove, a full performance of the tubular orchestra along with fun drama activities alongside a four metre high beanstalk. Half-term ends on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February** at 10.30am and 1.30pm with an interactive showing of the Disney phenomenon *Frozen* with real life princesses, games and competitions for all the family.

Clive Edwards  
Marketing Manager



### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 3.00pm Saffron Hall

Two of the most tempestuous orchestral works in the repertoire bookend a charming and vivacious piano concerto. The granitic and windswept nature of Sibelius's Symphony No 1, which portrays the Nordic homeland of the composer in all its elemental majesty, owes an undoubted musical debt to Wagner's depiction of a cosmic thunderstorm from *Das Rheingold*. Chopin's Concerto No 1 provides an urbane, sparkling contrast. Soloist Sam Haywood has performed to critical acclaim in many of the world's major concert halls. The Washington Post hailed his '*dazzling, evocative playing*' and '*lyrical sensitivity*' and the New York Times his '*passionate flair and sparkling clarity*'. Tickets £15 adults, £3 under 18s from: Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre tel 01799 524002, Saffron Hall tel 0845 548 7650, online [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) or on the door.



Marion Dyer



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### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm at Saffron Hall

Saffron Walden Choral Society with Chameleon Arts Orchestra, conducted by Janet Wheeler, is delighted to be joined by its youth choir, SignUpToSing, along with other local children's choirs, to perform *There Was a Child*. This moving and beautiful secular piece by Jonathan Dove will be paired with Francis Poulenc's tuneful and majestic *Gloria*, one of the greatest and most popular sacred works of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Soloists: Máire Flavin, soprano and Nicholas Mulroy, tenor. Tickets are available from the Box Office 0845 548 7650, Tourist Information Centre 01799 524002, from our website, or on the door.

Helen Sterling

## LOWER STREET PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

In a recent copy of a local newspaper an article titled 'Give us a crossing for our dangerous village centre' is much out-of-date and misinforms, hence this report. In 2012 I spoke to 84 people including schoolchildren, mums pushing prams and a variety of other residents. They mostly live south of the railway bridge; 94% said that it is dangerous to cross at this location and that a pedestrian crossing is needed. I then spoke to one of the architects who was contracted to design the building that's now called Castle Maltings, they prepared a detailed design including a pedestrian crossing and mini roundabout. Our submission to Uttlesford District Council (UDC) in support of the planning application included this request, details can be viewed on the UDC planning application website. In August last year when the mini roundabout was being constructed the contractors told me that they had been ordered not to build the pedestrian crossing.

I met the Head of Forest Hall School, and mothers of children who attend this school, in mid-October to reconfirm that they supported the pedestrian crossing; without exception all did. I then spoke to Essex County Councillor Ray Gooding, Stansted Parish Councillor Peter Jones and our Clerk Ruth Clifford. We agreed an action plan which was to urgently meet Essex County Council (ECC) Highways and press for the crossing. This meeting was arranged for 1<sup>st</sup> November and we took a dossier of factual information expecting a difficult discussion. We very briefly described our need and to our amazement, ECC Highways experts projected a design on a screen and asked us if the proposal was acceptable. The crossing is positioned about two metres north of the original design; of course we agreed. The meeting closed and we took with us a detailed drawing of the agreed design, which I have. This drawing was shown to Stansted Parish Council in November. The proposal is now subject to the statutory Consultation process which we hope will start imminently. I would like to thank Ray Gooding, Peter Jones and Ruth Clifford without whose help I would not have made such rapid progress, and the community who encouraged me to press this safety issue.

Ray Woodcock  
Tel: 816468





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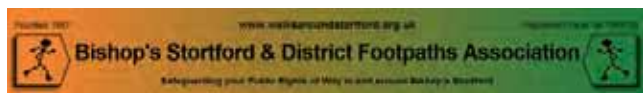
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### Sunday Walks 5-6 miles leaving at 10.00am

**5<sup>th</sup> February Thremhall Park** - Between Start Hill & Takeley, off B1250 (old A120). After the main M11 roundabout, at the first set of traffic lights (1mile) Turn left. TL 532214, CM22 7WE **19<sup>th</sup> February Hunsdon Post Office** TL 417140, SG12 8NH **5<sup>th</sup> March St Andrews Ch, Much Hadham** TL 430197, SG10 6DH **19<sup>th</sup> March Nags Head, Bishop's Stortford** TL 500 211, CM23 5HP

**AGM Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm** Rhodes Centre Bishop's Stortford. BSDFA is 60 years old in March and there will be a display in the Rhodes Centre of walks undertaken over the years. The year 2016 encompassed an interesting series of walks from North Harlow through to Debden, almost all of which were held in excellent weather and so in completion of the calendar year on Boxing Day a stalwart group met up for a brisk walk from Stansted Mountfitchet over to Birchanger and Birchanger Wood, and indeed the weather was brilliant. This winter (at least in December), the weather has swung wildly between mild and warm days, dense and frozen fog days through to calm and mild ones. There were brilliant sunshine days and others when it was thoroughly cold, wet and windy. Interestingly, January, as I write is so far behaving very similarly. Notwithstanding, the Footpaths Association continues into 2017 with a varied set of walks in February and March, and we are now planning the spring/summer walks. Do you have a special walk to propose, or which you would like to lead? Do not feel daunted, and please do ask!



*Photo of Birchanger on Boxing Day by Sylvia Hayes, BSDFA*



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis  
Publicity Officer  
Email: [dwwjw.444@gmail.com](mailto:dwwjw.444@gmail.com)

## STANSTED IS WELL READ

Our book club meets on the first Tuesday of every month at the Dog and Duck in Lower Street and our next meeting will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm where we will be discussing *My Secret Life in Hut Six* by Mair and Gethin Russell-Jones. You are very welcome to join us and do not worry if you have not read the book as we find plenty of other things to talk about!



Anne Watson  
Tel: 898693  
Email: [stanstediswellread@gmail.com](mailto:stanstediswellread@gmail.com)

## THINKING OF DOING SOMETHING SPECIAL THIS YEAR?

### Essex Police Special Constabulary

Essex Police brings together thousands of people with the same aim – to keep the county safe. We are a work-force which reflects the diversity of our communities, attracting the best talent from the widest pool of people. We run long term special operations to disrupt serious crime including fraud and drug offences. We work in close partnership with organisations such as social services, the courts, Essex County Fire and Rescue and paramedics to help and protect vulnerable people. Every day, Essex Police works tirelessly to keep the people of Essex safe. Special Constables are volunteer police officers who give up 16 hours per month to help keep their communities safe. We are currently working with Uttlesford District Council to boost the numbers of volunteers in Uttlesford who can police the area and keep their community safe. We hope to draw on their local knowledge, community ties and the experience they can bring to this challenging role. What we do is more direct and more personal than other volunteering roles. We place ourselves in situations other people would never find themselves in, let alone take control of. As people turn to police in stressful situations, taking charge of these incidents gives Special Constables the confidence and assertiveness to deal with a multitude of other situations, whether in the workplace or their home life. If you would like to play an active part in keeping your community safe, please consider volunteering with Essex Police. To find out more, email [amanda.hough2@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:amanda.hough2@essex.pnn.police.uk) or call 101 ext 130042.

## QUIZ ANSWERS - OPENING WORDS

- 1 Moby Dick - Herman Melville
- 2 Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen
- 3 Anna Karenina - Leo Tolstoy
- 4 Nineteen Eighty Four - George Orwell
- 5 A Tale of Two Cities - Charles Dickens
- 6 Don Quixote of La Mancha - Miguel de Cervantes
- 7 The Old Man and the Sea - Ernest Hemingway
- 8 Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury
- 9 The Go-Between - L P Hartley
- 10 Peter Pan - J M Barrie
- 11 Brighton Rock - Graham Greene
- 12 Romeo and Juliet - William Shakespeare
- 13 Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone - J K Rowling
- 14 Rebecca - Daphne du Maurier
- 15 A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens
- 16 Gone with the Wind - Margaret Mitchell
- 17 Out of Africa - Karen Blixen
- 18 Alice's Adventures in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll
- 19 Little Women - Louisa May Alcott
- 20 The Lady in the Van - Alan Bennett
- 21 Oliver Twist - Charles Dickens
- 22 Animal Farm - George Orwell
- 23 Brave New World - Aldous Huxley
- 24 Great Expectations - Charles Dickens
- 25 Lord of the Flies - William Golding

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