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

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EDITORIAL



'Dog Watch' has received reports of dog fouling along the Cambridge Road and Bentfield Causeway, and on the Recreation Ground. This problem has been highlighted on numerous occasions in 'The Link' and elsewhere, so dog owners must be aware that not clearing up after their canines is not only unacceptable to the wider community, but also an offence for which they can be prosecuted, and fined. Apparently there are free bags available in Saffron Walden, Thaxted and Dunmow for dog walkers to use, in conjunction with the red bins, to dispose of their pets' mess. We have many red bins in the village, including Foresthall Park (or should that be Forest Hall Park? See page 22) and perhaps Stansted should supply free bags too?

Easter is the time all keen, and not so keen gardeners emerge from their sheds or comfy armchairs and spring into action. The annual 'Stansted in Bloom' competition on page 19, is an ideal opportunity for all 'green fingered' residents to showcase their talents, especially in this Jubilee and Olympic year. Bearing in mind the current dog litter problem, let's do our best to ensure that the Olympic Torchbearer's trip through the village in July is a memorable one - for all the right reasons.

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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

THERE ARE MANY EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING IN 2012

Times may be tough, but we have the opportunity to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June. We have the Olympic Torch passing through the village on 7th July and on 27th July the eyes of the world turn to our country and, in particular London, as the opening ceremony for the Olympic Games begins. Despite a recent deep recession, job losses, price rises and last year's riots, we have real hope that this year life will be better for those who have and perhaps still are under the cosh. It is up to all of us to make it a real time of celebration and to join together as a community to celebrate, what are for many of us, once in a lifetime events.

Easter is also a time of real hope and celebration. We are in the season of Lent which helps us prepare for and leads us into Easter week. Maundy Thursday reminds us of Jesus' last supper with His disciples before His betrayal. Good Friday is a day of reflection for many of us as we remember the awful death that Jesus Christ suffered for us and in our place. On Easter Day we celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection. As the chorus of a hymn reminds us, "*You're alive, You're alive, You have risen, alleluia, and the power and the glory is given, Jesus to You.*" This Easter why not come along to a church and celebrate the joy that Jesus is alive.

Every blessing this Eastertide.

David Keeble
Stansted Free Church Minister

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Saturday 31st March Vigil of Passion Sunday

6.00pm Mass
Blessing and Distribution of Palms

Sunday 1st April Passion Sunday

10.00am Mass
Blessing and Distribution of Palms

Monday 2nd April

7.30pm Penitential Service

Thursday 5th April Holy Thursday

8.00pm Mass of the Last Supper
Vigil until 10.30pm

Friday 6th April Good Friday

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

Saturday 7th April Holy Saturday

10.00am-11.00am Confessions
8.00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 8th April Easter Sunday

10.00am Easter Mass

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Sunday 8th April

Meeting for Worship 10.00am

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Sunday 1st April Palm Sunday,

9.30am Palm Sunday Eucharist (St John's)

Wednesday 4th April

10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 5th April Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Holy Communion

Friday 6th April Good Friday

9.00am Morning Prayer (St Mary's, Farnham)
12noon Stations of the Cross (St John's)
2.00pm Liturgy of the Cross (St Mary's, Birchanger)

Sunday 8th April Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion (St John's)
9.30am Sung Eucharist (St John's)
11.00am Holy Communion (St Mary's, Birchanger)
6.00pm Holy Communion (St Mary's, Farnham)

FREE CHURCH

Friday 6th April Good Friday

10.30am Good Friday service

Sunday 8th April Easter Day

10.30am Easter Communion





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 Sally Chapman
Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btck.com

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

Director of Music: Vacant

Church Hall Bookings: Ray Smith
Tel or text: 07972 373994
Email: stjohns.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 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.

Tuesday
9.00am St John's Tots

Wednesday
9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

fect acoustics to accommodate a gutsy band, some travelling from London, the South East and north Norfolk. Local bandleader Pete has a misty look in his eye as he surveys the windmill over the Recreation Ground and muses, "We must be getting something right in the village to be in our ninth year. I take the best from the different styles of music and people are incredibly enthusiastic, often getting up to dance. The supper is a good idea too making it a real party atmosphere in the Church". Absolutely right! We are also having an obligatory raffle.

Tickets are at last year's price of £14, and to control costs further in these straightened times, please bring your own drinks and glasses. This is an important fundraising event for the Church Hall. Last year we raised over £1,500 from this one event, and although without bar sales we expect less this year, having fun in Church as well as worship, is an important aspect of village life. Hurry, hurry to get your tickets and avoid disappointment – this is usually a sell out event!! Telephone 814865, 461151 or 815243 for tickets.

Hill Chilli Friday 15th June

Fund raising is an important aspect for the Church Hall. There is always something that needs fixing and income from lettings doesn't always suffice. One regular event which contributes a welcome input is the annual 'Hill Chilli' organised by Sonia Levy, ably assisted by Susie Ball and Maxine Levy, in her garden on Chapel Hill. On a Friday evening in last June an amazing number of people assembled in the garden and kitchen, some swinging from the hanging baskets (allegedly) to save space. Bread and cheese, chilli and rice, and a prodigious amount of wine was enthusiastically consumed and many world problems solved. Fortunately the weather was kind. Asked how she organised such a joyous event Sonia quipped, "Organised? Don't be ridiculous! It just happens. People here know how to enjoy themselves in simple conversation and laughter." How true! A magnificent sum of £500 was raised. Thank you so very much Sonia. This year's bash is on Friday 15th June – put it in the diary.

Ray Smith
Chairman

St John's Church Hall Committee

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the February draws:

£100: No. 230 - Harold Davies
£ 50 No. 225 - Don Cole
£ 25 No. 24 - Stella Skingle

The draws for April will be carried out on Sunday 29th April in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. The 300 Club year will come to an end on 30th April and I would like to express our very grateful thanks to all those who have supported us. A new year's subscription will commence on 1st May and I do hope that our existing members will renew their subscriptions and that anyone who would like to share in the chance to win one of the prizes totalling £2,500 given away each year, will contact me for a form. Numbers cost £2 each per month with a maximum of five numbers per household.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562

From the Registers

February

Funerals

8th Lesley Peachey, age 89 - at St Mary's
24th Albert John Blake, age 82 - funeral service at St Mary's, cremation at Parndon Wood

ST JOHN'S NEWS

Jazz at St John's, Friday 27th April 8.00pm-11.00pm

Once a year St John's Church rings to a different sound to the usual choir and organ music. Chairs are re-arranged around tables and Pete Baker's Half Dozen plays an eclectic mixture of jazz appealing to all preferences including Dixie, Swing and Traditional. It's a fantastic atmosphere with per-

'RULE BRITANNIA'

If you were there you'll know why!! I would like to thank all who supported the Shrove Tuesday Social in St John's Church. The choir were fantastic and it was a lovely community feeling in the church with everyone joining in with songs relating to the Queen's reign and her Commonwealth. We all enjoyed the cheese and wine followed by delicious pancakes.



The fantastic sum of £435 raised will go to the funds for the Church roof repairs and the flower festival. Alan Corbishley spoke of a tradition previously set for a social on Shrove Tuesday - maybe we will continue?

Pauline Mantle.

St John's Flower Arrangers are responsible for flowers in church; the flower rota covers the Sunday after Easter until the Sunday before Advent. We need more people to join our team. This does not require professional skills; enthusiasm and imagination are more important! You can choose which week(s) is suitable for you and if you only want to do a small arrangement in the Lady Chapel, that's fine. Please contact Jean Robinson on 813299 if you are interested.

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



STANSTED FREE CHURCH

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Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

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

Preachers for April

1st 10.30am Michael Render
6th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble - Good Friday Service
8th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble - Easter Communion
15th 10.30am Ken Mark
22nd 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins
29th 10.30am Gordon Doyle

A number of our congregation have enjoyed being part of the 'Mission Shaped Intro' course organised by Churches Together in Stansted, where we have been exploring new ways of 'being church'. Watch this space!

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am



Shalom

We will not be meeting in April. Our next meeting is 8.00pm on 14th May at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

CALLING ALL CHILDREN!

We have hidden Easter eggs throughout this edition of 'The Link' - see if you can spot them. Here are six to start you off. Answer on page 39. Good luck!





Stansted Windmill
Open Days
1.30 - 5.30 pm

Easter Weekend
Sun 8th April
Mon 9th April
All Welcome



St Mary's Church Open

2- 5 pm Sun 8th April
& Mon 9th April
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Both events on
Easter Sunday & Monday
8th & 9th April 11 am - 4.30 pm

VILLAGE EVENTS

April

1	Sun	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
2	Mon	NCT Easter Egg Hunt	Linnets Woods, Ugley 11 am
4	Wed	Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
5	Thu	Local History	Day Centre 8.00 pm
7	Sat	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
8	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
		St Mary's Church teas	2 - 5 pm
		Flower festival	Rickling Church 11 am - 4.30 pm
9	Mon	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
		St Mary's Church teas	2 - 5 pm
		Flower festival	Rickling Church 11 am - 4.30 pm
11	Wed	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
12	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
		Just4dads begins	Spangles 10 - 11.30 am
15	Sun	Gardens Open	Easton Lodge noon - 6 pm
		Royal Jubilee Prom	Manuden Church 7.30 pm
19	Thu	U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 pm
27	Fri	Jazz Night	St John's Church 8 - 11 pm
28	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
		Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
29	Sun	Car Boot Sale	MMCC 11 am - 2 pm
		NCT Nearly New Sale	Hilton Hotel 2.30 pm

Manuden Singers & Players

Royal Jubilee Prom Concert
Programme includes Zadok the Priest
Jerusalem & Rule Britannia

7.30 pm Sun 15th April
St Mary's Church, Manuden

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Proceeds to Herts Victim Support



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Half Dozen**

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St John's Church
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In aid of Church Hall Fund

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Lower Street Car Park Saturdays 9 am - 3 pm
14th & 28th April ~ 19th May ~ 2nd & 16th June

The Mountfitchet
Maths & Computing
College PTA



CAR BOOT SALE
11 am - 2 pm (SELLERS 10 am)
Sunday 29th APRIL
Plus Hot Food & Refreshments
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Stansted Eve WI
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Free Church Hall

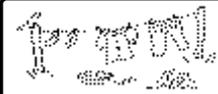
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SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



We are experiencing quite a lot of Astronomy at the moment. We had an asteroid pass us a few weeks ago which, at its closest to us was just 20,000 miles. This may sound safe; indeed it was because it didn't hit us. But 20,000 miles away is less than a tenth of the distance to the Moon and it would have only needed a relatively small change of direction from something with gravity, like the Earth, and it could have spoilt everyone's day. Our local star, the Sun, has been playing around for the last two or three years, perhaps something of a mid-life crisis. It is sending out great 'bulbs' of energy: heat, some light and radiation. Our atmosphere is used to this and generally protects us from these huge, invisible invasions. Nevertheless, radiation gets through and can display itself mostly by destroying electronics and, if we are lucky, which is very difficult in Stansted Mountfitchet and environs, giving us spectacular 'showers' of Northern (and Southern) Lights. To get the very best of the Lights you have to go to the Poles, where the Earth's magnetic fields are at their most dense, and are able to attract the billions of ionised particles. However, the most Northern areas of Great Britain are very good. The lights are not just a feast for the eyes; there are sometimes great groaning sounds as the atmosphere and the radiation collide.

Now something about things a little closer. Over the last couple of months we have had some spectacularly clear nights with the fairly rare, and useful, extras of interesting things in the sky as soon as it became dark. You may have seen two bright dots quite close to each other, very roughly fairly low in the South West. They are the planets Venus in the brighter corner and Jupiter, still very clear, but passing on until next year. And you may have seen that duo become, for one night only, a trio with the crescent Moon. The days are noticeably becoming longer (though every day is slightly different) but we still have a few weeks of good looking. See if you can see Orion before he goes upside down Down Under.

Martin West



'THE LINK' STILL HAS VACANCIES!

Distribution Collator

An interesting and varied role. Tasks include assessing the number of magazines required each month, posting to those outside Stansted, delivering a few within the village (the majority are delivered by paid distributors), dealing with distribution enquiries, and liaising with both the Parish Council and our Advertising Manager.

Puzzlers

Are you an avid crossword or sudoku fan? Would you consider compiling puzzles for 'The Link'? We have had one volunteer, but would welcome more.

Please call Derek on 647213 or Yvonne on 814706 if you are interested in any of the above.

A very big thank you, and welcome, to the three photographers who responded to our plea for help last month.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

Our next meeting is on Thursday 19th April in St John's Church Hall. Doors open 1.30pm and the meeting starts at 2.00pm. The speaker is John Neal, with audience participation, talking about Pickwick's London.

Committee Nominations

Nominations are still required for the position of Secretary. The AGM will take place prior to the regular meeting on Thursday 17th May at 2.00pm, when nominations will be voted upon. These need to be given to Christine at least two weeks prior to the AGM. Some Committee members will remain. New members are vital to ensure our U3A remains vibrant. If anyone is interested please contact Christine on 817587 for details. Please ensure all nominees are interested in standing for a position before they are nominated. Volunteers are also needed to help out on an ad hoc basis.

Membership Fees

Membership fees are now due and cheques will be taken at the April meeting. Fees will remain at £13.50 and membership cards will be issued this year. Ensure that you get your card as you will need to show it from time to time.

Forthcoming Activities

If anyone is interested in the summer break to the German Rhine/Moselle areas please contact Maggie or Jan. A day trip to Leeds Castle in Kent has now also been arranged for Sunday 20th May. Leeds Castle's popular lifestyle fair offers a wide range of home furnishings, kitchen and cookery items, fashion, garden equipment, local produce and plants to buy. Meet the Leeds Castle gardeners and learn how to create the perfect spring hanging baskets. The Daily Mail Garden Roadshow, live entertainment and catering will also be on offer, together with entrance to the castle. Price £25.50. Further details on the website or contact Margaret on 503848 or Jan on 812481. Plans to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee on Thursday 21st June are going ahead. Details are yet to be discussed so watch this space.

Activities

We have a number of activity/interest groups including Art, Book Club, Bridge, Bus Pass Group, Cycling for Pleasure, Drama/Entertainment, French, Gardening, Genealogy, Italian, Knitting & Crochet, Mixed handicrafts, Photography, Pilates, Pub grub, Scrabble, Singing, Spanish, Walking and Rambling and Natural History. The new Arts and Classics group enjoyed a great evening out to see and hear the Russian State Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cambridge Corn Exchange. The programme was an all-Russian affair with pieces by Khachaturian, Rachmaninov and Rimsky Korsakov. The charismatic conductor feigned weariness when the orchestra performed three extra pieces as encores and left the stage before the others. Everyone enjoyed the concert tremendously and another trip will be organised some time in the summer. See our website for full details of Stansted U3A www.stanstedu3a.org. For further information please contact Cherry (Chair) 817140 or Chris (Secretary) 817587.



Caroline Bore

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Midnight Walk 16th June

The popular 10k circular walk around Harlow starts and finishes at the Water Gardens. We hope that some 1,350 walkers will take part this year, which would raise £90,000 towards the £2.7 million annual costs required to run St Clare's, of which the Hospice currently receives only 24 per cent funding from the NHS. To register email fund@stclarehospice.org.uk or visit our website.

Home Collection Boxes

Every penny counts when it comes to fundraising and St Clare Hospice is looking to collect as many pennies, and other coins, as possible as it launches its home collection boxes throughout the area. The special boxes, ideal for people to fill with their loose change, are available from any of the St Clare Hospice shops – including the shop in Bishop's Stortford. Last year £2,000 was raised from home collection boxes, and this year we are hoping to double that figure to £4,000.



The average amount of change raised in each box last year was £10 which means we only need 400 people to take part and our new target will be reached. Four hundred people from a population of around 300,000 should be achievable, we hope! For more information email Camilla.Whitby@stclarehospice.org.uk.

Raffle Draw - Friday 30th March 11.00am

There is still time to buy tickets at £1 each for the Hospice's raffle. Prizes include a £200 M&S voucher and a Fortnum and Mason hamper, and a first prize of £2,000. The draw takes place at the Hospice and the winning tickets will be drawn by Stephen Drew, senior vice-principal at Passmores Academy in Harlow, who had a starring role in the Channel 4 fly-on-the-wall documentary 'Educating Essex', which featured staff and pupils at the school. Tickets are available from the Hospice shops or from the Hospice.

Hospice Lottery

A supporter of the Hospice's lottery, who has won the £1,000 jackpot twice in ten months, is urging people to support the charity by taking part in the weekly draws. Kay Fryer, who donated some of her latest winnings back to St Clare, said: "Taking part in the hospice lottery is so easy. It's



a great way to support the charity and you stand a chance of winning something yourself!" She signed up for the lottery when approached by one of the Hospice's doorstep canvassers. All our canvassers carry photo ID and their names are listed with Essex Police. Players can pay by standing order, cheque or credit card. The Hospice also has lottery collectors who call on existing members each month. Each week there is a £1,000 jackpot, a £100 second prize and 40 runners-up prizes of £10. For more information on any of the above call 01279 750750 or visit our website: www.stclarehospice.org.uk.



David Jackman

Stansted Friends of St Clare Hospice would like to thank the Kings Arms for their ongoing support of the Hospice. They have supplied six bottles of wine as the raffle prize each month at their quiz. Since last September the raffle money collected during the quiz has amounted to £163 which is great. Huge thanks must go to Jackie for organising and presenting the quizzes which are proving to be very popular with the locals; thanks also for the generosity of the customers who have supported the raffles. The Hospice is most grateful.



Caroline Bore

HEALTH CENTRE - LETTER FROM PELHAM STRUCTURES

There have been varying reports and opinions circulated with regard to the proposed new Health Centre at Lower Street and I would like to take this opportunity to give readers of 'The Link' magazine the facts regarding this proposal. This site is designated, by Uttlesford, as a mixed use site, which means a mixture of retail/office/apartments would conform with policy. After having drawn up such a scheme, Uttlesford encouraged us to contact the PCT (Primary Care Trust) to see if a medical centre could be incorporated. After many discussions, the application, which included the Health Centre, was submitted at the end of 2011. It was deemed to meet all the needs of the PCT, the conservation and planning officers at Uttlesford and local needs. A stand alone Health Centre was not financially viable. An independent study showed that the retail element of the development would prove to be a major benefit to the area.

Since December, further highways surveys that were needed have been carried out and submitted to UDC and should be available to view on the Council website soon. The car park now includes six free short-term parking bays; a pedestrian crossing on Lower Street will result in the loss of no more than two parking spaces, if any. The number of coach bays has risen to six, with the possibility of nine being available. There is also the benefit of an extra 50 pay and display bays being available at weekends and bank holidays - peak periods for tourists - when the Medical Centre is closed. Highway and pedestrian safety have been paramount and we believe that these issues have now been satisfactorily resolved. As with all planning applications we are asked to submit on behalf of clients, we have worked in a professional and open manner, maintaining dialogue with all interested parties and authorities and attempting to work towards the best possible outcome for all concerned.

Bill Bampton

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STANSTED FUN RUN

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STANSTED 10K FUN RUN 24th June - 11.00am

Plans are now well under way for this year's Fun Run. This bi-annual event usually raises around £5,000 for charity. The funds raised this year will be distributed as follows: up to £500 each to Uttlesford Crossroads and Stansted Windmill (for a specific project), and the remainder split equally between Stanmore Aspire (spinal injury rehabilitation), Macmillan Nurses and Water Aid. Helpers are needed to marshal the route, set up on the green, put up signs along the route (the evening before and early on the day), give out medals at the end, and help at the water stations. We would also welcome businesses to sponsor our expenses, such as medals, raffle prizes, and bottled water for the runners. Sponsors' names appear on all our publicity and on our website. If you would like to get involved in this very worthwhile community event, please contact me - I will be very pleased to hear from you!

For those of you who are planning to run or walk the 10K, you can save £2 by entering in advance. Entry forms and on-line entry will be available in April. Please contact me or visit our website www.stansted10k.org.uk for details.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: marion@stansted10k.org.uk



WHOOSH EXPLORE CANOE CLUB

www.whooshexplore.co.uk

We had a great first paddling session in the pool in January with a really good attendance from lots of new paddlers getting to grips with the kayaks and paddling in the pool. However, at the end of the session after we had loaded the canoe trailer and pulled out of the car park and over the speed humps the axle broke away from the new trailer leaving us up the proverbial creek without a paddle, or rather more in this case, the wheels had quite literally fallen off the wagon! We are currently looking for a new trailer and somewhere local to store it and our equipment. Good news often follows bad. In February we received a cheque from the Canoe Foundation to purchase some new boats suitable for younger and smaller paddlers' use, and new equipment for our pool sessions. More recently we've also received a grant from the Stansted Airport Community Fund to help delivering paddling sessions at Dunmow. Whoosh Explore has also gained an Aala licence this month which will allow the Club to work with local schools and youth organisations to take part in expeditions and training including the training and delivery of Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions.

Forthcoming Events

Family Paddle on the River Stort 25th March
BCU 2star training session on 31st March through to 4th April on the River Stort for anyone interested in developing paddling skills. Please contact us for more details.

Paddle Sessions at Great Dunmow Swimming Pool 7th, 14th and 21st April 5.00pm-6.00pm.

Now the weather is warming up we are planning our paddling sessions on the rivers Stort and Cam. Please look at the website for more details of our forthcoming trips.

Peter Nash

Tel: 817453 or 07788 444579

peter.nash@yahoo.co.uk



It's that time of year again when the 3rd largest cancer charity - Macmillan Cancer Support - is asking people to tie up their walking boots and join one of our walks. The Bishop's Stortford walk takes place on Sunday 20th May and you can choose from three routes, five, 10 or 15 miles. Hertfordshire based comedian John Mann is supporting the walk this year



and has signed up for the five mile route along with his family and dog Ted. John says of Miles for Macmillan "I am proud to be associated with Macmillan Cancer Support and urge as many people as possible to take part in this great event. Merely by taking an enjoyable walk through the lovely Bishop's Stortford countryside and River Stort you can raise much needed funds for a cause that WILL affect someone close to you."

Macmillan's ambition is to reach and improve the lives of everyone affected by cancer and to inspire millions of others to do the same. One in three people will be told they have cancer at some point in their lives. There are currently two million people living with cancer in the UK and this is predicted to reach four million by 2030. Sadly we all know somebody who has been affected. By choosing to support Macmillan and taking part in a walk you will be helping people who need it most. To register to take part and receive a fundraising pack call 0300 1000 200 or log on to www.macmillan.org.uk/walking. If you would like to volunteer to help at the walk then please do get in touch. Miles for Macmillan is a national walking event in partnership with Boots. We're hoping to raise over £1.8m through Miles for Macmillan this year so whatever distance you can manage, every penny you raise will help improve the lives of people affected by cancer. Alternatively if you can't take part in the Bishop's Stortford walk then why not sign up for one of our other Miles for Macmillan walks or organise your own with friends and family.

Kerry Briars

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HATFIELD FOREST NEWS

Spring highlights a very important time in Hatfield Forest's calendar; we are ready to open the gates full time to our visitors and supporters and show you all the work we have achieved over the winter. We are excited by this year's varied events programme and would like to see as many of you as possible at our Easter Egg Trails in April, our Diamond Jubilee events throughout June and your four-legged friends at our Annual Dog Fun Day. This September we must also remember the brilliantly successful Woodfest 2012!! Due to the dedication and support of our Conservation Warden, Ian Pease, Woodfest is very popular and as camping tickets are limited please make sure you move quickly to secure a place on the campsite.

Work on the new Discovery Room project has now started, with educational and exciting installations arriving during April to help visitors understand how the Georgian aristocracy used picnic houses for entertaining. The Shell House will be central host to our Midsummer Magic Picnic on 22nd June; I am still collecting picnic blankets and cushions for this event if anyone is getting rid of them. We have recently reintroduced secondhand books for sale in the Fisherman's Shelter next to the Shell House. The books are an absolute bargain and monies raised are spent within the Forest on projects to benefit you, the visitors. The Visitor Experience Team in the lake area will welcome more donations of secondhand books.

Things to remember when visiting the Forest

1. Keep your dogs on leads in the lake area and when near grazing sheep: currently along the Main Plain towards South Gate and Doodle Oak Gate. Dogs can scare wildlife and sheep don't survive when attacked by dogs. If dogs are deemed out of control you will be asked to leave.
2. Please ask us about Raffle Tickets now being sold to raise funds for a new non-slip surface on the existing boardwalk. Details of the amazing prizes are available in the main Visitor Areas.
3. Please complete one of the new Arkenford Visitor Experience Surveys, available from Staff and Volunteers.
4. Book the Powered Mobility Vehicle in advance (it's free and in demand) - plus your favourite event.
5. You can also sign up as a volunteer with the Shell House, Retail or Visitor Experience team.

New projects we are looking at for this year include Boat Hire and Cycle Hire facilities to encourage people to get outdoors and closer to nature. As usual, thank you for your amazing support and for making Simon and I feel welcome within the Forest and local communities. All the team are ready for an amazing year at Hatfield, and if you have any comments or suggestions please me know.



Hannah Morrice
Tel: 870678
Visitor Experience Team Leader
Email: hannah.morrice@nationaltrust.org.uk



Our timetable is about to expand again!! Who's the best dad at growing the tallest sunflower, making the fastest paper aeroplane, singing the best songs, playing a musical instrument, reading stories, building castles? On 14th April 'Just4dads' will open its doors to all dads in the area with children under five. The group is being run on a monthly basis, by a small group of like-minded dads who want to come to a relaxed, safe and stimulating environment with other dads and their children. The group will start at 10.00am and run through until 11.30am, with snacks and refreshments available for a small donation. Come at any time for 15 minutes or the whole session, give us your ideas and we shall do our best to incorporate them in the coming sessions. There will be seed planting on offer at the first session and we hope you will care for the plant at home and bring it back the following month where the tallest specimen will win a small prize. The group will meet here at Spangles on the following Saturdays:



14th April, 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 11th August, and hopefully the second Saturday on following months. A 50p donation per family is requested please. Contact Spangles for more information and we will also put you in touch with Simon, a local dad, who is leading the group.

Mandy Fitchett
Tel: 812348

CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH Easter Bonnets

Make these delicious and easy Easter Bonnets with your children – a great chance for them to show their creativity.

Ingredients

Digestive or Rich Tea biscuits
Marshmallows
Glace icing (icing sugar and water)
Food colouring
Various sprinkles/decorations



Method

Divide glace icing into separate bowls and add food colouring as desired to each bowl e.g. pink, blue, green, yellow.
Stick a marshmallow on top of each biscuit with a dab of icing.
Cover with icing all over to make a bonnet.
Decorate with sprinkles ... be creative!

For details of cookery classes and parties for 2-11 year olds contact Jane Chate, Kiddy Cook 07796 270068
Stansted@kiddycook.co.uk www.kiddycook.co.uk

OUR ROAD



“The vast traffic of this much frequented road”, would be an appropriate comment about Silver Street today, but it was written in 1772 by a gentleman named Peter Muilman. In 1744 it was described by Parson Woodforde as ‘the best of roads’ he had ever travelled. After he came to the throne in 1660, King Charles II demanded a new road should be built between his palaces in London and his stables in Newmarket. It became known as the Great Newmarket Road and from then on became a route for drovers from Scotland and elsewhere to take their livestock to London.

Later it was widely used by coaches and post-chaises whose occupants could avail themselves of a welcome rest in either the Rose and Crown or The Old Bell, only a few yards apart. After 1769 farmers, carriers, maltsters and tradesmen all travelled on this road to take their goods to Bishop’s Stortford, as the Stort canal had opened and became their preferred route to London. Only in the nineteenth century did this road become Silver Street and the north section Cambridge Road.



1913



2012

Photo by Chris Campbell

By 1836 an historian wrote of the ‘numerous capital houses’ on this road. This was in part due to an enterprising carpenter, Guiver Sanders, who realised the advantages of developing the land he had gradually acquired on the west side of Silver Street. He built several good-sized timber framed houses, including The Old Manse and Roycot, sold in 1823 for £400 and £200 respectively, the latter being bought by a tailor and draper. Sanders himself lived in an attractive house, according to a photograph taken in 1957, towards the top of Silver Street, now the site of 40 flats.

The latter half of the 19th century saw several men of entrepreneurial spirit take up residence. James Blyth, a grocer’s son made good, bought Wood House and had it redesigned by up-and-coming architect, W.D.Caroe, renaming it Blythwood House. He along with Charles Gold, who lived at the Limes, went into partnership with Walter Gilbey to establish their widely known wine business. The Hicks family, who owned the windmill, lived at Spenser House, next to the recently converted Linden House.

If you fell ill there was, for a while, a choice of doctors in Silver Street. The first known physician to live at The Cedars was Dr. Haynes whose son also practised at The Rise. The last of the three doctors who practised at The Cedars, was Dr. Gabb. Next up the road was Stoner House, recently rebuilt as flats, where Tissiman’s the tailors had their shop, and then there was Roses the sweet shop, in the family for around 100 years.

Close by was a jewellers and watchmaker owned by a man affectionately referred to as Joey Ticker. One question remains unanswered: “Why was it called Silver Street?” Having talked to our local historians it is still a mystery. Perhaps an ancestor of Joey Ticker was a silversmith? If anyone can solve the puzzle do write to The Link.

Rosalind Peck



**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The speaker for our meeting on 1st March was Richard Allaway on the subject of Stansted families Gold, Blyth and Gilbey: A Victorian Success Story based on the book by Jen Allaway. These three families were linked by marriage, as shown in the genealogical tree which he displayed, and by their directorships of the company W & A Gilbey. Whilst serving in the Crimean war, Walter Gilbey and younger brother Alfred sold items to officers that had been shipped out by older brother Henry. On returning home Henry gave them the idea to import wines from South Africa which attracted only 50% of the duty of other wines. The Company's first advertisement appeared in the Illustrated London News on 1st August 1857 following which came a period of rapid growth. Duty harmonisation in 1860 caused wine sales to slump so they set up a network of agents, serving customers with wines and spirits from a 20 acre site in Camden. Charles Gold and James Blyth were married to the sisters Charlotte and Caroline Gilbey respectively and became directors together with Henry Grinling, a cousin. In due course there were no less than 17 family directors.

Walter Gilbey bred cattle and horses, founded four societies and the Elsenham jam factory and was a great benefactor to the locality. He lived at Elsenham Hall and was made a Baronet in 1893. Charles Gold was a more modest man with middle class attitudes and a love of theatricals. For a short while he was MP for Saffron Walden. He had 13 children and lived at The Limes. James Blyth bought Wood House in 1875 and had it remodelled by Caroe into Blythwood House. He established the Blythwood Dairy. He fell out with Walter Gilbey over share allocations in the company and seems not to have been liked by very many. He was knighted in 1907 and ended his days as Lord Blyth. All three rose from humble origins to become immensely wealthy and were notable examples of social mobility.

Future meetings Thursdays at 8.00pm in the Day Centre
5th April Roger Plumb on The Middletons, Lords of the Manor of Stansted
3rd May AGM followed by presentation by Peter Sanders

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Stansted Tennis Club



(FOUNDED IN 1889)

In 1978, Stansted Parish Council bought the land the Tennis Club stands on. It had been owned by Jim Kitson, then his nephew, David Kitson. It was all part of Pott's Cottage. David Kitson offered to sell the Tennis Courts to Tennis Club members. We realised this could put the Club in an awkward position in the future. Richard Shervington, as President, with others, initiated discussions with Stansted Parish Council, including Peter Pennington, Rita Humphries and Alan Corbishley. It was agreed that Stansted Parish Council would purchase the land and rent it to the Club. Run entirely by volunteers, the Club pays for court re-surfacing, netting and every expense involved in running and maintaining the Club and Clubhouse, and it is the intention that this arrangement should continue in perpetuity. This truly imaginative, inspiration was led by Richard and thus a valuable piece of land that could have been lost for ever to other development was saved as a great asset to Stansted. Richard has been Chairman and then President of the Club for almost 40 years, but, sadly, has now decided it is time to retire from that position. He will become Honorary Vice- President. He has always helped to guide the Club through various problems that have needed his particular gifts of diplomacy and expertise. He has kindly presented a beautiful Cup to the Club for an annual President's Cup Tournament.



Sadly, we are also losing our Secretary, Richard Mott, who has served the Club since 1985 and been a member for much longer. He has done a superb job and has arranged the Small Clubs League matches for 15 years. He is moving down to Sidmouth and will be sorely missed. He has been made an Honorary Life Member and has been a true stalwart of the Club. We wish him great happiness in the future. Another Honorary Life Member, who we are not losing, is Pat Clower, a founder member of the Club (not from 1889!). She is an outstanding and most generous benefactor to the Club. Her chief interest is in Junior Members, who will provide the future of the Club. Four tournaments per year are run in Pat's name, by Chris Hollis. Pat has presented the Club with four magnificent trophies. She attends every event and is thoughtful and generous in numerous ways. To these three very special people we offer our most sincere thanks for their constant support and sterling service to Stansted Tennis Club

Janet Hollis (President)

President's Cup Sun 22nd April - 9.30am for 10.00am start .
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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Unfortunately our speaker for March had to undergo heart surgery so was unable to come to our meeting. She is hoping to be fighting fit again by the summer so we have rebooked her for our October meeting. At short notice our speaker's secretary, Pat Barrett, organised a gardening quiz which everyone enjoyed – it certainly got our 'little grey cells' working!! The winning table, with 76 points, was Jon and Karen Sims, Ewelina Chmiel and Pam Monks - congratulations! Our next meeting is on 4th April in the Day Centre and is the Mini Spring Show combined with our AGM. Visitors are welcome. Doors open for exhibitors at 6.30pm, with the AGM starting at 8.00pm. The start of our new season is on 2nd May - please see our website for the programme.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

How about everyone growing some red, white and blue flowers this summer in their garden, window boxes, hanging baskets or pots? Now is the time to order seeds and plants or make a list of which plants to buy from a garden centre. It would be lovely to see the village full of colour as we all celebrate.



Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144



Nature Notes

Temperatures as low as -14°C in February are pointing to unusually high losses among garden plants. However, we should remember that more plants regarded hitherto as 'tender' have been widely used in recent decades. A global temperature rise should not deceive us into thinking that abnormally low points will not occur in the future. Nationally the wren population seems to have tumbled for this reason, so we must do what we can by deferring hedge pruning until after the breeding season as it is an actual legal requirement. Dunnocks and robins also depend on hedge or scrub cover. Low rainfall in the south-east is of concern to us all. Whilst weather patterns tend to even out over time, it does seem likely that we could be in for an extended dry period with results that may be unpredictable. There is a pressing case for intercepting down-pipe water into butts and using it for direct application to plant root zones - not a general spray. A little can really go a long way.

Derek Honour

CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS

This month, as the bulbs finish blooming, give them a potash feed with tomato feed or something similar, this will help to build up blooms for next year. Plants, such as Michaelmas daisies, that have become too large should be split up before they start to deteriorate. Break off the younger pieces from around the outside of the plant, young plants will make a better show than the older ones. When planting out do so in freshly dug soil to which a little manure or bone meal has been added. Another job you can do now is to plant runner beans in pots or boxes, as long as you can give them some protection, they can then be planted out in late May when all danger of frost has passed.

Cyril Stoneham



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We have a busy month in April with activities planned throughout the Easter holidays for the children and our Nearly New Sale at the end of the month. Our Easter Egg Hunt followed by a picnic in the woods is one of the highlights of our year with children of all ages playing. There is also an Easter-themed messy play scheduled for the end of the holidays; as always, please ensure that your children are dressed in old clothes. Please see below in our calendar section for details. Our Nearly New Sale is attended by over 250 buyers and 60 sellers. All items are only accepted if they are in a nearly new state and are for sale at least two-thirds cheaper than you would buy on the high street. You will be able to pick up everything from a stair gate and buggy, through to outdoor toys, bikes and toys. We look forward to welcoming you and if you would like your business to advertise at the sale, please let me know. This sale will be the last Jane Chate will organise; I must take this opportunity to say thank you as she leads the NNS committee into action twice a year and has produced our most successful period of sales. Would you like the opportunity to organise this event twice a year with the Hilton Hotel? Working with a charity whilst on maternity leave or during a career break is a great opportunity to keep your CV up to date with employable skills. The event is twice a year so the role is not too demanding.

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. We would love to meet you and it is a great way of making new friends. **Additional events** being held this month - please let us know if you will be attending either of our Easter activities so that we can organise accordingly.

Monday 2nd April 11.00am Easter Egg Hunt for all ages - bring a picnic for after the hunt. Meet Linnets Wood, Ugley
Wednesday 4th April from 8.00pm Social Branch meeting - mums, dads or carers all welcome.
Friday 13th April 10-11.30am Easter Messy Play and Tea and Toys in St John's Church Hall. £3 child or £5 family.
Sunday 29th April 2.30pm (2.15pm members) Nearly New Sale at The Hilton Hotel, Stansted
For further information on any of these events or our weekly coffee mornings, please contact me.

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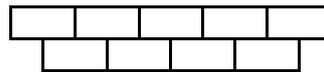
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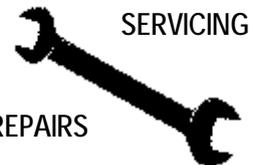
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STANSTED NETWORK NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Page 19 - Parish Election Information

Page 20 - Local Development Framework

Page 22 - News from Uttlesford

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

Discussions have been initiated by Uttlesford District Council to consider the future of this site where the occupation is now under-used and considered by many to offer inadequate accommodation by today's standards.

A preliminary consultation has been held with the Parish Council and with residents.

Surveys have shown that bungalows and two or three bedroom houses were most favoured, a position which confirms the view expressed in the recently published Community Plan.

It appears that funds have been set aside for the rebuilding of affordable accommodation on this site and, if all goes to time, the project could start in 2013. The Parish Council hopes that not too much of the open green space would be lost.

A working party at the UDC will be looking at all aspects including the mix of housing. It will report back to the Parish Council and no decisions will be taken until this has been done.

COMMUNITY PLAN

Every household should have received a copy of the Community Plan for Stansted Mountfitchet.

The delivery of the plans has not happened without some hitches so, if you have not received a copy, please contact the Council Office on 01279 813214 or by email: parishcouncil@stansted.net or call in at Crafton Green.

Continue to raise issues or make comments as it is intended to review and update the plan each year.

STANSTED IN BLOOM - 2012

Our last report concerning Stansted in Bloom for 2012 stated that we would make some changes for this year's event.

As 2012 is a special year with two major events coming our way we would like to suggest the following:

Businesses - A competition for the best displays celebrating either or both the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics, using colours of red and gold and red, white and blue respectively.

Residents - Displays in front gardens using the colours above, if possible.

Schools - Yet to be decided.

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In December/January Link, I requested for a possible volunteer to deliver the 'Observer' Newsletter in Burton End. I am very pleased to say that Mrs Pamela Monks has kindly agreed to fill the gap and we very much appreciate her help and interest in this important part of maintaining the link between NhW and the community.

A date for your diary - Wednesday 30th May - Public Meeting in the Free Church Hall at 7.30 pm.

Cllr Valerie Trundle - 813433.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 3rd MAY

With the parish boundary changes taking effect on 1st April 2012, the whole of Foresthall Park will become part of Stansted Mountfitchet. The elections for the Parish Council which were postponed in May 2011, will be held on 3rd May 2012 with polling stations open between 7.00 am and 10.00 pm.

The number of polling stations has been increased from two to four and this means that most residents will be asked to cast their votes at a different polling station. Poll cards will be sent out but please check carefully before setting out to vote.

The village has been divided into four areas:

- Stansted North-east will vote in the Youth Centre, Lower Street (previously at the Peter Kirk Centre). This area is bounded by Cambridge Road (east side), Chapel Hill (east side) and Lower Street.
- Stansted North-west will vote at Bentfield Primary School in Rainsford Road (previously Peter Kirk Centre). This area covers everything west of the Cambridge Road (essentially Bentfield and Hargrave Estate).
- Stansted South-west will vote in the Peter Kirk Centre (previously the Youth Centre) and will cover the area of Woodfields, Recreation Ground and around, Silver Street, Blythwood Gardens, Old Bell Close and Cannons Mead (including part of Bentfield Road).
- Stansted-South east and Foresthall Park will vote at the Romeera Leisure Centre at Foresthall Road. The areas covered are Foresthall Park, the Mountfitchet Estate and around, Stoneyfield Drive and Burton End.

For most parishioners this will make life easier but please check where you should vote.

If you are interested in the issues which affect this village and if you have patience and some time (there is no large bureaucracy to do the work) and want to stand or if you want to know more about the work of the Council, please talk to Ruth Clifford, Parish Clerk, or any Councillor (contact details on page 22). You do not have to stand under a party political label - Independents are welcome.

Nomination forms will be available from the Parish Council offices in late March or from Uttlesford District Council (contact Peter Snow, Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4ER, telephone 01799 510510).

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - RESPONSE BY PARISH COUNCIL

Following discussions and the exhibition held on 6 February, the Parish Council has responded to this important consultation as follows:

ISSUES IN RELATION TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- *The population is in the process of rapid growth.* By the time Foresthall Park is complete about 700 dwellings will have been built thus increasing the population of Stansted Mountfitchet by about 30%. The completion of this development will take another two to three years while making this development wholly a part of this community will take at least ten years.
- *Stansted Mountfitchet should remain a community with well-defended development limits* including the protection of established green belt boundaries. This is essential to maintain separation from Bishop's Stortford, Birchanger and Ugley and to sustain agricultural land which may be a valuable resource in the future as well as providing an attractive backcloth to this community.
- *The local road traffic network is already under pressure* even before the impact of current projects at Foresthall Park and Lower Street (including a major health centre) have been felt. Of equal importance is the potential impact of any residential developments approved in Elsenham (where sites for 789 dwellings are under consideration as well as 3000 dwellings proposed by Fairfield Partnership. Even if a new road was constructed a 10-20% flow through this village either on the B1051 or B1383 would pose a serious problem.
- *The protection of views for this settlement is a key issue* in order to safeguard the setting of the village within the rural landscape. In this village views across Stansted Park and vistas looking west from Bentfield Green, north towards Ugley on the B1383 and across High Lane are much valued.
- *Water and sewage issues raise questions* over any substantial development while the River Stort (UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitat) fails to comply with the Water Framework Directive.

Given these issues Stansted Mountfitchet opposes any substantial new development although modest additions will be considered within the existing village limits.

ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED SITES IN LDF CONSULTATION

- **STA1 - Braefield Engineering High Lane** – proposals under consideration. The Council supports proposals to construct a sixty-bed care home on this site, not least because of its potential for local employment.
- **STA2 - Land east of High Lane** (north of Croft House) - oppose very strongly any development which would urbanise the area which includes substantial maturing woodland and which would destroy a significant setting within the rural landscape.
- **STA4 - Land at Mont House**, High Lane - has planning approval.
- **STA5 - Water Lane** – has planning approval.
- **STA6 - Elms Farm** – SMPC would consider supporting limited development on this green belt site on the existing footprint in return for substantial community gains including public access to Stansted Park. However, any development must be of a scale and design to fit on this sensitive site, must provide safe access onto a narrow, busy road and must not under any circumstances infringe the view of Stansted Park as seen when you descend Chapel Hill. The Parish Council only voted to consider this site by a narrow majority.
- **STA7 - Elms Farm (behind Churchfields)** – strongly oppose development at an important location in relation to Stansted Park and also note access and traffic implications.
- **STA8 - Land at Pines Hill** - oppose as the site is designated green belt.
- **STA9 - Land to west (Bentfield)** – oppose as the site is designated green belt and provides a magnificent setting for the village within the rural landscape. It is good agricultural land.
- **STA10 – 10 Cambridge Road** – would accept development on a suitable scale subject to the commercial activities not being viable.
- **STA11 - Land to rear of 14-28 Cambridge Road.** - believe that the site should be retained for commercial use provided viability is demonstrated. If there is to be a change of use, residential development should be directed to smaller dwellings in light of the need demonstrated in a recent UDC survey. The Parish Council would strongly argue that a community gain in the form of a footpath from Cambridge Road to Crafton Green car park should be a condition.
- **STA13 - Bentfield Bury Farm** – oppose all development to the north-west of Bentfield Green (see STA9) for additional comments which apply.
- **STA14 - Land north of Stansted** – oppose the beginning of coalescence with Ugley and loss of agricultural land. Risk of ribbon development and other adjacent landowners seek to capitalise the opening up of this area.
- **STA15 - Land north of Catholic Church**, High Lane – oppose development on this triangle which forms an attractive entrance to the village from the north with long views across the countryside.
- **STA18 - Adjacent Broom End, Pines Hill** – oppose as the site is designated greenbelt.

Some small sites not included in the list may be worthy of consideration:

- **St Mary's School, St John's Road** – possible development for five dwellings but retention of playing field as an open space is considered essential.
- **The Three Colts, Cambridge Road** – a small development may improve the site provided the former pub (a listed building) is incorporated in a sensitive manner.
- **Redevelopment of Mead Court** – under discussion with UDC.
- **Almont House, High Lane** – planning approval already granted for 7 dwellings.
- **11-13 Cambridge Road** – should this site at some future date become unviable for commercial use (latter is supported by the Council), then limited residential development may be considered.

The results of research being undertaken should be available in June and we understand that these will be subject to further public consultation.

JUBILEE MEMORABILIA

If anyone has souvenirs of the Queen's reign, particularly but not exclusively related to Stansted, and would be willing to lend them, we would like to hear from you. The Parish Council would like to have a display at St John's Church Flower Festival on 2nd, 3rd & 4th June. Please contact the Parish Council office or Catherine Dean on 813579.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

At the start of March, when this article was written, there was no certainty about when the Lower Street health centre planning application would be decided. The council was still waiting for details from the applicant about highway matters. Discussion finally got under way in February on the design and cost of highway and pavement improvements associated with Foresthall Park. It is early days. However, some improvements in the Water Lane area should start within weeks. Over the next few months firm plans will hopefully be made about pedestrian access and safety to and along Church Road. Speed reduction measures are being drawn up.

Who would think that street name signs could be controversial? I recently ordered a new sign for Church Hill Corner using the same spelling as the existing sign; two words Church + Hill. But it should be Churchill Corner, named after Sir Winston around 1946. Two new signs have now been ordered plus two more new signs for Forest Hall Road - yes, two words, not Foresthall!!

(Cllr Alan Dean)

DATES FOR MEETINGS

4 April	Full Council
11 April	Open Spaces
18 April	Full Council
25 April	Finance

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford
Admin Assistant - Anne Court
E-mail: parishcouncil@stansted.net
Phone/fax: 01279 813214
www.stansted.net

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Catherine Dean	813579 Catherinemarydean@btinternet.com (vice-Chairman)
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Jo Freeman	812524 j.freeman195@yahoo.com
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489 John@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk
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Geoffrey Sell	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk (Chairman)
Bill Stiles	813172 candbstiles@tiscali.co.uk
Valerie Trundle	813433 Prtvrt@btinternet.com

Uttlesford District Council Members

Alan Dean	Tel: 01279 813579 Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
Iris Evans	Tel: 01279 815848 Email: iris.evans9@googlemail.com
John Salmon	Tel: 01279 814789 Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Joe Rich	Tel: 01279 813112 Email: cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding
Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

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

Police

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PCSO (Stuart Stranger) Tel: 07801 461 666

Neighbourhood Watch
www.stanstednhw.org.uk

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	Pilots Age 5 -18	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Pre-School	Rachel Munro Ogden Tel: 07968 347176 email: rachel@munro29.orangehome.co.uk
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cubs Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 816172	Scouts Age 10½ -14	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk www.skr.org.uk
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144 www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085 www.mencapgrovecottage.org	U3A	Cherry Chair Tel: 817140
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Huw Johnson Club	Marion and Tom Johnson Tel: 812284	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Lunch Club	Alastair Richardson Tel: 07850 295109 Email: amg.richardson@gmail.com	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 01371 873156/ 07920 466 923
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 www.musicatstansted.com		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk or send the 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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Rainbow Pre-School's Open Day on Saturday 3rd March proved to be a great success. It gave all family members a wonderful opportunity to see what goes on at Rainbow, something most family members don't get a chance to do on a day to day basis. We hoped you enjoyed your visit as much as we enjoyed meeting old and new friends.

We were overwhelmed by the response of our budding artists who entered the Easter Bonnet Competition. All entrants have produced some wonderful works of art. All bonnets are being displayed in Intercounty's Cambridge Road window – we highly recommend you pop along to view them. The winning bonnets will be announced at the end of the month with a prize for the winning entrants. We will be holding an Easter Raffle which will take place on 30th March; we thank everyone in advance for your support. This term's focus will be the story of the three Billy Goats Gruff and Bridges. We will be taking the children on visits around the village to see what bridges Stansted has to offer, and we truly hope no trolls live locally. Children will also have fun building bridges with the various materials we have on offer within pre-school.

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. Active Kids vouchers enable us to buy and replace vital equipment. Any donations will be warmly received. We have a collection box in the foyer – please remember to collect these when you are shopping! Whilst on the subject of collecting, we are also collecting Petits Filous pot lids 'With Pots Make Pounds'. We have a collection box in the foyer. We hope to receive enough pot lids to buy new outside play equipment. Places for September 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. We welcome visits to pre-school – please see our website at www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk for more details.



Rachel Munro Ogden
Tel: 814242

TIPS FOR LUSCIOUS LIPS!

Ensure your lips are in perfect condition. Dry or flaky lips won't be able to carry off this look. Use a lip exfoliator and lip balm on a regular basis to keep lips soft and supple. Choose the right shade for your colouring! If your skin has warmer undertones choose a brown-based lipstick, copper or a warm red. If your skin tone is cooler choose a blue-based red, plum or a cool pink. Try to match your blusher to your lipstick - for example, use warmer blushers with a brown-based lipstick, or pink blusher for a pink lip. With a strong lip keep the eye make-up natural looking, ensuring all eyes are focussed on your mouth. Too much make-up and you can risk looking like Coco the Clown! To get the perfect-looking lipstick use a lip-liner to stop the colour from bleeding around the mouth.



To make your lipstick last longer use a lipstick primer and fill in lips with your lip pencil to create a 'stain'. Once your lipstick wears off you will still have a bit of colour left from your lip pencil. Also remember to apply two coats of lip, blotting lips with a tissue between the first and second coat. To get a pout even Angelina would be proud of use a light-reflecting concealer and dab around your mouth to reflect the light and give the illusion of super-poutworthy, kissable lips. Mix up your lipstick and lip liner colours to create loads of different colour combinations without breaking the bank.

Ensure your foundation is flawless - a strong lipstick sits better on matte, rather than oily skin. Get some attitude! Don't be afraid to make your lips the focus of your look - a strong lip is very sexy!

Elizabeth Willett
Style Me Beautiful

Tel: 813413

www.stylemebeautiful.co.uk



494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

I am going to start by congratulating our two newly promoted Flight Sergeants, Chloe Nash and Matthew Barton. They have put a lot of work into our squadron and their promotion is well deserved. Our training flight had their first adventure training experience during a wild weather weekend at the Carver Barracks airfield. They were lulled into a false sense of security with the Saturday being lovely and sunny ... only to be attacked by a downpour and furthermore, snow, the next day while taking tents down! Still they managed to fit a lot into their weekend, learning the art of getting up out of their tent at 6.00am for an early morning run. They then proceeded to do some basic navigation around the airfield, some camouflage and concealment (which involved them plastering their faces in oily cam cream), rifle shooting and initiative exercises. They would have all slept well on the Sunday night, although surprisingly, quite a few of them turned up on the Monday for parade!

During the same weekend our potential Falklands teams (something you will be hearing more and more about in the coming months) also had a gruelling training weekend, being given a mock-up of the competition weekend which looms in April. They, along with teams from Witham, Braintree, Dunmow and Burnham Squadrons, did activities as a team and were marked on their performance at each point. Being constantly watched for everything from teamwork and morale to initiative and intelligence, they rotated round stances such as obstacle course, first aid, bearings/navigation, archery and shooting. However we did spoil them by providing food from the mess rather than making them cook their own ration packs - something they were very grateful for, even if the chips were fairly soggy!

If you are aged between 13 and 16 and interested in joining us, contact us for more information: telephone 681559 Mondays and Fridays 7.15pm-9.30pm (24 hour answerphone) or email 494@aircadets.org.

Alice Brooks
Cadet Warrant Officer

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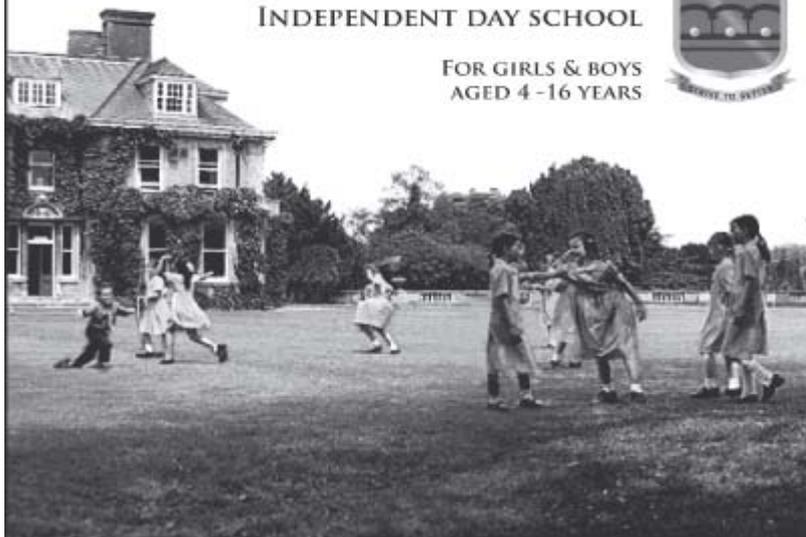
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NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE PRESERVATION TRUST

We had a fantastic start to the 2012 season with a huge number of visitors for both of our Snowdrop Sundays. We sold out of snowdrops 'in the green' and snowdrop vases and had a great response to the beautiful bone china snowdrop mugs that we now have on sale. If anyone is interested but can't make it along to the gardens we can sell them mail order at £6 each or £10 for two + P&P or local pick up; see www.eastonlodge.co.uk for details or call 01371 876979 and leave a message. We start the main season of Open Days on Sunday 15th April and continue through the season on the following dates: 20th May, 17th June, 15th July, 19th August, 16th September and 21st October. Entry will be from noon-6.00pm (last entry at 5.00pm), adults £2.50, children free. Refreshments will be on sale ranging through bacon rolls (using local Sweetlands bacon), delicious vegetarian soups and a wide range of homemade cakes. We are increasing the number of children's activities for this year with a specific theme for each month as well as old favourites such as the scavenger hunt and word searches. We also have the Saffron Walden Town Band playing at the gardens in May and other events planned – details again on the website. The volunteers are now busy with planting in the Italian Garden ready for the first open day and visitors will be able to see a real difference. We always need more volunteers though and would welcome anyone with a little time to spare either on Thursdays to garden, on open days to help where needed or sometimes simply to stuff envelopes. So if you are interested please get in touch on 01371 876979 and leave a message or email enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk.

Helen Carter

STANSTED FAMILY CAFÉ

Stansted Family Café now has its own website www.stanstedfamilycafe.org where upcoming dates and essential information can be found, including answers to some of the questions we are frequently asked about this 'café with a difference'. The Café dates for April are Sunday 1st April, Saturday 7th April, Saturday 28th April.



Photo: Chris Campbell

A warm welcome awaits you at the café - at the Day Centre.



Ros Page
Tel: 810813

CAR MAINTENANCE TIPS

It's that time of year again when we are all thinking about our summer holidays. Last year saw the rise in popularity of 'staycations' where UK holidaymakers opted for a 'staycation' in Britain rather than jetting off abroad. If you are planning to drive long distances over the holidays this summer, it's always advisable that your vehicle is prepared. I am a mechanic with over 30 years' experience in the motor industry in and around Hertfordshire and Essex, and offer the following simple practical tips to ensure you remain safe and your vehicle performs to its maximum potential this summer.



Tip 1: Don't forget about your warranty

If you have a new car remember you are covered by a warranty, so if you have a problem, take it to the dealership who can probably fix the problem free of charge.

Tip 2: Prevention is better than a cure

To effectively maintain your vehicle and to avoid problems, a car service and an MOT are vital. These checks ensure that important components of your car are in good condition, which in turn can improve the car's efficiency and reduce repair costs. Alternatively you can book a vehicle health check that ensures your car is prepared for the coming seasons in between services. Contact your local mechanic for further advice.

Tip 3: Be your own mechanic

In order to keep your vehicle performing and running to its maximum potential, it is important to keep up with routine maintenance and inspections. Maintaining your car's fluids is an essential and easy maintenance task. It's fun, quick, and can add thousands of miles to the life of your car. Mechanics recommend that you check your fluids at least once a month.

- **Windscreen wash:** Follow the instructions on the bottle, and then use your car's handbook to find where to pour it in. Top up regularly and keep some in the boot as a dirty windscreen impairs visibility and is dangerous.
- **Oil:** A dipstick is used to check oil. If you can't find it, consult your vehicle's handbook. Pull out the dipstick, wipe it with a clean cloth, replace and remove again. Look at the oil level on the dipstick; this should be at maximum. If your oil is low you can top it up yourself; follow the instructions in the handbook to find the filler cap and the right grade of oil to use. The oil in your car should be clear and clean; if it is not you might have a problem and should seek advice from your local mechanic.
- **Coolant:** Most cars have a see-through reservoir under the bonnet where the coolant is kept. Ensure that the coolant reaches the maximum level.

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ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

On Wednesday 7th March we hosted one of our more prestigious events for members and guests, another highly successful Charity Dinner at the excellent Weston Homes Business Centre. The reception always has such a welcoming buzz in the attractive, light and airy atrium, that the biggest challenge for the organisers is to persuade the guests to leave it and go through to the dining room! It is in the dining room, however, that the action really takes place. Around the room lively modern electronic display screens provided a background show about Rotary and its works and about the Grove Cottage charity which benefited again from the proceeds of the event; also the brave auction participants are enticed by descriptions of the items to be bid for. The traditional four course meal was served efficiently and expertly to the appreciative and convivial company. Plenty of time was left for the raffle with cases of champagne and wine for prizes, and then the auction was conducted at commendable speed exacting good prices for the wide selection of items donated by generous benefactors.

The highlight of the evening was our Speaker, Danny Crates, whose media popularity is growing as the London Olympics approach. Danny was a promising amateur rugby player who had represented the East of England Under-19s and Essex Under-21s. Disaster struck at the age of 20 and he lost an arm in a car accident. Danny was no quitter and returning to his beloved rugby and being selected to play for Thurrock earned him world-wide media attention. He was then invited to try athletics and when he eventually agreed he turned out to be a natural runner. He swept everything before him winning bronze at Athens and then gold at Sydney and being such an inspirational character was selected to carry the UK



flag in Beijing. In his talk, which was interesting, funny, and inspirational, Danny of course touched on his remarkable career but his intended message and the abiding memory left was that we should never stop striving and that giving up should never be an option whatever the odds. Few left the event without feeling uplifted and inspired. Another story of resolute commitment is that every one of the 30 annual charity dinners hosted by our Club has been organised by the David Earl and Roger Brown duo and it is estimated that over the years this endeavor has caused over £100,000 to be raised for charity. The picture shows Roger Brown, President David Scott, Danny Crates and David Earl - an inspirational bunch!

Rotary provides the opportunity for men and ladies to enjoy convivial activity whilst supporting a range of good causes. For further information, please contact me. We meet on Tuesday evenings at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford.

Peter Latham
Tel: 507294
Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net

ALL CHANGE FOR THE VETS!

Well we did it! We moved the contents of one old veterinary surgery into one new one over the course of a weekend. It certainly was an extraordinary exercise although one which I feel I don't need to experience again in my lifetime! Many of the Great Dunmow staff and some husbands gathered at the old Dunmow surgery while morning consults were just finishing and slowly started to take boxes of office equipment, the contents of the pharmacy, operating theatre, kennels etc into cars and drive them over to the new surgery. I felt sorry for our vet, Sophie, who was consulting at the time as she had to cope with a disappearing workplace. It wasn't too bad when it was "I'll just get you that leaflet on kidney disease" only to see the leaflets vanishing out of the door in a cardboard box, but it was a little more challenging when it was "I'll just listen to his heart now with the stethoscope, that was just ... there ...".

Everyone was pleased with the new surgery, particularly the feeling of size and space; we found ourselves wandering from room to room calling out "hello" in slightly awed voices. One receptionist suggested laying a trail of breadcrumbs to make sure we didn't get lost on our way to the toilets and back. We will be having an open day, probably in April when we've truly settled in and can find our way from one end of the building to the other without the guide ropes. Some of you may already know that our lovely nurse, Emma, has relocated to Saffron Walden to cover our head nurse's maternity leave. She ran a very tight ship at Stansted making sure the surgery was spotless, caring for the animals that came in for operations, carrying out the nurse clinics and generally keeping the vets in order! We all wish her well in her new role and will be sad to see her move; however we are extremely lucky to have another lovely nurse, Philpa, who will be taking on the position at Stansted. Philpa has been based at our Saffron Walden surgery for the past two years and passed her final nursing exams last year. She's an extremely competent nurse with a friendly manner and I know will have no trouble getting to know all of our Stansted regulars. Philpa will be available to help you with tasks like cutting your pet's claws, showing you how to clean their teeth, administering worming tablets to dogs and cats (we all know how difficult that can be!) and giving advice on a variety of topics from weight loss in pets to the most suitable flea product to use. Please ring the surgery to make an appointment with her or for a chat if you need any advice about any aspect of preventative pet health care.

Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



IN MEMORIAM

JOAN LOTT

31st July 1915 – 19th February 2012



**Stansted
Evening
Women's Institute**

I first met Joan in the 1980s, when she had retired from caring for children in Barnet, and moved to Stansted to live with her sister and brother-in-law in Burnell's Way. A very active lady, as soon as she had settled into her new home, she came to the Youth Centre, where Rainbow Pre-School was then held, to volunteer her services. She was welcomed



with open arms and remained a valued helper until well into her 80s. Joan was very good with the younger children, helping them to settle in and joining in their games. Many times I saw her going pretend shopping, discussing what to 'buy'. Although a shy, private and gentle person, Joan took an active part in village life, joining the History Society, French and yoga

classes, the Liberal Democrat Party, and was a founder member of the Village Music Club, now known as music@stansted.

Her favourite charities, Save The Children Fund and RSPB, reflected her interest in life. An annual event in Joan's calendar was to go with a friend to have breakfast in Hatfield Forest and listen to the dawn chorus. She loved to walk daily, noticing the flora and fauna she saw on the way. Through Joan, my husband and I were introduced to the best places to see aconites, bluebells and snowdrops. As well as reading, crosswords and the arts, Joan also enjoyed the company of friends and family.

Joan was loved by all who came in contact with her. Children she had cared for in England and America kept in touch, visiting her and proudly showing her their own children. Joan was a very special lady who will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Ann Conroy



**STANSTED
MOUNTFITCHET
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STANSTED MILLERS

The windmill season is fast approaching and we open on Easter Sunday 8th April and Bank Holiday Monday 9th April from 1.30pm to 5.30pm. Our presence at St John's Christmas bazaar raised our profile, and more people now know about us. It was good to meet people from Foresthall Park and I hope some of them will get in touch with me regarding how they can become involved with our windmill. The rota system for stewarding is now open and I would welcome calls from anyone who is interested.

Molly Clark
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768

Our March meeting brought the usual crowd of members, plus some new ones, and we are hoping that some of the residents in Foresthall Park will come and join us soon. Our speaker was Dr Tony Maisey, who has previously spoken at the U3A. Now retired after 33 years as a GP in Princes Risborough, he spends much of his time giving talks. This one was entitled 'The Concept of Pain', which probably didn't encourage members to think they were in for a fun evening. However, he does manage to make serious subjects amusing, as well as giving some very good advice. I am sure many of us have wondered how a pill we take for a pain in any part of our bodies knows where to go to relieve it! Well now we know. He gave practical advice for the care of the elderly or the terminally ill and I think above all gave us the chance to confront the fears we all have of illness and death. It was a thought provoking talk. He lightened the mood by reading out the three winning 'Doctor' jokes for our competition - well we had to have that didn't we?

Eight of our members had lunch at the Day Centre on our Meeting Day, which meant we didn't have to get dinner in the evening before rushing out again! It was really nice and we recommend it to other groups of people. Three of us went to the County Annual Meeting in Southend on 9th March, an amazing meeting attended by hundreds of the 9,000 Essex members. George Courtauld DL - Vice Lord Lieutenant for Essex and Chairman of EWAG - was brave enough to come and be one of our speakers. EWAG is the Essex Women's Advisory Group (so he is probably very used to hordes of women) and its aim is to support the wellbeing of women and girls in Essex who are in need of help. It was founded in 2007. He has also been a Queen's Messenger taking confidential messages around the world and, of course, meeting the Queen. Our National Chairman, Ruth Bond, was also present and spoke of her travels, her interest in prison reform and also of meeting the Queen at Sandringham WI where she is a member (the Queen that is not Ruth Bond!!). In the afternoon we welcomed Tessa Sanderson CBE (yes you've guessed it, she has also met the Queen) who came to tell us how she got into sport and of her interest now in encouragement of the young through her Sports Foundation and Academy. She looks amazingly young and it was hard to believe she competed in her first Olympics in 1976 and won her gold medal in 1984, which she brought along to show us. She spoke of the friendships she has made through her sport and urged us all to enjoy the forthcoming Olympics and be proud that we are hosting them.

We are holding a New Members' Meeting on Monday 21st May at 8.00pm in the Free Church Hall, Chapel Hill. If there is anyone out there who would like to hear about the WI movement do come and meet some of our members. We are lucky to have Pat Pratley, who is on the Essex Federation Committee, living in Manuden and she is coming to speak to us and we will have our scrapbooks on show. Our next meeting is on 12th April in St John's Church 7.45pm - the work of the Rotary Club.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

IN MEMORIAM

MARJORY COWAN

29th October 1914-22nd February 2012

Marjory Cowan, née Player, was born and brought up in Stansted, and the village was always home to her. As a child she attended the Council School on Chapel Hill and from there went on to the Herts and Essex High School, having won a scholarship. She was a keen member of the 1st Stansted Girl Guides, becoming Guide Captain, and continued her association with the Stansted Guides for many years. Marjory entered the teaching profession aged 17 as a student teacher at Birchanger C of E School. After a year she was appointed infant teacher at the Church School in Lower Street (the first St Mary's). It was the start of a long career as a dedicated teacher. She had many stories to tell of life at the school during the war years; tales of how she would try and dry the children's wet clothes and make hot drinks for them using the primitive facilities at her disposal. The school took children aged five to 14, and with just five teaching staff there were often 40 in a class. Once, for over a term due to staff shortages, Marjory found herself coping with two classrooms, teaching 80 children on her own!



Following the 1944 Education Act, Marjory was one of only eight teachers from Essex to be selected for a teachers' training course at Exhall Training College near Coventry, where she also found the time, along with her studies, to help in a Sunday School held in a crypt under the ruins of the bombed Cathedral. On returning to her post as infant teacher in Stansted, Marjory's classroom was temporarily moved to a small building at the back of the Central Hall (now The Old Courthouse). This 'temporary' arrangement lasted nine years until the Mountfitchet School was built, and the newly formed St Mary's Primary School, was created at the Council School building on Chapel Hill. On moving to the new premises, it was a great joy to Marjory to discover that she had been allocated the very same classroom that she herself went to as a five year old.

Marjory's marriage to Maurice Cowan in 1964 was sadly short lived as he died just five years later, and in Marjory's words the children became her salvation, helping her through her bereavement. She became Deputy Headmistress when the present St Mary's School in St John's Road was built, and taught there until her retirement in 1974. Marjory continued her involvement with education after her retirement, as a supply teacher, and an invigilator at Bishop's Stortford College prep school. She was also appointed co-ordinator of the Adult Literacy School in this area. Marjory joined the St Mary's Church choir and St Mary's Singers. She enjoyed singing both in Stansted and at the different Cathedrals she went to with the St Mary's Singers. Her gentle personality, lovely smile and sense of fun will be sorely missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Yvonne Ayres



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Indoor Fixtures - we returned to Turpins IBC to play our return leg combined with Birchanger Bowls Club and once again had an enjoyable afternoon and came second!! Various alterations are gathering speed, as it will not be long until we are out on the green playing our first game on Saturday 21st April - **President v Captain**. This will be a real challenge to see if we can get the woods up the green, after playing indoors! All spectators welcome. The green is being well looked after by Dave and Tony Hunt (assisted by Peter and James).

John Blake

Once again we have had to say goodbye to a former member of Stansted Bowling Club who sadly passed away on 13th February. Many members paid their respects - John was on all accounts a great bowler as various cups, photographs and competition results show.

Mrs Marjory Cowan

We have also sadly had to say farewell to our **Patron Mrs Cowan** who passed away on 22nd February - she was a great supporter of the Club and was always pleased to receive a fixture book from us each year. The **Cowan Cup** which was instigated by Mr Cowan and which we still play for today, is a most enjoyable fixture which we won last year, and we hope we repeat that success. Stansted Bowls Club were happy to hold the wake for Mrs Cowan who many members will remember as Miss Player, their primary school teacher - there was certainly lots of reminiscence over the various school photographs on display.

For information on joining Stansted Bowling Club please contact me.

Doreen Scraggs

Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036

E-mail: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net



ELSENHAM FETE

Saturday 16th June 1.00pm-4.30pm
Village Playing Fields

We would like to take this early opportunity to tell you about our village fete which is being held this year on Saturday, 16th June on the village playing fields. Arena displays booked to date include the Bishop's Stortford Belly Dancers (should make an interesting change!), as well as Mr Poulson's ever popular Punch & Judy Show. There will be lots for children to do, including pony rides and the usual many varied fun stalls and games. The Football Club has once more agreed to provide a BBQ. A well-stocked bar will be situated in the Memorial Hall, where teas and coffees are also being served, together with abundant supplies of cakes, either to eat in or 'take away'! If you would like to take part by having a stall, please telephone Jennifer Jarvis on 814434. As always, proceeds from Elsenham fete will be put towards Community Association funds, helping to improve the facilities of the Memorial Hall on the Playing Field.

Entrance to the Fete will cost 50p, accompanied children free.

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We have had a very active term, with a host of visitors in the school to enrich the curriculum, challenge the learning and get the whole school community involved. Healthy Week started off the new half term. During the week all aspects of healthy living were addressed: cooking and good food, regular exercise, sporting challenge, fundraising and community spirit and emotional wellbeing and anti-bullying. We began each day with a session of aerobics; raised money for Sport Relief; a Science theatre group performed a play on healthy eating and the children learned about careers in public health and safety from a paramedic, a fireman and a surgeon. Year 2 were invaded by Celts as part of their topic work - they carried out a variety of workshops on Celtic crafts, cooking and a weapons demonstration. Y3 have completed their course in Forest School. The last session involved a camp fire, baking bread 'dampers' and how the qualities of different woods make them suitable for different uses or crafts. The February weather was unkind at times, but this was part of the challenge, and the children coped admirably! We are planning to make Forest School a regular provision in the Y3 curriculum. The school has standards in Literacy, and Writing in particular, on our agenda this year. The author Daniel Blythe (whose work includes some of the Dr Who scripts) spent a day in school running creative and challenging workshops with our KS2 pupils who are more able in Writing. We have also set up a Reading Mentor scheme, to encourage children who currently do not enjoy reading to find out that a book is an enjoyable companion as well as a source of information. The scheme runs successfully thanks to a support group of parents who have signed up to regular sessions of reading, discussing and enjoying books with pupils. Our choir made the trip to the O2 Arena in March, the third time now that we have taken part in the Young Voices concert. It is a very tiring day, with rehearsals and concert, but our choir were brilliant in their behaviour, participation and stamina! It was a fantastic occasion as always.

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. You can also visit our website www.stmarysschool-stansted.ik.org



Christine Tonkins
Headteacher

JAM JARS

Thank you to everyone who responded to my plea for empty jam jars in last month's 'Link'. More will be needed throughout the year, so please keep them coming. They can be left on the doorstep at 49 St John's Road.

Sandra Ayres
Tel: 814471

The wrong telephone number was printed last time, so apologies all round. Editor.



The Grove Cottage youth club is continuing to expand and welcomes new teenage members who can get to Grove Cottage on Tuesday evenings. The photo shows a recent 'messy night' when everyone had a great time although a few got wet in the process.



Plans are under way for our second weekend trip. We will take ten nine and ten year olds to the Isle of Wight for three days. The Holiday Club leaders have already visited the site to do their risk assessment and plan the weekend's activities. This is a huge undertaking because we need two carers for each child. It is very rewarding. The parents have a weekend of respite and the children have a rare opportunity to spend time away from their parents with friends. We are very grateful to Stort Valley Rotary Club for donating the profit from their annual charity dinner to support our holiday activities.

David Scott
Tel: 656085

Email: davidscott47@hotmail.com

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BAA launches yet another appeal

British Airports Authority has recently announced that it has initiated appeal proceedings against the Competition Appeal Tribunal's judgment of 1st February, upholding the Competition Commission's ruling that BAA must sell Stansted Airport. This means that the uncertainty over the future ownership of Stansted Airport is set to continue for at least a further six months, following a legal battle that has already lasted for three years (in addition to the preceding three years of investigation into BAA by the Office of Fair Trading and the Competition Commission). BAA's last appeal was dismissed by the Competition Appeal Tribunal on all five grounds. SSE's Economics Adviser, Brian Ross, commented that BAA waiting until the final day before lodging an appeal was an indication that it did not expect its legal challenge to succeed, but is merely seeking to delay the conclusion of the legal proceedings for as long as possible. He added that with every day that passes Stansted is losing both customers and jobs.

Carol Barbone
0777 5523091
Email: cbarbone@mxc.co.uk

COULD YOU HOST A ROMANIAN CHILD FOR TWO WEEKS THIS SUMMER?

Want to help an orphaned child and meet new friends doing it? Then read on. On Friday 10th August, a group of children from some of the poorest parts of Romania will arrive in the UK for a two-week break courtesy of the Moreton Romanian Orphans Fund, a local charity that has been organising such visits for more than 20 years. Once again, we are looking for families in this area to accommodate and care for a child for the duration of the trip. The children are unlikely to have ever stepped foot outside of Romania or experienced being part of a family group before, so for them it is a huge step. As a host, you would provide them with food and accommodation, and possibly also a few items of basic clothing, as the children often arrive in little more than what they are wearing. Other than that, the entire cost of the trip is funded by the charity, which also puts on a full programme of events for the children and their host families such as discos, picnics, sports events and days at the seaside. More information on the charity can be found on our website, www.mrof.co.uk. Interested? Then please call hosting officer MROF Barbara Saunders on 832001. Thank you.

Paul Jarvis
Publicity Officer
Moreton Romanian Orphans Fund



music@stansted

Tickets are now on sale for our extra concert in St John's Church on Sunday 20th May at 3.00pm when 10 year old George Harliono will be giving a piano recital. He has played alongside other youngsters at the Royal Festival Hall and last autumn gave solo recitals in Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Come along and hear a truly amazing young musi-



cian. Check him out on the internet too – George Harliono-Evans. This is outside our series of subscription concerts and tickets are adults £6, under 18s £2, from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds Solicitors, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy tel 815282 or at the door. For more information about us, please visit our website www.musicatstansted.com.

Alan Corbishley



MOUNTFITCHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



MMCC Students Treat the Boards

Recently students from all years at MMCC took part in a toe-tapping, heart-warming musical production of 'Annie'. The cast of 60 comprised students from all year groups, including Rosanna Terry, Year 7, playing Annie, to some swan song performances from some super Year 11s with Sorcha Garavan playing the drunken old hag Miss Hannigan, Billy Leed in role as the millionaire Oliver Warbucks, Alice Hedges as the dopey but deceitful Lily St Regis and Lydia Treend as the kind and sophisticated Grace Farrell. Students worked for six months to produce an outstanding performance, with songs and dances galore and played to a packed audience every night. Students not only trod the boards as actors, but the entire backstage crew including sound and light operators and set designers, were all students at MMCC. Co-directed by Year 10 student Katie Jane Wilson, 'Annie' was a raving success. A totally collaborative experience that enabled students to learn vital skills in teamwork, dealing with stress and the pressures of performing to a live audience. Yet again, MMCC students proved what they can achieve when they apply their hearts and minds ... they inspired, they supported and they most certainly achieved.

Miss C Beard
Head of Expressive Arts
MMCC



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SCOUTS' TREE PLANTING



The Woodland Trust aim to plant six million trees across the UK to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. With this in mind, on the last Saturday in February we joined other Scouts at Skreens Park near Chelmsford to take part in the annual County Conservation Weekend. Skreens had 800 trees from the Woodland Trust that needed planting. In the morning we began to remove the nettles, ground elder and other weeds from

the chosen area. After lunch we put the fence posts in by hand, a hard job!

By 5.00pm the fencing was attached, mainly to stop the deer from having a feast on the soon to be planted trees. That evening we had a demonstration of the chainsaws, as it was all part of our Forester badge work. Afterwards we watched a film before turning in. A fabulous sunrise greeted us on



Sunday, which raised the temperature enough for us to work in t-shirts whilst the whips were planted. Around 500 were put in to make a break. For those that know Skreens, it is on the right-hand side as you walk down to the lake. After our Sunday roast, we had just enough time to spruce up the fencing from our previous visits. The food was excellent as was the accommodation, especially as there was no cost. Most of the Forester badge was covered and a small dent made in the six million target!

Mike Byrne
Scout Leader

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UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our second meeting of the year opened with the sad news of the death of Mrs Brenda Scarr, a great friend to us and so many other people and causes. She was a member of our Institute and a Committee member for a great number of years and will be missed by us all. After paying our silent tribute to her we enjoyed a beautifully illustrated talk on the wilderness of Canada, the speaker being Jackie Lamberty, daughter of one of our members, Mrs Edna Wright. The 2010 trip was to celebrate Edna and Alan's diamond wedding anniversary and it was certainly a trip of a lifetime! To give us an idea of the vastness of Canada we were told that travelling from one side of it to the other is equivalent to travelling from London to Afghanistan! Fortunately we did the 'travelling' from the comfort of our seats and in the space of an afternoon we were taken on a tour of breathtakingly beautiful scenery. The itinerary included Burns Lake in British Columbia which is Canada's Lake District, containing hundreds of smaller lakes, and a native American Indian village complete with totem poles decorated with symbols of the Hawk family, Wolf family and Frog family. A lengthy 'ferry' journey took us from Prince Rupert Island to Vancouver Island where we saw some beautiful flora and fauna including rare hump-back whales.

The highlight of the trip, though, was the sighting of grizzly bears and these were bravely recorded on camera and digital camcorder. The male grizzly bears can range in height from between six and nine feet and can actually snorkel with their eyes open while they search for food, and Jackie and Edna managed to get some lovely images of the bears doing just that! Bears do not attack humans unless they are frightened or are with their cubs. The purchase of a bear bell was recommended for when you are hiking in their territory, just so that they know that you are around! The brilliant film footage ended with the images of a fisherman attempting to net salmon, whilst being precariously balanced on a rock with a waterfall gushing all round him. Fortunately we didn't have to net our tea, a delicious feast of homemade cake and sandwiches. The brilliant afternoon was rounded off by our competition - very appropriately a bear of any shape or size which was worthily won by a lovely old teddy dating from 1919!

Other highlights on the horizon include the history of the postcard in April, our Diamond Jubilee party in June, and beekeeping for beginners in July. So if you think that this sounds like the 'bees knees' why not come and join us? You would be most welcome! We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in Ugley Village Hall.

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We had our second general meeting on 16th February. It was very well attended - next time I will book a bigger venue! I hope the residents found it informative and I also hope our local councillors (many of whom attended which was much appreciated) now have a better sense of the immediate issues and concerns. Minutes from the meeting are on our website and we will do our best to tackle the issues raised in the coming months. I have recently learnt that Persimmon Homes have put in an application for Phase H on the development for four houses (ref UTT/1960/11/FUL). This is a small plot off Walson Way which had been earmarked for a shop under the original agreement with Taylor Wimpey (who own the land). I have spoken to Uttlesford Planning - the developer can apply to be released from this original agreement via a 'get-out' clause after the occupation of the 200th open market house on the Taylor Wimpey side of the development, but in doing so they have to provide evidence to the Council that 'There is no reasonable prospect of a sale or letting of a retail shop'. I am seeking clarification on how this is determined. Note that even though the application for four new homes has been validated, the get-out clause has not been acted upon yet. I will keep an eye on this. I strongly believe that the residents should have a say in whether or not we would like a shop.

Thank you to all those who turned out for the village litter pick. The Foresthall Park contingent covered Church Road and Watson Green. On the subject of litter and further to my note last month we now have dog/litter bins appearing.

Finally, I was recently contacted by the Saffron Walden Reporter enquiring about some local issues. I pointed out that our section of Stansted does not appear to be on their distribution network - they promised to look into this so I hope we'll start receiving this publication in the near future.



Stephen Berry
Chairman
Tel: 647652

Email: s.berry@mac.com

NEWS FROM THE CRAFTON ROOM

2012 is turning out to be a busy year for us and I am delighted to see so many new faces making use of the lunch club. For anyone wishing to come along, why not give us a ring and book a lunch. A delicious two course meal is just £5.00 and is served every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 12.30pm. As well as lunches we offer various services and events. We also have many groups who now meet in the Centre, including an art group and a card making group. To find out what we can offer you or for more details on renting the Day Centre Crafton Room, please give us a call or visit our website www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk. News of upcoming events will be on our website and on the village notice boards. Future menus can also be seen on the website.

Kat Lupton
Tel: 815091

The end of the Spring term saw the year 3 and 4 production of Roald Dahl's version of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. The Parents and Friends Association entertained the children with the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Rev'd Paul Wilkin led our Easter assembly. This term Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed the 'Mission X - train like an astronaut', health and fitness project in collaboration with other local primary schools and Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College. The school choir were invited to Broome End Nursing home to join in with some special 100th birthday celebrations for Annie. They entertained the residents with their present repertoire and finished by singing 'Happy Birthday' to the birthday girl! As part of our Global Citizenship project this year, the main theme of Book Week was to celebrate stories from each class's adopted country. Homework activities included designing book covers and 'Team Talk' sessions involved older children sharing their favourite stories with the younger children and vice-versa. The bags-to-schools initiative, organised by the PFTA, raised a sum of £212 which will pay for some much needed library books for the school library. Many mums joined us during the week beginning 12th March for a 'Mothers' Day Lunch'. It was lovely to see the children play host to these special guests. The netball and hockey teams have represented the school in local matches, both teams tried very hard against their competitors.

We are now taking applications for our Nursery. Morning sessions are for rising four children and the afternoon sessions are for children who are rising three. Please contact the school office on 813626 for a prospectus, pre-visit and application form. Thank you.

Cathie Bonich



**Stansted
Cricket
Club**

We are still awaiting a response to our outstanding grant applications. Indoor nets are being held for seniors on Wednesday evenings at the HECC and for juniors on Saturday mornings at TBSHS. There will be a NatWest Cricket Force working party on Sunday 25th March from 10am to help get the ground and pavilion ready for the new season, which begins on Saturday 5th May. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact the Secretary. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.

David Hedge
Hon. Secretary
Tel: 812509

Did you spot all the Easter Eggs?

There were 35 (don't forget those on page 13 with the Easter Bunny). Happy Easter!



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