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Front cover:
David Ayres completing the
2018 London Marathon

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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The Link is produced by Stansted Mountfitchet Magazine Community Interest Company. It is delivered free to over 3000 homes and businesses in Stansted. Further copies may be purchased for £1 each or £11.00 per year, plus postage. Each edition is also available on our website.

EDITORIAL



The very first issue of *The Link* was published almost 38 years ago. Back then there was no internet or social media channels to share and communicate news. The new magazine provided a rich source of information about the churches and local events taking place in the Stansted Mountfitchet community. A key figure in the launch and development of the magazine over many years was Derek Honour, a wonderful community champion who, we are very sad to report, has passed away; see page 4. This month's front cover picture captures a jubilant David Ayres, moments after completing a gruelling London Marathon in aid of the Stroke Association. On the theme of charity, the students at Forest Hall School have also been busy fundraising for a children's orphanage; read more about these two great acts of kindness on page 15. *The Link* Team would like to express our gratitude and thanks for the hard work and commitment shown by Malcolm Lloyd who recently retired from the role as Chairman of this magazine, see page 9. *Growing up in Stansted* on page 27 documents the experiences of a young Keith Turner, living in a bombed Stansted during the war years. Finally, did you know June is the month which provides us with the most daylight hours? Enjoy and make the most of this midsummer month!

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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 9th June for the July issue or by hand/post by noon on 7th June to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Some will have seen *The Greatest Showman* recently: a musical film set in the past, with contemporary music and a timeless message. Although it may not be the main character's original intention, he ends up showing the sceptical and prejudiced crowds that every person has a place, value, purpose and potential. From the start the 'greatest showman' (based on circus entrepreneur PT Barnum) strives to be a rich, successful businessman; someone well-connected to royalty and celebrity, but ultimately he discovers that his true purpose and personal fulfilment is found in being a 'family' man. Near the start of the film he takes pleasure in caring for his own family, but by the end of the film he realises he can provide a 'family' that helps lots of other people too.

Jesus, in his time, was criticised for spending time with people who were loners, disreputable or simply dif-

ferent. In an era long before Barnum, he too faced crowds who were sceptical and prejudiced towards others. Yet Jesus welcomed everyone and often spoke to those ignored or despised by the general crowd. Our church is called Family Church; not because we only welcome families, but because we want to be inclusive of everyone and promote a 'family' environment where anyone can feel accepted and welcomed. A verse from the Bible says that God "sets the lonely in families". Whether or not you have family of your own nearby, God's global family waits to welcome you. Just as God values each human being, and wants to welcome them into his family, so he encourages each of us to recognise the value and potential of others too. Perhaps this month you, too, can extend a 'family' welcome to someone feeling alone.



Ros Page
Stansted Family Church



Contact: Howard and Ros Page
Tel: 810813
Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com

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

Our @27 meetings are normally held on alternate Tuesdays 7.30pm coffee for 7.45pm start. This month we will be meeting on Tuesdays 5th and 19th June. @27 is a house-church or homegroup-style meeting with modern worship music, a Bible-based *thought for the day*, discussion, prayer and more. If you are looking for Christians with a contemporary outlook, a desire to grow in our faith and a vision to benefit our community, why not get in touch? All welcome; you do not have to be a member of Family Church, or any church, to attend. If you would like to join a prayer walk, or have a prayer-request, please contact us.



Ros and Howard Page

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: Barbora Dragoskova
Tel: (with answerphone): 815243
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com

St John's Diary Sunday

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

Tuesday

9.15am St John's Tots

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 St John's Registers

April

Funeral

30th Margaret Wilson, age 84 - at
St Mary's

April baptisms were listed in the May Link

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the April draw:

£100	No 172	Delia Joyce
£50	No 209	Brian Quinn
£25	No 212	Kathy West

The draw for June will be held on Sunday **24th June** in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. There are still numbers available for anyone who may wish to join and be in with a chance to win one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away each year. In addition, the Club raises money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church. Numbers cost £2 each per month with a maximum of five numbers per household. Please contact either myself or Katy Dockerill on 812997 for an application form.



Ann Lee
Tel: 813310



SHALOM

Our next meeting is on Monday 11th June at 8.00pm when Lieutenant Megan Lowe will be talking to us about The Salvation Army. Our *Shalom Party* is at **1.00pm** on Monday 25th June (note time). Bring and share some finger food plus an item to read or a piece of music. Both meetings are at 7 Blythwood Gardens. All welcome.

We were very saddened to learn of the death of Derek Honour. He was a founder member of Shalom when it began in 1985 and was a regular attender for many years.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



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

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

Lettings Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059
Email: lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Preachers for June

3 rd	10.30am	Richard Lewney - New Directions
10 th	10.30am	Jerry Heyhoe
17 th	10.30am	Rev'd Christine Fowler - Communion
24 th	10.30am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Baptism

We are very pleased to be celebrating the baptism of Sue Parker's first grandson on 24th June.



ST MARY'S CHURCH

In April the Commonwealth Summit Meetings saw leaders join together in London to discuss the challenges we all face, and how we can work together towards a more prosperous secure and sustainable future for all citizens within our Commonwealth. The meetings saw leaders working towards the following issues:

1. The fight against malaria which kills many, many people
2. The Blue Charter to rid our oceans of plastic pollution
3. Queen's Commonwealth Canopy.

All 53 countries have pledged to plant more trees and pre-serve forested areas. Our canopy is Epping Forest and more trees will be planted. The aim is to leave a positive lasting legacy for future generations.

Big Lunches

Our Government, alongside the Eden Project and the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), asked for CCT churches to represent the 53 Commonwealth countries by holding a local *Big Lunches* event to join people together. St Mary's Church chose to represent the two Caribbean sister islands of Trinidad and Tobago. Our *Big Lunch* took place on Sunday 22nd April which was the last day of the Summit Meetings.

With various curry dishes including goat, chicken, chickpea and spinach accompanied by rice and peas, roti salads and various 'chow' dishes, over 50 people were fed inside the church together as one big family. The rum punch flowed, the calypso and steel pan music played and we were so lucky that the sun shone too! Special thanks to all who came on the day to be part of this global event, and very special thanks to my small team of kitchen helpers and servers on the day. This all proved that anything is possible at St Mary's Church. Watch for even more to come.



June sees the return of the popular *thisismytheatre* travelling theatre group who will perform 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' on **Friday 1st and Tuesday 12th** (6.30pm for 7.00pm start). Tickets: general admission £12.50, Friends of St Mary's £10.00, under 16s £5.00. Tickets are available from 07732 253311, www.thisismytheatre.com or from Goldings on Chapel Hill (cash only), who will not issue tickets but will take your name and contact details for admission on the night. A night not to be missed with Theatre right here on your doorstep. Please support St Mary's.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474



CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other)

The Salvation Army CAMEO group meets at 7.00pm on the third Tuesday of the month at Stansted Day and Community Centre. The cost is £1 per session and includes an evening topic, and fellowship over tea/coffee and biscuits to finish. In April the CAMEO group enjoyed meeting under the topic *What we used to do*. The group spent an evening sharing all the different jobs and responsibilities they have had during their lifetimes. There was a real mix of interesting backgrounds; from scuba diving in the Thames, to bar tending in Stortford; floristry to electrical engineering, teaching, retail and radiography. We even learnt that we had a couple of poster boys in our midst. This was a really great chance to share our stories.

Our next meeting on 19th June is a musical evening with Don Jenkins, trombone soloist. Don has grown up as a member of The Salvation Army and is currently looking after Enfield Salvation Army Band. It is set to be a good night of secular music; why not come along and enjoy a summer's evening of entertainment? The Salvation Army also meets each Sunday morning at 10.30am (Markwell Pavillion, Castle Gardens, Bishop's Stortford) and you would be welcome to join us for our Sunday service. We stay for tea and coffee fellowship after the meeting and a Sunday school runs from 12 noon for our younger members. We have several other groups and events which we would be happy to tell you about and we hope to see you soon.



Lieutenant Megan Lowe
Tel: 507464
Email: megan.lowe@salvationarmy.org.uk

DEREK HONOUR

The Link team were saddened to learn that Derek died on 25th April. Derek was a key member of the Link team, serving as Editor for 14 years and Chairman for 17 years, only standing down in 2013. He was instrumental in taking the magazine from a black and white subscriber-only publication, duplicated and delivered to less than 1000 homes by a team of volunteers, to the high quality, full colour magazine of today, which is delivered to all homes and businesses in the village free of charge. He also managed the process of changing The Link from being part of Churches Together in Stansted to becoming an independent Community Interest Company. He will be very much missed.

THANK YOU

Peggy Honour and family would like to thank everyone who sent cards and condolences and attended the memorial service following the death of Derek. The amount of support from local people has been a great comfort.

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 (Guided Meditation)	10.30am-12 noon 14 th July. The 'Experiment with Light' is a process that helps people deepen their spiritual lives by discovering what it means to 'wait in the Light' as early Quakers did.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ
www.sttheresasstansted.org

Priest	Father John Garrett								
Office	Tel: 816889 Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org								
Masses	<table> <tr> <td>Saturday</td><td>6.00pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td><td>10.00am</td></tr> <tr> <td>Holy Days of Obligation</td><td>8.00am and 7.30pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri</td><td>9.30am</td></tr> </table>	Saturday	6.00pm	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Days of Obligation	8.00am and 7.30pm	Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri	9.30am
Saturday	6.00pm								
Sunday	10.00am								
Holy Days of Obligation	8.00am and 7.30pm								
Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri	9.30am								
Confessions	<table> <tr> <td>Saturday</td><td>10.00am and by appointment</td></tr> </table>	Saturday	10.00am and by appointment						
Saturday	10.00am and by appointment								
Baptisms	By appointment								

LITTLEBURY FÊTE

Littlebury Midsummer Fête with Teddy Zipwire
Sunday 24th June 12.30pm-3.00pm in Littlebury Church. Barbecue, games, Pimms, stalls and teas. Free admission. All proceeds to the Church.



Claire Durrant
Tel: 01799 510728

ACTIVE ESSEX FREE EVENTS

6.30 pm Fri 1st June

Activity for All Romeera Leisure Centre

10 am Sat 16th June

Health Walk starting at The Surgery

10 am - 3 pm Sat 16th June

Open Day Stansted Bowling Club

1 - 2.30 pm Sun 17th June

Open Afternoon Stansted Tennis Club

A chance to try some new sporting activities as part of the 30:30 Challenge



Friends of
St Mary's Church

A Mid-Summer Night's Dream

6.30 for 7 pm

Fri 1st and Tue 12th June

Tickets: Adults £12.50 Under 16s £5

St Mary's Friends £10 from

www.thisismytheatre.com or

Goldings, Chapel Hill

For info tel Lynda 07716 099474



STANSTED U3A SINGERS

with Mad Hatters Ukulele Group
and Hugh Unwin (guitar)

7.15 pm Sat 2nd June

St Theresa's Parish Hall

Tickets Adults £5 Under 16s £3

from 814190 (includes light refreshments)

Proceeds to East Anglian Air Ambulance

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

- | | | |
|------|----------|--|
| 1 | Fri | Business Forum Breakfast
Activity for All Free Session |
| 1 | Fri / 12 | Tue A Midsummer Night's Dream |
| 2 | Sat | U3A Singers |
| 3/17 | Sun | Garden Waste Skips |
| 3 | Sun | Windmill Open |
| 5 | Tue | Stansted is Well Read |
| 6 | Wed | Mountfitchet Garden Club |
| 9 | Sat | Link copy due in today
Rainbow Bouquet Masterclass |
| 10 | Sun | Fun Run |
| 11 | Mon | Shalom |
| 12 | Tue | RSPB |
| 14 | Thu | Stansted W I |
| 16 | Sat | Stansted Family Café
Walk for Active Essex
Open Day for Active Essex |
| 17 | Sun | Open Afternoon for Active Essex
Saffron Walden Concert |
| 19 | Tue | CAMEO |
| 20 | Wed | Ugley W I |
| 21 | Thu | Stansted U3A |
| 23 | Sat | Bouncy Picnic |
| 25 | Mon | Shalom Party |
| 26 | Tue | Hearing Help |
| 30 | Sat | Big Summer Garden Party
B S Choral Society |

Linden House 7 for 7.30 am
Romeera Leisure 6.30 pm
St Mary's Church 7 pm
St Theresa's Parish Centre 7.15 pm
Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
1.30 - 5.30 pm
Dog and Duck 8 pm
Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
before 12 noon
St John's Hall 10.30 am - noon
Bentfield Green 10 am
7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
B S Community Centre 7.30 pm
Day Centre 7.30 pm
Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
Meet at Surgery 10 am
Bowls Club 10 am - 3 pm
Tennis Club 1 - 2.30 pm
Saffron Hall 3 pm
Day Centre 7 pm
Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
Recreation Ground 1 - 4 pm
7 Blythwood Gardens 1 pm
Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
St Mary's School noon - 3.30 pm
Methodist Church B S 7.30 pm



Bouquet Masterclass
by
Hayford and Rhodes

10.30 am - noon Sat 9th June
St John's Church Hall

Tickets £50 including a glass of
Prosecco and bouquet to take home
Tel Gill 814242

All Proceeds to Rainbow Pre-school



STANSTED 10K
Sun 10th June
Bentfield Green

All Abilities 1 mile Race 10 am
Adult Race 11 am

£12 advance (£15 cash on the day)
1 mile £3 advance or cash on the day
Register in advance at
www.stansted10k.org.uk
Register on the day from 9 am

More info tel 813938



7.30 pm Sat 30th June

B Stortford Methodist Church

Mendelssohn *Elijah*

Tickets: Adults £16, over 60s £14,
children & students free from

Tourist information Centre, B Stortford
www.singwithbscs.org.uk or on the door

Bentfield School PTA



2 - 8.30 pm Sat 7th July

Live music to suit all tastes

Tickets from the School on 813626,
Russell Property or Intercounty
£15 advance, £18 on the gate
accompanied under 16s free
www.mitp-bentfield.co.uk

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

10 am - noon

Saturday 16th June

Ugley Village Hall

Meat ~ Poultry ~ Fish ~ Eggs
Honey ~ Preserves ~ Fruit & Veg
Fresh Pasta ~ Bread ~ Cakes
Cards ~ Ceramics ~ Plants
Skincare ~ Knitting & Needlework
Refreshments with cake and bacon rolls

Free Parking ~ All Welcome



St Mary's School PTFA

Big Summer Garden Party

Noon - 3.30 pm Sat 30th June

Games ~ Refreshments

Crafts ~ Bouncy Castle

Entry £1 Children free

All proceeds to school projects



Bouncy Picnic



1 - 4 pm Sat 23rd June

Recreation Ground

FREE inflatables for all ages

Drinks & Hot Dogs ~ Bring your own Picnic

Organised by

Stansted Family Café & Stansted Messy Church

with support from Stansted Parish Council
and Stansted Family Church

Everyone Welcome ~ Just Turn Up!



3 pm Sun 17th June
Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Walton *Belshazzar's Feast*
Bernstein *West Side Story*
Tippett *A Child of our Time* Spirituals

Adults £20, £15, £10 under 18s £3

S W Tourist 01799 524002

S Hall Box Office 0845 548 7650

www.saffronhall.com or on the door



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with Jan Rickwood

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BUPA and AXA/PPP

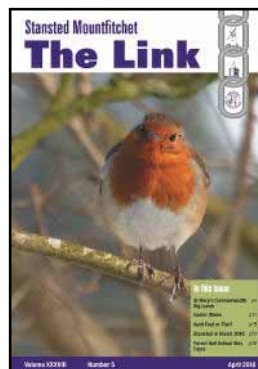
20 Cambridge Road Stansted CM24 8BZ

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available**

CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET IN PICTURES

What makes Stansted Mountfitchet so special to you? Is it the countryside and beauty of mother nature all around us, or the familiar iconic landmarks in the village? Could it be the warmth and kindness of the community? *They say a picture is worth a thousand words - well we want to hear from you in pictures!* Please send us your photographs of Stansted, so that we can start sharing and enjoying the beauty of this lovely village in The Link Magazine.

Here are three examples of cover pictures which have featured in recent issues of The Link, to show you the sort of photograph we are looking for.



Ken Whyne
Editor

Email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk



www.stansted10k.org.uk

There are just a few days left to register in advance for the Stansted 10k Fun Run on Sunday 10th June. Registration on the day is from 9.00am (cash only). The one mile race starts at 10.00am and the 10k race at 11.00am. We hope you have been gearing up for the event and gathering family and friends to take part in the one-mile event, on the new course which avoids the main roads in the fields off Pennington Lane and the Duck Pond. SatNav information CM24 8HX for Bentfield Green. If you have any queries or if you are able to help out on the day, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Committee.



Caroline Bore
Tel: 813938
Email: stansted10k@gmail.com



VINTAGE AFTERNOON TEA

A Vintage Afternoon Tea is to be held on **Sunday 1st July** 2.00pm-5.00pm, at Three Lakes, Westmill Farm, Ware. There will be vintage stalls, live music and entertainment, all in the beautiful setting of the Three Lakes at Westmill Farm. Please come along and join in the fun whilst helping three fantastic charities, including Grove Cottage. Tickets: £20, available from charlotte@hbaccountants.co.uk.

Rosie Wren
Fundraising Manager
Tel: 07710 699574
Email: rosie@mencapgrovecottage.org

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD



Members and friends of our Club enjoyed a successful Shakespearean Evening to mark his birthday in April. We had a super roast beef dinner followed by delicious desserts, cheese and biscuits and all washed down with a few glasses of wine. The *Inner Wheel Players* performed a number of Acts from the Bard's works and then there was a sing-a-long for everyone. At our meeting on 24th April we enjoyed a talk by Ray Franklin who gave us a 'potted' history of the Elsenham Jam Factory. It was a most interesting look at the life of the founder, Sir Walter Gilbey and how the factory and products evolved. In May we welcomed William French, who was butler to Her Majesty the Queen on the Royal Yacht Britannia. This was a fascinating insight into life on the Royal Yacht. In June we will hold our AGM at The Chequers, Ugley to mark another successful, interesting year for our Club.

The Club meets at Stansted Day Centre on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm except August and December. Please ring me or Barbara Morrison 814152 for more information. A warm welcome awaits you.

June Milne
Club Correspondent
Tel: 01371 875370



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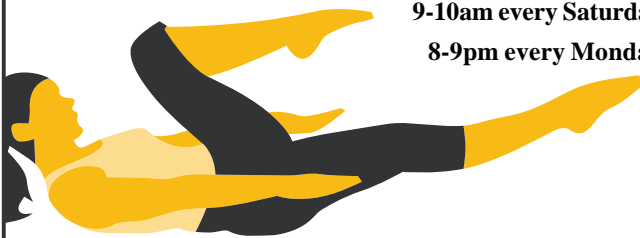
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'GO BRIGHT' FOR ST CLARE HOSPICE

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

St Clare Hospice is calling on local schools, workplaces and community groups across West Essex and East Hertfordshire to put their creative fundraising skills to the test by taking part in their second annual Go Bright Week. The event, from Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd July, encourages St Clare supporters to hold 'bright' events in aid of the charity; raising awareness and funds for the cause.

St Clare Community Fundraising Lead, Dani De'ath, who is co-ordinating Go Bright Week explained: "One of the first things patients and families often say to us when they arrive at St Clare is how lovely and bright the hospice is. It is often not what they expected, as they imagine a hospice to be a dull and dingy place. That is one of the reasons why we have chosen to call it Go Bright Week, helping to spread the word that St Clare is a bright and happy place". Commenting on the range of events participants could organise, Dani said: "Why not hold a Go Bright dress-down day at your school or workplace, by donning the brightest clothes in your wardrobe; bake a bright rainbow cake and hold a bake sale; wear a bright-coloured wig for the day or wear your brightest facepaint?" Go Bright Week will start with St Clare's first-ever Go Bright Walk on Saturday 14th July in the Water Gardens, Harlow. The 5k fundraiser is suitable for the whole family and will set off at 11.00am with a festival of stalls, games and treats from 10.00am to 3.00pm.



For more information and to download your free resource pack, visit our website, where you can also register for the walk, or contact Dani De'ath, on 773738 or email: dani@stclarehospice.org.uk

Rebecca Hedges
Communications Manager
Tel: 773752

Email: Rebecca.Hedges@stclarehospice.org.uk

It's going to be big. It's going to be fun. It's the St Mary's PTFA Big Summer Garden Party on **Saturday 30th June** from 12 noon to 3.30pm at the school, which is on Hampton Road. What do you think of when you hear the words 'garden party'? Ever-pouring tea pots? Slab upon slab of delicious home-made cake? Scones laden with jam and cream? Our Big Summer Garden Party has got all the best bits of a traditional garden party and much more! In addition to a specially created tea garden where you can sip, relax and chat, a tasty back garden barbie will be sizzling away, setting you up for an entertainment-packed day. There's so much to take part in, including: *the great grass roots assault course*, *big garden scavenger hunt* (which will see one lucky winner take home a remote-control Audi), a *children's craft corner* with garden crafts galore, *botanical bouncy castle*, *summer storytelling* and a host of traditional garden games on the lawn. Local sports, dance and well-being groups will be putting on interactive displays throughout the day. And there'll be a special treat for St Mary's folk with performances from the school choir and a game we can't wait to play: *More Tea Teachers?* when the teachers will take up their annual position in the stocks!

Fantastic prize raffle

The day will be rounded off with a fantastic raffle. Star prizes include an Audi of your choice for the weekend, Shepreth Wildlife Park tickets and afternoon tea for two at Down Hall Country Hotel, and over 30 more knockout treats of meals out, sporting experiences, beauty treatments and day trips. It is all to raise money to enhance our school with projects like our *Mindfulness Garden*, which inspired this special fundraising event. It is a tranquil outside space where children can relax, read, chat and 'just be' and where young minds can develop. Please join us for one the biggest garden party Stansted has ever seen! **Price:** £1 for adults. Children absolutely FREE!

Emma Platon

NEWS FROM THE LINK

After four and a half years, Malcolm Lloyd has decided to stand down as Chairman of The Link Community Interest Company. The directors are most grateful for Malcolm's hard work over this time and wish him a very happy retirement. I have been appointed as the new Chairman and I look forward to carrying on the good work started by Malcolm. Having been part of The Link team since its inception in 1980, I have been privileged to share in the magazine's continuous improvement. As the village expands, we plan to ensure that The Link continues to be a valuable resource for the whole community.



Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

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FIRST RURAL RAMBLE

www.helenrollason.org.uk

Over three hundred supporters joined the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity for their very first Rural Ramble at The Forgotten Gardens of Easton Lodge on Saturday 14th April, raising over £4,000 for the charity!



The weather was on their side with beautiful blue skies and light winds, while visitors had the unique opportunity to enjoy a scenic walk around the Easton Lodge Gardens and surrounding countryside, just outside the historic town of Great Dunmow. There were three Ramble options for participants to choose from: 10 mile walk and garden visit, four mile walk and garden visit or a one mile walk family trail and garden visit. As part of the event a delicious cream tea was served with scones and strawberry jam.



The gardens, which are entirely maintained by volunteers, comprise a walled kitchen garden dating back to the 18th century, a wild flowers area for the bees, formal gardens, beautiful carpets and expansive colourful displays of flowers in spring and summer. Participants were full of praise for the event.

Holly Butler
Marketing and Communications Co-Ordinator
Tel: 01245 380719
Email: holly.butler@helenrollason.org.uk

The speakers at our April meeting were husband and wife team Heather and Gordon Clarke who shared their passion for photography with us. The title of their talk was *Audio Visual Our Way* and in the space of just 45 minutes we were taken on a beautifully photographed tour of the Lake District, Rutland Water and the Cornish Coast; in an unusual feature entitled *Water up-Water Down* we were also given a tour of a mine and a winter wonderland tour of Scotland. Heather also has a passion for flowers and gardens and this showed in her amazing photography! One of her favourite flowers is the passion flower *Passiflora* and we were able to view one of these beautiful flowers in great detail; with its 72 filaments said to represent the number of thorns in the crown of thorns on Christ's head. A very entertaining afternoon was brought to a close with the judging of our competition for an Easter card.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th June at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall when the speaker will be Lynn Croot, who will be taking us on a tour of the Island of Tobago; why not come along and meet her?

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

STANSTED SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com



It has been a busy time behind the scenes as the membership renewals have been rolling in. It is the busiest time of the year for the Club Secretary and she has now processed over 400 memberships! Becoming a member of the Club has a lot of benefits, so please come and see us if you are interested in joining. Apart from a few snagging jobs after replacing the furniture, things are fairly quiet on the refurbishment front. We still need to carry out urgent repairs to the tower so if anybody is aware of any community funds, or have some fundraising ideas, please do get in touch!

Our golf society had a fantastic day out recently and there are more trips in the pipeline. We are also looking for members, new and old, to get the angling society up and running. Remember, we also have darts, pool and snooker teams at the Club. During May we saw *SCAM 69* make their first appearance at the Club. They went down a storm, knocking out tunes from 'Teenage Kicks' to 'I Fought the Law'. They had the place jumping and will be back later in the year. We also welcomed another newcomer, Sean, who entertained us on a Sunday in early May. He is an established entertainer who has an amazing voice and it certainly will not be his last visit. In June we have *Jack, Retro* and *Bombshell*, plus our monthly karaoke on Sunday 24th. Finally, a big thank you goes out to the bar team who have successfully renewed our Cask Marque accreditation! We pride ourselves on the quality of our drinks and the renewal shows that our ales are properly looked after.

Andrew Sharpe
Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com

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Following the Easter break at Birchanger Butterflies Pre-school, the children have been learning all about Growing. They have sown seeds for herbs and flowers for the Pre-school garden; then they helped to plant them out in the garden. Each child also sowed the seed of a sunflower, which they took home to care for. We hope to see if their sunflower grows as tall as them! Last half-term with the changing weather, the children at Forest School created two rain catchers; one was placed in the Pre-school's garden and the second one placed in the area we use for Forest School in the woods. The children were then able to see the difference the forest canopy made by the amount of rainwater that was trapped in the catchers.



Following our older children and their families finding out which primary school they will be going to, we have started to prepare the children for this transition. One of our main activities offered is the extended day, which allows the children to experience being at pre-school from 9.00am to 2.45pm, almost a full school day. Working closely with the local primary schools we welcome all the reception class teachers into Pre-school. If you are interested in a place at our Pre-school please contact us via our website or give us a call. We currently have spaces available now and for September 2018 for children from 2½ years.

Karen Reilly
Manager
Tel: 810800



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

The Adventurers are enjoying sitting together as a group with the staff, to enjoy their packed lunches. PE has been lots of fun playing the jelly bean game, using hoops pretending to be cars and having to follow directions, plus enjoying the old favourite 'duck, duck goose'. The children showed they are quite capable of getting dressed ready for PE and looking after their belongings; all good news for their new schools in September! All the children celebrated St George's day by making flags to take home. Now the better weather is here more time is being spent outside enjoying the sunshine. The children have started sowing and growing

seeds indoors with a view to transplanting them to the garden when the plants are big and strong enough.

Our own florist to the stars, Joanna, is leading a *Bouquet Masterclass* on **Saturday 9th June**, 10.30am-12noon in St John's Church Hall. Her company *Hayford and Rhodes* has been named by Vogue as the Best Wedding and Event Florist in London. Entry is £50, including a glass of Prosecco on arrival and a beautiful bouquet to take home at the end of the morning. Please contact me to book your place.

Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place.

Gill Pursglove
Administrator

Tel: 814242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net

494 SQUARDON CAMPING – DEFINITELY NOT GLAMPING!



We are fortunate to have the option of attending lots of camps through Air Cadets. Some are overseas, some are during school term time, some are with people we don't know; all are challenging and great fun! No plug-in heaters or hot showers for us. We generally carry our own rucksacks with everything we will need for our days away: tent, sleeping bag, mess tins, food and water have to be carried and that is before we think about clothes, spare shoes and wash stuff. There are strict guidelines on how much weight we can carry, based on our own body weight, and we might be able to squeeze in a couple of snacks if we pack well! Sometimes we are moving on each day; for example, if we are doing Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Sometimes we can set up camp and settle for the weekend which is what we do if we are competing in the annual Falklands Competition against other squadrons. The photo shows last year's participants who won the navigation exercise, carrying their rucksacks for 16km in three hours, in rain and mud; they were not very clean at the end! Sometimes we stay on an air base and sleep in a bunk which is the nearest we will get to glamping!



Do you fancy joining Air Cadets? 494 Squadron meet on a Monday and Thursday evening and welcome girls and boys aged from 12 (in year 8) to age 17. Contact us through our Facebook page; search 494 Squadron Stansted and let us know you are interested!

Rachel Alexander

Email: Rachel.alexander@btinternet.com

BOUNCY PICNIC 2018

EVERYONE WELCOME

This year's Bouncy Picnic (inflatables and a picnic on the Recreation Ground) will be held on **Saturday 23rd June** from 1.00pm-4.00pm. **You are invited!** Please bring your own picnic; some drinks and hotdogs will be available, along with a selection of Inflatables for different ages: under 5s, primary school age and 11+ to adults. Yes, items especially for teenagers and adults so why not enjoy reliving your childhood and have a go on an inflatable obstacle course, or the bungee run! This is a special event for the whole community, organised by Stansted Family Café (StanstedCAN) in association with Stansted Messy Church, with support from Stansted Family Church and Stansted Parish Council. Feel free to invite friends, neighbours and family. There is no charge for entry, inflatables or refreshments, but an optional donation can be made at the hotdog tent, if you wish. Please note there is no parking at the Recreation Ground, so please plan to walk to the Rec or alternatively park at Crafton Green behind the library and walk through Spencer Close. Limited disabled parking can be reserved by prior arrangement only.



Could you help? It takes more than **50 volunteer hours** on the day to make the Bouncy Picnic run smoothly and safely; if you could spare one hour to help our fantastic team any time between 11.30am and 5.00pm, we would love to hear from you. Some roles are especially suited to those who are experienced in working with children/teenagers and have a DBS, but other roles are suited to anyone over the age of 16.



Ros Page
Stansted Family Café
Tel: 810813

Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com



The Place on the Hill is a free drop-in held at and organised by Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, and is open every Monday (not Bank Holidays), Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Do come and join us - all ages are welcome.



Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059
Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

TRAIDCRAFT PRODUCERS QUIZ

Traidcraft works with producers in 33 different countries, of which 20 are listed below, but the letters have been jumbled. Can you sort them out?

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2. Hanga
3. Liceh
4. Dawnar
5. Sineadoin
6. Ris klana
7. Nestalpie
8. Argayupa
9. Ovalibi
10. Hanidalt
11. Shiplinpipe
12. Gladebansh
13. Wailam
14. Viyor astoc
15. Tacos cair
16. Guanad
17. Bainmia
18. Shoundra
19. Maziab
20. Ecomix

Compiled by Brenda Veitch. Answers on page 43.

MANUDEN GUIDES



Manuden Guides have spaces for girls aged 10 to 14. We do a wide range of activities at our weekly meetings, usually chosen by the girls themselves; this includes sports, cooking, hiking and craft. We go on outings, often to London, visit the theatre and pop concerts, go on sleepovers, and take part in events with other members of Girlguiding. We meet at the Manuden Village Community Centre on Tuesdays in term time, from 7.30pm-9.00pm. Contact me for more information.



Glynis Prothero
Tel: 814145
Email: glynisprothero@aol.com



U3A SINGERS' CONCERT

On **Saturday 2nd June** at 7.15pm in St Theresa's Parish Centre, the **U3A Singers** together with the **Mad Hatters Ukulele Group** and **Hugh Unwin** (guitar) present an evening of light entertainment in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Tickets: adults £5, under 16s £3 (including light refreshments) from me or Barbara tel 814721.

Mary Warnett
Tel: 814190



FOREST HALL SCHOOL



An orphanage in Greece is to be refurbished, thanks to the fundraising efforts of Stansted children. Forest Hall School has supported the *Smile of the Child* charity for three years, with 28 students visiting the orphanage in Corfu over two trips. The school made the link to enable students to help those less fortunate than themselves, as well as giving Stansted youngsters the opportunity to go abroad and experience another culture.



Year 11 student Isobel Clarke-Scholes is among those who have visited the orphanage. She said: "I feel really fortunate that I managed to spend time at the orphanage. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I am glad Forest Hall is continuing to raise money for such a worthwhile cause". The school has so far raised more than £4,000, from a variety of activities and events, to help improve vital facilities at the orphanage. Co-Head Hannah Jones said: "The experience of visiting the orphanage and meeting the children is life-changing. They have so much hope, even though they have faced challenges in their life. I feel honoured that Forest Hall is involved in such a worthwhile charity. The money which the school is raising will make a massive difference to the orphanage". In the autumn, a group of five orphans from Greece will visit Forest Hall School and London on a five-day trip. Stephen Hehir, Executive Principal, said: "It is extremely important that we develop well-rounded young people who understand the world around them".

Kelly Clark
Tel: 01245 237751

Email: words@kellylouiseclark.co.uk



MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY

www.magnacarta.essec.sch.uk

The new headteacher of Magna Carta Primary Academy is building a rich future for his pupils. Marios Solomonides arrived as headteacher on 16th April, having previously been head at fellow Burnt Mill Academy Trust (BMAT) school Freshwaters Primary Academy in Harlow. He has spent the last 18 months researching and creating a bespoke curriculum for the Trust's Harlow schools. He will use that experience to put together a knowledge-rich curriculum for the children of Magna Carta to ensure they are ready for life beyond school. As well as ensuring lessons are suited to the children's needs, Marios is also looking to expand their interaction with the community, with a focus on charity and

business. He said: "I am keen to make links with other local primary schools, so we can hold joint events and our staff can moderate together and share CPD sessions. We already work with our fellow primary schools within BMAT in Harlow, but the communities are very different and so it makes sense to build links with our local schools. We are starting from scratch with the curriculum here as Magna Carta is a new school. That is very exciting. As part of that, I have joined the Stansted Business Forum to begin building links with local professionals who can help to inspire our children to strive for various careers. It will help children to see there is a purpose to what they are learning. Of course, we want our curriculum to be aspirational; however, another focus for us will be the personal, social and moral development of our pupils. By working with the community and charities, the children will feel they are contributing, but it will also give the community opportunities to come in and be a part of us".

On day one, Marios introduced three new rules: be safe, be kind and work hard, and the curriculum will be used to teach children in these areas. Marios will be joined in June by Deputy Headteacher Teresa Avey. He said of his new school: "The children at Magna Carta are lovely and the parents are very interested in their learning and are keen to get involved. That's exactly how we would want things to be."



Kelly Clark
Tel: 01245 237751

DAVID COMPLETES THE MARATHON



Congratulations to our son David on completing the London Marathon on what was one of the hottest days on record. David's time was 5hrs 22min, a remarkable achievement for his first marathon considering the sweltering conditions, and he raised over £2,000 for the Stroke Association. Many thanks to all who donated and supported him. From two very proud parents!

Sandra and Keith Ayres

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At the first meeting of the new season, members welcomed back Brian Carline who spoke about one of his favourite flowers, *Pelargoniums*. He explained that although pelargoniums are often called geraniums; this is not correct, as the true geraniums are hardy herbaceous plants often referred to as cranesbills. Although, to confuse matters further, both generally belong to the family *Geraniaceae*. Linnaeus originally included both species in one genus, but they were later separated by L'Heritier in 1789. Using plants grown in Brian's garden in West Hanningfield, members were told about this large, diverse group of mostly evergreen and tender plants used as bedding, house plants or in pots and, as they are drought tolerant, they are ideal for hanging baskets.

Members were able to appreciate the diversity of this genus as examples of Zonal, Ivy-leaved, Scented, Regal, and Angel pelargoniums were shown. One tip, which may be useful at this time of year when hanging baskets are being assembled, is not to combine pelargoniums and fuchsias together as one thrives on drought conditions but fuchsias prefer the soil to be kept damp. Members were then given a demonstration on how to take cuttings and how to make a good potting medium by adding sharp sand and perlite and some slow release plant feed to a basic compost; this helps rooting and gives the cuttings a good start. Watering cuttings from below was recommended.

Fun & Flair with Flowers

Over 130 people attended the flower arranging display at The Forest Hall School on 25th April. Gill McGregor, a National Association of *Flower Arranger Societies* (NAFAS) National Teacher has demonstrated flower arranging to audiences around the UK.



Gill showed the audience six outstanding displays using a variety of flowers in stunning colours. Her skills in weaving and plaiting grasses to unusual shapes amazed the audience.



Whilst demonstrating, she explained various techniques of building up a balanced arrangement and how to use colour combinations to emphasise the shape and size; examples of her work are shown in the photographs.



Next Meeting

Wednesday, 6th June at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start, in the Day Centre, *Keeping Chickens* by Claudia Audley of Bury Green Poultry. Visitors are welcome to all our meetings at £3.00 per person. Membership is available at £15 per person.

Members' Rose Bowl Competition: A single rose in a small vase, one entry per person.

Maralyn Harris
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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



Our April meeting was organised by members not serving on the Committee; known as 'Members Day'. This gives the hard-working Committee a night off to sit back and let things happen.



I enjoyed being President again for the evening and Pauline Martin became Secretary for the first time. Our chosen speaker was Lucy Lewis whose talk, entitled *A Woman's Life in the Army*, gave an interesting insight into life for a woman amongst all those men. She began her training at Sandhurst, where, for example, she learnt to hold her own at the bar. She was the first female bomb disposal expert and so earned a lot of respect from her fellow officers. She was an excellent speaker, very funny and able to be heard without the aid of a microphone and without having to use her 'Major voice'! She married a fellow soldier and retired from the army to have her two children, but not before she had served in Cyprus, Iceland, Ecuador, Northern Ireland and Jordan. She has just been appointed as University Marshal in Cambridge University's private constabulary, the first woman to hold this post. I did not know they had one, but apparently it dates back to 1825! The money raised from the raffle was given to Lucy Lewis to be sent to the Help for Heroes fund.

Ann Watson is arranging a trip to the Houses of Parliament in July when we are hoping we will meet our local MP, Kemi Badenoch. Our tea-party held in April in aid of the Day Centre was well attended and raised about £300. Our Institute arranged the Spring Group Meeting this year, which was held in St Theresa's Church Hall. Our speaker was Peter Lawrence, who is very well known in WI circles being a frequent history tutor at Denman College. Peter's talk was entitled *From the Krays to the Crown* and described a very varied career in the Metropolitan Police Force where he met a wide variety of people, including many Royals. He was on duty when Charles and Diana married and described it as one of his happiest working memories. Next month we welcome Steve Lester with his talk *Titanic – Her Story from Launch to Loss*. We also welcome any of you who would like to come, on Thursday 14th June at 7.30pm in the Day Centre.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470



www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

SUNDAY WALKS: all Leaving at 10.00am 5-6 miles

10th June Wadesmill Feathers PH Car Park, Grid Ref: TL359175 P/Code: CM22 7WE

24th June Quendon Village Hall Car Park, TL 513301 P/Code: CB11 3XQ

We had a fascinating walk in April, starting at the Herts and Essex Hospital car park, through the Bishop's Stortford Golf Club and crossing to the Flitch Way. We wove across and under the various M11/Standed Airport approach roads; these link the old bridleway tracks which have been upgraded to include the cyclist. They are fully signposted to Bishop's Stortford; but this beautiful track did just end rather abruptly at Birchanger Lane, with no further indication of which way the cyclist should go to reach Bishop's Stortford. I have subsequently heard that the rejuvenated Public Right of Way track is so good that at Birchanger cars have tried to use it, sadly ending up in the ditches and having to be rescued by tractor!

Also in April, we were led out along the relatively new concessionary paths in Albury. These tracks are very good and provide a super walk across lovely Hertfordshire countryside. June sees us dive into Hertfordshire again starting at Wadesmill; then later in the month back to Essex starting at Quendon Village Hall, making use of part of the Harcamloway. In July and August, leaders take a rest, perhaps to enjoy individual exploration through the summer months, and we recommence on Sunday 2nd September with a 10.00am departure from Newport railway station.



I recently made reference to the disappearing twitchells in Bishop's Stortford. Thank you to everyone who so very kindly took the time to send me an email. However, there does not appear to be any really strong concern at their demise, and surprisingly, little positive response from within BSDFA. It is very difficult to have a lost path acknowledged as a Public Right of Way as there are many hoops to jump to convince the local County Council that there is a case to do so. Is this a hurdle which we can take?



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR STANSTED AIRPORT EXPANSION

The Parish Council has made a detailed submission on the planning application for the airport to increase the number of passengers to 43mppa. The full response can be found on either the Parish Council website (www.stansted.net) or on the Uttlesford District Council (UDC) website (www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/3193/Planning-applications).

The Parish Council argues that UDC should consider carefully whether this application should be determined locally given the anticipated impact regionally and nationally. However, if UDC proceeds with local determination, it should treat carefully the way in which this application has been constructed to give the appearance that the proposed increase is only a small incremental step while providing the necessary infrastructure to permit the airport, after a "small" second bite of the cherry, to handle fifty million passengers per annum which may be compared with the throughput of 25.6 mppa in 2017.

The key arguments in favour of rejecting the application as submitted are listed covering sections for National Significant Infrastructure Project, Prematurity of Application, Methodology for Environmental Impact Assessment, Road/Rail Infrastructure, Air Noise, Air Quality, Housing, Socio Economic Effects and Land Compensation.

If the application is approved, UDC must insist in the conditions that the interest of local residents in the district and surrounding areas, most critically in terms of noise, air pollution and additional traffic on inadequate local roads be protected with the necessary funding being provided by Stansted Airport which is the main beneficiary.

Stansted Airport has plenty of scope to grow within the permission already granted - the number of passengers can rise by 35% from 25.9m in 2017 to 35m. (See also comments from Cllr Geoffrey Sell on page 23.)

HIGHWAYS

There was a good response to the suggestions listed in the February Link and all have helped move the ideas forward. It is not too late for many more of you to let us know your thoughts on roads, parking and public transport in and around the village. We are well aware

of the problems; the real challenge is coming up with workable solutions.

A couple of comments on earlier responses.

Church Road - The Council is pushing ECC Highways to ensure that there is a full width footpath as far as Forest Hall School. Changes to the unpopular traffic calming scheme have been put forward but the use of speed bumps or cushions has been rejected.

Chapel Hill - Some respondents misunderstood the possible changes to parking on the hill. The stretch in front of the houses opposite the Memorial Gardens will remain and in due time will be covered by a residents' parking scheme. The proposal was to remove parking from Woodfield Terrace uphill to Cambridge Road as all the houses in this stretch have off-street parking. This would improve the flow of traffic but the downside would be the risk of higher speeds.

Pedestrian Crossings - The new crossing on Cambridge Road and the one towards the top of Chapel Hill are not always easy for motorist to see. Ways to improve visibility and safety are being considered. The proposed pedestrian crossing in Lower Street should proceed once a funding issue is resolved.

We would like to thank everybody who has responded. We do read comments on social media but we really need people to contact us directly so that we can more accurately gauge public opinion.

TWINNING

A delegation from the Parish Council and the Business Forum will be representing the village at the twinning ceremony of our two communities in Rungis on 9th June. In Stansted we will be holding our civil ceremony in St John's Church at 12 noon on 6th July. Representatives of all our local organisations have been cordially invited to attend the ceremony, along with any parishioners who would like to attend. The group from France will be attending the Business Forum Breakfast meeting being held at Linden House earlier that morning and then will be spending time before the ceremony at Forest Hall School, meeting the pupils and staff.

This is a great opportunity for future further cultural and business exchanges and we are delighted to twin with a town in France that has so many similar characteristics to Stansted Mountfitchet.

We are asking local organisations to start thinking about possible exchanges and communication channels that could be opened up. Business opportunities are being taken forward through the Business Forum, and joint information exchanges have started to take shape already with shared social media and website opportunities. Our local schools are also co-ordinating links and preparation for contact with the French schools is progressing through Skype. The French delegation will also be attending Music in the Park held at Bentfield School and we hope to have representatives of all our schools at the ceremony.

Anyone wishing to host visitors in the future should contact Olly Pocknell email: ollypocknell@btopenworld.com.

LITTER PICK

The picture shows our volunteers arriving for the recent Litter Pick. Despite some fairly inclement weather,



there was a good turnout and it was particularly good that a number of families with children were involved. A big thank you to all our volunteers and to Churchill's for supporting the event again and enabling us to reward volunteers with a meal voucher.

CAR PARKS

Crafton Green

There is now a pedestrian route from the Crafton Green car park which makes access to the Cambridge Road shops much more convenient. The car park does tend to get used very heavily during weekdays but there are usually spaces available in the evening (and it's free after 5.00pm as well as on Sundays and Bank Holidays). If you are going for a meal or takeaway please consider using the car park rather than adding to the congestion in Cambridge Road.

Lower Street

Not everybody seems to appreciate that there are two separate organisations that manage parking spaces in the Lower Street Car Park. The spaces on your left as you drive in, which are immediately adjacent to the Castle are owned by Mountfitchet Castle who employ a

management company to enforce the parking regulations for their spaces. The rest of the car park is managed by Uttlesford District Council who use the North Essex Parking Partnership to enforce regulations. Both



areas have their own ticket machines so you need to make sure you are buy-

ing a ticket from the appropriate machine. The picture above shows a Castle ticket station. Charges apply at all times.

This picture shows one of the UDC ticket stations. There is no charge after 5 pm or on Sundays and



bank holidays. There are some UDC spaces designated for 20 minute parking near the entrance. These are meant to be a drop off point for patients going to the surgery who have mobility issues and would struggle to make it from the

area designated for GP patient parking. There is no charge for these spaces. We are told that there will be some changes to this area in the near future. The waiting time is to be reduced to 15 minutes and new signs will be erected so hopefully this will reduce the amount of confusion people feel when they arrive in the car park.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Every resident in Essex is urged to carry out 30 minutes of physical activity every day in June - in a campaign launched by Active Essex to help raise funds for a new charity foundation which provides life-changing support through sport and physical activity. People across Essex can choose to carry out any type of physical activity in the 30:30 challenge, such as walking to school or exploring their local area by bike. The challenge can either be completed in one 30 minute burst or by three 10 minute bouts of activity throughout the day. The challenge can also be varied with different activities tried over the 30 day period. To kick off your month of activities why not join in the "Activity for All" session at the Romeera Leisure Centre on Friday 1st June at 6.30pm? This will be a very flexible session with activities for all levels of fitness and it's free. You need to wear suitable clothing and footwear but there is no need to invest in any expensive designer gym wear.

If you need an activity for Saturday 16th June you could join Cllr Daphne Wallace-Jarvis who is leading a walk. There will be a thirty minute circuit with the possibility of an extension for those with time and energy to spare. Please meet outside the entrance to the Doctors' surgery in Lower Street for a 10.00am start.

Look out for other activities organised by the Tennis and Bowling Clubs (see page 43).

You can find more information about getting involved in the 30:30 challenge on social media by using the hashtag #3030Essex and look out for their '30 things to do in June' infographic or by visiting their website www.activeessexfoundation.org.

FORESTHALL PARK OPEN SPACES

The Parish Council have recently taken over responsibility for maintaining the public open spaces on the Foresthall Park Estate. This covers all the planting and grassed areas around the estate apart from the roadside verges which continue to be the responsibility of Essex Highways. After a competitive tendering process it was decided to award the contract to the companies that already do the grass-cutting and gardening in the rest of the village.

STANSTED IN BLOOM

Entries for Stansted in Bloom are starting to trickle in. We are hoping that lots of you will have taken advantage of some favourable weather over the Bank Holiday weekends to get your gardens in good shape. Details of the different categories can be found in the April Link or on the Parish Council website. There are lots of really attractive gardens around the village so if you have put a lot of effort into getting your garden looking at its best, why not enter into the spirit of Stansted in Bloom and submit an entry form? There is no entrance fee so what have you got to lose?

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The NhW Observer leaflet is on hold at present. Alan Johnson, who sadly died just before last Christmas, managed most of the information that went into the leaflet, and ensured it was printed and circulated to a very large area in Uttlesford. Graham Jackson stepped in to carry on Alan's valuable work, but unfortunately he himself has health issues, and at the moment is unable to continue. We very much hope that the leaflet will continue as soon as possible, and we will keep you informed. In the meantime we trust that all our NhW helpers and coordinators will stay with us, and will continue to help when we are back on track again.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Geoffrey Sell writes

Stansted Airport Planning Application

The application to lift the existing cap on passenger movements of 35 m passengers per annum to full use of the runway 43 mppa is due to be determined by the Planning Committee on 18 July. Clearly there are economic benefits for having a successful airport in our midst. It is the biggest employer by far in the district. It also provides the opportunity of travel through low cost airlines to many parts of Europe. However, there are also social costs of having an airport in our backyard which are spelt out in some of the representations made. A Burton End resident commented: "Night time noise has kept me awake. We are routinely woken at 4 in the morning and often then struggle to return to sleep. Frequently there is a strong smell of kerosene around our house. This is especially true on Sundays when I believe they routinely test the aircraft engines. I believe this to be a significant health risk".

Another resident highlighted the potential effect on our already congested roads: "Access to Lower Street is only possible by way of one of the four steep hills each of which has a section which is restricted to single file traffic. There is already unacceptable congestion at times in this location due to the volume of traffic which will only get worse as result of the existing planning permission for 35 mppa. Add the traffic resulting from permission for a further 8 mppa then the area around Lower Street is likely to become more or less permanently gridlocked."

Yes Stansted Airport is an important driver of economic growth but that should not be the only consideration. This application is premature; it is difficult to visualise what conditions will be like when movement is at the cap let alone beyond.

Cricket

As a keen follower I have been pleased to financially help both cricket clubs in the village through the ward councillors' new homes bonus scheme. I was invited to meet with officers of Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club. Their Elsenham pavilion burnt down in 2016 and they wish to replace it. Almost all the junior matches (some of the players come from Stansted) are played there. I have been working with the club to explore funding opportunities and put them in touch with the relevant officers at UDC. My view is that the council should make a financial contribution. Last year the council gave £500,000 towards a running track at Carver Barracks. This project has stalled with the Ministry of Defence. It would be nice to think some of this money could be used to support existing provision.

Derek Honour

I was very sorry to learn of Derek's death. He played a big part in the life of the village. Link editor, Tree Warden, Chairman of Stansted Millers - all positions he held at one time. Derek was Chairman of Stansted Liberals when I first became politically active. Thank you Derek for all you did for Stansted.

UDC Chairmanship

I have enjoyed my year as Chairman and hope I have played a small part in putting Stansted and Uttlesford on the map. Many thanks to the Rector Paul Wilkin and Rev Roy Fowler of Stansted Free Church for their part in hosting a very successful civic service.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings start at 7.45 pm unless otherwise stated

June

13 Full Council
20 Open Spaces

July

4 Full Council
18 Highways (7.00 pm) followed by F&GP
25 Full Council

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	sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
Valerie Trundle	813433
	prtvrt@btinternet.com
Daphne Wallace-Jarvis	812259
	dwjjwj.444@gmail.com

There is one vacancy on the Parish Council

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	cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
Terry Farthing	661555
	cllr.farthing@uttlesford.gov.uk
Thom Goddard	01371 879122
	cllr.goddard@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey Sell	815925
	cllr.sell@uttlesford.gov.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

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

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email: ruth.stickley@essex.gov.uk

STANSTED DAY CENTRE

As the days get warmer, more of you are calling in at the Day Centre to enjoy our delicious home-made two course meal for £5.50. Why not invite your friends along next time? Everyone over 55 is welcome, so we look forward to meeting them. When the sun is out we have the patio door open, enabling our guests to enjoy the fresh air and appreciate the early summer flowers in the garden. A special thanks to our lovely volunteer, Barbara who spent a very hot afternoon planting up the patio pots with bedding plants. We all look forward to watching them bloom.

Over the forthcoming summer season, we will be looking for additional help to cover the well-earned holiday breaks of our dedicated team of volunteers. If you have a spare couple of hours between 10.00am-2.00pm and would like to help, please contact me or call in when you are next passing. *'Inspirational happiness begins by really noticing something beautiful as if for the first time.'* The Day Centre is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am-2.00pm. Lunch is served at 12.30pm. Booking required before 11.00am on the day.

Angela Hall
Tel: 815091

Email: stansteddaycentre@gmail.com

GARDENING TIPS FOR JUNE

Risk of frost should be a memory in our area, and with the soil warming up rapidly in the long days, if you have not already done so, it is an ideal time for planting summer bedding and other floriferous annuals. When in the nursery, garden centre or supermarkets looking for plants, look for good quality specimens. Plants that look excessively dry may have been that way too long to survive, so are best avoided. Shun individuals that have obvious signs of disease on them, eg black spots, rusty looking pustules, etc; these are only likely to get worse and will not be very productive. For larger plants in pots, do not be afraid to slip the pot off and have a look at the root system, if it is a tightly matted tangled mass that you cannot see any soil through, then this is a sign of being pot bound (held in the same size pot for too long), and this also does not give a plant a healthy start in life. Ideally the roots in the pot should be a good mixture of some roots going around the pot with lots of friable compost and growing room.

Once you have selected your favourite choices from amongst the myriad of species available, then ideally get them home quickly and into their growing position as quickly as possible. Almost all bedding plants will benefit from soaking first before planting as well as a good watering once planted. The watering not only provides moisture to the plant, but also helps to consolidate excessively large air pockets in the soil. For plants being put in baskets or containers, incorporate a slow release fertiliser, as

it has been proven by both the RHS and *Which?* that it really does prolong the flowering period.



Paul the Gardener



The last day of April had been a very cold six degrees, so what a surprise on the following day, 1st May, at lunchtime, it was absolutely lovely in Birchanger Wood; the sun was out with a vengeance and off came my jacket. The trees actually sparkled with sunlight on their new beautiful pale green leaves. Robins were moving about and greenfinches and blackbirds were singing. The last of the English bluebells were still well in evidence, particularly at the south and western ends of the Wood. In the woodland that runs along the A120, there is sadly a lot of ash die-back caused by chalara. My Stansted swallows (two) arrived on 4th April and are probably wondering why they came over so early. It must be a real nightmare for them trying to find sufficient insects to eat. They are definitely not sitting on a nest yet. Let's hope that we get a bit more 'full-on' summer shortly. Following my call last month for photographs of our Birchanger Wood, this month I have a number of images from which to choose, supplied by our volunteer woodland worker Peter Sherlock. I hope you enjoy them as I do.



Many of you know or have met Derek Honour, a local Stansted Mountfitchet resident, who sadly died recently. It was his business, D Honour and Son (Landscape) Ltd, which took a leap of faith in believing in The Birchanger Wood Trust's ability to obtain the necessary funding; as a result, they constructed all the wonderful winding woodland paths which we have today in Birchanger Wood. We are so lucky having the Wood on our doorstep, as not everyone can go and take a short, or long, stroll out in local woodland with their family and friends and still come home looking spick and span. Please do enjoy our lovely ancient woodland: free to you all, of all abilities, for exercise and solace.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Email: secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org



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GROWING UP IN STANSTED

Part 1 – The War Years

Born in 1934, I lived above my family's grocer shop, Turner Bros at 41 Lower Street. My brother arrived two years later and two sisters followed after the war. I started my education at the Council School on Chapel Hill (now converted to housing) in 1940. I heard on our crackling old radio the Prime Minister, Mr Chamberlain, announcing that we were at war with Germany and my father had to join the army. I still remember the smell of the gas mask and the sound of the air raid siren sending us up to the primitive shelter dug out between the school field and the Memorial Gardens. It was pitch dark in the shelter and we sat on an old tarpaulin while one of the teachers read to us by torchlight or candle.

I remember seeing German aircraft coming over Stansted in large numbers and Takeley being bombed in an attempt to stop the American soldiers building the long runway at



Burton End. Stansted was also bombed; one hit the Recreation Ground, a second landed in Mr Spalding's house on the edge of the Rec, a third landed near the railway line at Stoney Common and a fourth landed in Burton End close to the American Camp. I was in the cheese cellar in Lower Street with my granddad, mother and my brother Paul; we were all very scared! When one of the bombs was dropped in daylight Mr Morton said, "That'll fetch the flies off the chemist's wall." He always had a great sense of humour. An unmanned flying bomb landed in Burton End, and all the

stained glass from the Lancaster Chapel window in St Mary's Church ended up on the stone floor in small pieces. We used to watch films of the battles in Europe in the Central Hall on Chapel Hill (now The Old Courthouse).

When I was about seven or eight years old my mother would take us for long walks on Sunday afternoons. Sometimes we would walk to Hazel End to visit Aunt Em who always gave my brother and me a piece of seed cake, which was so dry the seeds would stick in our throats. Neither of us liked it but being wartime I don't suppose it was easy to get the ingredients, so we couldn't be seen to waste it. I thought about putting it down the toilet at the bottom of the garden but there was no flush and Aunt Em would see what I'd done, so I would often throw my cake in the hedge, hoping the birds would eat it.

During the war I remember going out in Lower Street when red double-decker buses were parked and lots of the elderly and many young children (evacuees) were being allocated places to stay in the village by men with clipboards and ration books. We had a married couple, a mother and four children plus a land girl billeted in our home. The school became overcrowded; I was at a desk built for two that had to sit three; consequently teaching standards dropped. Not one boy in my age group passed the 11 plus, but with a bit of extra tuition paid for by my parents I managed to pass the 13 plus and gained a place at Harlow College as a 'late developer'.

At the end of the war in Europe the whole village gathered in Lower Street, which was decorated with flags and bunting, as was Station Road. Music played non-stop and everyone danced all night under the searchlight placed at the entrance of what is now the car park. We young boys were allowed to get on the searchlight and move it around. The same celebrations went on when the war with Japan ended. I will never forget the poor servicemen home from Japan looking like skeletons; eyes sunk in their sockets and finding it difficult to walk. It made me cry and glad the war was over.

(To be continued in future editions of The Link)

Keith Turner
Warboys, Cambridgeshire

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 5th June** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck in Lower Street, where we will be discussing *The Bees* by Laine Paull. This dystopian fantasy set in a beehive is a tale of courage and conflict among social insects where the feisty heroine, Flora 717, rebels against the totalitarian state. *The Bees* has been hailed as 'Watership Down for the Hunger Games generation'. Please do join us and don't worry if you haven't read the book as we find plenty of other things to talk about!



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We had a good evening at the wine tasting event at the Cork House on 12th April and would like to thank everyone who came along. Thank you also to Christine, our wine host, who was incredibly knowledgeable and made it fun too. Overall, The Cork House raised almost £200 for *Support 4 sight* and they can't wait to host the gin tasting evening in September in aid of the same charity.

We had some good speakers at our business breakfast at Linden House on 4th May. Ashley and Sue from Absolute Travel gave us an update on what they can offer to everyone for short or long holiday trips or long weekends. We learnt about new flights now available from Stansted to America including Washington. More importantly, if you book your trip through Absolute Travel and the flight is cancelled, you have them at hand to sort it out for you. Think how much time and aggravation that will save you. We also heard from Richard Pelly who gave us some interesting facts about rules of the road. Pelly's is a niche road transport firm with nationwide coverage specialising in road transport and regulatory law. He gave us information on what constitutes a good driver and Pelly's can advise on all road traffic criminal prosecutions. The Stansted Business Forum business directory will soon be ready to send out to Stansted and the surrounding areas. This gives you all a chance to see what our local businesses can do for you before looking outside of the area.

Our next meeting will be on **Friday 1st June** 7.00am for 7.30am at Linden House. Book your place by telephoning Peter James on 813318 or email peter.james@murdochsestateagents.co.uk.



Iris Evans
Treasurer

BRITISH RED CROSS TEA PARTY

A very successful Tea Party was enjoyed by over 60 people at the Day Centre on 9th May. The event raised over £500 for the work of the British Red Cross.



Many thanks to all the helpers who made this possible and to all those who so generously supported this event.

Christine Stiles
Tel: 813172

Poll victory for Local Residents over Airport Computer Manchester Airports Group (MAG) has no cause to celebrate over its claim that some 650 emails have been sent to Uttlesford District Council supporting its plans to expand Stansted Airport. This would entail an annual passenger throughput of 43 million which is 66% above the 25.9 million passengers handled last year.

Unsurprisingly MAG's spin doctors do not bother to point out that 615 of the supportive responses were almost identical computer-generated emails, prompted by a letter from Stansted Chief Executive Ken O'Toole to all his employees and airport-based businesses urging them to "voice their support" for MAG's expansion proposals for Stansted, saying: *"It is quick and easy to register your support for the application and will take two minutes. All you need to do is log onto www.ourstansted.com and complete the registration form. This will then send a letter automatically to the Council outlining why you support the plans for the airport"*.

Even though it was said to take just two minutes to send an automatic, computer-generated email to Uttlesford District Council supporting the airport's expansion plans, only five per cent of those employed at the airport took the trouble to respond. Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) Deputy Chairman Brian Ross said: "Despite MAG's attempts, local people have outscored the airport's computer 'voting' system with more than 700 objections to MAG's plans, all individually written. Aircraft noise, especially at night, is the biggest concern, followed by road traffic, with many respondents saying that local roads already can't cope. Those objecting to the planning application come from far and wide, although mostly from those parts of Essex and Herts most affected by the impacts of the airport. Some 50 local parish and town councils are amongst those opposing the airport's expansion plans.

To add insult to MAG's injury, its attempt to flood Uttlesford District Council with standard emails supporting its expansion plans may have spectacularly backfired because the computerised system which generated the standard emails failed to include the sender's postal address, a requirement which the Council has always insisted upon. As a result, it is understood these automatic emails are to be treated as a petition, which will carry minimal weight. On 30th April SSE sent Uttlesford District Council its own response to the MAG planning application. SSE's 175-page response setting out the detailed grounds for refusing the application is the result of two months' work by an expert SSE team and is now available on the SSE website.

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The night started with the end of term AGM, when any issues were raised, finances discussed and all members of the Committee were voted in for another year. Roger Barrett gave us an insight into next year's programme and it looks like a good year ahead.

Elphin Watkin, an ex-engineer and member of the Essex Historic Buildings Group and one of Dunmow Malting Trustees, gave a presentation on the history of malt houses in Essex. Historically the region was known as a Malting County going back several thousand years. Elphin explained how malt is created by germinating barley grain in water to encourage the grain to sprout, then drying the barley to halt the progress when the sprouting begins. He explained the 16th century basket-grown process right through to the huge Malt houses of Mistley and Witham.



When demand for ale from London reached its peak in the 18th century, Essex went into full production, with maltings being erected everywhere. There were 20 alone in Saffron Walden, and Bishop's Stortford was covered with them, especially along the Stort River. In 1697 the Government realised the tax potential of ale and brought in a malt tax and by 1880 it was raising £6 million a year: approximately 11% of all tax raised, which of course helped with the wars at that time. Elphin suggested paying a visit to the Dunmow Maltings, pictured above. As the term has now finished. I will be placing a piece in The Link detailing next term's programme which starts in September. Until then, enjoy the summer and we hope to see a few new faces when the new term starts.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

IS IT TIME FOR ROSÉ WINES?

The pleasure of rosé wines is often overlooked, but for me a crisp cool rosé is the perfect alfresco wine to enjoy as the weather gets warmer and can be a far better food wine than most might realise. A rosé from Aldi is getting a lot of good press, so seek out a bottle of their Exquisite Collection *Touraine Rosé* from the Loire; it is a bargain at £5.99 with its refreshing apple and cherry aromas and citrus flavours. Last year it was their Exquisite Collection *Côtes de Provence* which was voted the best rosé under £8 by the International Wine Challenge, so that's an alternative for £6.69 with aromas of strawberry and white fruits.

New World rosé tends to be packed with a little more fruit and a good example is the South African *Porcupine Ridge Rosé* from Waitrose at £7.99, bursting with strawberry and raspberry fruit. Alternatively, there is the *Ned Rosé* from New Zealand, a blend of Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris from Majestic at £9.99, as part of a six mixed case; this has pure berry fruit characters with crisp acidity and citrus flavours. If it's a serious food friendly rosé you need then those from the Côte de Provence in southern France are dry and full bodied. Two are from a blend of Grenache and Syrah; one is *Mirabeau Pure* from Waitrose at £13.99 which is bone dry but has flavours of berry fruits and a hint of rhubarb; the other is its sister *Mirabeau Etoile* from Sainsbury's at £15 with aromas of peach and apricot with citrus flavours. If those are a little more than you want to pay then the SO Organic Rosé, *Vin de France* from nearby in the Languedoc, is available in Sainsbury's at £6.50 from the same grapes with strawberry, juicy watermelon and a redcurrant tang; it is good value, if a little more delicate. Get those garden seats out, sit back and enjoy.



Paul Wilkinson
Email: Corkscrew_456@hotmail.co.uk

SUMMER ROSES AND STONES

The summer solstice on 21st June is the longest day of the year and traditionally associated with Stonehenge, the prehistoric monument in Wiltshire which is two miles (three km) west of Amesbury. Stonehenge, a ring of standing stones, each around 13 feet (4.0 m) high, seven feet (2.1 m) wide and weighing around 25 tons, is believed to have been constructed in several stages; the first monument being an early henge monument built about 5,000 years ago. The unique stone circle was erected in the late Neolithic period about 2500 BC. None of the huge stones are local ones and would have been transported over several miles, which was quite some feat. In the early Bronze Age, burial mounds were also built nearby.

Because Stonehenge was constructed by a culture which left no written records, many aspects such as how it was built and what it was used for, remain subject to debate. A number of myths surround the stones. The Druids are thought to have used the sun and stones at Stonehenge as a calendar, because at the summer solstice the sun shines directly on the famous Heel stone at sunrise; although the excavated remains of culled animal bones suggest that people may have gathered at the site in the winter rather than the summer. Nowadays people still go to Stonehenge to watch the sun rise at the summer solstice; it is a very important moment of the year for modern day Druids.

Midsummer Day (24th June) is associated with witches, magic, fairies and dancing. On Midsummer's Eve bonfires were lit in praise of the sun; as the days were getting shorter it was thought the sun was getting weaker and the fires would help strengthen it. Roses picked on this day were said to keep fresh until Christmas; rose petals scattered at midnight on Midsummer's Eve by young girls whilst reciting a special mantra were supposed to ensure their true love would visit the following day. Wonder if it ever worked?



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Sunday 17th June 3.00pm Saffron Hall

Working together for the first time, the combined musical forces of Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra and Saffron Walden Choral Society perform a programme comprising Walton's bold and exciting *Belshazzar's Feast*, the riotously colourful *Symphonic Dances* from Bernstein's 'West Side Story', and finally, Tippett's much loved *Five Spirituals from 'A Child of our Time'*. 'Praise ye the God of Brass!' In 1931 the young William Walton took a huge choir and a massive symphony orchestra, added a couple of brass bands, and blew English music sky-high. Bold, brazen and shamelessly savage, *Belshazzar's Feast* caused outrage back then, and it can still knock you backwards today! A powerful and imposing cantata, the piece is tense and dramatic, punctuated by Walton's characteristic pauses and silences, with hauntingly lyrical baritone solos.

The original Broadway production of 'West Side Story' opened in 1957 before running for 732 performances. Inspired by Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, it tells of a simple but ultimately tragic love story played out in the gangland rivalry of New York's Manhattan. At its premier, critics were stunned by the fabulous dance sequences with their youthful vitality and energy. In 1961 Bernstein drew from it an orchestral suite of *Symphonic Dances* which follow the principal episodes of the drama, and in a demonstration of his compositional skill, capture all the range of moods and emotions of his Broadway masterpiece. British composer, Sir Michael Tippett structured his celebrated oratorio *A Child of Our Time* around the singing of five 19th-century American slave spirituals. Written in 1939, these beautiful arrangements of spirituals have a heartfelt universality, which makes them truly powerful and uplifting, whether sung within the oratorio or as here in a stand-alone set. Tickets: adults £20, £15 and £10, under 18s £3 from Saffron Hall box office, tel 08455 487650 or from www.saffronhall.com.

John Luke



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Huw Johnson Club was very saddened to hear of the death of Derek Honour, our President, who passed away in April at the age of 91. Derek had been involved with the Club from when it was founded by Tom and Marion Johnson nearly 44 years ago; he was the President for nearly as long. Very involved with the Club, he would help out on Thursday evenings, act as a volunteer driver or bus escort, volunteer on our week-long holidays and organise endless trips. Derek was involved with us into his 90s; we were pleased to celebrate his 90th birthday at our AGM last year. Always ready with a smile and joke, we all have very happy memories of Derek and will miss him dearly. Our thoughts are with Peggy and his family at this very sad time.

The Huw Johnson Club is a social group for adults with learning disabilities which runs on a Thursday evening. Over the last few weeks, as well as a quiz and curling competition, the Club has also held a keep fit session, with team exercises and circuits - we definitely earned our tea and biscuits that night! Events coming up include a visit from Bishop's Stortford Gospel Choir and a disco; we are also busy planning our summer picnic: a celebration and thank you event. If you would like to come along and join us at the Huw Johnson Club as a volunteer or as a member please get in touch.



Katharine Collis
Tel: 07759 157620
Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com

BRAIN TRAINING

Improving your balance improves short term memory and stops you tripping over things

Research published in March 2017 found that improving your balance, wobbling about on one leg, also improves short term memory and spatial awareness because these three parts of the brain are linked. The balance training was intense: balance training circuits twice a week for 12 weeks.

If your balance was not very good, I'm sure it was not an entirely pleasant experience, even if shot with humour. However, all participants improved in all three goals of better balance, better memory and better spatial awareness. This means it really is worth practising your balance with great regularity (why water the plants standing on two legs when one will do?).

Then not only will you be less likely to fall over, your car parking skills will get better and you will be able to remember where you parked the wretched thing!

I specialise precisely in improving such things as balance. As an easy example to try: stand on one leg, shut your eyes if necessary and get a good flail going on. Now poke your tongue into one cheek and, if that makes things worse, try poking it into the other cheek. For many this really helps stability, but not for all. Brains are too complicated for a one size fits all solution. To read the research, type, 'Balance training improves memory and spatial awareness' into a search engine.



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RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP

Our next monthly meeting on Tuesday 12th June 7.30pm at Bishops Park Community Centre, Lancaster Way, Bishop's Stortford (next to Tesco) is our AGM, which will include talks by some members. Simon, our Chairman, noticed barn owls breeding in his garden owl box last year. Are they back? Entry is £3.00 for Stort Valley members, £5.00 for visitors.



Join us for a *Bishop's Stortford Birding Day* **Sunday 3rd June** 7.30am. Meet in Waitrose car park. We are going to count how many bird species we can see in the Bishop's Stortford area! A bit of fun with a serious aspect. We will probably roll this idea out at different times of the year on an annual basis. Not a competition, but ... For more information contact Lee Jaques on 07454 801894.

Sheila Bowles
Tel: 814973



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

I am sure that most of you will have heard the sad news that Derek Honour passed away on Wednesday 25th April. Derek was our Windmill Chairman for many years and he worked tirelessly to ensure that all things Windmill were in good order. Our thoughts are with Peggy, his wife, who was also very active at the Windmill for so many years both as Trustee and a Committee Member.

April was quite a busy month at the Mill. A family, whose great grandfather was one of the last Millers to work at the Mill, visited us and our Chairman and Treasurer gave them a conducted tour. Two days later our Consultant Millwright attended for our bi-annual Mill Inspection and to advise on future maintenance. A very well-behaved party of school children from Birchanger were our next visitors. Most of them went up to the top of the Mill. They loved our model postmill and asked lots of questions. We also had a group visit from the 1st Elsenham Brownies. There were 32 brownies, who were given a tour of the Mill by our newest Committee member Neil Russel. They all enjoyed their time with us and promised to come back again. All our openings depend on volunteers giving up a couple of hours of their time to show visitors around. On Sundays or Bank Holidays,

we need stewards to take admission money, sell souvenirs and act as guides showing visitors around the Mill. If you would like to help out doing any of these things please contact me. Finally, I am sorry that our Race Night, proposed for 5th May, had to be postponed and deferred until the autumn; I will advise you of the new date as soon as it has been arranged. The next Windmill opening is on **Sunday 3rd June** 1.30pm-5.30pm.



Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768

HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY (PART 2)

www.LostCousins.com/stansted

At the end of the last article I suggested you download a blank Ancestor Chart - how many of your ancestors have you been able to fill in, I wonder?

Next step: talk to your relatives

If you have left it really late to start researching your family tree you might be the oldest in your family. But if not, now's the time to talk to older relatives who can provide you with snippets of information which will point you in the right direction. For example, they might know where your ancestors lived, or the surname of the man who married your grandmother's sister.

This sort of Information might not seem obviously relevant, but believe me, it will be at some point! And it is not just older relatives who can provide useful information; when I began I discovered that my younger sister had information which she had collected from our late aunt 20 years before.

Tip: people were not always known by the name on their birth certificate; some were known by their middle name, and some by a derivative of the forename, such as Nell or Nellie (instead of Ellen), Polly (instead of Mary), or abbreviations such as Mike or Fred. This is the birth certificate of Peter Calver's mother.



Dig out the family memorabilia

In most families there is an envelope, tin or box full of things which might be needed one day. Or which nobody could bring themselves to throw away and a good thing too, because they are likely to prove invaluable to you! Certificates, wills, insurance policies, even postcards and letters can provide useful clues. Write down any significant names, dates, or addresses you come across. I run the LostCousins website. You can see a sneak preview from the next article and download a free Ancestor Chart from my website.

Peter Calver



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BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL MUSIC IN THE PARK

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We are back for our 17th year with the fantastic music extravaganza **Music in the Park**, on Saturday 7th July 2.00pm- 8.30pm featuring several bands live on stage. This year's exciting line-up includes regular favourites: *The Jjars* and *Goat Patrol*. We also have *One Fat Finger* returning and back after an absence of a few years, *Repertoire Dogs*. There will be the debut of *BluesInc*, and for the first time we are opening up with some young, up and coming local acts, namely *Jay Lewis* and *Robyn Allen*.

As well as the live bands, there will be a BBQ, beer tent, Thai food, ice creams, sweet tent, novelty stall, cake stall, plus bouncy castles for the children. Entry is by ticket only, £15 in advance, £18 on the day. Children under 16 get in free with a paying adult. Tickets may be purchased from Bentfield Primary School office tel 813626, Russell Property in Castle Maltings, and Intercounty on Cambridge Road. Put the date in your diaries, get your festival gear out of the cupboard and make your way down to this fun-filled festival. We thank you for supporting our school and helping us to raise funds to refurbish our playground, which will cost a massive £20,000! We are part of the way there, through funds raised from our previous events, but we still have a long way to go.



Local businesses, we are still looking for sponsors to support us with the costs of our stage and other facilities. If you would like an opportunity to promote your business through advertising at the event and in our programme, please contact me.

John Black
Organising Committee MITP 2018
Bentfield School PTA
Email: mitp.bentfield@btinternet.com



Bishop's Stortford Choral Society and Hertfordshire Philharmonia Orchestra, conductor Richard Brain, are performing **Mendelssohn's *Elijah*** on **Saturday 30th June** at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, South Street, Bishop's Stortford. *Elijah* is known as Mendelssohn's choral masterpiece; Classic FM calls it "glorious"! The bass soloist will be Rene Bloice-Sanders.



Tickets are available in advance from our website and from Bishop's Stortford Tourist Information, Market Square, or on the door. The society welcomes new members throughout the year at our Thursday 7.45pm rehearsals in the Water Lane United Reformed Church.

Jill Goldsmith
Publicity



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Listings for June

At the stage Stortford

Friday 1st 2.00pm *Professor Pop's Bubble School*
Thursday 7th 7.30pm *Carole King Tapestry: The Concert*
Sunday 10th 4.00pm *SuRie: Eurovision Unplugged*
Saturday 16th 8.00pm *Donna Taggart: Spring Concert Tour 2018*

At the screen Stortford

Saturday 2nd and Saturday 30th 11.00am *Sherlock Gnomes* (PG)
Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th 2.00pm and 7.30pm *That Good Night* (12A)
Monday 11th and Thursday 14th 2.00pm and 7.30pm *Edie* (12A)
Tuesday 12th 7.15pm *ROH: Swan Lake* (12A)
Tuesday 19th 2.00pm and 7.30pm *Funny Cow* (15)
Saturday 23rd 11.00am *Duck Duck Goose* (PG)
Saturday 12th 6.30pm *Glydebourne Festival: Madame Butterfly* (12A)

At the museum Stortford

Saturday 2nd 11.00am *Free Museum Tour*
Saturday 9th *Roman Writing Workshop* (drop in sessions between 11.00am and 3.00pm)
Saturday 16th 10.30am *Story Time at the Museum*
Saturday 16th 11.00am *Famous Stortfordians Walk*

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ANIMAL BEHAVIOURAL ISSUES

"Princess just won't come downstairs anymore and she used to have a beautiful coat; now look at her". On my consulting table sat a sorry example of the Persian cat breed whose thick shiny coat had been reduced to a thin wispy covering and a bedraggled excuse for a tail. Princess looked at me with a haughty 'don't say anything, I'm still a princess inside' look, so I tried to get to the bottom of the problem. It turned out her owner was a kind-hearted lady with a love of animals and her garden had become the community hub for wildlife. She fed hedgehogs, foxes, squirrels and birds; then the local stray cat population cottoned on and now her time was spent producing meals on a near industrial scale for all her animal visitors!



It didn't take long for Scarface and Claws, the two local tomcats, to push it a bit further and start coming through the cat flap and pinching Princess's gourmet food and sleeping on her bed. No wonder poor Princess had retreated to the top of the wardrobe and spent her days anxiously over-grooming! It did take quite a bit of time to convince Princess's owner that although she loved her animal visitors, cats are quite solitary creatures with a strong sense of territory and to have it invaded by so many on a daily basis was actually causing Princess a lot of stress. I know this is an extreme case, but we do see animals on a daily basis with a variety of behavioural issues, from cats and dogs to aggressive rabbits! However, help is at hand; the first step is to bring your pet in for a veterinary check to ensure there's no physical problem and then we can talk through behavioural issues. Cat, our lovely Stansted nurse, is a mine of information about rabbits and other small furries; Jackie our deputy head nurse has completed extra training in cat behavioural problems and our vets can advise about dog behaviour. We also have links with local trainers and animal behaviourists. So mental health is important, even for animals and we are here to help!



Ilse Pedler
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ORNAMENTAL BASKETS WORKSHOP



Tuesday 5th June 10.00am–12.30pm at Cammas Hall Fruit Farm, Needham Green, Hatfield Broad Oak CM22 7JT. Tickets £25 (including materials and refreshments) from 718570. Learn how to put together a basket using edible and ornamental plants such as herbs, veggie plants and early summer flowering plants.

Fiona Hunt

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Nature Notes

Wild Marjoram *Origanum vulgare*

The Latin name for marjoram is *Origanum* which is taken from the Greek words 'oros' meaning mountain, and 'ganos' meaning joy, therefore it is known as 'Joy of the Mountains'. Some years ago, whilst visiting Farnham churchyard, I found a pretty purple plant in the profusion of beautiful wild flowers. It turned out to be wild marjoram, also known as a 'bee plant'. To find marjoram growing on a grave is significant. In the olden days powdered marjoram was sprinkled in the winding sheet used at burials. Later, if marjoram was found growing on the grave, it gave a sign to the bereaved that their loved one was happy in the afterlife.



Our ancestors benefited from this useful plant. It would be used as a strewing herb; a scourer for wood, to clean and prevent woodworm; to make the washing water sweet and used in potpourri. As a dye it would make woollen cloth light purple. *What bliss to have no cleaning agents under the sink in plastic containers!*

Marjoram has many healing uses too. For the elderly, it has anti-ageing properties; it helps with degenerative arthritis, osteoarthritis and rheumatism. Herbalists use marjoram for bronchitis, asthma, coughs and also indigestion and dyspepsia. Externally it can be used as a fomentation for painful swellings and rheumatism. *So, less in the bathroom cabinet too!* This useful plant is also used in aromatherapy. In the 1990s it was trialled in Lewisham Hospital on patients suffering from high blood pressure. Patients experienced a lower level of BP which lasted for quite a few days after the treatment. Marjoram is indeed a joyful plant especially in Greek and Roman times when garlands of the flowers were worn on the heads of newly married couples.

Bee's Daughter



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What a difference a year makes! This time last year we were keeping our fingers crossed for rain, to green up the new grass in the Walled Garden and for the successful building of the treehouse.

At this month's Open Day on Sunday 24th June, the Gardens should be looking beautiful, as we celebrate the nature which we cherish alongside the formal planting. There are many areas where wild flowers already thrive and we are introducing a new grass cutting regime to help the flowers set seed and multiply even further. The snowdrops were gorgeous, as usual, and we have had more cowslips than previously plus banks of bluebells, particularly down at the end of the Glade.



The viewing platform now provides fine views of waterlilies on the fishing lake. Open Day events will include bug hunting for children as well as a nature trail and craft activities. We will be joined by Uttlesford Beekeepers, the RSPB, plant and craft stalls, including willow-weaving. Local musician, Keef Jackman, will play his Ukelele Blues and other self-penned songs. Of course, no Garden Open Day would be complete without our locally renowned bacon rolls and homemade cakes. For more details and the latest news, go to our website at or find us on Facebook.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 07947 283439
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Within its towns, villages and countryside, the Hundred Parishes has an exceptional number of ancient buildings. More than 6,000 are listed, meaning that they have been formally identified as an important part of our national heritage so that they can be protected by law. They appear

on the National Heritage List for England; 6,000 listings represents more than 10% of all buildings within the Hundred Parishes, whilst nationally only about 2% are listed. Furthermore, half of our listed buildings date from the year 1700 AD or earlier. This exceptional depth of heritage is a key feature of the Hundred Parishes. Over 100 buildings within the Hundred Parishes have the highest category of listing, Grade I, and of these more than half are parish churches, constructed and reconstructed over the last thousand years.

By way of explanation, of all listed buildings in England, less than 3% have been classified as Grade I, while 92% fall into the Grade II category and about 5% into the intermediate Grade II* (two star) category. Listings can relate to all manner of buildings, whilst there are separate listings of 'registered parks and gardens' and 'scheduled monuments'. Local listed buildings include garden walls, gravestones, war memorials, telephone boxes, milestones and other features of historic interest. Details of all listed buildings can easily be found on www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk. All listings, including parks and gardens and scheduled monuments, can be found on www.historicengland.org.uk, which is the official website; however the site is not easy to navigate. The fact that a building is listed gives it some degree of protection so that it should survive to delight future generations. Owners of listed buildings are generally conscious that they are just today's custodian within a long line of custodians.

Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

At long last the sun is shining and the cricket season is under way. Both senior teams were defeated in their opening league matches against Thaxted and Epping Foresters. The juniors are about to start the league season, and the first session of *All Stars cricket* for five to eight-year olds has begun with some 25 children signed up already. This scheme has proved to be very successful for both the Club and the English Cricket Board (ECB). Nothing better on a Friday evening than coming down to Stansted House to watch your young son or daughter enjoying the game of cricket.

The Club is running a Prosecco and Pimms bar and a stall at the Elsenham Fête on Saturday 9th June 1.00pm-4.00pm at Elsenham Playing Field, Leigh Drive; come and join us if you are attending. Funds raised will be going towards the new pavilion at Elsenham Place. If you are a friend of the Club, past member or just a supporter, you can go onto our *just giving* website to donate towards this major project www.justgiving.com/stanstedhallandelsenhamcricketclub. All drawings are complete and we thank initially Philip Livings and latterly Weston Homes for helping the Club. Planning permission has been granted so it is now a question of how the project will be funded.



David Brown
Tel: 831011 or 07788 999663
Email: David1.r.brown@gmail.com

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org		
Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 07976 441468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie, Hon Secretary Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	Rotary Club	Martin Budzinski Tel: 07803 878961 Email: martin@voucherpacks.com
Brownies (Tuesday)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: Leila Riddell Tel: 07770 955830
Brownies (Wednesday)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Spangles Children's Centre	Sarah Mason Tel: 812348 Email: smason2@spurgeons.org
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Stansted Badminton Club	Vince Tel: 07793 000107 Raj Tel: 07775 915418
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Steve Turrell Tel: 07519 572642	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Explorer Scouts	Vic Clarke Tel: 07903 413217	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Grove Cottage	Andrea Charity Tel: 656085/ 07795 483674	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis, District Commissioner Tel: 814434	Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly, Publicity Officer STC Tel: 07949 623484 Email: fiona1.kelly@btintetnet.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	U3A	Helen, Chair Tel: 812945
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Brenda Ryan, President Tel: 812725
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Inner Wheel Club	Jenny Savage, President Tel: 656065	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
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		
Parkinson's UK	Vivian Falk, Chairman		
Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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



Stansted Cricket Club

www.stanstedcc.secure-club.com

As part of our Good Neighbour Policy, fixture cards have been delivered to 23 properties that adjoin Hargrave Park. Posters and flyers have been provided to the Parish Council for insertion into Welcome Packs for buyers on the new housing estates under construction at Elms Farm and Walpole Meadows. The new season did not begin auspiciously with both XIs losing their first league matches. However, our first visitors in the CCA, Weston Colville II, were impressed with the facilities and enjoyed a match played in the right spirit. Junior coaching sessions have resumed on Mondays 6.30pm-8.00pm, there is hardball coaching for Years 5 and 6 to Year 10. On Fridays 4.00pm-5.15pm there is softball coaching for Years 2 and 3 to Year 5. If your child has not attended before, the initial session is free of charge and the coaches will advise on the most suitable session for your child. Junior fixtures can be found on our website.

Home fixtures for June

Sat 2 nd	2 nd XI	Elmdon II	13.30	CCA
Sun 3 rd	Sun XI	Stansted Hall	14.00	
Tue 5 th	Cup XI	Matching Green	18.00	Davies Cup
Sat 9 th	2 nd XI	Sawston & Babraham IV	13.30	CCA
Sun 10 th	Sunday XI	Fyfield (tbc)	14.00	
Sat 16 th	1 st XI	Thaxted I	13.30	HECL
Sat 23 rd	2 nd XI	Linton Village III	13.30	CCA
Sat 30 th	1 st XI	Takeley I	13.30	HECL

The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis 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

Stansted Tennis Club



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Club tournament

All members who would like to enter this year's Club tournament should sign up on the sheets in the Clubhouse, which will be there until Friday 1st June.

Ladies' night

The next ladies' night (members only) will be on Monday 11th June, from 7.00pm.

Used tennis balls

Used tennis balls can be purchased for £1 for a tube of four, from Jan Hollis at 105 Cambridge Road.

Open afternoon, in conjunction with Active Essex, Sunday 17th June, 1.00pm-2.30pm. Come along and try tennis at your local courts for free! Balls will be supplied but please bring a racket if possible. Open to all.

Please visit our website for further details.

Fiona Kelly
Publicity Officer
Tel: 07949 623484
Email: fiona1.kelly@btinternet.com



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

The Club will be supporting the Parish Council in the Active Essex initiative. Find out more in *Stansted Network* on page 22. In support of this initiative, the club will be open on Saturday 16th June from 10.00am to 3.00pm for anyone who would like to try bowls. Please bring flat soled shoes, such as trainers.

Results

Presidents v Captains was won by the President in glorious weather on an interesting green, 55 – 36.

Seniors away to North Weald. Stansted won by 73 – 34 on another glorious afternoon.

Stansted Ladies had a friendly match against Epping. Brilliant sunshine and a good time was had by all.

Friendly match v Elsenham for the Daniel Robinson Cup, first leg. Stansted lost by 35 – 127, the return leg is in August.

NORTH WEST ESSEX LEAGUE

Section 2 Division B – Stansted 'A'

Wednesday 13th June 6.15pm Stebbing

Section 2 Division B – Stansted 'B'

Wednesday 6th June 6.15pm Stebbing

Wednesday 20th June 6.15pm Steeple Bumpstead

Wed 27th June 6.15pm Saffron Walden

HERTS & ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE

Tuesday 12th June 2.30pm Bishop's Stortford

Tuesday 26th June 2.30pm Much Hadham

Weekend Friendlies

Saturday 2nd June 2.30pm Bishop's Stortford

Sunday 10th June 2.30pm Quendon

Saturday 16th June 2.30pm Active Essex open day

Saturday 23rd June 2.30pm North Weald

Ladies Friendlies

Thursday 28th June 2.30pm Havers Park

We look forward to welcoming you all to our Clubhouse on any of the above game dates, or any Friday evening when the Clubhouse bar will be open and the members will be happy to explain the way the game is played or just have a chat and put the world to rights.

Peter Beattie

Hon Secretary

Tel: 07850 329192

Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com

TRAIDCRAFT PRODUCERS QUIZ ANSWERS

1.	Nepal	11.	Philippines
2.	Ghana	12.	Bangladesh
3.	Chile	13.	Malawi
4.	Rwanda	14.	Ivory Coast
5.	Indonesia	15.	Costa Rica
6.	Sri Lanka	16.	Uganda
7.	Palestine	17.	Namibia
8.	Paraguay	18.	Honduras
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