

Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



p35

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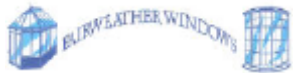


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VOLUME 30
Issue 5
April 2010

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine
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The Link is an independent publication supported by local churches, businesses and the Parish Council. Each edition is also available on line at www.stanstedlink.org.uk

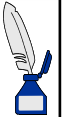
Editorial

The 'Link' has received an Award of Merit from the Essex Rural Community Council for 2009. We are of course delighted and regard it as an acknowledgement of our contributors' efforts as well as that of the Production Team.

Although space in the magazine is always at a premium, we are aware that good photographs can bring people and places to life better than words. This was demonstrated when Tudor Owen presented his 'blog' on the refurbishment of the Windmill at the Millers AGM in March, so we invite readers to send in their pictures of other folk and events. We cannot guarantee to publish all that we receive but it would be great to have a selection.

Stansted's patience is being tested just now by lack of information on the Health Centre and the re-location of St Mary's School. Most people realise that these issues can be complex, but there seems to be a protracted web of mystique, both within officialdom and in the negotiating process. We look with some envy at Great Dunmow which, with a similar population, has a fine medical centre and central parking. Our Parish Council is seeking a comprehensive use of Crafton Green when the elusive health centre arrives, but can at least part of the present school site be retained for communal benefit?

Let us hope that spring will bring light and warmth.



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CIRCULATION:

The Link is delivered free to 2700 homes and businesses in Stansted Mountfitchet. Further copies may be purchased for 50p each or £5.00 for the year.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

by email (*preferred*) to:
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

or by hand to:
5 Greenfields, Stansted
CM24 8AH

please note new address

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for the May issue

by **noon** on 11th May
for the June issue

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Stansted Network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I once heard of a group of people who were listening to the story of Jesus for the very first time. They heard about his birth as a baby, his growing to manhood, his teaching, and the miracles and healings he performed. They were captivated by this amazing story and demanded to hear what happened next, but were then astonished to hear how this incredible man was taken prisoner and put to death. Their excitement turned to disappointment as they discovered that he had died like everyone else. They shook their heads and began to walk away. "Wait!" called the person telling the story, "There's more!" and he went on to tell them how Jesus who had died could not be held by death but rose again, and walked and talked with his followers. And how he could be known by all who turn to him today.

The message of the resurrection is that "There's more!" Life is not just about survival, it's not just about success or status. The cynic would have us believe that the game of life is won by those who end it with the most toys. The resurrection of Jesus shows us that when the toys go back in the cupboard life has only just begun. That it is not about winners or losers, but about those who play the game well. On Easter morning Christians greet one another with the words "Christ is Risen!" In doing so they proclaim that the world is more than its outward appearance and that this life can be for all people the beginning of life eternal. That because of the resurrection of Jesus, there's more for each one of us. May God bless you and make that new life be real to you this Easter-time.



Paul Wilkin
Rector of the United Benefice
of Stansted Mountfitchet,
with Birchanger and Farnham



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES



St John's (Church of England)

Palm Sunday 28th March

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.20am Palm Sunday procession from Church Hall for
- 9.30am Liturgy of Palm Sunday

Monday 29th March

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 30th March

- 8.30am Morning Prayer
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer
- 7.30pm Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 31st March

- 9.00am Morning Prayer
- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer

Maundy Thursday 1st April

- 11.00am Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Ordination
Promises at Chelmsford Cathedral
- 5.00pm Evening Prayer
- 8.00pm Maundy Thursday Communion
followed by The Watch (until midnight)

Good Friday 2nd April

- 9.30am Good Friday Project
- Birchanger Church open for quiet prayer 12 noon to 2.00pm
- 2.00pm-
- 3.00pm The Last Hour at Birchanger Church

Easter Eve 3rd April

- 8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Day 4th April

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 9.30am Sung Eucharist

Stansted Free Church (Methodist/URC)

Palm Sunday 28th March

- 10.30am Service

Good Friday 2nd April

- 10.30am Service

Easter Day 4th April

- 10.30am Easter Day communion

St Theresa's (Roman Catholic)

Saturday 27th March

- 6.00pm Mass

Palm Sunday 28th March

- 9.00am and
- 10.30am Mass

Tuesday 30th March

- 7.30pm Penitential Service

Maundy Thursday 1st April

- 8.00pm Mass of the Last Supper
- Watching before the Sacrament until 11.00pm

Good Friday 2nd April

- 9.45am for
- 10.00am Family Service
- 3.00pm Passion of Our Lord
- 4.15pm Walk of Witness - St Theresa's to St John's

Holy Saturday 3rd April

- 8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 4th April

- 9.00am and
- 10.30am Mass

Quakers (Society of Friends)

Sunday 27th March and Sunday 4th April

- 10.30am Meeting for Worship



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

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

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Giles Tulk
Tel: 817155
Email: stansted.curate@googlemail.com

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

Church Hall Bookings: Joy Lambe
Tel: 817937
Email: joy@popcornwebdesign.co.uk

St John's Diary

Sunday

8.00am Said Holy Communion
9.30am Worship 4 All (1st Sunday)
9.30am Choral Eucharist (2nd -
4th Sundays)

Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday

8.30am Morning Prayer

9.00am St John's Tots

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

Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

Saturday

9.00am Morning Prayer

Monday-Friday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

From the Registers

February

Baptisms

21st Rory Christophe Patrick Hardman

Funerals

9th Grace Cooper, age 97 - at St John's
22nd Frances Mary Cope, age 89 - at
Parndon Wood

GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT

Good Friday is almost upon us and we're nearing the time when, if we haven't done it, it won't be done! The drama is written, the songs have been chosen, the props and costumes have been designed and the children have filled in their



application forms. All we require now is for all our helpers to turn up on the day, and for the children to come prepared to have fun. If you haven't already volunteered, how much fun you'll have on Good Friday will

depend on when you are reading this. If you're sitting down after your Easter Sunday lunch, it's all over and you've missed out – if you get your new edition of the 'Link' before the end of the month, there may still be time to become involved. I hope that's clear!

This year's production is entitled 'The Road', and we will be telling the story of Jesus' road from his birth in Bethlehem to his death and Resurrection in Jerusalem through drama, art, music and dance. We start at 9.30am (that early!) with registration and setting the scene with the story; and then we will be splitting into groups who will take part in each of the activities in turn so everyone gets to do everything. There will be art – time to splodge paint on to scenery and make props; there will be crafts - making smaller items which fill in the details; there will be music - learning new songs and a bit of dance; there will be drama, acting out the story; and last, but not least a chance to dress up so you can really be the characters in the story. So if you're up for a bit of fun, contact me and I will let you know how you can be involved in the Stansted event of the year.

Janet Wilkin
Tel: 812203

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

There are still some numbers available for the 300 Club at a cost of £2 per month for the chance to win one of three prizes each month of £25, £50 and £100 and two Super Draws per year of £200 each. The Club is due to commence on 1st May so, if you haven't yet booked your number(s) and would like to do so, please contact Francine Cope on 814562 or Rosemary Thomson on 815551 as soon as possible to obtain an application form.

Francine Cope

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We are holding a St George's Day supper on Saturday 24th April in St John's Church Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm. There is to be a delicious meal with food prepared by Pocknell Catering plus some true English entertainment, usual raffle and



bring your own drinks. Tickets £13 each, available from any member of the Social Committee or the Church Office. Proceeds to The Children's Society.



STANSTED FREE CHURCH
 Methodist / URC
 Chapel Hill
www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Ministers Rev'd Allen Morton
 Tel: 757635
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Rev'd David Mullins
 Tel: 654475
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Lettings Marion and Mike Dyer
 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG
 Tel: 814059
lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Preachers for April

2nd 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins - Good Friday
 4th 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton
 Easter Day Communion
 11th 10.30am Rev'd Claire Heald
 18th 10.30am Ken Mark
 25th 10.30am Denis Walker

Organ Recital

At 7.30pm on Saturday 10th April, Brian Heald (son-in-law of Phyllis Harrison) will be giving an organ recital in the Church. Brian is a very accomplished organist and plays in Chester Cathedral and churches in the Chester Methodist Circuit. His programme includes a wide variety of music including Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D minor and Widor's Toccata (5th Symphony) as well as transcriptions of popular melodies. This is an event not to be missed. All proceeds to Methodist Homes. Entry is by ticket (£5) only from 814059 or 813579 (apologies for incorrect number given last month).

Marion Dyer
 Tel: 814059

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
 High Lane

Priest Father Joe White
 The Presbytery
 St Therese of Lisieux
 High Lane
 Stansted
 Tel: 814349

Masses Saturday 6.00pm
 Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am
 Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm
 Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

Confessions
 Saturday 10.00am
 and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am



SHALOM

There are no Shalom meetings in April. We resume at 8.00pm on Monday 10th May. More details next month.

Marion Dyer
 Tel: 814059

IN MEMORIAM

Geoffrey Ralph Booker
 January 1922 - February 2010

Geoff was well known in Stansted until 1996 when he and Margaret moved to Houghton near St Ives in Cambridgeshire. He was born in Kent and after excelling in French and Geography at University, Margaret and Geoff eventually came to Stansted in the '70s. Geoff was appointed to teach French at the newly built Mountfitchet School. Whilst there he also attained an A grade in A level Italian. He was a true Francophile and in particular developed a love for French wines. Geoff and Margaret spent many happy holidays in France and a day in France with Geoff was a day to be remembered.

Geoff also possessed considerable musical talent. His principal instrument was the bassoon, playing regularly with the Harlow Symphony Orchestra, and for many years he was also a member of the church choir and also Harlow Chorus. As an enthusiastic cyclist he organised the annual sponsored cycle ride for the Friends of Essex Churches.

When they moved to Houghton, Geoff became a member of Hemingford Grey church choir, to which he went by bicycle, of course. His funeral and thanksgiving service was a moving occasion at which his old friend, Canon Barry Rose, assisted. A splendid trumpet rendering from 'Messiah' was given by a member of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. He will be remembered with affection by many in Stansted.

Derek Honour and John Jaques



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JAZZ at ST JOHN'S
8 - 11 pm Fri 9th April
St John's Church
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Book early! Tel 814865
Bar ~ Raffle
In aid of Church Hall Fund



ORGAN RECITAL

by Brian Heald
Programme includes Vidor's Toccata
7.30 pm Sat 10th April
Stansted Free Church
Entry by ticket only (£5) from
814059 or 813579
Proceeds to Methodist Homes

St John's, Stansted

St George's Day Supper
7 for 7.30 pm Sat 24th April

Delicious Pocknell Food Co menu and
themed entertainment! Bring own drinks.
Tickets £13 from Church on Sundays
and from the Church Office tel 815243.

Proceeds to The Children's Society

VILLAGE EVENTS

April

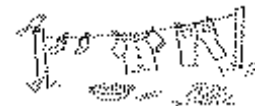
1 Thu Local History Society
2 Fri Good Friday Project
3 Sat / 4 Sun Skips
7 Wed Mountfitchet Club
Garden Club Show & AGM
8 Thu WI
9 Fri Jazz Night
10 Sat Organ Recital
17 Sat Stroke Awareness Day
17 Sat / 18 Sun Skips
19 Mon Art Class begins
24 Sat St George's Day Supper
25 Sun NCT Nearly New Sale
Manuden Singers' Concert

Day Centre 8 pm
St John's Church 9.30 am
Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
St John's Hall 7.45 pm
St John's Church 8 - 11 pm
Free Church 7.30 pm
Methodist Ch, B S 10 am - 2 pm
Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
Day Centre 11 am - 1 pm
St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
Hilton Hotel 2.30 - 4 pm
St Mary's Ch, Manuden 7.30 pm

May

1 Sat / 2 Sun Skips
2 Sun Free Introductory Bowling
St Mary's Church open
Windmill open
5 Wed Mountfitchet Club
Garden Club
6 Thu Local History Society
9 Sun Car Boot Sale
10 Mon Shalom Group
13 Thu WI

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
Bowls Club 1 - 4 pm
2 - 5 pm
1.30 - 5 pm
Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
Day Centre 8 pm
Mountfitchet College 11 am - 2 pm
7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
St John's Hall 7.45 pm



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2.30 - 4 pm Sun 25th April

Hilton Hotel, Stansted



Tel Kim 0844 2436 281

Manuden Singers

7.30 pm Sun 25th April
St Mary's Church, Manuden

Mendelssohn: Hymn of Praise

Handel: Ode for Queen Anne

Tickets £10 adults, £5 children

Tel Fiona 812157 or at the door

*Proceeds to ADAS - helping people from
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To advertise your **May** event please tel 814059 or email
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All entries subject to editorial approval



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3rd & 4th April 17th & 18th April
1st & 2nd May 15th & 16th May 29th & 30th May

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Sunday 2nd May
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Everyone Welcome



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2nd - 8th May

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**David Turner Cert PFS CeMap
Principal**

'Greenways' Park Rd Elsenham CM22 6DF

Tel/Fax 01279 816622

e-mail dtturner@greenways-financial-planning.co.uk

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Marcell Morelli MSc (Chiro), DC
Doctors of Chiropractic
Registered Chiropractors
20 Cambridge Road,
Stansted CM24 8BZ

www.greatback.co.uk



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

This emblem is our Essex badge. Each county has its own badge which they use to advertise local events as well as the National one. The latter has recently changed from the tree emblem to a more modern logo and I will try and get a reproduction of that for future use. A lot of people dislike the new modern look to the badge; but it was felt by the National Committee that we needed to be updated and appeal to wider groups of women. Indeed a lot of new WIs have been formed over the last two years. Some daytime ones in the London area have attracted young office women, who are anxious to learn some of the older skills such as knitting, sewing and cooking! The President of Shoreditch Sisterhood WI is really young and heads an Institute where most of the members are in their twenties! They of course can bring many skills to us older members especially on computers, communicating with each other mainly online. They are also keen to get involved with many of the campaigns launched by the WI movement, particularly those in support of women's refuges and the plight of many women overseas.

Last month we were lucky enough to welcome Paul Embleton as our speaker with his talk on the 'History of Postcards'. Paul has a wonderful collection which he has put onto slides and it was fascinating to trace the development of the first cards produced in 1870, which had no pictures, through to the 1890s when illustrations were added and became more important than the actual message itself. It was quite possible in the early 1900s to send a message in the morning that you would visit someone in the afternoon and it would be delivered in time. I think there were three deliveries a day then. A lot of cards of scenes of the First World War were produced and several samples were shown as well as elaborate cut-out cards and woven silk cards and the humorous cards of the '20s and '30s. Paul also has some wonderful local cards that he has found during his searches, one even addressed to a person who turned out to be a relative! The winning card in the competition, which was of course for an old postcard, was a photograph of a bearded Chelsea Pensioner holding a pipe and stick. Paul said this was very unusual (not the pipe and stick!) to be photographed in the uniform of a Pensioner. It was labelled W.Adams, age 88 and belongs to Marion Pretty, who hopes to find out who he was!

Our WI collects the tea-tokens from the Yorkshire Tea boxes and other products, whereby they pledge to protect the rainforest. For every four tokens we send they donate £1 to the Yorkshire Rainforest Project. If any of you use their tea and like to cut out the tokens, any WI member will bring them to me. We sent them about 300 last year. Yorkshire Tea Company has been doing this for the last 20 years and millions of trees have been protected.

Next month's speaker is Doug Killick whose talk is entitled 'Essex - Defender of London'. As always we invite any of

you to attend, cups of tea and homemade cakes a speciality – 7.45pm in St John's Hall, Thursday 8th April.



Judy Colliver

Brenda Ryan
President
Tel: 812725



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

'Life as an evacuee' was the title of a very interesting talk enjoyed by our members at a recent meeting. John Carter gave an illuminating talk about his years as an evacuee. He explained that he was taken from his school in Walthamstow on 1st September 1939 and, with his friend Terry, taken in by a couple who owned a farm near Oakham. His years as an evacuee were happy ones. He wrote an account of his experiences for his family; and after visiting an exhibition devoted to children in wartime held at the Imperial War Museum, decided to donate the letters that he had sent home to his parents together with his cardboard label which had been attached to him on that far off September day, to the museum. On the 70th anniversary of his evacuation he attended a commemorative service held in St Paul's Cathedral, along with hundreds of others, who went off into the unknown on that September day. Mr Carter's very interesting talk was rounded off with a display of copies of some of his letters home to his parents.

Andrea Fitt



STANSTED FUN RUN

www.stansted10k.org.uk
info@stansted10k.org.uk

11.00am Sunday 27th June

Planning is now well under way and we have already had a number of entries for this year's event in which we are supporting: Uttlesford Community Travel, Stansted Day Centre, St Clare Hospice, Assin Endwa and Samaritan's Purse. We are keen to have new people involved, and need more helpers for the following:

- Registering the entrants before the race
- Marshalling the route
- Helping with the barbecue
- Helping with the water points on the route
- Giving out water and medals on the green
- Helping to set up in the morning
- Helping to clear up at the end

Also, if any local businesses would be interested in sponsoring us, even if only a small amount, we would be very pleased to hear from you. All our sponsors are publicised on our entry forms, posters and website, and on Bentfield Green on the day of the run.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059
Email: info@stansted10k.org.uk

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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

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The 'History and Development of Madingley Hall Gardens' was the subject of our March meeting. Mr Richard Gant, Head Gardener for 23 years at Madingley Hall, explained how the estate and gardens had changed over the years and how they hoped to develop it in the future. The Hall was built by Sir John Hynde in 1543 and was occupied by his descendants until the 1860s. In 1860 Queen Victoria rented the Hall for her son Edward (the future King) to live in whilst studying at Cambridge. The family sold the Hall in 1871. There were several owners until in 1948, the Hall and estate were purchased by the University of Cambridge for £50,000. It is currently the home of the Institute of Continuing Education. The University of Cambridge donated 30½ acres of the estate to the United States of America, and in 1956 a cemetery and chapel was dedicated to the American servicemen who died in WWII.

Using a series of slides, Mr Gant showed how the garden had changed and developed over the years. The earliest picture was an engraving dated 1705, which showed a formal Dutch-style garden. However in 1756 Capability Brown was paid £200 to create a more fashionable and modern garden. The current view to the east of the Hall still portrays the undulating grassland and park with scattered trees and vistas. A walled garden was created at the same time and provided fruit and vegetables to the Hall until 1947. During the 20th century a Yew Topiary Garden was added and the University rebuilt and landscaped the courtyard that houses a host of alpinists, shrubs and climbers. In the 1980s a new garden was created featuring roses, pergolas, raised alpine beds and a sunken garden. At the present time the gardens are open to the public for the National Garden Scheme (9th May and 20th June) and the Plant Fair (12th September). It is hoped that the planned introduction of a series of talks entitled 'Meet the Gardener' will encourage more visitors to the gardens in the future.

April Meeting

7th April is our Mini-Spring Show and AGM at the Day Centre. The doors will open at 6.30pm for exhibitors. Bikini vases will be supplied by the Club and each entry per class will cost 20p. All exhibits need to be staged by 7.45pm. It is hoped that all members will enter at least one class. The AGM will start at 8.00pm and show winners will be announced at the end of the AGM. Visitors are very welcome to visit the show and attend the meeting.

May Meeting

5th May - This is the start of the new gardening club year – full details of the programme can be seen on the website. May's speaker is Mr Robin Carsberg who will tell us all about 'Tropical Tresco – The Abbey Gardens'.

Everyone is welcome to our monthly meetings which are held at The Day Centre, Crafton Green. Membership is available or come as a visitor. Photographs of past events and meetings can also be seen on the website.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Just about a month to go before the new outdoor bowling season starts and everyone at the Club is looking forward to this with eager enthusiasm. The Clubhouse has been given a fresh coat of paint and some new carpeting, and many thanks to John Pullin and his team for carrying out this remedial work. The green is looking pristine once again and as always a big thank you to Roy Barnes and other Club members for their help in this crucial maintenance over the winter period.

The final matches at Turpins indoor bowling are still to be played and, although we cannot say that it has been a particularly successful season for results, it has given our newer members a chance to become familiar with the different feel and technique required for indoor bowling, and they are confident that they and the Club will be more, much more competitive next year. The 'Prize Giving' evening on 26th February was a great success with a large turnout of both members and friends. Congratulations to all the winners and runners-up in both the ladies' and men's competitions.

We would like to welcome new members, so if you fancy trying your hand at bowls why not come along to the first of our free introductory sessions for new bowlers on Sunday 2nd May between 1.00pm and 4.00pm? All you will need is a pair of flat-soled shoes and a sense of humour, everything else is supplied. If you are new to the village this is a great way to join in with part of the community. If you are an 'experienced' bowler and would like to join a friendly club, you would of course be very, very welcome. The invitation for new or experienced members is of course open to both ladies and gentlemen. Further New Member days will be announced in future editions of the 'Link'. For more information please contact me or the Men's Captain, Del Sharp on 816144 or email: del.mon@btinternet.com. We look forward to seeing you.

Edward Taub
Hon Secretary
Tel: 816932

Email: ebtaub@googlemail.com



Stansted Cricket Club

Winter nets continue at The Bishop's Stortford High School for Boys each Saturday morning from 10.00am-11.00am. The new season opens on Saturday 1st May with the 1st XI away to South Loughton and the 2nd XI at home to Stansted Hall III XI. Detailed planning has begun for a Cricket Week to be held from 24th-31st July to commemorate our 150th season. To date mid-week matches are scheduled against Stansted Hall CC, Essex Club and Ground CC, and Harlow CC.

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ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

Business dinner raises £2,200 for Grove Cottage

Our 28th Annual Business Dinner was held at the Weston Business Centre. Nearly 150 people enjoyed the reminiscences, stories and mimicry (especially of Brian Clough) from Duncan McKenzie, the ex-professional footballer. An auction, of items largely donated by local businesses, and a 'heads and tails' game resulted in £2,200 being raised for Grove Cottage – the fantastic facility of the Bishop's Stortford Mencap. Around 20 Rotarians and their partners celebrated the Chinese New Year at Crimson 8 in Stansted. The Year of the Dragon began with a most enjoyable meal, and an energetic performance of the Chinese Lion Dance. A most enjoyable time was had by all.

On Saturday 17th April we will be joining with the Bishop's Stortford Rotary Club to take part in the annual national Stroke Awareness Day. Anyone with high blood pressure is potentially more at risk from suffering a stroke, so we will be providing the opportunity for people to have a free blood pressure check. The test will be carried out by qualified nurses at the Methodist Hall in South Street, Bishop's Stortford from 10am to 2.00pm. Prevention is better than cure, so do come along!

We meet on Tuesday evenings in Bishop's Stortford and would welcome new members – people who want to 'give something back' to their local community, whilst enjoying good fellowship, and having fun. Please contact me for more details or for more general information please visit www.ribi.org.

Malcolm Lloyd
Tel: 812235

Email: malcolmjudy_lloyd@btinternet.com



Huw Johnson Club

We returned to club after our winter break to a rousing disco evening as we celebrated Joanne's birthday. As we had missed seven more birthdays we were happy to sing to each individual in turn, although we were very glad of our coffee break. Sadly we had to say goodbye to two of our long standing members, brother and sister Kenny and Jane. We will miss them a lot but we wish them every happiness in their new home at Holland-on-Sea. We also said farewell to Kathryn Collis, one of our helpers. Kathryn has been a wonderful and enthusiastic leader, encouraging our members to join in activities. Kathryn has travelled to Rwanda to teach English to teenage girls who are hearing impaired. Fortunately for us Kathryn will return to club in the autumn. We also welcome David and Jennie who have volunteered as driver and escort.

Marion Johnson
Tel: 812284



494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

Our cadets have been busy of late engaged in various activities, some of which have been made more challenging by the weather! A series of training weekends held at Carver Barracks near Saffron Walden have been providing the unit with a chance to brush up its skills in navigation, archery, target shooting and leadership. There was also the chance for our cadets to mix with young people from other squadrons including Witham, Braintree and Dunmow. Thirteen 494 cadets attended a weekend's training in St John's Youth First Aid Course and all now carry the distinctive red badge on their brassards. Congratulations also go to Cadets Alder, Benhadj, Bruce and Perkes who all passed their First Class Cadet exam.

Cadets and staff from the Squadron attended the Annual Wing Presentation Evening held at the Civic Centre in Chelmsford. Units from all over the county were represented and we were very happy to learn that we had come second in the prestigious Willis Trophy. This is a competition judged on the whole range of activities carried out on the Squadron over the course of the year and it represents a significant achievement for the cadets, so well done indeed! Eight new recruits have recently started their initial training, they will learn a number of basic skills and on successful completion of the junior cadet course will be enrolled as full members of the Squadron. Cadet Sergeant Alice Brooks was called on to represent the Air Training Corps at Netball, this is a great personal achievement, a Corps Blue being the pinnacle of any cadet's sporting career within the ATC.

Finally we would like to give a public thank you to Mr Bob Stoddart of Stansted, who has kindly donated a number of items of aviation interest to the unit over the last year. His gifts are much appreciated and all have been given a good home in our headquarters. We are looking for new recruits for our next intake on 24th May. If you will be aged between 13 and 16 and are interested in joining, contact us for more information on 661929 or 681559 on Monday and Friday evenings between 7.00pm and 9.30pm (also a 24 hr answer phone) or email 494@aircadets.org.

Simon Stacey
494 Squadron ATC



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SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect
of the night sky



We talked last month of galaxies, most of them in the design of a revolving spiral of stars with tentacles (actually called arms), with a dense core of stars revolving very fast around the centre which, it is now believed, contains a black hole. Black holes have almost infinite density and, therefore, almost infinite gravity which would slowly but surely engulf the whole galaxy. However, the spinning (centrifugal) force of the galaxy counters sufficiently to keep the galaxy's structure. But there is rather more to the way galaxies exist. There are billions and billions of galaxies, mostly spiral, in every direction, and as they were studied more and more, with ever improving telescopes, astronomers began, first, to realise that galaxies actually exist in groups, and later, groups of groups, called supergroups.

This raised a very interesting question: What kind of force is it that can herd galaxies with the possibility of another force to create the supergroups? There is certainly nothing visible. We now put a very small toe into the sub-atomic universe. Theoretical physics is a wonderful and ever expanding world but even rudimentary study of the subject can cure insomnia. Yet, as we speak of the vastness of a single galaxy, everything comes down to the very, very small. (With luck, the Large Hadron Collider will take us to the even smaller.) The astronomers' answer is called 'String Theory'. Unfortunately, there are two quite separate theories called 'String' but the one we are investigating is the idea that strings of matter, whatever that matter is, are so dense that they have enough gravity to keep the galaxies in place. To do that, our string has to be almost infinitely thin and, wait for it, every inch of it has to have the same mass (weight) as the Earth. This may all sound as though someone is making all this up to dignify something we don't understand: indeed it may prove to be nonsense. The LHC, when up to full power, will find out more about sub-atomic particles by sending them in opposite directions then simply let them smash into each other so we can study the pieces. When those tiny, tiny particles hit each other, it will have the same energy as two family cars crashing head on at 60 mph. So please don't dismiss it; after all, you could come up with your own ideas.

Martin West
Mooncraft Productions

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Yet more delay on second runway: we can't go on like this

It could be another two years before a Public Inquiry into a second Stansted runway is held, the Government has been told. The news came in a letter from BAA to Communities Minister John Denham, copied to SSE. The airport operator told the Secretary of State that it would need 12 to 18 months to update its March 2008 planning application and that it could not realistically begin this until there is an end to the present uncertainty about the future ownership of the airport. That of itself could also take well over a year, meaning a further delay of between two and three years before any Public Inquiry could even start to consider BAA's second runway planning application. The Public Inquiry to consider BAA's March 2008 planning application for a second runway was originally due to start in April last year. BAA is now indicating that it could not start until 2012 or even 2013.

If the Public Inquiry does not start until 2013, it would be 2015 before a final decision could be announced, meaning that local residents and businesses who received compulsory purchase notifications from BAA in March 2008 would have endured seven years of blight and uncertainty before the final outcome was known. In reality, the blight on local communities in East Hertfordshire and North Essex began in July 2002 when the Government first published its proposals for making Stansted bigger than Heathrow. SSE has repeatedly called on BAA to withdraw its application and thereby allow local communities to return to some form of normality. However, BAA clearly sees some commercial advantage in trying to keep its second runway application on life support, pending an upturn in the market, a more favourable political climate or simply as a possible means of obtaining a higher price for Stansted in the event of a forced sale. BAA's response to the Secretary of State shows an appalling disregard for the local community. We have lived under the threat of a second runway for almost eight years now. The only honourable course open to BAA is to withdraw its applications and to give a clear and unequivocal statement that it will not be making new applications for a project which creates blight without any real prospect of success. With the support of our community, we will continue our campaign to prevent the catastrophic damage that would be caused by expansion at Stansted for as long as it takes - whoever the owner.

Peter Sanders
Chairman

Tel: 01799 520411

Carol Barbone
Campaign Director

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OLIVER! at MOUNTFITCHET MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



The lasting impression of this year's production is one of enthusiasm and enjoyment shown by the entire cast. The production itself was a good choice as it enabled the characters to project their personalities. Notable among the performers were Megan Warwick who carried the right air of vulnerability in the lead role, Robyn Green, vivacious in her singing but showing the compassion needed for Nancy's part, Alex Ross who so ably personified Fagin, Lewis Eldridge, the self-important Beadle, and Hayden Tierney who was a convincing Artful Dodger. To name them is not to diminish the contribution made by the others on the stage; they all came together remarkably well. The costumes reflected credit on both designers and wearers, while the orchestra adapted well to the changing moods and achieved just the right volumes for their vital supporting role.

The whole performance clearly demonstrated an immense effort involving over 100 pupils, staff and friends, which says so much for the College, the senior staff and its community. Congratulations, Mountfitchet, it was a real achievement.

Derek Honour



MMCC Folgaria 2010

During February half-term 43 students and six staff enjoyed a week's skiing in the Italian Dolomites region of Folgaria. The students thoroughly enjoyed not only blue sky skiing but also karaoke, pizza night, quiz night and ice skating amongst other things. They also embraced Italian culture and culinary delights, from trying to speak the language to enjoying the excellent food. Some students had never skied before and they returned home accomplished skiers which was superb to see. We arrived back at the end of the week aching, sore and exhausted but also happy and exhilarated following a wonderful experience which will live long in the memory.



Mr T Anderson
Head of Physical Education

MMCC PTA Quiz Night

The PTA held their annual Quiz Night on Saturday 6th March which was well attended by both parents and members of staff. Once again our quiz master for the evening was Russ Haselton who was ably assisted by wife Sarah, doing the marking and keeping the scores. A big thank you to them both for producing yet again a highly original and entertaining quiz. The round identifying chocolate bars by their cross section was particularly mouth watering!! During the interval a delicious ploughman's supper was served and the quiz re-started with everyone joining in a fun round of 'heads and tails'. The evening concluded with the raffle being drawn and presentation of prizes: bottles of wine to the winning table and consolation prizes of Boost bars to the losers! Thanks to all PTA members who helped and contributed to the success of this event. A fun time was had by all.

Yvonne Hardy and Tina South
Joint-Chairs MMCC PTA

Car Boot Sales

Sunday 28th March - Car Boot Sale. 11.00am-2.00pm (setting up from 10.00am). Pitches on the day £7.00 for cars, £12 for vans and lorries. Hot snacks available in College canteen. For enquiries please phone Tina on 814371 or Yvonne on 813071. Other dates: 9th May, 4th July and 26th September.

www.mmccpta.org.uk

At the last meeting of the Society, the topic was a little different from the usual one. Normally, we have subjects which have some bearing on the immediate life - past or present - of the locality, but on this occasion, we heard from Brian Williams about one of the characters who appeared on the national stage for nearly 40 years - Sir Oswald Mosley - a figure of great controversy. A poll of unpopular people placed him second to Richard III, but in a reassessment of his life in a biography by Skidelsky in 1975, he was thought to be "the best Prime Minister we never had"!

Born in 1896 as heir to the Baronetcy of Ancoats, he was educated at Winchester School and served bravely in the Great War, in which he was wounded. His marriages to firstly, Lady Cynthia Curzon and, when she died, to Diana Mitford, confirmed his place in Society but he was renowned as a persistent womaniser. He became a Conservative MP in 1918 but in 1924, 'crossed the floor' and joined the Labour benches, eventually becoming Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in Ramsay Macdonald's Government. In 1930, after his proposals to combat unemployment in the Depression were rejected, he became disillusioned again and firstly set up his New Party and when that did not take off, established the British Union of Fascists after meeting Benito Mussolini in Italy. Brian explained that in the 1920s and '30s, the main fear internationally was of Bolshevism, for which Fascism was seen as an antidote and it was only later that the horrors of anti-Semitism and brutality became associated with Fascism and Nazi-ism following the rise of Hitler.

Unfortunately, Mosley appeared out of step with most of the electorate and the stance he took with his attachment to Hitler, anti-Semitism, Edward VIII's Abdication Crisis and the Battle of Cable Street did nothing to improve the situation. His use of the 'Biff' Boys and other strong-arm tactics also worked against him. Then WWII commenced and in May 1940, he and his wife were interned. After the War, he made several attempts to re-enter politics, forming the Union Movement calling for a single nation state covering the continent of Europe and also proposing that there should be Imperial control of the whole of Africa - again attracting little support. He died in 1980 and was buried in Paris. We were profoundly grateful to Brian for recalling for us so much about a part of our recent history.

Next month we are returning to more local matters, with Roger Barrett telling us more about the Fuller Maitland family. As usual, this will be at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, at 8.00pm on Thursday, 1st April - see you there.



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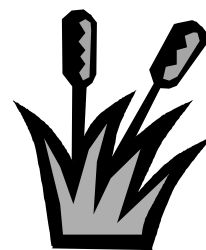
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Selina Rankin Tel: 01279 813388
info@srgardendesign.co.uk

Kevin Glogner Tel: 0750 668 9302
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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED MOVE OF ST MARY'S SCHOOL

As part of this process, Essex County Council held a meeting on Tuesday 23rd February for parents and other interested parties. It had been expected that a full presentation covering the reasons for the move to Foresthall Park, the design and advantages of the new school and ideas to mitigate issues for pedestrians and motorists in moving between the centre of the village including St John's (remembering that this is a Church school) and Foresthall Park would be included.

The Parish Council felt that the lack of information provided and the poor quality of the presentation (if indeed it could be designated as such) meant that neither the parents could be expected to judge whether the proposals were in the interests of their children nor could other parties who might be affected significantly by a change of use on the existing site.

The Parish Council has, therefore, asked for the consultation period to be extended (if necessary) and that another meeting is convened at which a comprehensive presentation should be made along with appropriate designs, drawings or models.

RELOCATION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES - CONSIDERING POSSIBILITIES

Assuming that the Primary Care Trust constructs the new health centre (negotiations are, so we are told, still on-going) then the Clinic will move from Crafton Green. The Parish Council will have to decide where to locate its offices given that there is a legal responsibility as well as a moral requirement to be accessible to those with disabilities. In addition the existing office is too small for current needs. The Council is now considering its options, some of which are listed below:

Relocate to the ground floor of Crafton Green House; lease Crafton Green to 3rd party and rent more appropriate accommodation; redevelopment of all or part of the site to provide better and additional community facilities.

It is right in this process to review all of the facilities now provided on the Crafton Green site and discussions on their future prospects will take place with Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council. Any significant redevelopment (if this was to be pursued) will require external funding and no major development could occur without the achievement of such funding. No decision of substance will be taken without consultation with the parish.

PARISH BOUNDARY REVIEW

It is expected that Uttlesford District Council will undertake a review of the parish boundary now that the building of Foresthall Park is moving ahead. At present Foresthall Park is divided between Stansted Mountfitchet and Birchanger.

This appears an unsatisfactory on-going position to have two parish councils on one estate with an arbitrary dividing line. Given its close proximity to Stansted Mountfitchet, it seems logical to move the whole estate into this parish, unless of course it is decided to establish a new parish council for Foresthall Park.

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS RESURFACING UNADOPTED ROADS

The Parish Council has a long-standing policy to contribute up to 15% of the resurfacing costs on an unadopted road. This policy was introduced and has been successful in encouraging the quality of these roads to be improved.

The Council has received indications from Residents' Associations for two major roads that they intend to undertake works in 2010. Assuming the works take place then the budget allocated for 2010/11 will be fully used. Thus no further applications will be considered until the following financial year ie 2011/12.

USING THE PARISH COUNCIL NOTICEBOARDS

The noticeboards are well used and this reflects well on the level of activities in and around the village. However, space may be at a premium. To minimise problems please observe a few

To minimise problems please observe a few simple rules:

- All notices should be A4 in size or smaller.
- Notices advertising events or services within Stansted take priority. Those covering other nearby communities are welcome but may be covered up temporarily if space requires.
- No commercial activities are to be advertised on these boards. Any such notices may be removed.
- Notices which are intended to remain on the boards for a period of time should be kept to a minimum and must be laminated. Tatty notices will be removed.
- The removal of notices is only permitted if the relevant date of the event/service has gone or if it is a commercial advertisement.

Hopefully the notice boards will continue to be a joy in appearance and information!

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

At the Council Meeting on 10 March, Mrs Iris Evans of Park Road was co-opted to fill the vacancy which arose following Gaye Ellington's departure from the village.

WILLOW TREE AT THE FOUNTAIN, CHAPEL HILL

As we go to print, soil testing is being undertaken at two properties close to the junction in order to establish the type of soil and the condition of the willow tree's roots. With this information, we can then assess whether the felling of the tree is likely to cause any knock-on effects in terms of heave to those buildings – all part of the risk assessment that we must undertake. We will keep you informed, but once the information is to hand, the Council can decide whether to fell the tree in one go, or whether it must be phased over a period of time.



The picture above shows how the junction used to look, with three established horse chestnut trees

and several people have suggested that we restore this look. However, since those times, cables and pipes have been laid underground, there are such things as sight-line requirements, health and safety and red tape!! There are strict rules relating to tree planting and the distance that must be kept from gas pipes etc. It is our intention to replace the willow, but it is likely that the planting will have to be kept to the eastern side of the junction, and perhaps with a smaller specie.

BIRCHANGER WOOD

In early March we were told that urgent work was required to trees in the wood, particularly along the boundary with the A120, but that the Trust had insufficient funds in its account to complete the work. The work was ordered by Hertfordshire County Council Highways – as the trees posed a danger to traffic on the by-pass. As part owners of the Wood, the Parish Council shares liability for maintenance of the Wood and has agreed to contribute £500 towards these costs.

WINDMILL

We are still on course for completion of the project at the end of March. Thoughts are now turning to how we might celebrate the re-opening of the Mill when the better weather comes!



ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

As the weather improves, so the bedding plants should start to recover – the bulbs are certainly coming through now and hopefully we will see a host of golden daffodils before too long. Summer planting this year will be a repeat of last year, with marigolds in all the beds, including the newly formed bed at the corner of Blythwood Gardens.

We are, however, changing the hanging baskets. For many years we have planted them with mini cascade pink geraniums which are effective, but we have received comments that perhaps it is

time for a change! We have listened, and this year you will see mauve petunias with white daisies – any feedback in due course would be appreciated.

Finally on the gardening subject, we will be looking at gardens, tubs, beds and baskets for this year's Stansted in Bloom competition. Last year, the judges wandered at random around the village looking for award-winning displays, and some people were nominated by friends or neighbours. This less formal approach worked very well and will be repeated this year. In next month's Link you will find a cut-out nomination form which can be used to put forward your own efforts or those of someone else. The competition is not only for gardens, but any floral effort that has been made to brighten up a property or street scene.

SECURITY

We have recently learned of two burglaries from dwellings on one night in early March, following which some words of caution arrived from our Chief Inspector:

Uttlesford has one of the lowest recorded rates of domestic burglary - if you want the statistics we had 1.3 burglaries per 1000 households in the last quarter. That is amazingly low and we are well placed when measured against the most similar group of districts nationally that we are compared against. Rather than be satisfied with that, we are committed to continuing to reduce the number of dwelling burglaries further because it is a horrible crime that we are keen to have as few victims as possible suffering.

One of the latest pieces of information that we have discovered is that many recent burglaries have been committed by entering through UPVC back doors. These doors have a number of different locking mechanisms – some can be locked by simply lifting the handle; in others lifting the handle drives across a closing bolt but a key is needed to lock the door. It is clear from speaking to recent victims that they had thought they were locking their doors when they were just closing them and actually if the handle was operated from the outside their door would still open. This mechanism is also available on conservatories and can be used with wooden doors so this message is for everyone.

Please make sure you know how your locks operate so when you are locking up you are, in fact, locking up. If you need any assistance with door locks or are confused about this message then please speak to our crime reduction advisor, Peter

Caulfield on 0300 333 4444 and he will be happy to advise you.

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

7 April	Full Council
14 April	Open Spaces
21 April	Full Council
28 April	Finances & General Purposes

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Catherine Dean	813579
Iris Evans	815848
Jo Freeman	812524
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489
Peter Jones	813252
Janice Loughlin	812346
Tudor Owen	812825
Ruth Rawlinson - V/Chairman	814222
Jonathan Rich	813112
John Salmon	814789
Dan Scott	815098
Geoffrey Sell - Chairman	815925
Bill Stiles	813172
Valerie Trundle	813433

CONTACT US!

Clerk - *Ruth Clifford*
Admin Assistant - *Anne Court*
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10am - 1pm

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

The deal with South Cambridgeshire District Council to make savings by sharing staff, accommodation and computing facilities has well and truly fallen through with an unedifying spat of claim and counter-claim in the press between the two councils. The falling-out was precipitated by a back-bench revolt within South Cambs. The Cam-bourne based council runs a cabinet-style system of decision making whereas Uttlesford runs the more inclusive committee system. It seems that the South Cambs cabinet didn't involve those councillors outside the cabinet until a deal was almost sewn up, and they didn't like it! Uttlesford's Conservative administration also wants to switch to the cabinet system next year. I think we need to tread carefully and learn some lessons from this recent costly debacle.

There have been complaints on behalf of pedestrians about the appallingly long-standing unsafe surface of Water Lane near the railway Black

Bridge. Discussions with Essex Highways have been arranged, though I don't want to raise expectations about an early improvement as everyone has been avoiding responsibility and action to repair the surface for years.

Walson Way is expected to have been opened through to Church Road by Easter. Once that is done, the 510 bus will be routed along Walson Way and will use the smart bus stops that have been installed. Essex County Council has told me that there isn't time for the 7/7A bus route to be extended to Walson Way to provide a link to and from the 510 and that part of Stansted. I have told them that I disagree as I believe it would add only 30 seconds to the journey of the 7/7A.

(Cllr Alan Dean)

Local Development Framework-Further Consultation

All households should have received a questionnaire from the Council about its 'Local Development Framework'. It is entitled Developing Uttlesford. From 15 February until 9 April the Council is asking among other things, for opinions on the location of 4000 new houses in the district over the next decade and beyond.

Some readers will remember that two years ago four options were put forward for consideration, with the District Council stating its preferred option to be Option 4 - a 3,000 home new town between Elsenham and Henham. This new consultation is also seeking views on where the balance of 1,000 houses should go to complete Option 4. The document states that the Council would like to hear your views on whether you agree with the Elsenham proposal or whether you think there is a better option, and why. If you believe like me that a significant new development at Elsenham would have a detrimental effect upon Stansted, it is important to respond to this consultation.

In the last two years various technical studies have been carried out and each option for housing growth has been examined and compared. So the consultation also asks a question about whether Option 4 is the best one, or whether residents would prefer a new settlement on land at either i) north-east of Great Chesterford or ii) Boxted Wood, Stebbing, or iii) Easton Park (between Stansted Airport and Great Dunmow), or iv) Chelmer Mead, Nr Great Dunmow.

Other questions in the consultation are about airport growth, business growth and local jobs and traveller and gypsy sites.

There is also the opportunity to respond on-line at www.uttlesford.gov.uk. All the technical studies are also available at links from the same web-page and in paper copy at Stansted library. Your attention is drawn to the Comparative Transport Analysis and the Comparative Sustainability Assessment. Do you agree with the scoring system in the latter analysis that narrowly rates Elsenham as the best location for most new housing? Do you agree with the assumptions used in this assessment? Tell the council what you think.

Council Tax 2010/11

The Council has agreed to a 2.9% increase for the forthcoming financial year. For Band D this amounts to £147.42 per annum. Although this is a welcome reduction from last year's increase of nearly 5%, I believe more could have been done. For the current financial year 2009/10 there is a substantial under-spend with £761,000 being committed to the reserves. I supported an amendment which would have meant a 1.2% increase in council tax. This was however defeated.

(Cllr Geoffrey Sell)

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members

<i>Alan Dean</i>	Tel: 01279 813579
Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>John Hudson</i>	Tel: 01279 814489
Email: cllrhudson@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>John Salmon</i>	Tel: 01279 814789
Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>Geoffrey Sell</i>	Tel: 01279 815925
Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk	

Essex County Council Member

<i>Ray Gooding</i>	Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk	

Member of Parliament

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 0207 219 5214/Fax: 0207 219 5600
Email: haselhursta@parliament.uk

Police

<i>PC Tom Bastendorff</i>	Tel: 01279 812211
Non-emergency number	0300 333 4444
<i>PCSO's (Stuart/Kelly)</i>	Tel: 07801 461 666

BISHOP'S STORTFORD & DISTRICT TALKING NEWSPAPER

How can you use printed words such as this article to convey a message to people who cannot read much, if anything at all, because of poor eyesight? How do you inform them that you have something that may be of interest to them? The



answer is that you cannot do it directly. You have to rely on other people to think about them. That is why we are putting this article in the 'Link' magazine because you may have a relative, neighbour or friend who is visually impaired. If so, please would you tell them about the local Talking Newspaper? It is a good way for visually impaired people to keep in touch with what is going on in this area. The service is completely free.



The Talking Newspaper is really the Herts & Essex Observer in spoken form. There are two editions of the Observer, covering news from Bishop's Stortford, Stansted, Dunmow, Sawbridgeworth and the neighbouring villages. Each week we select the main items, record them on to audiotapes and send them out by post to our listeners. The Observer comes out on a Thursday and the tapes should arrive on Saturday morning. We can also provide the same free service for people who can see but who cannot cope with a newspaper because of some other physical disability. Do you know anyone who might like the Talking Newspaper? If so, please contact either Richard Barnett on 651270 or Christine Heyhoe on 653925. We can easily arrange for them to have a tape to try it out, without any commitment. It is also straightforward to sort out a tape player for anyone who doesn't already have one.

Richard Barnett



This month 11 new pupils have joined Rainbow Pre-school and are settling in well. The older group children have finally made their trip into Bishop's Stortford to purchase the bulbs for their planting tubs. The trip had been previously postponed due to the snow and wet weather in the past couple of months. Unfortunately, once the children had purchased their bulbs, heavy snow started to fall again, so the children had a quick ten-minute run in the park followed by a hot chocolate. A further trip into Bishop's Stortford is planned to purchase fruit and vegetables as part of the children's learning about healthy eating.



Thank you to everyone who attended and helped out at our Pamper Evening and Nearly New Sale. Both events were well attended and raised much-needed funds for the Pre-school. Finally, many thanks to the grandmother and great aunt of one pupil for their kind donation to the pre-school (instead of giving Christmas presents), which has been used to buy diggers for the construction site in the outside area. If you are interested in a place for your child at Rainbow Tots (age 18 months to 2½ years) please contact Tina South on 814371. If you are interested in a place at the Pre-school please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for further information.

Liz Stanley
Rainbow Committee

DAY CENTRE

What's new for April at Stansted Day and Community Centre for the over 55s? A new Art Group will be starting at the Centre from Monday 19th April. The sessions will be led by Jenny, who specialises in painting flowers with acrylics. The theme for the group will be 'The Seasons'. The group will meet every Monday from 11.00am-1.00pm. A charge of £2.50 will apply for each session including refreshments and must be booked in advance. If that's not for you why not join us for a Mystery Tour with a pub lunch on 14th April or try one of our delicious home cooked lunches at the Centre on a Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. If you would like any further information, or to reserve your place, please telephone 815091.



Liz Ironside
Manager

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Stansted Tennis Club



Dates for your diary

There are a couple of tournaments scheduled to take place over the next few weeks. These will depend on the proposed court resurfacing, which is now scheduled for the end of March, depending on the weather. If you are a member and would like to enter, please put your name up on the list in the clubhouse.

Sunday 25th April - Adult/Child Tournament - 12.45pm.

Sunday 9th May - Cayless Chilli Tournament - 12.30pm.

Annual General Meeting

This took place on Monday 8th March and 13 people attended. The present committee was re-elected with no changes. The proposed subscription rates were adopted.

Coaching

The Friday lunchtime adult coaching session starts at 1.45pm and finishes at 2.45pm. If you would like to come along and join in, please call Chris Hollis on 319155 (please do not just turn up). You don't have to be a member of the club to join in. Chris is currently collecting names of Year 2 and 3 children who are interested in starting tennis lessons. If there is enough interest, hopefully a new group will be established in the near future. There are several after-school coaching groups for various ages during the week. If you would like to find out more details, please give Chris a call. Martyn Taplin (816386) is planning to change his adult coaching slot from a Saturday afternoon to a Monday evening. When this change will take place depends on when the courts have been resurfaced. Please phone Martyn should you wish to join in or want the latest update.

Used Tennis Balls

Priced at a reasonable £1 per tin of four balls, please contact Jan Hollis on 812073 or call at 105 Cambridge Road.

Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions:

Wednesdays at 10.00am and 6.00pm.

Fridays at 9.30am. Sundays at 10.00am.

A new trial will start on 12th April. This is a Ladies' Evening, starting at 6.30pm on the second Monday of every month. All lady members are welcome. If you are not a member and would like to take part, you are able to attend three times before needing to join the club. A £2 visitor's fee is payable on each visit. This is not a coaching session, but a chance for ladies who currently attend coaching at the Club to come and join in with established team players.

Contacts

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



Chris Hollis



RED CROSS WEEK

2nd-8th May 2010

There will be door to door collections in Stansted during this week as part of the annual fundraising event. The Red Cross helps people in crisis, wherever and whoever they are, both in the UK and abroad. Some of the ways the money is spent are:

First Aid - training people to cope with emergencies and providing first aid cover at public events.

Medical Equipment - short and long term loans eg wheel-chairs, walking frames (new medical equipment centre is now open in Harlow)

Care in the Home - volunteers help people after stays in hospital.

Therapeutic Care - this provides gentle massage for people in stressful situations.

Skin Camouflage - shows people how to cover a wide range of skin conditions.

Emergency Response - the Red Cross responds to hundreds of emergencies in the UK each year.

International Work - responding to major disasters around the world - refugee support and assistance - international tracing and message service, putting people back in touch

Your support for these collections will be really appreciated.

Christine Stiles
Tel: 813172



Royal British Legion Stansted & District Branch

POPPY APPEAL

In my article in the February 'Link' I sought some assistance with the Poppy Appeal in Stansted for this year and into the future. Unfortunately my appeal failed and no offers of help were received. The Legion in Stansted has a small but dedicated band of volunteers for the House-to-House collection part of the Appeal, but there is a void of help from the railway line up to the new Foresthall Park. However I need to have one or two people to assist me in the organising and distribution of poppies and tins throughout the village with a view to being able to take it over in the fairly near future. I would welcome the opportunity of discussing my needs in order to continue the work and organisation of the Appeal in Stansted and I ask you to consider the care and support the Legion gives when making your decision.

John L Segar
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser
Tel: 813289

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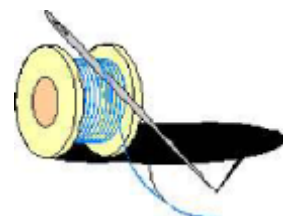
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THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

The Trustees of the Gardens of Easton Lodge in Little Easton, near Dunmow, would like to thank all those who travelled from parishes across the region to visit the Snowdrop Sundays in February and March. On one March Sunday alone, more than 1200 adults, many accompanied by children, came to explore the marvels of the snowdrop carpets, proving once again the tremendous popularity of this much-loved local amenity. Volunteers for the Trust have been manning the gates and grounds, as well as serving home-made soups, cakes and other refreshments in the courtyard of Warwick House at the heart of the gardens to make the open days even more enjoyable.



The team is determined that these much-loved gardens be opened regularly and enjoyed to the full and a series of once-a-month Sunday openings is planned from April to October, as follows: 18th April, 23rd May, 20th June, 18th July, 22nd August, 19th September and 10th October. Opening hours for these dates are 12 noon to 6.00pm. Tickets cost just £2.50 for adults, children enter free. Further information from the recorded information service on 01371 876979, online at www.eastonlodge.co.uk or by emailing enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk. The Gardens of Easton Lodge are located just outside Great Dunmow in Little Easton, off the B184 Great Dunmow to Saffron Walden road. Follow the brown heritage signs.

Carol Barbone
Volunteer at the Gardens of Easton Lodge
Tel: 07775 523091



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

STANSTED MILLERS

With the contractors moving towards completion of the renewal project, the Millers are preparing for their new role as operators of a living windmill. It is 100 years since the sails regularly turned, so we are now making plans for a public celebration to mark the occasion. Although we are not in the business of grinding corn, the mill will demonstrate the energy which is available from nature. The cap was restored to its position on 11th March and the following fortnight should see the sails reinstated. We expect to re-open to the public on 2nd and 3rd May.

Derek Honour

BURGLARIES AT BREWERY LANE, CAWKELL CLOSE AND CHURCH ROAD

As you may know, the issue of domestic burglaries is one which has been vexing me and my fellow Parish Councillors recently. Matters have taken a very personal turn for me in the last couple of weeks. On the night of 27th/28th February three serious domestic burglaries took place in Stansted. One of these took place at my home in Brewery Lane, while we were away for the weekend. It has been particularly devastating for my wife, our children and myself. One aspect is that three (quite old) Toshiba notebook computers (we have the serial numbers) were stolen, together with our backup drive. Our router and telephones were broken. The results of this (and the fact that we did not have off-site storage) include the loss of pictures of our wedding, young children and other family pictures.

For various reasons, the police are particularly keen to solve all these crimes and the matter is being dealt with by DC Andrews of Essex CID (0300 333 4444 Ext 63837). We are desperate to recover our pictures and are offering a reward, which we are very confident, exceeds the value of the machines. The police have already recovered a significant amount of the property taken from the other burglaries (in Cawkell Close and Church Road) - some of it from the street. If anyone in the village becomes aware of information concerning the whereabouts of our machines, we would be very grateful indeed if they could either inform the police or us. Louise and I would also like to thank people for the enormous amount of kindness and support that we have had.

Jonathan Rich
Tel: 07956 254542
Email: joerichlaw@aol.com



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Larry Woods
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Tel: 07866 765176

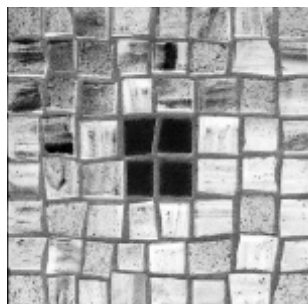
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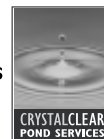
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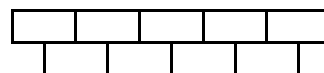


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Nature Notes

Apparently scientists are now agreed that the dinosaurs were wiped out by the impact of a meteorite. Nature is very resilient and many life forms survived the ensuing 'winter', including some small mammals from which we humans eventually evolved. We have just experienced the longest cold winter for decades and although this was on a minuscule scale compared to the meteorite winter, many of us have seen at close hand the effect on our local wildlife. The garden bird population has been decimated by ravenous sparrowhawks as described last month, and early spring flowers have stayed in bud or not appeared at all so far. But nature is adaptable to changing conditions. Our solitary blue tit and coal tit both lost their mates but other birds around the garden have fared better and are obviously getting ready for nesting time. The hedgerows are far less green than this time last year, but a walk round our local lanes will reveal bluebell leaves shoot-



ing up and cow parsley starting to flower. The yellow hazel catkins have been hanging on the bushes for some time now. These are the male flowers; you have to look closely to see the female flowers, small crimson stars, which are now appearing on the stems at the bases of the catkins. If you walk along the southern end of

Lime Kiln Lane off Pines Hill you will be rewarded with a fine display of snowdrops which should convince you that spring is on the way.

Felix



BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tel: 01279 813626

At Bentfield School we are very fortunate to be sited within beautiful wooded grounds. Part of our site will be known to everyone in the village who attends our hugely popular Music in the Park (10th July – put the date in your diary!) and it is here we have our Forest School sessions. The philosophy of Forest Schools is to 'encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive experiences and participation in engaging and motivating achievable tasks and activities in a woodland environment helping to develop personal, social and emotional skills'. This reflects everything we aim for in the classrooms in a natural environment. We visit the same wooded area on a regular basis in all weathers (except high winds), and this enables the children to notice the changes throughout the year. Through play, the children learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others.

If you have a child who will be three years old by September 2010 just phone to make an appointment so you can come and see our Nursery and chat about a Nursery place for this September. If you would like to know more about our nursery provision or the Forest School initiative please contact Aileen Smith at Bentfield Primary School.

Andrea Darby

PTA News

On 6th March we held an entertainment quiz at the school. It was a great night and we would like to thank Eileen for pro-

ducing the quiz for us and Pocknell Food Company for the delicious beef stew and mash we were served. We had a full house at the event and it was lovely to see some new faces there and we managed to raise nearly £400.00 for the school.

The children will be taking part in the annual Easter egg hunt just before the Easter holidays and there is also an Easter picture competition being held within school. The committee is also in place for the May Fayre that will be taking place on Saturday 22nd May and will have a re-cycling theme. Plans are well underway for the traditional Music in the Park event on Saturday 10th July.

Kerry Freegard

STANESTEDA

*('Hubert holds Stansted of Robert, which Godwine, a free-man held in the time of King Edward as a manor ...') **

When he shared England out the Duke
Gave me one of the short straws - Stanesteda,
The stony place, its strips of fields thick
With flints as a hermit's hairshirt with lice.

If only stones had been worth money ...
But anyway there I was finally stuck
In the middle of nowhere, with only
A troop of soldiers and a few serving-men.

The locals were wall-eyed brutes used to living
On slim pickings - I have never seen anything
More sullen than a Saxon peasant.
But they are all gone now, and the village

Changed beyond recognition, its forests
Thinned to a few copses, its farms nothing
But endless plains of cereal crops.
I suppose it isn't really surprising –

A thousand years is a long time.
When I lived here the dirt tracks stifled horse
And rider with dust in summer, and in winter
Trapped carts in a mire. Now magic has taken the place

Of horses, and, merde! You have actually
Learned how to fly! Even when he was staggering
Drunk, my old alchemist never claimed
That he could do that. Well, it's good to see

The old place ... again, although I notice
You seem to have trouble spelling its name.
That's one thing that doesn't surprise me -
You Saxons always were a backward race.

Ashleigh John

** Translation from Domesday Book.*



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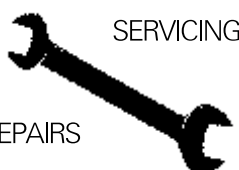
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EASTER EGGS AND DOGS

At a certain point last week I found myself in a back garden in Bishop's Stortford uttering the words, "the best way to catch a pig is ..." It got me thinking; first of all that being a vet is a funny old job sometimes and secondly that I can be a fountain of incredibly random and useless bits of information. Other examples are that Border Collies have the fastest nip of any dog breed and an angry swan is worse than an angry goose! I could go on but you get the picture. It also struck me that in my job, you get to the stage where you think you have come across most situations and can manage most tasks and then a new one pops up unexpectedly. The trouble is this still happens on almost a daily basis. It seems there are a never-ending combination of animals, diseases, people and circumstances.

Some things do happen fairly regularly, however, and this month of course it's Easter and I expect we shall get one or two dogs that have managed to steal the odd Easter egg and make themselves ill. As I've said in previous articles, chocolate can be poisonous to dogs if eaten in large enough quantities. This is because it contains a substance called theobromine, which can cause vomiting, restlessness, salivation and in severe cases heart problems and epileptic fits. The darker the chocolate, the more theobromine there is, so if your dog has pinched the odd milk chocolate, there's probably nothing to worry about, but if it has eaten a box of dark chocolates, ring the surgery! If the dog has eaten the chocolate within the previous two to three hours we can give it an injection to make it sick, so the theobromine can't be absorbed. If it has been over three hours we may need to put the dog on intravenous fluids. One example of finding the unexpected occurred last week. We had a dog in that had eaten some rat poison. We gave it the injection and like magic it was sick and as well as the rat poison it brought up a strange metal object. When we showed it to the owner, she said it was part of a doorknob that had disappeared at Christmas! So, I hope you all have a good Easter and get all the eggs you wish for and also that you manage to keep your dogs away from them and any stray doorknobs!

Ilse Pedler
Partner
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons

PAYE CODE PROBLEMS

HM Revenue & Customs has recently issued a large number of PAYE Coding Notices for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 tax years. The PAYE code is sent to the taxpayer as a P2 notice, breaking down how the code was calculated. A note of the code, without any analysis, is sent to his or her employer or pension company. If you have received a PAYE Coding Notice recently do check it carefully as any corrections need to be made as soon as possible to avoid incorrect tax deductions. Unfortunately, a number of our clients have noticed errors in this year's PAYE Coding Notices. This has also been reported in the news and has occurred since HMRC started using a new computer system. Some of our employed clients have received codes saying that their salaries should all be taxed at 40%, even though they are not higher rate taxpayers! With some of our retired clients, the age allowance or married couples allowance has disappeared or the state pension amount is understated. Some of the 2010/11 codes have missed off the basic personal allowance, which should be £6,475 unless you are lucky enough to have income in excess of £100,000.

Also, some of our clients have received several PAYE Coding Notices in quick succession and in this situation you only need to check the Notice with the most recent date of issue for each tax year and income source (employer or pension company). If this Notice is incorrect or you have any doubts you can call the telephone number on the Notice and the HMRC staff can often correct the code immediately. Also, if you have an accountant, they can check the code for you. Until resolved, any of these problems could lead to a big drop in net income or a tax bill at a later date, so check the Coding Notices carefully as employers and pension companies are obliged to use them until HMRC issue an amendment.

Mark Williams FCCA ACIS
Mansell & Co LLP



STANSTED BEAVERS

Stansted Beavers recently enjoyed learning some campfire songs. Given the weather, we sat around an indoor 'campfire' but there was still plenty of atmosphere. After lots of singing we finished up with marshmallows dipped in chocolate - yum yum! On a healthier note, we have made fruit smoothies and been hiking to look for signs of spring. The Beavers have also taken part in some district events, including a craft afternoon and a fun quiz which included things like crisp tasting (OK, maybe that bit wasn't all that healthy ...). As usual we've been busy with plenty of craft activities, but now that spring is well and truly sprung we are looking forward to spending more time outdoors too. If you have a child who would like to become a Beaver please call 814371.

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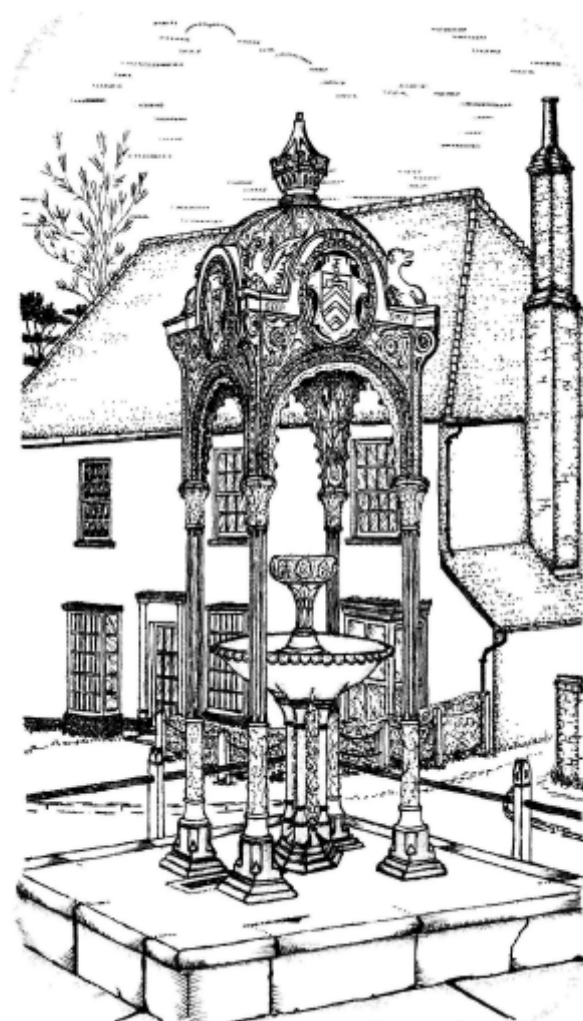
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Young horses lived here | 12. A staggeringly good road to be on if you are thirsty. |
| 2. River Crossing | 13. You won't find Elizabeth and Richard here. |
| 3. Does your girl friend live here? | 14. Mansion in a wood. |
| 4. Inter a tree here. | 15. A grinding climb. |
| 5. Crooked meadow. | 16. Get on your horse here. |
| 6. It sounds like birds in a valley | 17. Guns or clergy. |
| 7. But certainly a bird here. | 18. Where to leave your car! |
| 8. Pebbles are plentiful here | 19. Best place to be in the street. |
| 9. Royalty near. | 20. Leisure space. |
| 10. Polar animal. | |
| 11. Route used by invaders? | |

(Answers on page 35)

THE FOUNTAIN - *a potted history,* *with acknowledgement to the late Irving Sanders*

The 'Elegant Drinking Fountain' was opened on Stansted Fair Day - 1st May 1871. The site was formerly occupied by buildings including the 'Cock' Beer House (Landlord William Amey) and a blacksmith's shop inhabited by the Brett family. This latter appears to have been the remains of a pre-reformation hermitage or chapel, built by the Earl of Oxford and occupied by John Parrot in 1492. These old buildings were bought for £500, raised by public subscription, and demolished. The Fountain was presented by Henry Parry Gilbey of 'The Cottage' (later known as Bentfield Hall and since demolished) and his brother Walter of Hargrave Park. It cost £35 and was manufactured by Macfarlane & Son of Glasgow and erected by J L Glasscock of Bishop's Stortford. The water supply came from Hick's new Steam Flour Mill which had been erected on what later became the site of the water works at the rear of Spencer House. An artesian well which had been sunk there proved so prodigal that surplus water was piped off to neighbouring properties. In time the Stansted Water Company took it over.

The top step of the Fountain was originally paved with tiles and the water issued from a gilded stork under the dome. There were four taps and cups and the whole was surmounted by a gas light and signpost. The addition of the Mountfitchet crest to each face of the dome was made in Coronation Year, 1953. In recent years its surroundings have seen many changes.



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Photograph shows the Jasmine house type at Foresthall Park. *Available on selected plots at selected developments, subject to status, terms and conditions and using a Persimmon-nominated solicitor as necessary. †Calls to 0845 numbers are now free with BT depending on your Calling Plan. Mobile and other providers' charges may vary. Prices and details correct at time of going to press.



TWO TREATS FOR EASTER TEA



LEMON COCONUT COOKIES

8oz (225g) butter or margarine
2oz (55g) icing sugar
1 teasp vanilla essence
6oz (140g) flour
2oz (55g) cornflour
¼ teasp salt
lemon curd
coconut

Cream butter and icing sugar; add vanilla essence. Mix flour, cornflour and salt and fold into butter mixture. Take one dessertspoonful of mixture, form into a ball and flatten slightly. Place on tray 1" apart. Bake in hot oven Gas 6, 400°F, 200°C for 10-15 minutes until the edges are golden. Spread with lemon curd and sprinkle with coconut.

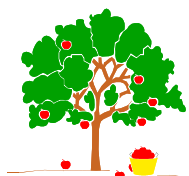
CHOCOLATE RAISIN SQUARES

4oz (110g) margarine
3 tbsp caster or granulated sugar
1 small egg, beaten
½ teasp (2.5 ml) vanilla and peppermint essence
2 rounded tbsp drinking chocolate
8oz (225g) crushed digestive biscuits
5oz (140g) seedless raisins
4-6oz (110-170g) melted block chocolate

Melt margarine in large pan, add sugar, stir until dissolved. Beat in egg, stir over gentle heat for a few seconds. Remove pan, add flavouring, mix well. Add other ingredients (except melted chocolate). Mix well. Put in 8" x 12" (20 x 30 cm) greased Swiss roll tin, press down. Cover mixture with melted chocolate. Leave to cool and set, then cut into squares.

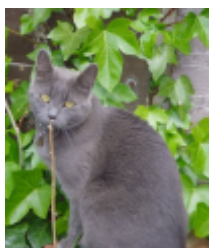
TRUE LOVE

"You are more precious to me
Than that old apple tree"
He said as she fell on her head
"You'll climb it no more
To prune with a saw
I'll buy you some loppers instead"



Loki

MISSING CAT



- Grey Moggy
- Male
- Neutered

Missing from Stansted.
Owners are deeply upset.

Please call anytime ~ **REWARD**
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STANSTED ROAD QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Coltsfield
2. Cambridge Road
3. Gall End
4. Alderbury Road
5. Bentfield
6. Croasdale Road
7. Dove Close
8. Stoney Common
9. Queens Close
10. White Bear
11. Normans Way
12. Brewery Lane
13. Burton End
14. Forest Hall Road
15. Mill Hill
16. Mount Drive
17. Cannons Mead
18. Park Road
19. Sunnyside
20. Recreation Ground

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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 form below to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG. Details must be submitted by the 11th of the month for publication the following month.

Message _____

Sender's Name _____ Tel _____



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