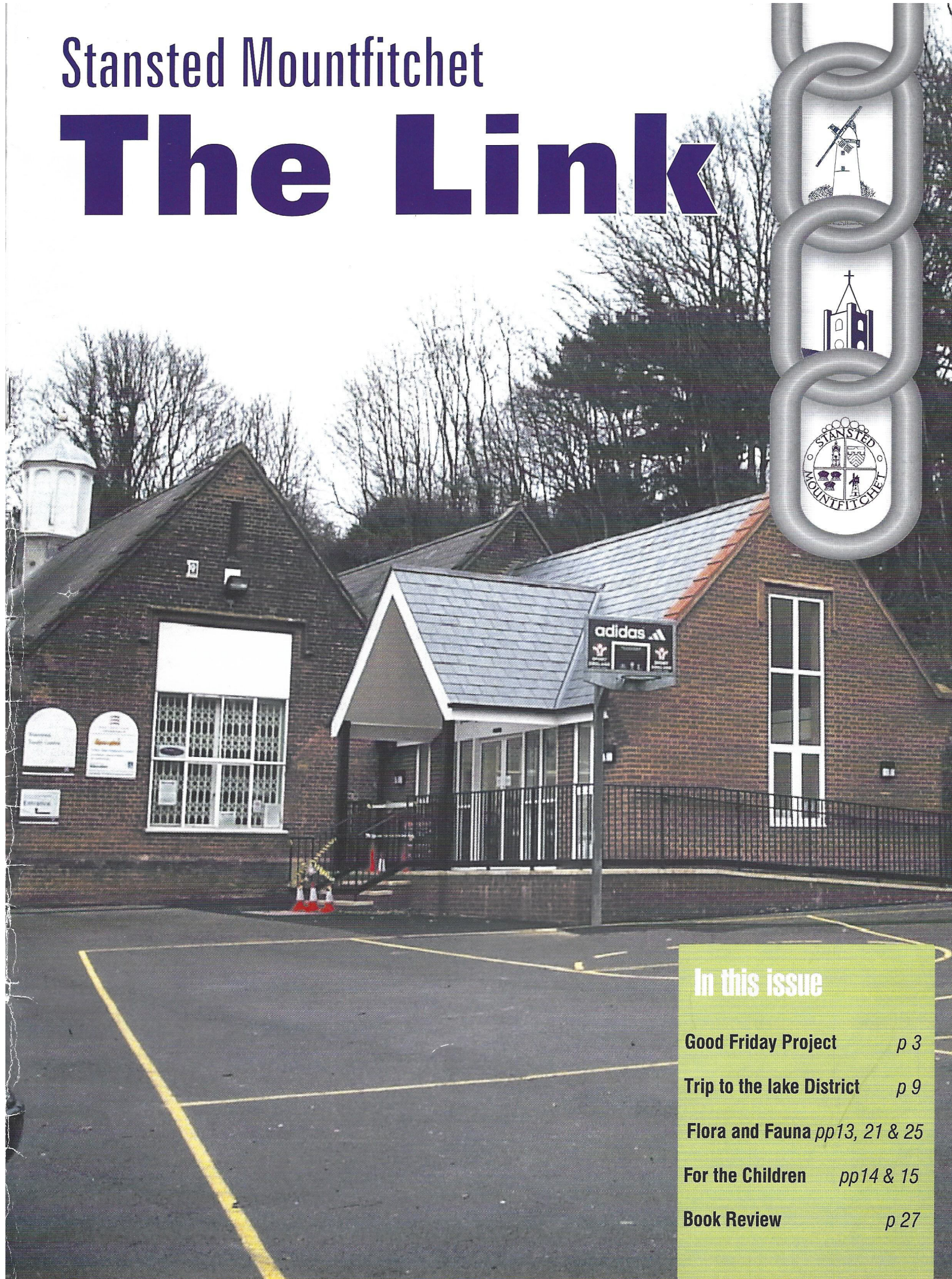
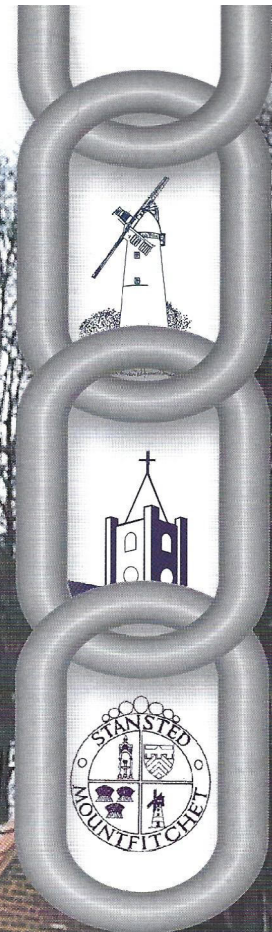


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



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- Flora and Fauna *pp13, 21 & 25*
- For the Children *pp14 & 15*
- Book Review *p 27*

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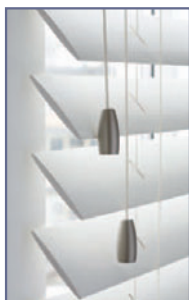


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The Link is delivered free to nearly 3000 homes and businesses in Stansted Mountfitchet. Further copies may be purchased for 50p

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

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

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

EDITORIAL



It seems that we can now officially welcome residents of the whole of Foresthall Park to Stansted (see page 17). It's not the first time the village has extended its boundaries to include other communities, as presumably both Burton End and Bentfield End were once completely separate hamlets. Despite the fact that its size, in terms of population, is probably now equal to that of a small town, Stansted continues to retain its 'village feel'. The reason for this can be found within the pages of the 'Link' amongst the articles and reports from the numerous clubs and organisations - prepared mainly by local residents. We are fortunate that there are so many people willing to participate in village life, making Stansted such a vibrant community.

Of course, there's always room for more residents to get involved! Mr Andrew Sheriff is one such person who has done just that, by agreeing to be our Treasurer at the 'Link'. We extend a warm welcome to Andrew, and express our gratitude to his predecessor, Emily Winter, ably assisted by June Winter, for carrying out such a vital role with efficiency and good humour. Long may the willingness of Stansted folk to 'volunteer' continue!!

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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

One week after Good Friday, Prince William and Kate Middleton will be getting married. I was living in Cardiff when Charles and Diana were married in 1977. How romantic and starry-eyed that couple looked, especially the bride-to-be. Sadly, all that changed, with the break-up of their marriage, and Diana's tragic death in a car crash. Marriage is an estate entered into thoughtfully, and optimistically! Our hope will be very much that Kate and Prince William will be able to live up to the ideal of what they promise to be for one another. Our prayer might also be for those who, for whatever reason, have tried very hard but failed to maintain the ideal of 'until death parts us'. There must be realism as well as hope in how we live out our lives.

Realism and hope meet in the Good Friday-Easter story. Hope was that Jesus was the promised liberator from an oppressive system. His crucifixion suffocated that hope. Three days later, his followers were baffled at finding Jesus' tomb empty. New hope stirred in their hearts that he was alive, as he had said he would be. In Dorothy Sayers' play, 'The Man Born to be King', the Roman centurion, reporting to Pilate's wife, says of Jesus: "None can stop his truth now let loose in the world". Enter a new and better reality. Best Wishes to Prince William and Kate for their life together and a blessed Easter to you all.



Allen Morton
Stansted Free Church
URC Minister

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Sunday 17th Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist Palm Sunday Procession

Wednesday 20th

10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 21st Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Holy Communion followed by Watch until Midnight

Friday 22nd Good Friday

Pilgrimage – 9.00am at St Mary's Farnham
12 noon at St John's including presentation of a
'Stansted Birthday Party' by David Richardson.
Children are invited to take part.
2.00pm at St Mary's Birchanger

Saturday 23rd Holy Saturday

8.00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 24th Easter Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Sunday 24th Easter Sunday

10.30am Meeting

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Saturday 16th

6.00pm Mass
Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

Sunday 17th Palm Sunday

10.00am Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

Tuesday 19th

7.30pm Penitential Service

Thursday 21st

8.00pm Mass of the Last Supper

Friday 22nd Good Friday

9.45am for 10.00am Children's Service
3.00pm Passion of Our Lord
4.15pm Walk of Witness

Saturday 23rd Holy Saturday

10.00am-11.00am Confessions
8.00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 24th Easter Sunday

10.00am Mass

STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Friday 22nd Good Friday

10.30am Reflective service

Sunday 24th Easter Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion





GOOD FRIDAY PROJECT 2011

This year we are doing something different. This year the Project will be part of a Good Friday Pilgrimage which will make its way between Farnham, Stansted and Birchanger Churches. At St John's at midday we will be presenting 'The Stansted Birthday Party' - a drama written by David Richardson, with a subject very apt for the Year of the Bible. Children are invited to turn up at St John's dressed as animals and biblical characters. There will be opportunity for everyone to join in with the action and there will also be songs and stories. In particular we need approximately five or six (not huge) speaking parts. If there are any young people willing to put themselves forward for this and are happy to make time for a short rehearsal, please contact me. You will need your parent's consent and of course make sure you are available between 11.30am and 1.00pm on Good Friday, 22nd April, which is during the final week of the school holidays this year. More information will be circulated around the schools over the next few weeks.

Janet Wilkin
Tel: 812203

Email: janet.wilkin@googlemail.com

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.stanstedstjohns.btck.com

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

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Giles Tulk is away on placement for three months

Director of Music: Lorraine Everett
Email: lorraine@everett.info

Church Hall Bookings: Rachel Pocknell
Tel or text: 07972 373994
Email: stjohs.hallbookings@gmail.com

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, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer
Tuesday
9.00am St John's Tots
Wednesday
9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

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.

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the February draws:
£100 No 67 Kathleen Clark
£ 50 No 82 Stephen Higley
£ 25 No 139 Alan Corbishley

The April draws are at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th April at The Cock, a little earlier than normal in order not to intrude on everyone's enjoyment of the Royal Wedding and the extra long holiday weekend. Hope to see you there.

Many thanks to all those people who have supported this venture during its first year of operation, which comes to an end on 30th April. The scheme will re-commence on 1st May with another £2,500 of prizes to be distributed. If you would like to renew your membership or join the scheme (£2 per number per month - maximum five numbers per household), please contact Francine Cope on 814562 or Rosemary Thomson on 815551.

Francine Cope



Lent groups

Tuesday 5th April Free Church Hall led by Rev'd David Keeble
Wednesday 13th April St John's Church led by Rev'd Paul Wilkin

This session will be followed by a glass of wine.

Quarterly Forum

The next meeting will be at 8.00pm on Wednesday 27th April in the Free Church Hall, chaired by the Catholics. All welcome - please come and contribute your ideas!

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

FROM THE REGISTERS

February

Baptism

13th Casper Michael Fox Lawley

Memorial Service for Thelma Eileen Turner, age 64
(funeral took place on St Helena)



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www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Rev'd David Keeble
Tel: 01799 522037
Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for April

3rd 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
10th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble
17th 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton
22nd 10.30am Good Friday Service
24th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Communion

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk Mrs Anthea Lee
24 Lea Close
Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 01279 656707

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

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 10.00am
Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm
Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

Confessions

Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



How can you help others and at the same time keep fit?

If you volunteer to deliver and collect Christian Aid envelopes in your street from 15th to 21st May you will be getting exercise and fresh air, and at the same time making a huge contribution to improving the lives of the poorest people on our planet.

What sort of thing does Christian Aid do?

It transforms lives. Working with partner organisations in poorer countries, Christian Aid can turn hopes into realities. For example, in Nicaragua coffee farmers have been helped by loans (not hand-outs) to form a co-operative, which has raised money to build a school. So, if you want to do something life changing in May, please contact me. Thank you.

Count your blessings in Lent

As in previous years, Christian Aid has produced a 'Make Lent Meaningful' sheet encouraging us all to reflect on the good things in our life, and to give a daily gift for those living in poverty around the world. For example on 18th March we were told that 95% of homes in Britain have central heating, and are invited to give 50p for every degree above 20 on our thermostat. There is a caveat that the daily giving amounts are suggestions only. Last year Christian Aid raised £250,000 from this Lent giving. There are a small number of leaflets available in the churches or from me, or a form can be downloaded from www.christianaid.org.uk/lent. There is also a children's version on line.

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

JAZZ AT ST JOHN'S

Practically a Village Institution, St John's Church is holding its annual Evening of Jazz from 8.00pm to 11.00pm on Friday 13th May. Himself an institution, Pete Baker's Half Dozen will be belting out live music, an eclectic mixture of Traditional, Dixie and Swing Jazz – something for everyone. This is always a popular event so come along and have a dance too. There will be a bar selling wines, beer and soft drinks and a light supper is included in the ticket, priced at £14.00.

Tickets are on sale from the St John's Church Office 815243, Pete Baker 814865, Ray Smith 461151 and in St John's after the 9.30 Sunday Service. Hurry, hurry, tickets are restricted in numbers and are always in big demand.



St John's, Stansted

TABLE TOP SALE

10 am - 12.30 pm Sat 2nd April
in the Church Hall

Entry £1 incl coffee / tea

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LENT GROUPS

Exploring the
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Meet from 8 - 9 pm:

Tue 5 Apr Free Church Hall

Wed 13 Apr St John's Church
(Followed by a glass of wine)

All welcome ~ come when you can!

Newport & District Flower Club Open Meeting

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by Crystal Dyball

7.30 pm Thu 7th April
Clavering Village Hall

Tickets £10 Tel 01799 550971

Stalls ~ Refreshments ~ Raffle

VILLAGE EVENTS

April

1	Fri	NCT Tea & Toys SignuptoSing Concert	St John's Hall 10.30 - 11.30 am Baptist Ch, S Walden 7.30 pm
2	Sat	Table Top Sale SSE Booksale	St John's Hall 10am - 12.30pm SSE Office, Takeley 9 am - 1 pm Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
2	Sat/3	Sun Skips	Free Church Hall 8 pm
5	Tue	Lent Group	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Club Garden Club Spring Show	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm Clavering Village Hall 7.30 pm
7	Thu	Newport Flower Club Meeting Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
10	Sun	Rainbow Royal Wedding Party	St John's Hall 2 - 4 pm
11	Mon	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
13	Wed	Lent Group	St John's Church 8 pm
14	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
16	Sat/17	Sun Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
17	Sun	Manuden Singers Concert	Manuden Church 7.30 pm
22	Fri	Good Friday Project	St John's Church 11.30 am - 1.00 pm
24	Sun/25	Mon Windmill Open <i>Apologies for incorrect Windmill AGM date last month</i>	1.30 - 5.30 pm
27	Wed	CTS Forum	Free Church Hall 8 pm

May

1	Sun	Windmill Open St Mary's Church Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm 2 - 5 pm
4	Wed	Mountfitchet Club Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm

Manuden Singers & Orchestra

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Programme includes
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7.30 pm Sun 17th April
St Mary's Church, Manuden

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Bentfield School PTA The Space Mission Fair

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7 for 7.30 pm Wed 18th May
Mountfitchet College

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Entry by ticket only
Tel 815007 or 07919 478144



JAZZ at ST JOHN'S
8 - 11 pm Fri 13th May

St John's Church

£14 (incl light supper)

Licensed Bar ~ Book early!
Tel 814865, 461151 or 815243

In aid of Church Hall Fund

HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS 15th - 21st May



Collectors needed please call 813579



Stansted Conservatives

QUIZ NIGHT

7.30 pm for 8 pm
Saturday 14th May
Day Centre

Tickets £10
includes Fish & Chip Supper
Tel Bridget 814440 or Joan 814854

Stansted Scouts & Explorers FUN Quiz Fundraiser

7 for 8 pm Sat 14 May
St John's Hall

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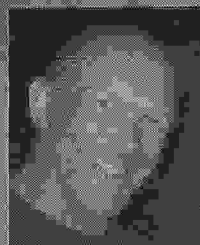
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IN MEMORIAM

ROBIN SCARR

11th August 1926 - 9th February 2011

Robin was actually named Robert Walter Alister, a compilation of family names, but from an early age he was always known as Robin. He was born in Norwood, Croydon, and moved to a new house in Orpington with his parents and younger sister, Daphne, four years later. After primary school he was accepted into the City of London School. During the Blitz the school was evacuated and Robin ended up boarding at Marlborough College. Not an experience he enjoyed, but luckily the Prudential, for whom his father worked, evacuated to Paignton in Devon, so Robin rejoined his family and attended the local grammar school in Torquay. He enjoyed the lovely Devon countryside and beaches, before returning to Orpington, the City of London School - and the odd doodle bug - towards the end of the war.

Up to the age of 15 Robin admitted to struggling academically. Then mathematics suddenly fell into place for him and he left school with good grades. He was awarded the Steggall scholarship, £50 per annum, to study at London University. He was also awarded a Queen Mary College Engineering Exhibition for £30 12s. At 19, Robin joined the RAF to do his national service. On his discharge in 1948 his commanding officer wrote, "This airman has proved a loyal and conscientious worker who has applied himself diligently to his duties in a clerical capacity". When asked what he did in the air force Robin would say, "I delivered the post."

He duly took up his place at Queen Mary College, London and was awarded a first class honours degree in engineering, and a PhD which he completed in 1954. It was while he was working as an electrical engineer at STC in Foots Cray that Robin met his future wife, Brenda. Brenda had recently joined the probation service and was being trained by Robin's sister, Daphne. They were married in 1962 and bought a house in Petts Wood where their first child, Sarah was born in 1963. The following year Robin transferred to the research department of the company and joined STL in Harlow. They bought a new family home in Stansted and in 1966 their second child, Josie was born. Throughout his working life Robin kept up with changes in technology and was an inventor, filing numerous patents whilst at STL. Whilst still young he designed and built a television set for his parents, and was always eager to fix the family's television when it went wrong. He completed the cryptic crossword nearly every day and never needed directing to a place after the first time.

In 1985 he took early retirement, but didn't stop working. He wrote a book with John Horrocks, and joined Ofcom as a consultant. Later on, together with an old colleague from STL, he tried to get funding for research into optical switching, and continued to patent new ideas. Robin was greatly admired and respected for his intellect by those he worked with. He was a kind and caring father, and invented a variety of games to play with his two daughters. Long car journeys were made more bearable by his made up stories about John Brown, a naughty boy who got into all sorts of trouble. Later

on he helped Sarah with her university work as she struggled with statistics and phonetics, and Josie with her final university project even typing it up for her. He was also a willing playmate to his three grandchildren who loved playing with him.



Robin was active in the village in his later years. He was both treasurer and chairman of the Day Centre, and for 10 years was treasurer of the local Liberal Democrats. Robin has written a number of books - 'Distributed Amplifiers' was his PhD, followed by 'Transistors in Linear Circuits' and 'Future Trends in Telecommunication' - not exactly light reading! But he also wrote a thriller 'The Laser's Edge' which had been accepted by the Book Guild. Sadly he was never able to complete negotiations with the Guild and the book has not been published. It is hoped that it will be published at some future date. It would be a fitting tribute to an extraordinary man.

Josie Scarr



March saw the first of our weekly playgroup sessions starting up in St John's Church Hall on Monday mornings, for children from birth to school age. At our first session, on 7th March, we had 29 children come to play (the youngest was 3 weeks old), bringing 19 adults with them. We were able to make good use of the ample space that the Hall offers, with older children rushing about on ride-ons to work off excess energy, drawing on paper taped to the floor or on easels, junk modelling, or playing with a wide range of toys and puzzles. We kept a quiet area separate for small babies to play, offering them a range of board books and age-appropriate toys to explore. All of the children sat beautifully for snack time, copying the others around them and eating very well. They then settled with me to sing and sign (using Makaton) several songs and nursery rhymes; (it was at this point that Paul Wilkin, the Rector at St John's, put his head around the door to see what all the noise was about!). Rosemary Thomson from St John's Church kindly came to help with signing everyone in, and helping to make huge amounts of drinks for us all. Many thanks to all of you who have supported us in this new venture. We look forward to greeting you and your children at future play sessions.

Rachel Pocknell
Tel: 816215

Email: rachel@sunnysidechildcare.org.uk

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Several members of our group have just returned from our first ever holiday weekend away – so the following has been written by Chris and Ross Loveday who went on this trip.

I wandered lonely as a cloud

Our first weekend trip with Stansted U3A took us to Wordsworth country – The Lake District. Forty-eight members wondered what the weekend would hold for them, but they were rewarded with wonderful weather and enjoyable company. If you were a walker you were in your element. The views are breathtaking and from our base in Kendal we were taken to Bowness-on-Windermere with the opportunity of a cruise on the Lake. The afternoon was free for walking or exploring around Kendal. On the second day we went to Keswick and a number of us walked around Derwentwater.



Our tour operator, Heather, entertained us during the tour with a short 'Peter Rabbit' story by Beatrix Potter and a poem by Wordsworth. We arrived in the afternoon at Grasmere to visit the resting place of Wordsworth and the inside of the local church was amazing. The package was incredible value for money and the organisers deserve credit for their enterprise. So successful has this weekend been, that the organisers, Maggie Bennett and Jan Neal, have already booked a further trip to Paris in August, including a trip to Monet's Garden and - surprise, surprise - it is already fully booked. The U3A presents an opportunity to meet new people and develop new interests and friendships and the weekend away in the Lake District certainly achieved this.

Other news

As you may be aware from the March issue of the 'Link', we have suspended membership last month owing to reaching our legal seating capacity within our current venue. A number of people have since spoken to me and asked why we could not use St John's Church, so in an effort to explore this option, which would hopefully allow us to open membership again for local people I have written to the Vicar and await his reply. I will report on this further in the next month – but watch our website for news – and if you are interested in becoming a member please don't forget we are keeping a waiting list.

Cherry
 Chair
 Tel: 817140

**TV PRESENTER LAUNCHES
 'MAKE A WILL MONTH' MAY 2011**

On 7th March, we were delighted to welcome BBC TV presenter and top City lawyer, Sue Medder to launch the Hospice's new fundraising initiative, 'Make a Will Month'. Participating lawyers from 14 local firms enjoyed a working breakfast during which Sue, who co-presented the BBC2 programme 'You Can't Take It With You' with business trouble-shooter Sir Gerry Robinson, gave a fascinating and entertaining insight into the world of television and the business of will-making. Sue revealed the alarming statistic which arose from the programme that 70% of people in this country have not made a will – she even confessed that immediately prior to filming, she was one of this number herself! She went on to explain that, with the prevalence of couples co-habiting, the increase in second or third marriages and the fact that many people are now bringing up step-children as their own, people do not realise that their assets almost certainly will not go where they wish after death unless they have written a will. Sue was accompanied by her colleague from City firm, Withers, and legal consultant to the TV programme, Charlie Tee, who has strong local links, being the son of Richard Tee, former senior partner of local firm Tees Law. The aim of the scheme is to encourage as many people as possible to make their wills whilst helping their local Hospice, and we are thrilled to have Sue's support for the project.

Local solicitors have effectively agreed to provide their services for free in return for a direct donation to St Clare Hospice. They will prepare a single simple will for a minimum donation of £100 or a pair of simple wills for £150. For full information please contact me or log on to our website www.stclarehospice.org.uk where you can view details of local participating solicitors and go directly to their websites to make an appointment. You can also view a list of questions which you may want to consider before your appointment.

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The charity committee within the school arranged a full fundraising day for The Red Nose Day Charity in March. Each class was asked to read a poem or a short story in Assembly, a staff 'Guess the Baby' competition took place and all the children were allowed to wear 'non-uniform' for a fee. The full total of monies raised is yet to be finalised but all the children had fun raising money for a worthwhile cause. Classes 3 and 4 have been practising for their performance of 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' – the Roald Dahl version. Performances will take place on 7th April. The children have acted, danced, signed and sang really well, enjoying the experience that a live performance gives. Pancake Day was celebrated with pancakes during lunch time and some classes made the pancakes in class. Mums were also invited in to school lunch on Tuesday 29th March to treat them to a 'Mother's Day Roast dinner' which they could eat with their children. The Head Teacher Coffee Morning allowed parents to view the new Reading Scheme that has been introduced into Key Stage One. The school also welcomed Rev'd Paul Wilkin who led our assemblies during March and the lead-up to Easter. The Fine Motor Skills group have kindly planted a raised bed with spring and summer plants. They will ensure that these beds are tended and watered as part of their occupational therapy.

Cathie Bonich
Headteacher



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Unfortunately our FA Vase dream has been shattered after our 0-2 defeat against Dunston UTS at Hargrave Park on 12th February. We were defeated by the better side on the day. Dunston drew Whitley Bay in the next round and were knocked out by them. Although the score was disappointing what was good to see was the amount of supporters that came to the game - our ground has never seen so many people and if only this could be replicated at every home match to show support for our local team. Our 1st team are, at the time of writing, top of the Essex Senior League and are 'doing us proud'. They are playing well and I must admit are a joy to watch. But don't take my word for it; please come and see for yourselves.

The upcoming fixtures for the next month are:

29th March	Burnham Ramblers (Home)
2nd April	Sawbridgeworth (Away)
9th April	Hullbridge (Home)
16th April	Enfield 1893 (Away)
23rd April	Barkingside (Home)

If anyone feels that they could spare some time to help us at the Club in whatever capacity, but especially helping our stalwarts Brian and Tony with maintaining the grounds, or just wishing to help us out on match days please contact me.

Lynne Furber
Treasurer
Tel: 07920 039113

We had the advantage of home-grown talent at our March meeting when Ted Pretty, one of our own members, gave us a talk on Stansted and other windmills in East Anglia. Ted had first become interested in windmills when in the Scouts and had taken part in a night-hike from Bishop's Stortford to Stansted, becoming just a little lost in the process. They did not arrive at the mill until 3.00am, but he was taken round the building by an expert, Malcolm Treacher, the following morning. Later in his career he worked for English Heritage and came into contact with many windmills in all sorts of conditions. He is now one of the Millers of Stansted Mill.

Ted accompanied his talk with some very good slides and started with the mill we know best, Stansted. He had created a visual record of the recent work that had been carried out and this was explained to us as it progressed, finishing with a fully refurbished mill. As mentioned later in the meeting, some complications have arisen since and these have been referred to the maintenance firm. Together with his wife, Marion, he has travelled widely in East Anglia; among the things which he has photographed are windmills, some of which he showed to us and described their condition and working. The types of mill were explained: the post mills which were moved into the wind bodily by means of a beam which could be moved by the miller and later, by means of a fan-tail as with our own mill; then the smock mill, which appeared larger and had a cap which turned the sails into the wind by means of a fan-tail; this, like the post mill, was made of wood; finally, the tower mill made of brick. This is the style of the Stansted Mill, with its cap that weighs around 3½ tons. Unfortunately, not all the mills are in the same condition as ours – most are in need of maintenance, have lost their inner works or, like the Cley Mill in Norfolk, have been converted into a holiday let! We were grateful to Ted for a good talk on a very outstanding part of this and other villages.

Next month we delve into the matter of crime, when we hear about 'The £1,000,000 Bank of England Forgery of 1873' from George J Smith. This will be at 8.00pm on Thursday 7th April in The Day Centre. See you then.

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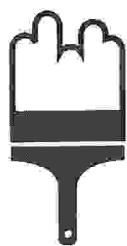
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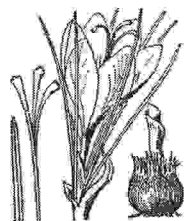




UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our recent meeting opened with the sad news of the death of Mrs Gladys Dix. A delightful lady, she had been a member of our WI since the early 1960s. She worked tirelessly for our Institute, having been President and latterly our programme planning secretary and a very active member of the Committee. She was a great friend to many and will be sadly missed by us all.

Our speaker was Susan Walker, Blue Badge guide and former Tourist Information Centre manager. Her subject was the history of Saffron Walden and with great enthusiasm and an equally great amount of knowledge she took us on an 'armchair tour' of the delightful town; a town that thankfully still has the air of a market town. The 'tour' was enhanced by a map drawn by her and given to each of us to follow. In the space of 45 minutes, which flew by, we were expertly guided around and through the Iron and Bronze Age periods and then coming to the Norman period, we were introduced to Geoffrey De Mandeville, the first Constable of the Tower of London. His grandson, Geoffrey, followed in his footsteps becoming Constable of the Tower of London and built Walden's first castle in around 1135-1138. Sadly, all that remains of it are the cellars. The ever popular market, she explained, moved from its original site to the Market Square in the 1300s and during this period the town was known as Chipping Walden. The town's wealth was built on wool, with malting and brewing providing a living for many of the inhabitants. The local wool staplers built their own Guild Hall in the Market Place which survived until it was demolished to make way for the 'Italian style' Corn Exchange which was converted into the library in the mid 1970s. By the end of the 1400s Walden became Saffron Walden and



wool was soon overtaken by the saffron industry as the main source of local wealth. It appears that a Crusader brought a corm of saffron back from his travels and it was from this that the saffron industry developed. Saffron was used first and foremost as a dye for wool but was also used for medicinal purposes; 30,000 stamens are required to

make just one pound of dried saffron! Sadly space only allows me to mention just a few facts from a most interesting talk and I for one will certainly return to Saffron Walden in the very near future and, as she urged us to do, 'look-up' at all the historic buildings that this charming market town has to offer.

So ended another very entertaining afternoon for our members. Other treats in store include a talk on pottery in April, a visit from the Canine Partner's Charity in July, a talk on medicinal plants in August, a tour of Grandad's garden in September and a visit from the Nazeing hand bell ringers in December to round off what promises to be another entertaining year for our members. Why not come and join us? You'd be most welcome. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Andrea Fitt

THE GARDENER'S HYMN

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention,
Though gardeners know it's true,
Is when he made the goodies,
He made the baddies too.

All things spray and swattable,
Disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable,
The Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses,
The maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills our noses,
He also gave us these.

The fungus on the goosegogs,
The club root on the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuce
And chew the aubergines.

The drought that kills the fuchsias,
The frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings,
The blight that hits the spuds.

The midges and mosquitoes,
The nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff,
The sparrows on the seeds.

The fly that gets the carrots,
The wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardener's outlook,
Though green may be his thumbs.

But still we gardeners labour,
Midst vegetables and flowers,
And pray what hits our neighbours'
Will somehow bypass ours.

Barbara Robinson



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DAISY'S NEW HOME

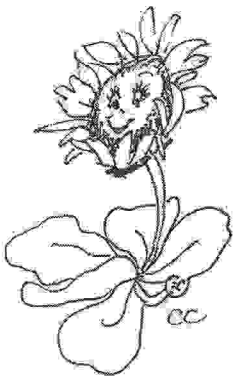
A story for children

Young Daisy was scared of this new place. She trembled as she looked around. It was all so different to where she'd lived before. She was used to being among the familiar faces of her family and friends, and seeing the sky every day. Here, she didn't know anyone, and Daisy couldn't see the sky however hard she tried. She felt very lonely and cold.

Daisy thought hard about what her best friend, Buttercup, would do if she found herself in a strange place. She decided that big brave Buttercup would make new friends as soon as she could. So Daisy stood up straight and stared at her nearest neighbour. Trying not to sound too frightened, she squeaked, "Hello". The thin stranger with a dark nodding head didn't reply. Daisy hung her head and cried. She didn't like being alone and cold.

"What you looking so miserable for?" The chirpy voice made Daisy jump. She looked up into the bright eyes of a Robin. Relieved to find someone friendly to talk to, Daisy sniffed back her tears and said, "I've only just arrived and I'm so lonely, and so cold." She hoped that she didn't sound too much of a whinger. (In Buttercup's opinion a whinger never made many friends.)

"Well, I'm not surprised you're so lonely and cold. You're a bit early. Most of your lazy lot are still in bed. They only come out when the sun shines. Violet's the only one around at this time of year." He cocked his head towards the thin stranger. "She's sulking 'cos it's time for her to go in. She has to look after those delicate petals of hers," he added with a wink.



"Oh, I didn't think she liked me when she didn't speak." Daisy was feeling much happier. Now that she'd made a friend, she was no longer lonely. Robin went on to tell Daisy all about her new home. It was called a lawn and he told her that others of her family were sure to arrive later on in the year. Daisy told him all about her old home in the field at the top of a hill, about the animals there, and forgot to feel cold.

"Now, young Daisy, there's one important thing I should warn you about." Robin suddenly looked rather serious. "I don't suppose you'll have come across the monster mowing machine in your field. But here you'll see it a lot. And it's dangerous."

"What does it do?" Daisy had never heard of the monster mowing machine.

"It gobbles up all the grass and anything else that gets in its way."

"That's terrible. How do you know when it's coming?" Poor Daisy looked around fearfully, but couldn't see anything above the tall spiky grass that surrounded them.

Robin sighed. "Oh, you'll hear it coming, alright. And

when it does you just have to hope that you'll survive. There's nothing else you can do." Daisy wasn't sure what survive meant, but didn't like to ask, as Robin went on to tell her more about life on the lawn.

Daisy was very happy in her new home. She made lots of good friends, and they were all just as kind as Buttercup. Every day Daisy grew taller and stronger. She could even see the sky, if she really stretched. Her leafy skirt spread further, and she was looking forward to seeing some of her family now that summer was just around the corner. But she wasn't allowed to forget about the threat of the monster mowing machine. And she soon discovered what the word 'survive' meant. All her new friends talked about the dreaded monster. She asked them about how to survive an attack, but no one offered any suggestions. They all accepted their fate. They all expected to get gobbled up. Daisy didn't want to do that. She was sure there must be a way to beat the monster mower. And she was determined to find it.

One sunny day Daisy was woken up by a rumbling noise. At first she thought it was a grumbling honeybee searching for pollen. But the noise was too loud for that. Then she thought it must be thunder. But then the ground started to tremble quite alarmingly. Then Daisy heard all the squeaks and shrieks of fear around her. Even the usually silent grasses groaned as they swayed. Then she knew.

"It's the monster mowing machine," screeched Robin as he hopped away. "Good luck." Daisy wished that she could run away like Robin. She didn't feel very brave. All her determination to somehow beat the monster had gone. The noise was getting closer and more fearsome. Daisy dug her toes as far down into the soil as she could reach. She spread her dark green skirts as wide and as flat to the ground as possible. Daisy would not give in easily. She was just about to lift her head, when the monster machine was upon her.

The mower's engine deafened her. She felt the swish of metal above her head. Smelt the heat of the machine. Then blackness. And finally silence. The danger had passed. When Daisy dared to open her eyes, the first thing she could see was the sky. The tall grasses were now shorter, greener. She looked down. Most of her skirt was still there. Daisy was damaged, but she would mend. There were just a few leaves where poor Violet had been. Daisy was alone once more, and sad.

Daisy wasn't lonely for long. As the days grew longer and warmer others came to keep her company. Best of all a relative of Buttercup's arrived and Daisy's happiness was complete. The monster mowing machine came along quite often but Daisy wasn't as afraid of it as she had been. She had survived and never tired of telling her friends how she'd done it. Those that listened and took her advice about rooting themselves deeply into the ground and spreading their skirts, also survived. You can tell which plants listened to Daisy if you look hard.

How many different flowers can you spot growing in the lawn? Do you know their names?

Evie Campbell

MORE MEMORIES OF ST MARY'S PRIMARY

Seeing the picture of the Youth Centre on last month's cover of the 'Link' also, like Keith Eagleton (article in the March 'Link') brought back fond memories of when I was at St Mary's School. I actually started my primary school education at the school on Chapel Hill where the senior school was sited (Peter Kirk School). The headmaster of the senior school was Mr Enoch who was well remembered for his liberal use of the cane. One of the primary school teachers was his wife who was a lovely gentle lady, quite the opposite of her husband. Later we moved down to St Mary's in Lower Street. My memories go back about 60 years. Mr Hare, the headmaster, well described by Keith Eagleton, was a lovely man; a very talented musician as I recall. He was a very heavy smoker and would sometimes say to me; "Dicky, would you go to Eric's (Eric Poole ran the local tobacconist shop on Chapel Hill) and get me 40 Kensitas?" and I would duly trot to Chapel Hill to get the cigarettes. How times have changed! Can you imagine that happening now?

I was at school before Ma Brown, but I well remember Miss Double, whose standard method of punishment was to smack your legs – which she did with great gusto. I recall an episode when the choir was appearing in a very important contest in Saffron Walden. I was one of the star performers but messed about so much that Mr Hare threatened me with removal from the choir. I did not heed the warning so was duly slung out. I remember the ignominy of playing on Saffron Walden Common with the non-singers. I also remember being smacked in the face by a ball and Miss Double clasping my face to her bosom, which was of the ample variety. I recall thinking that being hit in the face by a ball had its plus points! There was also a teacher called John Boddington. We used to sing a ditty "Old Bod is a bunion with a face like a pickled onion, a nose like a squashed tomato and legs like matchsticks". Strange the things you remember! He married whilst still at the school and his wife came to teach there. She was a lovely no-nonsense person.

Looking back it was a very good school of which I have happy memories. This was in the days of the eleven plus exam, and I feel that I was given a good rounded education at St Mary's which stood me in good stead for my future schooling.

Dick Pollard

I was very interested in the article on St Mary's School. I was appointed to teach at St Mary's School at the start of the autumn term in 1951; exactly six years after the war ended. In September I had 20 five year olds in the class, but in the following term, January 1952, the 'Bulge' reached school age and my class number rose to 40. (Just nine months plus five years since Daddy came home from the war.) As the 'Bulge' moved up the school followed by a steady growth of five year olds, we had to expand. One classroom was opened in the Central Hall, Chapel Hill (now called the Court House) with Miss Player (now Mrs Cowan) in charge. Eventually another classroom opened at Stoney Common in a hut, which was later moved to Water Lane and became the Scout Headquarters. Mr Pennick was the teacher in charge at Stoney Common.



Former classroom - now the Scout Headquarters

It was extremely hard for one mother who had twins in my class at St Mary's School (now the Youth Centre) in Lower Street, one at the Central Hall in Chapel Hill, and her fourth child at Stoney Common. Miss Player and myself came to her rescue by keeping the twins and one child in our classrooms after school, as she needed to pick up her fourth child from Stoney Common before he went paddling in the nearby brook.

Marion Johnson

CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH Simnel Pinwheels

Simnel Cake is traditionally eaten at Easter – in Medieval times female servants would bake this cake to take home to their mothers on Mothering Sunday. Try these as an easy alternative.

Ingredients

200g dried mixed fruits
zest and juice 1 small orange
1 x 375g sheet ready-rolled puff pastry (we used Saxby's)
3 tbsp apricot jam
200g marzipan

Method

Soak the dried fruit and orange zest in the orange juice. Unroll the pastry onto a baking sheet. Roll out the marzipan and trim to the same size as the pastry. Brush the pastry with jam, then rest the marzipan on top. Scatter with the fruit and tightly roll up, from the long edge, like a Swiss roll. Chill, then slice into 1cm thick pieces. Bake at 220C/fan 200C/gas 7 for 10 mins.

For details of cookery classes and parties for 2-11 year olds contact Jane Chate, Kiddy Cook Tel: 07796 270068
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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

FORESTHALL PARK TO BECOME PART OF STANSTED PARISH

The Electoral Arrangements Working Group of Uttlesford District Council has recommended that the part of the new estate currently within Birchanger parish will be moved into this parish. With this decision now known the Parish Council will discuss with the District Council and the developers the terms on which various responsibilities such as gardening and grasscutting will be assumed. The maintenance of play areas is likely to be the first responsibility assumed.

We welcome all our new parishioners and hope that the Council can meet your needs in building our community together.

PARISH PLAN - SUBMITTED TO UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

At last the text of the Parish Plan has been sent to Uttlesford District Council where it is hoped that the Development Control Committee will approve the draft. Provided this occurs then the Parish Plan will be printed and distributed to every household and business.

Under the policy of the current government this plan should carry some weight when planning and other policy issues are under discussion. If the action points in the plan, which number around 150, are to be implemented then the Parish Council and parishioners will have to undertake much work and considerable lobbying as well as persuading outside agencies to give us money!

It is intended to review the plan every year and to report hopefully on achievements.

CRIME IN THE VILLAGE

The new government website should show a breakdown of crime by area each month so, if you want to access this site, then go onto www.police.uk

The Parish Council will publish these numbers on a regular basis along with some comment to put flesh on the bare figures.

The breakdown of the crime statistics for December is shown below:

STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 2010

Burglary	5
Anti Social Behaviour	5
Robbery	1
Vehicle Crime	1
Violent Crime	3
Other Crime	5

Violence on the streets of Stansted Mountfitchet remains rare and the three recorded incidents were all domestic, serious of course for those involved. Burglaries from dwellings currently pose the biggest problem. After five crimes in December the number rose to eight in January with four (actual & attempted) on one day but, so far in February, the number has shown a fall. It would appear those committing the crimes are professional and come from out of the area. Items stolen are small and easy to carry/sell - laptops and jewellery as well as cash. Burglaries are referred to CID often after a preliminary report by a local officer. Anti-social offences have been low during this period. Out of the four recorded three have been sorted. Whilst many of these incidents are minor, they remain an irritant while, if an individual or family is targeted, this can be more serious so all occurrences should be reported.

Neighbourhood Watch has become much stronger in the parish over the past couple of years but further support would reinforce this trend so, if you like further information, please contact Cllr Valerie Trundle on 813433 or Diane Roberts on 813089. Next meeting is Wednesday 25 May 2011 in Stansted Free Church Lecture Hall at 7.30 pm - see article next month.

Vigilance remains crucial especially as most of the burglaries have occurred in the daytime. If you see anything which rouses your concern or know of any incident, please call the police either on 999 if time is critical or on 0300 333 4444.

ELMS FARM - LOOKING TO DEVELOP

We hope that many of you will have taken the opportunity to view the Gemmill Family's exhibition at the Day Centre. Their quest is to gauge public opinion for possible redevelopment of part of the farm site. No formal planning application has been submitted.

If you were unable to attend, but wish to view the proposals and/or submit your comments, please follow the link on our website www.stansted.net.

HEALTH CENTRE UPDATE - MOVING, IF SLOWLY, WE THINK!

At a recent meeting attended by Cllr Geoffrey Sell (Chairman of the Parish Council) and District Cllr Alan Dean, the developers (Pelham Structures) and an officer from Uttlesford District Council, it was confirmed that a planning application should be submitted shortly. Whilst final terms have not yet been agreed between Pelham Structures and the PCT, this appears to be moving closer to completion.

Further discussions have taken place with Essex County Highways and it is now proposed to place rumble strips on Chapel Hill and Church Road as traffic calming measures.

We will bring further news as and when it is available.

PARISH NOW OWNS THE DAY CENTRE

Uttlesford District Council (UDC) has decided that Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC) owns the Day Centre (previously it was thought that SMPC owned the land and UDC the building).

It is expected that the services provided by the Day Centre will continue as before but discussions will need to take place with UDC over funding and with the Day Centre committee to ensure smooth running.

Whilst the assets of the parish have increased, there will be some increase in the costs of ownership. Some provision for this has been made in the budget for 2011/12.

RECREATION GROUND CLEARANCE

For far too long it has been the Council's desire to tidy up the bottom end of the Recreation Ground, under the trees where brambles have flourished and weeds encroached! In early March, we were

delighted to welcome a team from Community Payback (formerly Community Service Workers).

Under the keen eye of their supervisor, five young men from the Harlow area came with hand tools and cleared a large amount of unwanted growth. We have established a good link now with the area office and hope to be able to use their services elsewhere in the village.

VILLAGE CLEAN UP - THANK YOU FOR A GOOD JOB

On Saturday and Sunday, the 5th and 6th March, about 35 volunteers cleared many bags of litter from around the village - Church Road, Lime Kiln Lane, Pennington Lane, skatepark, Recreation Ground, Foresthall Park. We were delighted that so many of the youngsters from the Youth Centre came along and helped to boost their "community" hours for their Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Thank you to all who gave their time - the village looks better, although sadly by Monday morning there was evidence of fresh litter on Pennington Lane. If you see fly-tipping on any of our streets, please make a note of the car registration number, if applicable, and let us know. A local person was recently fined by Uttlesford District Council for dumping waste after their personal details were found in one of the rubbish bags.

CAN YOU HELP?

Much could be done to improve the appearance and life of the parish. In current economic conditions the Parish Council is reluctant to increase council tax by a substantial amount even if the sum of money involved is not great. So do you have a few hours to spare and, if so, would you be prepared to help to make this a more pleasant place to live and work?

A list of areas in which help is needed will be included next month.

CENSUS DAY 2011

Through the national media, you are no doubt aware that Census Day is looming - 27 March 2011. By the time you read this article, you should have received the paperwork through your door.

One form should be completed per household, and this can be done on-line or on paper - we are advised that on-line is faster!

For a period of four weeks, commencing 6 April, collectors will be door-knocking at properties for which a form has not been returned. These collectors will have identity cards and an identifiable collection bag

STANSTED IN BLOOM

Once again several of our village businesses have agreed to provide a prize each towards our competition 2011. We are always grateful for the interest and support that they give.

This year the competition will be judged on Saturday, 2 July and will take place between 2-5pm. In the next edition of the Link, you will find an entry form which will give further details where you can enter your own garden or that of a friend (with their permission of course!).

We are dividing the village into eight sections, including Foresthall Park and there will be one winner from each of the eight sections. In addition, there will also be a prize for the overall best garden.

Contacts: Cllr Valerie Trundle - 01279 813433
Cllr Iris Evans - 01279 815848
Mrs Joy Thomas - 01279 813871

GOOD NEWS FOR STANSTED LIBRARY

The opening hours for the library will remain unchanged:

Tuesday 9-1, Wednesday 2-5, Thursday 2-6, Saturday 9.30-5

Our 'Daddy Cool' sessions have now been running since January - every Saturday at 11 am. Stories, Songs and Rhymes - come along and join in the fun. Dads, Mums, Grandparents and carers all welcome.

There is a Beat Surgery in the library once a month from 2pm-4pm. The PCSO is able to help and advise on any issues or concerns you may have:

24th March, 21st April, 19th May, 16th June

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

The District has frozen its council tax for the coming year, like councils nationwide, after receiving a subsidy from the government. It will also, after April, receive a New Homes Bonus, a coalition initiative to help fund growing communities, based on the number of new homes that are built.

Discussions are continuing about support for elderly persons' day centres around the district, including Stansted's. A study last year showed that a district co-ordinator is needed to modernize their operations and reverse declining community use. Funding arrangements will be considered at a District Council meeting in mid March.

The District Council and residents are being consulted by the County Council over the relocation of St. Mary's School onto a site between Hampton Road and Reeve Road on the Foresthall Park estate in September 2012. Councillors have raised concerns about pedestrian access and parking congestion. Informal proposals have also been floated to improve safety on Church Road such as widening the footpath on the west side and a new pedestrian crossing by Maitland Road.

The recently introduced 300 bus service which runs from Saffron Walden Tesco to Bishop's Stortford Tesco will cease on April 25th. This infrequent service was poorly used, even though it has been the only service which connected Cambridge Road and Chapel Hill with Walson Way and Foresthall Park.

(Cllr John Hudson)

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

A year ago lots of concerns were being raised about the future of Rainbow Nursery after the planned relocation of St Mary's School to Forest Hall were announced, so when the suggestion that the pre school could move to the Peter Kirk Centre was raised it appeared that the problem had been solved. But then disaster struck when the Coalition Government withdrew capital funding for new early years settings and Essex had a number of schemes that were unable to continue because there was no money!

However, recognising that pre-school and early years settings play such an important part in children's development Essex County Council stepped in and funded 20 schemes across the county to a total value of £12 million. Rainbow Nursery was one of these schemes and I am

pleased to say that as I write the finishing touches are being put to the interior of the super new facility at the Peter Kirk Centre and works should be completed by the end of March.

There has however been one item that delayed the works when a redundant gas main was found to cross the play area but as soon as that has been removed the Nursery will be ready for occupation so I would urge everyone to support the staff and children in their move into their new home.

At this time of year people always become concerned that their Council Tax Bill is about to fall through the door and this year the media have made much of Councils that have introduced swinging cuts to front line services. Essex is very much the exception to all this because despite the 0% increase in the amount that will be charged the alterations to services have been minimal.

To give you some figures, Essex have been one of the few councils that recognised the need to make savings in the way that they operate and over the last three years ECC has saved £284 million in administration and 'back office' costs; and this year given the reduction in grant from central government, we are saving a further £83 million. This has enabled us to ensure that all of the fixed Libraries across the County are remaining open, 86 SureStart Children's Centres are being maintained and most other services are unaltered. In fact, the cuts to front line services within Essex amount only to £14 million and when set against a budget of £2.1 billion that is fairly minimal.

The media relish in bad news so it's no wonder they have left us alone!

(Cty Cllr Ray Gooding)

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

6 April	Full Council
13 April	Open Spaces
20 April	Full Council
27 April	Finance

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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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: cldr.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	Tel: 0300 333 4444
<i>PCSO's (Stuart/Kelly)</i>	Tel: 07801 461 666



This month's highlight was a visit to the London Aquarium. On a very rainy day a coachload of our school age members headed for Sealife. This is part of our plan to provide a day out in every week of the school holidays. We organised six day trips in 2010 and found that the parents were very grateful for the respite break.

As the weather improves we hope to build a relationship with Stansted Hall Cricket Club. We will begin with social visits but we hope to get our members involved with the game before long. The Club has offered to provide a coach with experience of cricket for the disabled. Fingers crossed that the members enjoy the experience and want to continue. We enjoyed a visit from Professor Haskell. He is our patron and was part of the small group who, 40 years ago, was determined to provide facilities for people with learning disability. We recorded him reminiscing with Ulla Broe, who at 90, is the only other survivor of the first group of parents. I was amazed how much has changed for the better in those 40 years.



Our nursery accepts children with learning disability from the time they are diagnosed until they transfer to school at five years of age. We follow the same Early Years Foundation Stage as all other nurseries but we provide one-to-one care from staff with many years experience of special needs. Our nursery is equipped for special needs and our staff can deal with the physical requirements often associated with learning disability. Some parents choose to send their children to mainstream nurseries while others prefer the specialist environment. Our approach offers parents a choice.

David Scott

MASSIVE SECOND-HAND BOOK SALE FOR STOP STANSTED EXPANSION

Stop Stansted Expansion will be holding another giant sale of good quality second-hand books at its Campaign Office at the Old School House by the Four Ashes Crossroads, Takeley, from 9.00am to 1.00pm on Saturday 2nd April. Most of the books will be priced at 50p for paperbacks and £1 for hardbacks. More information is available from SSE on 870558 or info@stopstanstedexpansion.com.



Carol Barbone

'Restoring a Cottage Garden' was the subject of Mr Rodney Tibbs' talk for our March meeting. He opened the evening by showing slides of Helen Allingham's idealistic watercolours of typical English Cottage Gardens – roses and honeysuckle growing over the door and up the walls; thatched beehives amongst mixed borders of colourful flowers; vegetables for the kitchen growing throughout the garden; and children playing and cottagers going about their everyday chores. He then showed us photographs of his garden when he moved into his cottage, which is near Newmarket. "The closest thing it resembled was a bomb site" - was how he described it!! Members were then introduced to the 'works' of Albert, the previous owner. Albert had lived in the cottage for over 60 years and had two passions – collecting sheds of every description, and concrete. His many paths around the garden and house were built to 'motorway standard' with concrete feet thick instead of inches!! Members were then shown a series of before and after photographs, and learnt about his trials and tribulations as work progressed over the 30 years he has lived there. The final result - a cottage garden to be proud of - and hope for anyone with a wilderness to tame!

March Members' Competition - A pot of spring flowering bulbs

1st Jean Anderson 2nd Pat Barrett 3rd Pauline Oakes

Next Month's Meeting

On Wednesday 6th April the Club will be holding its 2nd Mini Spring Show – doors will open for exhibitors at 6.30pm and all exhibits should be displayed by 7.45pm in order for the AGM to start at 8.00pm. Entry is free and visitors are welcome to come along to look at the exhibits and join in the AGM.

Future events:

'Clematis throughout the year' will be the subject of our 4th May meeting when we will be welcoming Mr Roy Nunn to the first meeting of the new 2011-12 Garden Club Season. Visitors are very welcome to our meetings, entrance £2.50, or why not join? Membership is £12.00 single or £20 double.

The Club will be holding 'An Evening of Flower Arranging' with Mr Nick Grounds at the Mountfitchet Mathematics & Computing College on Wednesday 18th May. Entry is by ticket only priced £6 (includes a glass of wine/juice) available from Chris Hope on 815007 or Maralyn Harris on 07919 478144 or at the next meeting.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman

CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS

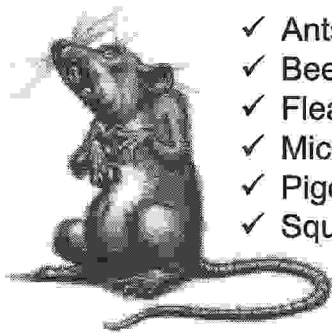
Last year several people commented on my pots of lilies and asked me how I coped with the dreaded lily beetle. When the lilies are growing quite strongly, ie 9-12", I use vine weevil killer on them. Do not spray them but mix it as per instructions and water into the roots. From there it will be taken up into the plant. In recent years I have not seen a lily beetle.



Cyril Stoneham

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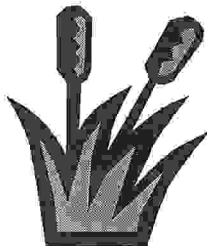
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Tuesdays are lovely at St Mary's as it is Music day! We start first thing with the whole school in the hall, singing assembly songs, fun songs and popular requests. The rest of the morning is accompanied by music of all sorts as each of the Key Stage 2 classes each have a music lesson. In the afternoon it is the turn of the younger children.



We also have the individual instrument teachers in on Tuesday for piano and guitar, although you hear most of the drumkit lessons! There is also a lunchtime music club as well as a recorder group. The older children have been composing music and recording it into a radio broadcast. The younger children are rehearsing for a production on countries around the world. Dance also comes into the curriculum. We are lucky to have the guidance of Justine McMahon, a parent and governor, who runs a dance club after school as well as advising on productions and work in class involving dance. We are already very proud of the standard of art in the school and are equally pleased now that music and dance are also quality elements of our curriculum.



The whole school were involved in Red Nose Day. Each class planned a sponsored activity to raise funds, as well as a cake sale, a non-uniform day, competitions and a 'tnorf ot kcab' (back to front) lunch. We have been active out in the community recently. Congratulations to four of our Year 6 pupils who achieved places at the Sports Talent Camp. Also to our School Council who represented the school so well at the Pupil Voice Conference at the County High recently. If you are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school, please give us a ring on 812212 to arrange a visit. See also www.st-marys-stansted-esssex-sch-uk.ik.org.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher



Yet another busy month for the children at Rainbow – we have recently been reading the story of 'Handa's Surprise', about a lady who takes a basket of fruits to her friend Akeyo and wonders which fruit Akeyo will like best. The children have been comparing hot and cold countries and looking at the different ways people dress. We have been counting and trying the different fruits and have enhanced the experience by having a fruit and vegetable shop in the role play area. From 2.00pm-4.00pm on Sunday 10th April in St John's Hall, Rainbow is holding a party in honour of the Royal Wedding. It is for children between 2 and 7 years and will include games, story telling, a raffle, a fancy dress parade (with prizes for the best outfits) and a party tea. For more information email admin@rainbowpreschool.net.

The move to new premises is going ahead but the build is progressing slowly and Rainbow is not likely to receive all the funding we had been promised by the Government. Much of the finishing cost will need to be provided from Pre-school resources. For this reason we're very grateful for any Tesco or Sainsbury's vouchers which will enable us to buy vital equipment. Don't forget to pick yours up with your weekly shop! Places for September 2012 are filling up fast. If you have a child who would like to attend Rainbow please put his or her name down as soon as possible (even if only a few months old!). We welcome visits to pre-school – please see our website at www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk for more details.

Katherine Aiken
Tel: 813110

Brownies

1st STANSTED BROWNIES

We have a lively group of 26 girls at 1st Stansted Brownies, 13 having been newly enrolled in the last four months. We are having a fun filled year having started off with a visit from Kelly Roberts our Community Police Officer, to talk about road safety. After completing set tasks following Kelly's visit, the Brownies all achieved their Road Safety Badge. February saw the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit and we celebrated by making paper fans and origami rabbits. We also had relay races holding sweets between chopsticks! Heart baskets and crispy cakes were made for Valentines Day, pancake races run, beans planted and cards and gifts made for Mothers Day. The Brownies are well on their way to achieving their Number Skills badge and we are now looking forward to an exciting Brownie Pack Holiday over the Easter weekend. Lots of indoor and outdoor activities are planned but be warned Brownies – you will also be laying tables, tidying, washing up and cooking!!

Sandra Wesley
Assistant Leader

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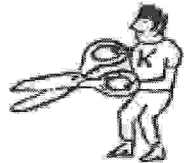
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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Karen Adams came along and brightened up a dull wet February evening for us, with her talk entitled 'Artistic Inspiration'. Karen spent most of her childhood in Manuden, and is a lover of the local countryside, which originally inspired her method of using different materials in her artwork. She swept into the hall, covered the floor with white dustsheets, erected a couple of easels and covered a large table with very large pots of paint. We were quite expecting her to paint the hall for us before she started! Having done 'A' level art at school she became a student at the Regency Academy of Fine Arts where she took domestic and commercial design. A serious illness changed her life so that she was bedridden for some time and began experimenting in different techniques for producing pictures using scraps of paper, string and fabrics and building up pictures layer upon layer. She demonstrated this technique to us and passed around the various ordinary items she uses to such great effect. Two contrasting pictures were displayed at the end, which were absolutely lovely. Each piece of work takes about five weeks to complete and can be abstract or representational - her first efforts were of old properties in Manuden which sold instantly to their owners. It is, she says, like ceramic on canvas but framed and mounted and she has had her work exhibited quite widely including the Royal Academy.

We hope to take part in the Saffron Walden Festival in July, which has classes for many crafts, cookery, photography and art - though we don't expect to come up to Karen's standard. Our rather special WI tablecloth, which was completed in 1970, will be on display with others from institutes in the area. Several of our local WIs are celebrating their 90th anniversary, which makes our 50 years seem quite young, but I don't think many of them have founder members! We have seven members attending the County AGM in Colchester, when the speaker will be Lady Antonia Fraser who will be telling us of her life with Harold Pinter, which should prove interesting. We are putting in two tables for the St Clare Hospice Quiz Evening, as several of our members are fundraisers for this organisation which does such a great service to so many people in this part of Essex. Looking ahead and hoping for fine weather we will be organising a tea-party on 8th June in St John's Hall and hopefully outside as well, to meet with other members of our Group of Institutes. Our April meeting is at 7.45pm on Thursday 14th in St John's Hall, and as our booked speaker can no longer come, join us to find out who can, or look on the village notice boards!



Judy Colliver
President

U3A MAH JONG PLAYERS WANTED

Stansted U3A Mah Jong group are looking for more players to join them. Experience unnecessary, enthusiasm is all that's required. Interested? Contact: Eileen Greer 865087.

Bridget Gott



Nature Notes

In the tall trees above the station in Stansted there was a flurry of activity in early March. The rooks were starting to build their nests again, using sticks and soil and lining them with roots, leaves and moss. The materials are brought by the male birds to the females which then construct the nests. By the time you are reading this there may well be 15-20 nests. This local rookery is quite small; the largest ones can consist of several thousand pairs. Rooks belong to the crow or corvidae family which is generally thought to be the most highly developed of all bird families.



They are far more intelligent than most other birds. In Stansted and the surrounding area we have five members of this family: rooks, crows, jays, magpies and jackdaws. Crows and rooks eat grain and the rooks also particularly like leather jackets and other insects. Jays will bury acorns and sometimes beechnuts and berries underground for use in winter. Most of these birds, especially jays, magpies and jackdaws, will take eggs and young birds from nests, and crows too will rob nests. This latter bird is also known as the carrion crow because of its habit of feeding on dead animals such as rabbits. Magpies too are often seen feeding on animals that have been run over. As well as during the nesting season, rooks tend to be socially close throughout the year and fly about in large flocks. During winter they are joined by crows, jackdaws and starlings to form mixed flocks foraging on farmland. Rooks can be distinguished from crows on the ground by the pale grey area around the base of the bill (this area is black in crows) and by their thickly feathered thighs. In flight their wingbeats are faster than those of crows. As a matter of interest, the collective noun for a large group of crows is a murder, for a large number of rooks a parliament, and for a group of magpies a tiding.

Rosina Kirkwood

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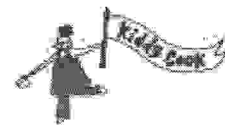
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ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

Our programme in February included hearing from three truly inspirational leaders, working in different sectors of our local society but all making an exceptional contribution that we should celebrate. Dr Chris Ingate, Head of Birchwood High School, highly sceptical of fashionable dogma, has transformed his school during his six-year tenure and strives to equip his pupils to cope in a competitive world. Robert Purcell has been Chief Executive of East Herts YMCA, also for six years, and has brought energy and a new professionalism to the YMCA in Bishop's Stortford. They not only have a new purpose-built facility offering supported housing and emergency short term accommodation, but have developed practical personal development programmes and provide IAG (information, advice and guidance) for career and educational development for some of the most needy in our society. David Brown has been a member of Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club for 55 years, and having nearly hung up his boots, now concentrates on the development of junior cricket at the Club. The programme is integrated into the imaginative and progressive development of junior cricket at county and national level. Significantly this programme carries on through the whole year and encourages the full participation of girls. The photo shows David receiving the cheque for £500 from President Allan Dick.



The cheque was the first to be presented from our Christmas fund-raising programme; in all £5,350 has been set aside and will be distributed during the next few weeks. All organisations who will receive a donation and all those who applied to the invitation in the Stansted 'Link' will now have been contacted. There were many organisations we wished to support and we hope that, where we were able, our donations help with the good work being done.

On 8th March we held our annual Business Dinner at the Weston Business Centre for members, partners and friends as well as a good contingent from the local business community and Grove Cottage. This is another of our major fundraising events which Ian Robertson, the popular BBC Rugby commentator, made into a truly fantastic evening. Ian took charge of the auction and with an outstandingly informative and amusing line of patter persuaded guests to part with an amazing amount of money for charity. He also brought along his own items for auction. Having got his audience

well warmed up, Ian then delivered a talk, which had guests' chuckle muscles in spasm. Rotarian Nigel Dobie, in thanking Ian said, "Over the 29 years the event has been held, this was the best". The event raised about £7,000 of which a significant element will go to Grove Cottage and some to Ian's charity, the Alastair Hignell MS Fund. The photo shows Ian Robertson explaining auction items being beautifully displayed while President Allan Dick and Rotarian Earl, the organiser of the event look on.



Peter Latham

Tel: 507294

Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net

STANSTED LITERATURE GROUP BOOK REVIEW

H G Wells

We have recently been studying the work and life of H G Wells, well known for his novels in the science fiction genre ie 'The War of the Worlds'. He was also a first class writer of comedy, as we found when we read 'The History of Mr Polly'.

The History of Mr Polly written in 1910

Alfred Polly is a timid, unambitious man forever on a search for love and happiness. As a young man he works in a draper's shop and spends most of his time reading about gallant knights rescuing 'damsels in distress'. He is eventually sacked for far too much daydreaming. He appears unable to find another job but his father dies and leaves him a large inheritance. At his father's funeral he meets his future wife, cousin Miriam. He somehow, and quite comically, manages to find himself married to Miriam, although he does not love her. He is looking for romance! Mr Polly, at Miriam's nagging insistence, buys a shop, which fails as well as his marriage, and eventually decides that enough is enough. He leaves it all behind and off he goes on his bicycle to freedom, on through the country lanes seeking romance. He ends up eventually at the Potwell Inn situated in the country near the river, where the comfortable landlady, we never learn her name, offers him work. The plot continues with many twists and turns.

Wells put much of himself into this short book and the result is masterly. It is packed full of symbolism, comedy, elements of farce and pathos. It is such a good piece of literature that it has never been out of print, and is well worth reading, or even re-reading.

Mary Warnett

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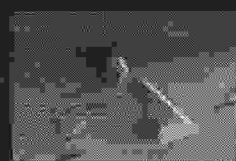
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Wizard of Oz is a real ding-dong knockout

As an anthem of anti-establishment rebellion, *Ding Dong The Witch is Dead* has to be up there with the likes of *Anarchy in the UK*, *Fight The Power* and *White Riot*. It was given an appropriately riotous airing recently in Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College's hugely enjoyable production of *The Wizard of Oz*. The ragged glory of that standout number was maintained throughout the show, performed with a relentless energy impossible not to admire. Among the stars of the proceedings was Jack Clements, who gave a convincingly unhinged interpretation of the Wicked Witch of the West, barking his lines like an escapee from an insane asylum and always ready with a deranged cackle. Alex Ross, who played the Lion, is clearly blessed with wonderful comic timing and Megan Langer had all the vulnerability and wide-eyed innocence you would look for in a good Dorothy. The large cast had been well rehearsed and there was not a fluffed line to be heard. The American South accents were also impressive. The sets were beautifully designed, the backdrop was stunning and it is always great to have a live band belting out the tunes rather than making do with a recording of the soundtrack. Yes, the occasional note was missed, but these rough edges were lost in the overall intoxicating rush of the show. This was a committed, rabble-raising production with a whole lot of heart and a bucketful of soul.

Toby Allanson

Reality Roadshow

On Friday 4th March the Uttlesford Reality Roadshow team came to MMCC for their annual event. They ran a number of workshops aimed at Year 9 students. In the morning they covered citizenship issues which included alcohol and substance misuse, the dangers of smoking and how to spot signs of a stroke, law and antisocial behaviour, road safety, sexual health and internet safety. During the afternoon the Fire Service gave a talk about fire safety. All the students enjoyed the day and learnt important information. The leaders of the workshops also praised the students for their input and general behaviour during the day.

Mrs J Pacey
Student Manager

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Wizard of Oz*. Dorothy, expertly played by Megan Langer, was swept away to a magical land in a tornado and embarked on a quest to find the Wizard, who would help her to return home. On the journey, Dorothy encountered the Wicked Witch of the West and in Jack Clements, she could not have found a more wicked witch! The role of Tinman was played very well by Georgia King, the Scarecrow by Hayden Tierney, and the Cowardly Lion by Alex Ross in a wonderfully cowardly way! Lewis Macdonald was a really wizard Wizard, and these stars were well supported by a large and very good chorus. The show was produced by Miss Carlie Beard and her natural enthusiasm shone through in the whole of the cast. I cannot wait to see what is planned for 2012. Well done to everyone involved in the *Wizard of Oz*!

Malcolm Lloyd
Governor

Stansted Tennis Club



Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place on Tuesday 15th February. Martyn Taplin stepped down as Treasurer and Sarah Hollis was elected to take over the role. Michaela Bitten has also resigned and Antony Dynamou was elected as a general member. The new Committee are keen to encourage members to become 'Friends of the Committee'. This would be ideal for those who do not wish to actually join the Committee, but who would be prepared to offer assistance in a variety of ways when called upon. If you would like to be added to the growing list, please email chris.hollis2@btinternet.com

Ladies' Night

The next Ladies' Night will be 7.00pm-10.00pm on Monday 11th April. All are welcome!

Coaching

If you are interested in finding out more about coaching at Stansted Tennis Club, please contact either Chris Hollis (319155) or Martyn Taplin (Monday night adult coaching session) (816386). Chris is currently trying to organise a group for younger children (Reception /Year 1 and Year 2). There are also vacancies for the following groups:

Monday 4.30pm-5.45pm - Girls' Match Practice session.

Monday 5.45pm-6.15pm - Year 5/6- Boys.

Thursday 4.30-5.00pm - Years 3/4 - Mixed.

Thursday 5.00pm-5.30pm - Years 2/3 - Mixed.

Please give Chris a call if you are interested in any of these groups.

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Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions:

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Contacts

Richard Mott (Secretary) 466348, Janet Hollis (Chairman) 812073, Daphne Lunnon (Membership Secretary) 817574.

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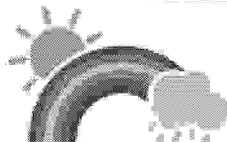
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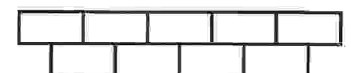
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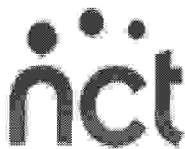
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As I write this the sun is shining and Spring has sprung! Brilliant news for the outside activities we have planned this month - our monthly Forest Walk and our Easter Egg Hunt. Our monthly Tea and Toys group will have Usbourne books visiting, so while the children are playing you can browse the books they have on offer! Our messy play in March was a great success, plenty of sticking, painting and junk modelling using recycling boxes, all held in St John's Church so no hoovering glitter up for days afterwards! All our events are for members and non-members so please let me know if you have any ideas regarding local activities that you would like to see held for your children. We try to have a variety of events to suit all ages and are open to new suggestions. In fact why don't you come along to our social branch meeting, a relaxed sociable affair where we discuss the diary sheet and enjoy time together without the children?

Fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates? Why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings, which are informal gatherings held in members' homes. Each age group is individually tailored for: Bumps and Babes, Toddlers and Pre-school. We would love to meet you and it is a great way of making new friends. Contact me for details of our weekly events.

Additional events being held this month

Friday 1st April 10.30am-11.30am St John's Hall
Tea and Toys with Usbourne Books £2 per family. For all Pre-schoolers and Pregnant Mums.

Wednesday 6th April 8.00pm Social Branch Meeting. Contact Corrina 817106. For all Mums and Dads.

Saturday 16th April Bishops Stortford Cinema Trip meet 9.00am at the entrance. For all ages.

Wednesday 20th April Easter Egg Hunt
Linnets Wood, Ugley. Contact Jane 812180.
For all ages.



Tuesday 26th April Hatfield Forest Walk. Meet at main entrance car park at 11.00am.

Anna Sedgbeer
Tel: 812257



**Huw Johnson
Club**

We started back to club by celebrating Joanne's birthday with a disco by Garry. We are delighted he has recovered from his illness as we always enjoy his discos and quizzes. One thing all our members enjoy is eating out especially if we go to the Chequers, which we did recently, and all our plates of sausage and mash were returned empty! We would have gone bowling in Bishop's Stortford but unfortunately this has closed and we have lost one of our most popular outings. The Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College have chosen the Club as this year's charity, and we are very grateful for their support, especially as this means some of the pupils will visit the Club. We will need some new young helpers from September as our present team are moving on to higher education.

Marion Johnson
Tel:812284

If you have never bowled before **NOW** is the time to learn - join **Stansted Bowling Club**. Bowls truly is the sport for all - all ages, all sexes and all abilities. It's a game that takes a few minutes to learn and the rest of your bowling career to master! Bowls is a relatively cheap game compared to other sports. All you will need to start is a pair of flat-soled shoes, grey trousers/skirt and a white top. The Club has a selection of bowls for you to use until you are confident enough to buy a set of your own. The rules of the game are simple and can be played by **anyone**. It is played on a square of closely cut grass called 'the green', which is divided into playing areas called rinks. Players take turns to deliver their bowls from a mat at one end of the rink towards a small white ball called the jack at the other end. The bowls are shaped so that they take a curved path towards the jack. To be successful, the bowl must be delivered with the correct weight, along the correct line. The object is to get one or more of your bowls closer to the jack than those of your opponents; one point is scored for each counting bowl. It might sound easy, but the fact that the bowls do not travel in a straight line seriously adds to fun and the tactical challenge. In addition to the sheer enjoyment of the game, bowls will help keep you healthy. It is great anaerobic exercise for your joints, muscles, tendons and ligaments. For example, in an average game you will bend 42 times, walk approximately 1380 yards, swing your arm some 40 times to deliver a bowl weight about three pounds.

However, just as important is the social aspect of the game. We pride ourselves on the friendliness of our Club which is located in Recreation Ground just off Chapel Hill where we have an excellent Clubhouse and well stocked bar. There you will always find a warm affable welcome. The club has a lively ladies section with their own games and competitions as well as, of course, playing in joint Club games. So why not come along and try your hand? We are holding a full beginners week for new members from Sunday 1st May - for full details phone our Club Captain Derek on 816144 or Vice Captain John on 815036 or Ladies Captain Margaret on 814359 or Secretary Edward on 816932.

STANSTED BOWLING CLUB
'What a great way to start the summer'



RED CROSS WEEK
1st to 8th May

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. Your support for these collections will be really appreciated. For any further enquiries please contact me.

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Tel: 813172

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A Journey into Space

Please read your Space Ship Brochure thoroughly. Your vehicle will need to be absolutely airtight and don't forget to take enough air for all of you. In fact, just take oxygen because you will have over five times the amount of oxygen in the air. You will also need filters to absorb the carbon dioxide from your breath. Water and food are also advised. Toilet facilities are basic and suction based, as you will be in a gravity-free environment. Your spacecraft has now been filled with two tanks: one full of liquid oxygen (this is separate from the earlier oxygen) and the other the fuel, a very refined form of paraffin. So now you are almost ready; just a glance to make sure that the weather's good and press the button. The ship starts to vibrate more and continues as the engines take about eight seconds to get to full power. Then you are released and you begin to rise. The capsule is shaking and you can feel the pressure on your body as the rocket accelerates. After just a few minutes you glance out of the window and you see it's getting dark. It isn't night time but you are now higher than the atmosphere.

Suddenly there is a jolt as the largest engines and fuel tanks automatically break off because they are very heavy, empty and of no further use. Though still accelerating, under the power of smaller rockets you gratefully lose some of the pressure on your chest. 15 minutes or so after lift off, it suddenly goes quiet: all engines have stopped and you are coasting at around 17,500 miles an hour. Anything slower and you will return to Earth, anything faster and you will wander off forever. You are allowed to float out of your seats and grab one of the many handles. You float to the windows, but wherever you look, there is no sign of the space station. Have we gone the wrong way? No, but you have to approach the station very slowly; that can take two or three days, then you have to position your ship to dock and that can take several hours and several goes. But once docked and air tight, you will be assured of a warm welcome and a tube of tea or coffee. We hope you enjoy your stay on the International Space Station!!

Martin West

STANSTED DAY CENTRE

Beginner's IT Lessons at The Day Centre have proved very popular. The lessons are one to one and you do not need your own computer. Ongoing computer access is offered for anyone who wants to use it regularly for Internet shopping etc. If you're interested in giving it a go, give us a ring at the number below to find out more. The Day Centre is now available for some private functions and as always it is available for group lettings, spacious hall, office and well fitted kitchen available. Great location at the centre of the village (top of Chapel Hill). Coming soon to The Day Centre: fish and chip lunches. Bookings will be taken in advance, watch this space! For further information on what your local community centre has to offer, please contact me.

Kat Lupton
Manager
Tel: 815091/ 812144



**Stansted
Cricket
Club**

Our NatWest Cricket Force Working Party day is being held from 10am-4pm on Sunday 27th March. All members are encouraged to attend wearing clothes suitable for outdoor work (eg digging, mowing, pruning, etc.). The home fixtures for the first two weekends of the new season are:

Sat 30th April	2nd XI v Little Bardfield	1.30pm
Sat 7th May	1st XI v Hockerill I	1.30pm
Sun 8th May	Sun XI v Epping Foresters	2.30pm

The junior section will be running both U12 and U15 teams this year with some U13 fixtures. We are actively seeking new members to join these teams and will welcome any newcomers to our training evenings. Please contact Keith Ayres on 814471 or 07768 023830 for more information on training evenings and start times. If anyone wishes to join the club, would seniors please contact David Hedge (812509) and juniors contact Keith Ayres (814471).

David Hedge

ROYAL MUSIC AT MANUDEN SINGERS APRIL CONCERT

The Manuden Singers are departing from their customary devotional programme this Spring with a celebration of the forthcoming Royal Wedding. They have been rehearsing Handel's 'Zadok the Priest', Mozart's 'Coronation Mass' and a series of Handel's Coronation Anthems including 'The King shall Rejoice'. The Manuden Players, who will be supporting the Choir throughout, will also perform the stirring 'Entrance of the Queen of Sheba'. The Choir's Director, Ian Priest, has also included two items in the programme to mark the completion of Manuden Church's new balustraded bell-ringing platform with toilet facilities below. One piece by Lassus called 'The Echo' is to be performed by the Choir in the body of the church with four soloists providing the echo from the new balcony in the bell tower. Proceeds of the concert go to CONI (Care of Next Infant), which supports families having suffered a loss from cot death. Funds are used to buy baby monitors, support research into cot death and provide help for bereaved families to prevent repetition of such tragedies. One of the Choir's members is a CONI Regional Organiser and a specialist nurse for the organisation. The Concert is at 7.30 pm on Sunday 17th April in Manuden Church. Tickets £10/£5 (children) from Fiona Bengtsen 812157, Choir members, or on the door.

Teresa Priest

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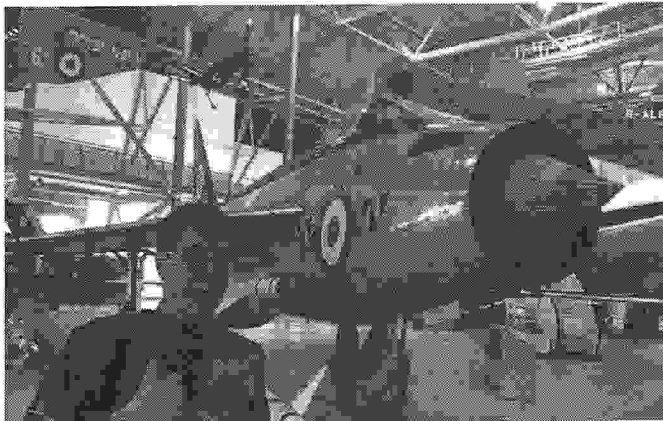
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494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

February saw the Essex Air Cadets' Wing presentation evening, where our squadron was represented by a flight of cadets and our squadron standard, plus those being there to receive awards. The formal night at Chelmsford's Civic Centre, with dignitaries including the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, the Mayor of Thurrock and several high ranking military personnel, hosted a presentation of Essex's cadets over the past year. Several cadets played musical interludes and the evening culminated in the presentation of awards. 494 (Stansted) Airport Squadron's cadets were awarded the Falklands Competition award for winning in April 2010; our Officer Commanding, Flight Lieutenant Ellie Chinnery, was presented with her Cadet Forces Medal for 12 years of cadet commitment; and Sergeant Richard Smith was awarded the President's Prize. For this he has been given a flight in a Typhoon Simulator – the next best thing to the fast-jet, which is used as our UK airspace defence interceptor.

In late February Sergeant Richard Smith went away on an RAF-based engineering course, which gave him an insight to the sort of careers aviation and engineering can bring. Ranging from air traffic controllers, pilots, and aeronautical engineers and even being a fireman, the course offered great inside information about the life of an engineer, how to apply for jobs and what can be achieved in education. Over the coming months we will also be busy as a squadron. With several competitions coming up, and many cadet courses we



can attend, summer looks to be a jam-packed season. If you are aged between 13 and 16 and interested in joining us, telephone 681559 Mondays and Fridays 7.15pm-9.30pm (24 hour answerphone) or e-mail 494@aircadets.org.

Richard Smith
494 Squadron ATC



Royal British Legion
Stansted & District
Branch

POPPY APPEAL 2011

I am really delighted, and relieved, to say that a volunteer has offered to co-ordinate the Appeal in Stansted - Sarah Murdoch tel 814708. I know that all the present collectors will give her all the support she needs. As you know I have been asking for more collectors for some time as many roads, and even areas, are not covered. Whilst being aware that Sarah will be doing her utmost to fill these gaps, please offer to help if you can. It only takes a little time during the fortnight before Remembrance Sunday in November.

John L Segar
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser
Stansted and District

CYCLING TO NEW ZEALAND

I think there may be several readers who remember Jodie Burton. Now age 30 (she would hate me for saying that), she was a pupil of St Mary's Primary School and then at the Mountfitchet High. In May last year, she gave up her job as Head of Business Compliance for a global investment company in London to start a new outdoor life in Australia with her boyfriend, Tom. However, Jodie doesn't do 'easy' and so the idea of cycling there was mooted, which then developed into a charity fundraising ride based around the world of rugby. They were officially seen off at Twickenham on 1st May last year by the president of the RFU and will finish their journey in Auckland in September during the Rugby World Cup. As they have travelled, their ride has gained a lot of media coverage, which in turn has led to many more invitations to visit 'our club' and so their route has been constantly modified; plus, of course, the additional problem of the flooding in Pakistan.

So far they have cycled and camped their way through France, Belgium, Germany, The Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Dubai, Pakistan, China, South Korea and Japan - all the time collecting famous signatures, past and present, from the rugby world on their scroll, which they will officially present in New Zealand. However, their journey hasn't been an easy one; pouring rain throughout Europe, extreme heat in Georgia and bitter cold in China, not to mention the odd bear taking an interest in them one night. (If you read only one blog it must be the one headed 'Noodle Time'.) The friendliness shown to them by local people in almost all the countries has been amazing. Perfect strangers, who have no idea of their mission, on seeing them start to pitch tent have appeared out of nowhere and swept them back to their homes for a welcome hot meal, comfy bed and, best of all, a bath or shower. There is an article about their journey in this April's edition of 'Rugby World' magazine, but anyone interested in knowing more, following their adventures, seeing their 4000+ photos, reading their blogs or wishing to donate to their charity (Rays of Sunshine) can do so by visiting www.cyclingtotherugbyworldcup.com.

Ian and Pat Burton



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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.

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