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by **noon** on **11th April** for the May issue
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by **noon** on **8th April** for the May issue

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EDITORIAL



After successfully negotiating a long and complex obstacle course, our new Health Centre is at last under construction (see pages 19 and 29). Hopefully it'll now be a sprint to the finishing line and Castle Maltings will soon be open for business. Together with the improvements already under way at Cannons Mead and the refurbishment of the railway station, we should all benefit in some way from the various works currently taking place in the village. Stansted is expanding and experiencing a number of changes, mostly to the good. However, some things remain the same - the problems of dog poo left in public open spaces, potholes and traffic chaos. Potholes and heavy traffic we can do very little about except exert pressure on the relevant authorities to fix the former (again ... and again!) and try to find solutions to the latter. Dog poo is something the minority of irresponsible dog walkers can easily remedy, see page 21. Bagging and binning it doesn't take much effort but makes a huge difference to everyone else's enjoyment of our lovely village.

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Share in the cry of praise

Here we are again, another Easter.

The greatest truth ever revealed to humanity – He died, He rose again. A promise which is fulfilled if we have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

We start our yearly renewal with our promises to try and live better lives, to tell others of what inspires us in faith. In our children, who we bring to the church for Baptism, we share with God our promise to teach them the faith. With tears and prayer we ask for the Lord's mercy on those who have died, and on Easter Saturday night we share with millions the cry of praise – He is Risen, Alleluia.

I wish you all once again a happy sharing of these truths within our community on this happy feast and God's blessing on all.

Father John Garrett
Priest, St Thérèse of Lisieux



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC

29th March Palm Sunday	
Mass	10.00am
2nd April Maundy Thursday	
Mass of the Lord's Supper	8.00pm
3rd April Good Friday	
Children's Stations of the Cross	10.00am
Liturgy of the Passion	3.00pm
4th April Holy Saturday	
Confessions	10.00am
The Easter Vigil	8.00pm
5th April Easter Day	
Easter Morning Mass	10.00am

FREE CHURCH

3rd April Good Friday	
Good Friday Service	10.30am
5th April Easter Day	
Easter Communion	11.00am

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

5th April Easter Day	
Meeting	10.30am

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

29th March Palm Sunday	
Holy Communion	8.00am
Palm Sunday Procession and Sung Eucharist	9.20am
1st April Wednesday	
Holy Communion	10.00am
2nd April Maundy Thursday	
Maundy Thursday Eucharist	8.00pm
3rd April Good Friday	
Midday prayer <i>St Mary's Farnham</i>	12 noon
Good Friday Liturgy <i>St Mary's Bitchanger</i>	1.30pm
Tenebrae - 'A Meditation on the Passion and Death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ'	6.00pm
<i>The word 'Tenebrae' is Latin for shadows or darkness. In the service we will listen to the story of the last hours of Jesus' life, and as we listen, candles are extinguished to symbolise the enveloping darkness. The singing of plainsong and moments of silence mark the solemnity of the occasion and the service ends with the church in darkness.</i>	
5th April Easter Day	
Holy Communion	8.00am
Sung Eucharist	9.30am



WALK OF WITNESS

From St Therese's Church
to St John's Church

4.00pm

All Welcome



There are no meetings during April. Our next meeting is on Monday 11th May.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



www.stanstedfamilychurch.com

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

Our Christian beliefs are conventional, we are just doing church differently. For details of events see the What's On page of our church website, or contact us.

Our **@27 meeting** (contemporary worship, bible-teaching and discussion) will be on Wednesday 15th April. Contact us for information on topic and venue, using the email or numbers shown. Did you know **prayer-walks** take place in Stansted? If you would like us to pray for anyone or any organisation in the village while we are walking, please just let us know. If you would like to join a prayer walk, or part of a route, contact us for starting points and times (some routes are weather-dependent). Schools and churches are regularly prayed for, as are the different areas of the village. Other items for prayer may vary according to season and need, but we are always open to all kinds of requests, whether related to health, work, a business, a charity event or something else. A prayer-walk in October, organised by Stort Valley Schools Trust was also attended by a number of Christians from other villages, who prayed for the well-being and safety of children and teachers at each of the Stansted Schools, and for Birchanger School as well.



Howard and Ros Page



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

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

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

Preachers for April

3rd 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Good Friday Service
5th 11.00am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Easter Communion
12th 10.30am Rev'd Christine Fowler
19th 10.30am Janet Bottoms
26th 10.30am Don McGregor

The Place on the Hill - every Wed and Fri 9.30am-12.30pm

Our free Wednesday and Friday drop-in, with Art for All on the first Friday, and storytime on the third Friday of each month. Free refreshments and internet, good company, space for the children to run around, plus a quiet area with comfy seating. Come and join us - all ages are welcome. For more information telephone Marion and Mike on 814059.



All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
Email: stjohns.church@btinternet.com
Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btk.com

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

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

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

St John's Diary

Sunday

8.00am Said Holy Communion
9.30am Worship for 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

From the Registers

Baptism

8th February Rosina Louise Caffell

Funerals

4th February Edward 'Ted' Mansfield,
age 78 - at Bishop's Stortford Cemetery

2nd March Lore Magdalena Marie Mills,
age 81 - at St Mary's

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the February draws:

£100 No 124 - Nigel Holland
£ 50 No 220 - Joanne Bescovy
£ 25 No 215 - Darren Salisbury

The draws for April will be carried out on Sunday 26th April in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. The current 300 Club year comes to an end on 30th April and I would like to express our very grateful thanks to all those who have supported us. Renewal forms will be sent out and we hope you will sign up for another year. We currently have 272 numbers allocated so there are still numbers available for anyone who would like to be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500. The Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's. Numbers cost £2 (maximum five per household). Please contact me or Rosaleen on 816204.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562



On 14th April at 7.30pm in St John's Church, CTS will be hosting a meeting of all the prospective Parliamentary candidates standing in this area at the General Election. The event will be an opportunity for everyone to come along to meet them and ask questions.

Francine Cope
Secretary
Tel: 814562

Be Still and Know that I am God (Silent Prayer Day)

A day in St John's Church exploring the power of silent prayer on Saturday 9th May 10.00am-3.30pm. The day will be led by Magdalen Houlihan from Clare Priory. Please bring a packed lunch - tea and coffee will be provided. This event is being run under the banner of Churches Together in Stansted. To secure your place, please contact me.

Kathy West
Tel: 816293
Email: kewest@btinternet.com

ROMAN CATHOLIC St Therese of Lisieux High Lane

Priest Father John Garrett

Office Tel: 816889
Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AE

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Lauren-Alyce and Scott on the birth of their gorgeous baby boy Harrison Alan Evan, weighing in at 5lb 9oz, at The Rosie on 27th January. Well done you two. Lots of love from Mum xxx

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



St John's Church was very pleased to host this annual inter-denominational event on Friday, 6th March. We were part of an estimated three million people in over 170 countries all using the same order of service, which this year was written by the Christian women of The Bahamas, and included hymns, one of which was specially written for the occasion. Sea shells, exotic fruit, colourful clothes and the flag of the Bahamas were all in evidence in the church and we even managed to arrange for the sun to shine. The theme of this year's service was taken from St John's Gospel - *Jesus said to them "Do you know what I have done to you?"* and those present were challenged to find ways to demonstrate the same radical, unconditional love for others that Jesus showed when he washed the feet of his disciples. We were invited to write down our ideas on paper *footprints*. These ideas included such things as small acts of kindness to a lonely neighbour, or reaching out to people we have never previously got on with. Thank you to everyone who was involved (too numerous to mention by name). The grand sum of £131 was collected for the work of WWDP. Afterwards we enjoyed tea and a delicious cake prepared by Catherine Dean - the recipe is shown below.

Bahama Mama Carrot Cake

Ingredients:

110g/4oz sugar
360ml/1½ cups oil
3 eggs
175g/6oz plain flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
2 tbsp cinnamon
1 tsp each ground allspice, nutmeg and cardamom
225g/8oz grated carrots
110g/4oz crushed pineapple, drained
2 tsp vanilla essence
110g/4oz dessicated coconut
50g/2oz raisins or dried cranberries



Method:

Beat the sugar, oil and eggs together. Add the dry ingredients, then fold in carrots, pineapple, coconut, raisins or cranberries and vanilla essence. Put into a greased 9" x 9" baking tin and bake at 350°F/180°C/160°C fan oven/gas Mark 4 for about an hour. Can be iced when cold with a cream cheese frosting.

Kathy West
Tel: 816293



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Saturday 9th May 3.00pm in St Mary's Church

Come and listen to the Band! The Friends of St Mary's are very pleased to invite you to a concert given by Bishop's Stortford Band (more about the Band on page 15). We hope this first concert will be well supported. Tickets £5 (under 16's free) from Sue Swan on 506123 or myself. Teas will be on sale and proceeds will be shared by the Band and the Churches Conservation Trust.

Audrey Rodgers
Tel: 812162



Mini Spring Show
7.45 pm Wed 1st Apr
Day Centre
followed by AGM at 8 pm
 All Welcome
 Refreshments prior to AGM
 Tel: 07919 478144

VILLAGE LITTER PICK
Saturday 11th April
 Meet 10 am Crafton Green
Bring strong gloves - equipment provided
 Free Churchill's lunch

POND CLEAN UP
Sunday 26th April
 Meet 10 am at Bentfield Green Pond
Equipment provided
 Organised by
 Stansted Parish Council
 All Welcome ~ tel 813214




AFTERNOON TEA
1 - 4 pm Sat 11th April
 St John's Church Hall
 Children's Activity Corner
 Tombola ~ Raffle ~ Mini Manicure
 Steph's Wishes give 'Memory Days' to 18-25
 years old with recurring or terminal cancer
 Tel 07855 722525

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

1	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Garden Club AGM & Show	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.45 pm
2	Thu	Stansted History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Fri	Good Friday Walk of Witness	St Thérèse Church 4 pm
5	Sun / 6	Mon Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
9	Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.45 pm
10	Fri	Stansted Business Forum Spring Lunch	Linden House 7 for 7.30 am Day Centre 12 for 12.30 pm
11	Sat	Link copy in due today Village Litter Pick Steph's Wishes Tea Windmill Race Night	before 12 noon Crafton Green 10 am St John's Hall 1 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
12	Sun	Family Café	Manuden Church 7.30 pm
14	Tue	Manuden Singers Concert Dementia Café Meet Parliamentary Candidates Stansted is Well Read	Quaker Meeting Hse 10 am - noon St John's Church 7.30 pm Dog & Duck 8 pm
16	Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
18	Sat	Music Quiz for Breast Cancer	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
19	Sun	Open Day Plant & Book Sale	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 5 pm Littlebury Church 2.30 - 5.30 pm
24	Fri	Fish & Chip Friday	Day Centre 12.30 pm
25	Sat	Open Day	Rainbow Pre-school 10 am - noon
26	Sun	Village Pond Clean Up Family Café Bowling for Beginners	Bentfield Pond 10 am Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am Bowling Club 10 am
28	Tue	Inner Wheel	Day Centre 7.30 - 10 pm



Stansted Millers
Race Night
7.30 for 8 pm Sat 11th April
 Day Centre
Tickets £10 (byo drinks)
incl Fish & Chip Supper
from Molly on 816768
Windmill Open
5th & 6th April 1.30 - 5.30 pm

Manuden Singers & Players
Haydn Seasons &
Handel Chandos Anthem
7.30 pm Sun 12th April
 St Mary's Church, Manuden
Tickets £10 adults, £5 students
Tel Fiona 812157 or at the door
Proceeds to Uttlesford CAB



Open Day
10 am - noon
Sun 25th April
 We welcome past, present & future
 pupils and their families
 Come and see what we offer and
 talk with staff, parents & committee
Rainbow Pre-School, St John's Rd
 Tel: 814242

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 Bowling Club, Recreation Ground
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Sunday 26th Apr 10 am plus
Mon 27th - Fri 1st 6.30 pm
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UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET
10 am - noon Sat 18th Apr
 Ugley Village Hall
 Meat ~ Poultry ~ Fish ~ Eggs ~ Honey
 Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Knitting
 Fruit & Veg ~ Skincare ~ Crafts
 Refreshments with cake and bacon rolls



Holy Trinity Church
 Littlebury
PLANT & BOOK SALE
 plus Teas and Cakes
in aid of Church Funds
2.30 - 5 pm Sun 19th April
 All Welcome
 Tel 01799 521312



OPEN DAY
Sunday 19th April
 11.30 am - 5 pm (last entry 4 pm)
 Children's Craft & Nature Activities
 Complimentary Tours at 12.30 & 2.30 pm
 Adults £3.50 Children Free
 Homemade soup, Bacon Baps
 & Cheese Rolls until 2.15 pm
 Cakes & Drinks all Day
All Welcome Tel: 01371 876979



Music Quiz
7.30 for 8 pm Sat 18th Apr
 Day Centre
Tickets £8 includes
Pizza & Salad Supper
From Julie on 815091
 Organised by the Crafton Room

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MANUDEN GUIDES



A group of girls and leaders spent three days in London over the February half-term. We stayed in one of the World Guide Centres - Pax Lodge, in Hampstead. The first day we spent sight-seeing, mainly on foot, crossing and re-crossing the Thames. We walked round the Tower of London, to St Katharine Docks, where we chose our yacht if we ever win the lottery (!) then across Tower Bridge. We passed the Golden Hind and stopped for lunch outside the Globe. We crossed the Millennium Bridge, continuing on to Covent Garden and Trafalgar Square.



The Golden Jubilee Bridge took us back across the river again to find somewhere to have a meal. The highlight of the day, probably the whole holiday, was the ride on the London Eye at night. Some had been on the Eye before, albeit when they were very young, but riding by night was a first for everyone, and was truly magical. We headed 'home' to Pax Lodge for supper and a well-earned good night's sleep.



The choice for the next day was London Zoo, walking there across Primrose Hill. There was plenty to see and places to shelter from the rain. The girls' favourites were the penguins, whilst the adult vote went to the giraffes. It was Alice's birthday and we arrived back at Pax Lodge to find a surprise birthday cake had been sent by her mother, so an extra treat for us all. We later collected a take-away meal to eat in, then explored the Centre, learning more about world guiding and played games before going, exhausted, to bed! On the last day we went shopping in Camden Market, an amazing experience for everyone, and then got the tube to Kensington to take in a museum. As the queue for the Natural History Museum was incredibly long, involving a two hour wait, we opted for the Science Museum! Another tube

journey took us to Liverpool Street, then home, after a tiring but wonderful few days in London, getting to know each other, our capital city, and guiding, much better.



Glynis Prothero
District Administrator
Tel: 814145



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

Trips and Outings

A coach full of happy U3A trippers made its way to Spitalfields Market recently. We disembarked and enjoyed coffee and biscuits in The Shooting Star, a typical London pub. Refreshed, we went on our coach tour. Our guide was exceedingly knowledgeable, full of facts about the eminent doctors, chemists and kind and clever people that found cures, the sources of infection and founded hospitals to help the sick and dying. The gruesome facts about the body-snatchers and the Plague that swept through the city left little to the imagination. We returned for our typical East End pub lunch of pie and mash or fish and chips - very enjoyable. We re-boarded the coach and saw more places of medical interest and then to the British Museum where we had time to wander and learn. A great day thanks to Jan and Maggie. Keep healthy my U3A chums! Julie.

Seminars

Over 50 people attended the Seminar on 'Saturn and its Moons'. Professor Carolin Crawford illustrated her talk with some amazing photographs. The large number of questions at the end was a sign of how well she captured our imaginations. The next Saturday Seminar on **16th May** is 'It's All in the Genes', an introduction to genetics and its role in crop improvement, given by Professor Graham Jellis. Contact Alan Wheeler for details on 07790 213510 email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com.

Next meeting Thursday 16th April St John's Hall, doors open 1.30pm. The speaker is Richard Furnival-Jones talking about 'The Palace of Knightsbridge - Harrods'. Just a reminder, forms will be available to nominate members to the Committee, as some of the existing committee will be standing down at the May AGM. Our constitution does not allow them to continue, so new Committee members are required. Your U3A Needs You, as without your involvement we will struggle to exist, which would be regrettable after all the effort put in since 2009. Contact a Committee member to request sitting in on a Committee meeting to see what is involved, or ask to shadow activities of one of those standing down to get a feel for the post; you will be made most welcome. Visit our website for details and watch out for new activities at the meetings. Chris (Chair) 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) 814304.



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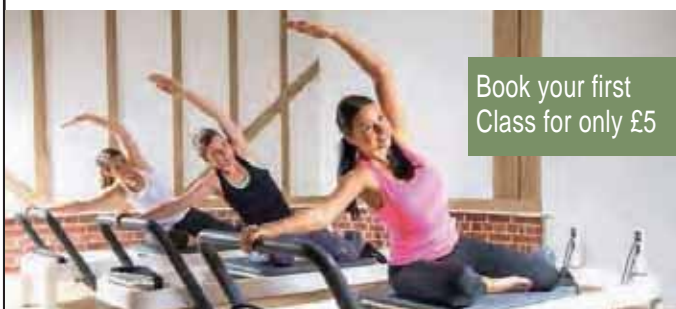
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BIRCHANGER WOOD

During April the wood anemones will, or may still be flowering, but the green foliage of the English bluebells is sitting there waiting to show its amazing dark blue bells. Look at them ... the English bluebell is a deep blue, has all the flower-heads almost only on one side of the stem, it has a scent, the petals are 're-curved' and there is a creamy pollen. This distinguishes the native species from the Spanish (garden) bluebell. Check them out! Are the buzzards back in Birchanger Wood this year? Can you hear their high-pitched call? If not now, if they nest and produce young, then you will hear them later this year as the family flies and calls to one another way above the tops of our very tall trees. On the Birchanger side of the Wood where it is easier to exit the Wood into the open fields this is a wonderful sound, and of course sight, with birds wheeling together learning to fly the thermals under instruction from their parents. Last year, I saw two red kites fly over Stansted (High Lane), and again recently (February), in the sky over Furneaux Pelham. They are distinguishable from the buzzard by their forked tail. The kites are scavengers whilst the buzzards are predators. Over in the reaches of Reading, where the red kite is a familiar sight, very little road-kill remains owing to their rapid attention and clearance.

And now, for all our lovely dog walkers - a request to you all: dog walkers are welcome in Birchanger Wood but please clean up after your pet. Dog mess is not only really horrible and smelly, it can cause serious infections. Please carry dog 'poo' bags with you and clear up. We do not have dog bins in Birchanger Wood owing both to the cost, and impracticality of collection but, there are red bins on the public footpath main approach from Heath Row, and close to the play area at Northolt Avenue. Please take your dog poo away with you and put it in one of these bins, or your own rubbish bin. Most dog walkers are only a few minutes from home. There is no such thing as a 'poo fairy' who arrives at nightfall to take them away. Please leave Birchanger Wood clear of doggy 'do-dah'. Thank you.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Secretary

Email: secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org



Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May

"One of the big strengths of Christian Aid is that it gives you the chance to put something that matters to you into action, because you believe in it." These are the words of one of the army of Christian Aid week volunteers, who go out into the streets of Britain every year to collect money in the distinctive red and white envelopes, to help the most disadvantaged people in the world. If anyone would like to join the small battalion, which will hit the streets of Stansted this May, please let me know. It may take you out of your comfort zone, but you will have the satisfaction of knowing you will be bringing hope to some of the world's poorest people. Thank you.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

Email: catherinemarydean@btinternet.com

FOREST HALL SCHOOL



World Book Day

Book-loving students celebrated a passion for reading - by taking 'shelfies' in their school library. They also took part in The Matching Game with students following clues set by their librarian to pair up their teachers with their favourite books. World Book Day is an ideal opportunity to encourage our young people to read for pleasure. By showing them what fun reading can be, we hope they will be more inclined to pick up a book - or magazine or newspaper - out of choice. The school also screened The Biggest Book Show on Earth, footage of authors and illustrators, on big screens all day to raise the profile of books, reading and writing.



Saturday school has been launched for students keen to boost their exam grades. Students are being encouraged to attend Saturday school and Easter revision clubs to further improve their chances of achieving the highest GCSE grades. During the Easter break, Revision Club will offer Year 11 students 37 sessions in all core subjects. The school now also has 20 after-school clubs. Acting Headteacher, Stephen Hehir is pleased at the hunger to succeed from students and teachers, and hopes to turn C grades into B grades and B grades into A/A* grades. The focus now is on high achievement and outstanding teaching and learning. The facilities and good behaviour are already in place, and the children really want to achieve highly.

Kelly Clark
PR Manager
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Green Opens

Saturday 18th April 2.30pm for our first game of President v Captain. Spectators all welcome.

Bowls for Beginners

Sunday 26th April 10.00am and each evening during that week at 6.30pm - please telephone or email as below if you wish to arrange an alternative time for your convenience, we look forward to hearing from you.

Carpet Bowls

We had a good evening at Quendon in February, where we came second! We welcomed Quendon on 20th March for a re-match.

Darts Team

Well done to the darts team - they are through to the final of Travellers Cup and the semi-final of Stan Turner Cup. If you require any further information please contact me.

Doreen Scraggs

Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178

Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net



www.bentfield.essex.sch.uk

This term there has, as always, been a plethora of activities and events throughout the classes. Year 6 have taken part in a theatre workshop and visited Braintree museum in full Victorian outfits, and Year 5 had the chance to handle giant stick insects, a milk snake and a royal bull python when they were visited by a parent who works for the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. They have also attended their Mission X launch and received a visit from the leaders of the project with the chance to try on a real astronaut suit! Year 4 arranged a Robot Workshop for a day and Year 3 were visited by the Rockman and the Essex County Fire and Rescue service. At the time of writing Year 1 are about to visit Shepreth Wildlife Park. The PTA has funded a Puzzle Day where all classes had the opportunity of completing a variety of maths puzzles in a workshop in the hall. All Key Stage 2 classes have been given a coaching session in Boccia and New Age Curling. This term we have also provided all classes from Nursery to Reception with 30 minute music therapy sessions from the charitable organisation Play for Progress (a company who also work with children in deprived countries affected by war or poverty).

Due to the nature of Bentfield, and the fact that we cater for many pupils with additional needs, we are always looking for passionate and enthusiastic Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) to join our school. We regularly advertise for posts and are also keen to take interest for any available future vacancies. In the summer term we will be looking to interview for a variety of part time and full time roles in various year groups (including nursery). If you are interested in a position at our school please feel free to contact us for a visit or drop in your details for the next available vacancy which will also be posted on our website.

David Rogers
Headteacher
Tel: 813626

LOCAL HEALTH CARE THANK YOU

West Essex health and care leaders would like to thank the public for attending their feedback meetings. Residents recently joined NHS West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) events in Harlow, Saffron Walden, Waltham Abbey, Dunmow and Epping to hear how their views have shaped plans for local health and care. In 2013, WECCG held a widespread engagement campaign called *My health My future My say* which captured public opinion on the future of health and care services in the area. Part II of the campaign aimed to provide an update on NHS plans and provide the opportunity for people to ask questions from local leaders. The event panel was made up of representatives from NHS West Essex CCG, Essex County Council, South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT), North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (NEP) and The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS. At each event a spirited question and answer session took place, the first such Q&A of West Essex CCG's updated public engagement model.

The Chief Officer at West Essex CCG, Clare Morris expressed her delight that local people had taken the opportunity to see how their ideas had shaped plans. She thanked everyone who had attended for their input and urged people to come to the next open Q&A session later this year. While the feedback events focused on plans for the next five years, it was also an opportunity to share the steps West Essex CCG has taken over the winter period to help manage exceptional demand on health and care services. These include making 5,000 additional face-to-face GP appointments available, simplifying the discharge process and promoting the free NHS 111 service for calling when medical help is needed fast, but it's not an emergency. The opportunity to engage with West Essex CCG remains open via the website www.westessexccg.nhs.uk or email: weccg.comms@nhs.net. You can also keep up to date on Twitter @nhswestessex or Facebook (WECCG). Alternatively, please contact our patient advice and liaison service (PALS) on 0800 7833396.



STANSTED WELL READ

Our next meeting is at 8.00pm on 14th April in the Dog and Duck, when we will be reading *The Miniaturist* by Jesse Burton. Newcomers are very welcome. For more information contact me.

Victoria North

Email: vnorth63@gmail.com



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MAGNA CARTA EMBROIDERY

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MAGNA CARTA CELEBRATIONS

The exciting part of the embroidery project is about to take place. The finished embroidered pieces will be sewn on to the background fabric stretched onto large frames. Meanwhile scenes from the village over the years have been painted and are about to be stitched. One of these is of a donkey being given a piggy-back by a local called Joslin who wanted to lead it along a toll road. To avoid the toll, he had to lift the donkey onto his back! A photographer and a reporter from the Herts and Essex Observer visited the stitchers on 9th March so hopefully we will hit the local press! Tickets for the Medieval Fayre will go on sale soon. Details will be on the website as soon as the tickets are released. Volunteers are needed for the smooth running of the Fayre. As all displays are staged twice no one should miss out on seeing the main events. Any horse riders who would like to take part in the Pageant procession from St Mary's Church to Stansted Hall please contact me. A quiz sheet with 56 questions about the village and the Magna Carta has been prepared and is now on sale at £1 as a fund raiser. Look out for it at venues around the village.

Magna Carta Events

19th Jun Facsimile exhibition

22nd Jun Arrival of a copy of the Magna Carta

23rd Jun Unveiling of Embroidery and Pictorial and Card Exhibition

27th Jun Medieval Fayre and Pageant

11th Sep Music and drama by Trouvere

16th Sep Talk by Peter Sanders on The Early Montfichets

25th Sep Celebration of Liberty, an evening of our local talent, singers and actors.



The picture shows another part of our embroidery - Monks at Thremhall Priory.

Liz Hedge

Tel: 812509

Email: echedge52@gmail.com

FARNHAM CRICKET CLUB

150th ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate this remarkable milestone in our history, we are holding a four-day cricket festival from 23rd to 26th July at our Hazel End ground, with special matches on all four days. On Sunday 26th, all past and present members will be attending a reunion at the ground. More details to follow.

John Maley

Chairman

Tel: 814355

Email: j.maley992@btinternet.com

Presentation by Nigel Collingwood at Stansted History Society February Meeting

Following an invitation to the Parish Council in November 2012 from Peter Sinclair of Hertfordshire, to join together in celebrating the 800 years' anniversary in June 2015, Nigel did some research. As a result of this a twinning arrangement had begun between his nearby caput of Walkern, and Lanvalley in Normandy, as well as publishing a book about their Baron William de Lanvlei and Magna Carta. After further research Nigel offered to take the lead in response to Peter's letter. The first meeting on 28th May 2013 at the Abbey in Bury St. Edmunds was a really appropriate setting, pre 13th century and where the barons had gathered in 1214 to plan their challenge to King John. The 15 barons' caputs represented were addressed by Sir Robert Worcester, Chair of the Magna Carta 800 Committee, in which they agreed to advance the education of the public in the history of the Magna Carta barons, their towns and villages and jointly celebrate the 800 anniversary.

Nigel developed a desire to feature a lasting piece of art-work that would embody the Magna Carta story, featuring our Baron Richard de Montfichet, to involve the wider community and educate our younger generation and provide a Legacy. In St Mary's Church where the Montfichets must have walked under the Norman arches, Nigel met Audrey Rodgers who introduced him to Leila Riddell, who set up and chaired the Bishops Stortford Embroiders Guild. Leila enthusiastically took on the project, designing and managing a largely complete three-piece standalone stunning piece of embroidery art work which will be mounted, thanks to Barry Francis, into oak frames. The embroidery will be displayed at dedicated services, lectures and school projects. The first showing will be at a service of dedication in St Johns on 14th June. A brochure describing and illustrating the work is being produced with contributions from Peter Brown and Ralph Phillips. It will also include a full acknowledgement of all volunteers. To finance the embroidery and brochure Nigel approached Stansted Airport through the History Society and utilised their local project grant procedure to raise the money, which was agreed and allowed the project to commence. For further information, please see: www.stanstedmagnacartaevents.co.uk.



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STANSTED STROLL

Another circular route which ventures further afield than last month's walk (with a chance of seeing bluebells in bloom along **FP16**). Only suitable for lightweight buggies that can be carried on field paths, it's about 3 miles long and takes approximately 1.25 hours.

Note for dog walkers: **Red crosses** on the map indicate special red bins along the route for the disposal of bagged dogs' poo.

Starting at the junction of Rainsford Road and Pennington Lane marked **A Walk 1** on map, walk the length of Pennington Lane in a northerly direction to the B1383. Cross the B1383 and go along bridleway BR28 Ugley along the northern side of the field; turn right at the eastern side of field along **FP16** and head in a southerly direction, through the spinney behind the rifle range and Auction Rooms into Alsa Street.

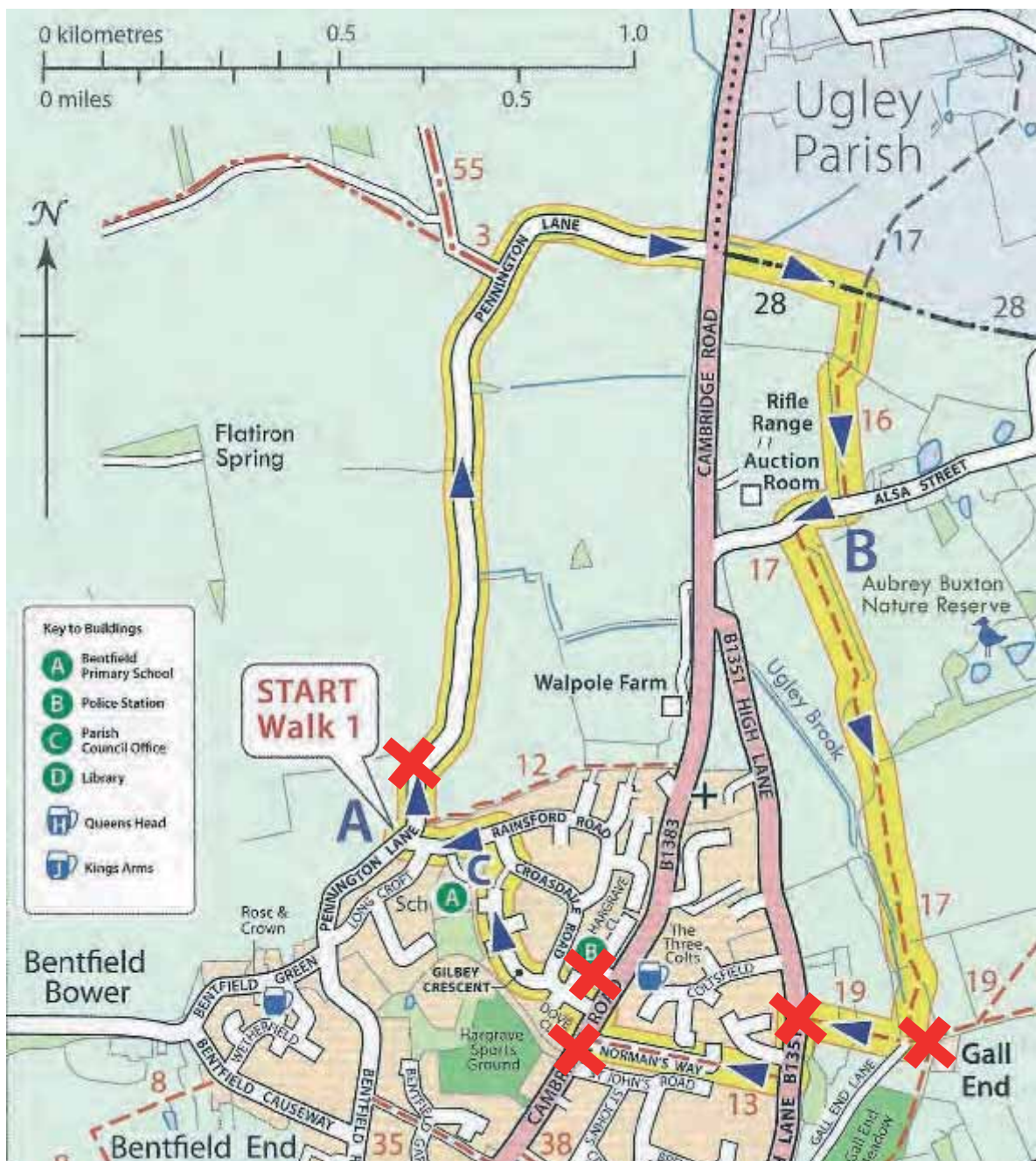
At point **B** turn right and walk approx 200 paces, then left at the fingerpost onto **FP17** along eastern side of field through spinney then along western side of field to Gall End. Turn right onto **FP19** over two stiles and onto High Lane. Turn left and walk approx 150 paces downhill before crossing the road and taking **FP13** to Norman's Way and then to the B1383.

Turn right for about 50 paces, cross the B1383 and follow Croasdaile Road into Gilbey Crescent and at the northern end take footpath **C** back into Croasdaile Road, turn left again into Rainsford Road and back to starting point.

Walk can be shortened at point **B** by amending directions to: continue in westerly direction to the B1383, turn left, cross over at Walpole Farm and take **FP12** along southern boundary of farm, leading to Pennington Lane.

Enjoy the walk and the bluebells – if they're out!

Taken from 'Saunters Round Stansted' produced by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council with their kind permission





BISHOP'S STORTFORD BAND

After several years without a professional conductor the Bishop's Stortford Band are pleased to announce that they are working with Iain McDonald, who has already improved our sound quality and musical accuracy, and has helped many members to reach higher standards. Members are enjoying rehearsals and practising with more enthusiasm knowing that their efforts will be noticed and appreciated.



On 9th May at 3.00pm in St Mary's Church we will be performing to raise funds for both the Band and The Friends of St Mary's. The programme includes original brass band items as well as popular songs and themes from musicals and the movies. In July we will be playing at Berden Fête and in Pishiobury Park for Stort Rotary Walk. The band is keen to attract new members. There are vacancies for beginners and more experienced players in all sections, and instruments are often available to borrow. Please contact me or turn up on any Tuesday evening at the Markwell Pavilion at 7.30pm.

Sue Swan
Tel: 506123

MANUDEN SINGERS

Spring Concert Sunday 12th April 7.30pm Manuden Church

Now that the winter is finally on its way out, what could be more appropriate and uplifting than a performance of two movements from Joseph Haydn's great oratorio 'The Seasons' - Spring and Summer? Featuring local soloists Emily Yarrow (soprano), Jeff Phillips (tenor) and James Priest (bass), and supported by the accomplished instrumentalists of the Manuden Players, the Manuden Singers, under Ian Priest's direction, will provide a fine welcome to the long-awaited arrival of spring. Handel's Chandos Anthem No 4 is also in the programme - a delightful piece full of all the hallmarks of this great composer. As is usual at our concerts, all proceeds will be donated to charity. This time we are supporting the wonderful work of the Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau, whose tireless volunteers provide such invaluable support to our community, offering legal advice which many of us could not afford. Tickets £10 (children £5) from 812157 or on the door.

Ian Priest
Tel: 647050

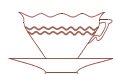


HELPLINE

For anyone who may be new to the village and unfamiliar with Stansted Helpline, it is our local community care scheme, run entirely by volunteers for the benefit of those people within the parish who find themselves in need of assistance. The scheme has been running for 30 years, led by a committee of seven, with 10 'Listeners-In' who man the telephone on a rota system, and a base of 40-50 volunteers who carry out the tasks requested. These generally relate to providing transport to doctors' surgery, hospital appointments, shopping, collecting prescriptions for the house-bound etc. We also hold a fairly extensive list of useful contact numbers, so if you are in need of more specialist assistance, we can point you in the right direction.

During 2014, we fulfilled 193 requests, 174 of which related to the provision of transport, which demonstrates a) the continued need for the service and b) the dedication and goodwill of our volunteers, many of whom have been providing their help for many years. The service is free, although reimbursements of petrol expenses are requested when transport is provided. If you find yourself in need, when no other help is available, please ring the Helpline number 07704 553727, which is manned 9.00am-4.00pm Monday-Friday. You can also see details in our advertisement on page 16 of The Link. The year 2014 proved to be a difficult one administratively, with problems arising with our public liability insurance provider (now thankfully resolved) and the legal responsibility placed upon us to ensure that all our drivers are checked under DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) to work with 'vulnerable adults'. I should like to express a huge thank you to all our volunteers who accepted this requirement and complied with all the necessary paperwork with their customary good humour and patience. If anyone would like to volunteer for this very worthwhile and much appreciated service, please contact our Organiser, Yvonne Ayres on 814706, or myself, and we will be happy to give you further details. There is no regular commitment involved; it is very much a case of matching up requests with people's availability as and when required.

Francine Cope
Chairman
Tel: 814562



STEPH'S WISHES AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday 11th April 1.00pm-4.00pm St John's Hall

Our afternoon tea is sponsored this year by Farnham's. It costs on average £1500 to grant a Memory Day to people in the UK aged 18-25 years old who have recurring or terminal cancer, and Stansted residents have raised over this amount each year - thank you. The afternoon is always great fun with a kids' activity and play corner, tombola, brilliant raffle, mini manicures and of course traditional Afternoon Tea and a fantastic range of yummy cakes and bakes for you to all enjoy. To donate a raffle prize or buy raffle tickets (£1 per strip) please contact me. Entry free - see you there!

Fran Alvey
Tel: 07917 122931

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At our March meeting, Robbie Linsell talked about a more relaxed and informative atmosphere when you come to his gym, and James Devries talked us through the world of IT, telling us that his key is a free consultation to gauge your company needs and then matching you to the most cost effective option. The Forum is pleased and proud to be involved in a very exciting project with our local schools – a Magna Carta art and creative writing competition. We will donate three artwork and two creative writing prizes to each school (the latter being sponsored by Millways). Each school will focus on a theme related to the Magna Carta such as King John and the reasons why the Magna Carta was produced. Schools will nominate prize winners. We will collate prize winners' work in a booklet to be distributed to schools, commemorating this once in a lifetime occasion. Maureen Caton will present the prizes at our summer fayre on 4th July.

This month we spotlight Stansted Chiropractic and Physiotherapy Clinic, who have awards from the Royal College of Chiropractors. Veronica Iliffe writes 'There has been a Chiropractic Clinic in Stansted for over 25 years. We took over in 2004 and added Physiotherapy three years ago, which has continued to grow. We treat patients with a variety of joint and muscle related problems of all ages and our oldest patient is in their 90s! Our patients can be assured of our utmost attention to their needs. For people living in the area we offer an Initial Consultation at the reduced rate of £25 (full price £50), as we believe in supporting our local community'.



Our next meeting is on Friday 10th April 7.00am for 7.30am at Linden House. To book a stall for the fayre or for the breakfast, please contact Peter at Murdochs telephone 813318 or email: peter.james@murdochspropertyshop.co.uk.



Iris Evans
Treasurer
Tel: 815848

DID I READ THAT SIGN CORRECTLY?

In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN

In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD



STANSTED MUNFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A Nice Cup of Tea

Our enjoyable March meeting was a presentation by Tim Turner (an auctioneer and valuer from Sworders fine art auctioneers) who gave us a talk on the history of tea and items used in the associated ceremony. He informed us that tea, originally from China, imported for the nobility, was very expensive and was taken in cups without sugar and milk; the taste was both refreshing and bitter. It was Catherine Braganza from Portugal in the mid-18th century, who married Charles II, and brought us the practice of drinking tea in the afternoon. Pitt the Younger realised that by lowering duty and bringing tea to the working people, he would encourage more people to drink tea, instead of the poor ales and gin that were available at the time, and raise more money for the Government. During this period the Chinese had a thirst for opium as we had a thirst for tea, culminating in 90% of all Chinese males under the age of 40 smoking opium, mainly due to us saturating their market; this created the opium wars in 1839-1842 and 1856-1860. To keep up with the demand for tea, we had started to grow tea in India and sugar in the West Indies, with milk coming from cows, which were kept in the centre of London, and distributed by milkmaids with their pails on a yoke. Tim then gave us a brief understanding of table furniture; how we came to use hardwoods such as mahogany, and the use of veneers; why we used silver, silver plate and Sheffield plate. And of course how we tried to refine our china and produce beautiful porcelain to match the Chinese.

The next meeting is 2nd April at 8.00pm at the Crafton Centre, Chapel Hill when Peter Lawrence will be giving a presentation on Essex Country Houses and their empire building occupiers. All welcome, refreshments provided.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177



*Stansted
Cricket
Club*

Junior Nets continue on Sundays at Birchwood School until 22nd March. Start times vary between 4.30pm and 6.00pm. Further details are available from Mike Burgoine on 07720 710212. Senior nets continue at Birchwood School on Sundays at 11.00am until 12th April. The AGM was held on 5th March at Stansted FC clubhouse. Matt Cope is the new Saturday 1st XI captain and David Powter will continue to be Saturday 2nd XI captain. The club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact the secretary. Any adults wishing to join the club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



David Hedge
Hon Secretary
Tel: 812509
Email: dchedge49@gmail.com

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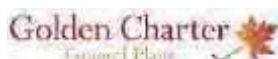


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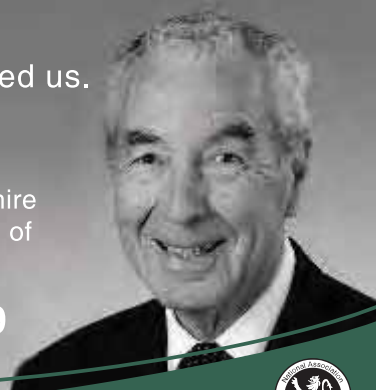
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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections of Parish Councillors will take place on the same day as the general election in May. If you are interested in being a candidate we suggest you log on to www.beacouncillor.org.uk to find out what is involved and how the nomination process works.

SPRING VILLAGE LITTER PICK

(Community Clear Up Day)

Saturday 11th April

Many of you will know Gerard, our litter picker, and appreciate his hard work in keeping the village looking as attractive as possible. However it is impossible for him to cover some areas on the fringe of the village so twice a year the Parish Council ask for volunteers to give up a few hours of their time and join their Parish Councillors to help clear up some of these areas. We provide the equipment but you might want to bring along some heavier duty gardening gloves.

The Government has recently announced that it is backing a first ever Community Clear Up Day – it is being billed as a 'national spring clean' on Saturday 21 March, the first day of spring, with the aim of sprucing up high streets, residential and business areas, villages and parks. We are supporting this initiative but as we have had 11 April in our calendar for some time and regular supporters will already have this date reserved in their diaries we are sticking to our original date.

Volunteers are asked to meet outside the Council Office in Crafton Green at 10.00 am.



HEALTH CENTRE CELEBRATIONS

The Parish Council would like to express its appreciation of all the hard work that the campaigners for the new health Centre have put in. They were able to celebrate overcoming what is hopefully the final hurdle back in February when the village GP Surgery signed the lease on the building. We have waited many years to get to this point, a guaranteed new health centre in the centre of the village, close to existing public transport and an existing public car park with 33 free spaces to be made available in the Lower Street car park for staff and patients. A pedestrian crossing will also be constructed across Lower Street close to the Social Club, another much needed facility together with road improvements.



The on-site photo shows local residents and long term campaigners for the Health Centre Ray Woodcock, Janet Hollis, Richard Shervington, Ralph Phillips, Crelin Collins, and Liz Kadir toasting the new building along with our GPs and their present landlord, representatives of the developers, Hilton Properties Limited and NHS officials.

VILLAGE POND WORKING GROUP

The village pond has been looking a lot healthier over the winter due to the hard work of a small group of volunteers on our clean up day in the Autumn. To try and make sure it looks as attractive as possible this summer we are organising another clean up on Sunday 26th April at 10.00 am. We paid the Essex Conservation Volunteers to support and provide equipment for the last pond clean up but we have decided on a DIY approach from now on so we have purchased our own tools and equipment which will be available on the day but we will need volunteers to turn up and provide the labour. If you would like to be involved it would be helpful if you could email: trevor.lloyd@stansted.net but if you would rather just turn up on the day that's fine.

PROGRESS ON HIGHWAYS PROBLEMS

Representatives from the Parish Council met with Cllrs. Bass and Johnson who are responsible for Highways matters at Essex County Council and raised the following issues:

- Widening the footpath on Church Road
- Church Road traffic calming
- Pedestrian link from Jordan Close to Walson Way
- Revision of speed limits on Forest Hall Road
- Traffic calming scheme on High Lane
- Pedestrian crossing on Cambridge Road
- Improving the road surface on Stoney Common Road
- Cambridge Road-deliveries, parking and traffic flow
- Additional waiting restrictions on Walson way

As we go to press we are still awaiting a response from ECC but although there are no guarantees ECC will agree to all our requests we are much more confident that we will get answers and at least some of the schemes will move forward. This would be a step in the right direction after a frustrating period where no answers were forthcoming.

The Parking Working Group at Uttlesford District Council meet on 12th March so by the time you read this we are hopeful that the Parish Council's request for waiting restrictions at junctions on the Mountfitchet Estate have been approved which will make it easier for buses to move around the estate and improve safety.

LIMITING FLOOD DAMAGE IN LOWER STREET

The Environment Agency is working with consultants to produce a report which will include costed options for measures to prevent flooding occurring or at least substantially reduce the risks. Unfortunately the report has been delayed and may not now be available until June but once received we will have a better understanding of the likely impact of their proposals.

If the worst comes to the worst the Parish Council have prepared a contingency plan to close Lower Street in the event of flooding to hopefully reduce the impact of the flood water on business and residential properties caused by backwash from vehicles. Essex Highways should take responsibility for closing the roads but if circumstances prevent their arrival the Parish Council plan will be activated. We all hope that the situation where we have to put the plan into action never occurs but after witnessing the damage of the last flood it is important we do everything possible to prevent a recurrence.

We are grateful to those who agreed to act as flood wardens but to be really effective we need more of you

to offer your services. We will be holding a briefing meeting for volunteers so that if we do need our volunteers to turn out they will know where to go and what to do. Please contact the Parish Office if you are prepared to add your name to the list of volunteer wardens.



MAGNA CARTA 800 CELEBRATION

Parish Council Chairman, Maureen Caton has been visiting village schools to present framed copies of the Magna Carta as part of the events being organised to mark the eight hundredth anniversary of King John putting his seal on the charter. There is also a plaque



with the following inscription "Stansted Mountfitchet derives its name from the Baron, Richard de Montfichet who was one of a committee of twenty five barons of Magna Carta who took the lead in enforcing the charter which was to become a key influence on the constitutions of democratic countries across the globe."

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Parish Council have been asked by UDC to comment on how and when the community are involved in the planning process. Residents can access the consultation on the UDC web site www.uttlesford.gov.uk/sci if you want your voice to be heard. The consultation ends on 13th April.

PARISH CEMETERY

There is a cage at the cemetery to recycle green waste such as flowers. Please do not place oasis or other none compostable items in this cage.

CAMBRIDGE ROAD PARKING ISSUES

Parking issues on Cambridge Road continue to be a major source of frustration. A number of people have suggested that if there was direct access to the Cambridge Road shops from the Crafton Green car park more people would use the car park rather than looking for a space outside the shops. The council will seek to ensure that any future development of the former Sworders site includes pedestrian access to Cambridge Road.

NOTICE BOARDS

There are a number of notice boards in the village which the Parish Council use as a means of communicating with residents. If there is space we are happy for "not for profit" activities to use the boards to promote themselves; however they are not to be used by private sector businesses. All organisations should renew their long term notices on a regular basis to prevent the boards appearing tatty. Any inappropriate notices will be removed.

NEW GOALS FOR THE REC

We will be replacing the goals on the Rec which look the worse for wear with new anti-vandal goals. At the same time we will be laying grass matting in the goal areas to prevent the unsightly erosion.

Look out for news of our penalty shoot out competition which we are organising to launch the new goals.

DOG FOULING

We are getting an increasing number of complaints about dog fouling. Keep Britain Tidy are campaigning on dog fouling and we very much support their message:



Clearing up dog poo is not part of our Litter Picker's job description and he doesn't have the time to clear up after your dog. You can use any of our bins to deposit your dog poo and there really is no excuse for any one to threaten the health of our young people by leaving dog poo on our open spaces.

GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

The garden waste facility resumes on alternate weekends starting in April. Dates are not available at the time of going to press, so visit our website or call the office for dates. The vehicle is located in the Lower Street car park.

SPEED WATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Speed Watch team need to recruit additional volunteers in order to provide an effective deterrent to drivers who put us all at risk by breaking speed limits in the village. They are keen to hear from lapsed members as well as new volunteers. Telephone Ray Woodcock on 816468 or email: raymond.woodcock@btinternet.com for more details.



STANSTED CHRISTMAS MARKET 2015

This year's Christmas Market is scheduled for the weekend starting 4 December so please mark the date on your calendars and make sure you are not away on a pre Christmas break. Planning is at very early stage but we anticipate it will be located in Crafton Green again. Anybody interested in booking a stall should contact the Parish office.

VOLUNTEERING

We often put out appeals for volunteers in our pages in The Link but we seem to have more than usual this month. We appreciate that many people live busy and stressful lives, and after work and family commitments struggle to find time for a good night's sleep; but if you can find a few hours to get involved in village activities it can be very rewarding.

Here a couple of quotes which give food for thought.

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless but because they are priceless"

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart"

NEWS FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

At the moment NhW in Stansted really needs your help. We have a very loyal band of co-ordinators and deliverers who are always willing to participate when asked to help to keep Stansted safe in these somewhat difficult times, when we are all trying to protect our homes and all that that entails. We have worked out the routes where our helpers need to deliver NhW information, and have tried to keep the areas as small as possible in order to maintain complete coverage of the village. This is no simple task, and without the goodwill of our team, we would not be able to do as much as we are doing at present. We know that everyone is very busy with so many calls upon their time, but if you feel that you can help us in any way, however small you think that might be, please get in touch, and it will be much appreciated, not only by me, but by the NhW team as a whole, several of whom are trying to fill in the gaps that we have at the moment.

Contact: Cllr Valerie Trundle 813433

CORRECTION

In a previous edition of The Link we stated that Blythwood Gardens was in the Stansted South ward whereas it is in the Stansted North ward. If you spotted this mistake we suggest you apply to be a contestant on "Pointless."

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

April

1st Open Spaces
8th Finance & General Purposes
15th Windmill(7.00 pm) Full Council

May

8th **Parish Reception**
13th Open Spaces
20th Full Council and Annual Council
27th Highways (7.00 pm) Finance & General Purposes

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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(Chairman) m.caton@hotmail.co.uk
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Cllrsamanthadunn@stansted.net

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johnsav8@gmail.com
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(Vice Chairman) sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
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prtvrt@btinternet.com

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Iris Evans 815848
cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Salmon 814789
cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Joe Rich 813112
cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Member

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

Member of Parliament

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

Police - PC Neil Russell
Non-emergency 101
PCSO (Stuart Stranger) Tel: 07889 702340

Neighbourhood Watch

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

Parish Public Transport Representatives

Valerie Trundle - 813433
John Thomas - 813871

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Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs, Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Tots (age 1½-rising 3)	Tina South Tel: 814371
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@uwclub.net
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel: 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1@btinternet.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	U3A	Christine, Chair Tel: 817587
Inner Wheel Club	Brenda Cox, President Tel: 812191 Email: brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver, President Tel: 812470
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@music@stansted.co.uk		
NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk or send the details to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG. Details must be submitted by the 8th of the month for publication the following month.

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The newly opened home offers residential, dementia, nursing, permanent and respite care for your loved one with care teams dedicated to supporting you, your family and your loved one every step of the way, from your first visit to the care home to the day your loved one moves in and throughout their time at Mountfitchet House.

Care UK homes are operated by highly qualified and caring professionals who are focused on ensuring your loved one continues to lead a fulfilling and enjoyable life.





STORT VALLEY ROTARY

www.stortvalleyrotary.com

Last month, local Rotarians joined 150 others from around the country to climb the O₂ Dome in London to celebrate the success of Rotary's 'End Polio Now' campaign - where polio is almost eradicated world-wide and for which Rotary GB has raised over £20 million to date. We met at 'base camp' and were greeted by the Mayor of Greenwich and our walk leaders. Each participant was issued with wet weather gear, climbing shoes, gloves with rubber grips and a safety harness. We were then strapped to the safety wire and off we went. The walkway is wobbly and very steep. It was also extremely windy but the views from the top of the Dome roof were just amazing and it was great that we all had a good day out whilst raising money for a very worthwhile cause.



As part of last month's speaker programme, one of our members, Robert, spoke of his work as a volunteer for 'Build Aid', a truly hands-on charity where building professionals donate their time and expertise towards rebuilding the fabric of communities which have been destroyed by natural disasters. Robert had worked in Haiti after their 2010 earthquake, and this January he had been on a fact-finding trip to the Philippines, following their recent typhoon, to assess how best to repair school, orphanage and hospital buildings which had been damaged. We always welcome new members so please visit our website where you can read our newsletter and get further information on our activities. We meet on Tuesdays, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at The Lemon Tree Restaurant, Bishop's Stortford.

Jan Durkin

Tel: 01799 516186

Email: jandurkin94@gmail.com

FURNEUX PELHAM C of E SCHOOL

Happy's Circus Sunday 7th June 12 noon

A fun packed comedy show for all the family supported by amazing international circus artists. Other attractions include BBQ, Pimms Tent, Homemade Cakes, Tombolas, Face Painting, Lucky Dip, Games and Fun. Tickets on sale soon: £8 single, £25 family of four. More information: www.facebook.com/furneuxpelhamshappycircus or email: fpsa.events@hotmail.com.



Plant Breeders – What are they doing to our flowers and vegetables? was the subject of our March guest speaker, Mr Thady Barrett. Using photographs and charts, members were shown how plants and vegetables were being changed to meet people's ever-changing requirements:

Fashion (colour, size, perfume etc);

Industrial needs (supplying supermarkets etc);

Size of modern gardens and style of gardening (eg patios and pots);

To beat diseases/viruses (eg tomato blight) ;

To deter insects eating the plant;

To improve yields, etc.

Plant Breeders now have the ability to record a new plant's DNA so that unscrupulous people cannot introduce/sell their plants without paying the royalties due. Mr Thady told members about a Dutch Rose Breeder whose roses were being grown in Kenya and then introduced into the Dutch rose market under another name. However after a DNA check this was stopped and the breeder received its royalties. GM crops were the last topic discussed and Mr Barrett ended his talk with the question "If we let the Genie out of the bottle - will we be able to get it back inside? Food for thought! "

AGM & Mini Spring Show Wednesday 1st April Day Centre

The doors will open for exhibitors at 6.30pm - all exhibits to be displayed by 7.45pm. Entry free. The AGM will start at 8.00pm. Results of the show will be announced at the end of the evening. Everyone welcome to our AGM and show.

Maralyn Harris

Chairman

Tel: 07919 478144

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD



The speaker for our February meeting was Brian Edwards from Bishop's Stortford, who gave us an interesting insight into the world of campanology - or bell-ringing. Brian has been ringing church bells for over 50 years, and rings the bells at various Herts and Essex village churches, as well as being a regular bell-ringer at St James Church, Thorley, where he also gives weekly lessons in the church tower. He explained that the ringing of the rounds is actually more mathematical than musical, and with the aid of some visual aids and a small model bell tower, gave us all a fascinating evening. Our annual fun Quiz Night was held at the Day Centre in bruary, with some 50 members and friends present. Our Quiz mistress, Inner Wheel member Margaret Webb, produced some good questions for us to test the 'grey matter', and provided much light-hearted banter between participants. Winners received Smartie Easter eggs, and the losers - the obligatory wooden spoons! An excellent fish and chip supper was provided by Churchill's, and over £300 was raised for nner Wheel charities. Inner Wheel meets on the 4th Tuesday evening each month at the Day Centre. For further information about Inner Wheel, please contact me.



Brenda Cox

President

Tel: 812191

Email: brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk

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The speaker at our February meeting was Dr Judy McLaren, accompanied by her daughter Elizabeth, who gave us a very interesting talk on her annual medical mission to the Ukraine. Over a period of ten days the group treats hundreds of patients who would never normally get the chance to see a doctor! She explained that the villages are full of widows - the life expectancy of most men being just 45 years. The members of the team, all volunteers, stay with local families and their board and lodging is a great boost to the family income. Time allowing, the volunteers get involved with the more pleasant side of village life, such as the annual fête - a 'red letter day' in the life of the villagers. Medical work is not the only work undertaken by the team; they also help with the schools, and those of the team not medically trained give their time as teaching assistants. Dr McLaren's fascinating talk certainly made us appreciate our National Health Service! She ended her well-illustrated presentation by showing us some beautiful rugs made by the villagers that she had been given as a 'thank-you' and a reminder of the vital work that she and her team do every year. Then followed a very interesting question and answer session and a good cup of tea! Other talks on the horizon include 'The seven ages of man' in April, 'From Russia with Love' in June and a talk on the treasures beneath our feet in August. Just a few subjects that our members will be enjoying over the next few months. Why not come and join us? You would be most welcome. We meet in Ugley Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



Spring looks like it might well be on its way so why not greet the new season with a challenge?! If running is your thing, our 10K run which starts and finishes at the Hospice is on 12th April. It's a great route through the countryside surrounding the Hospice and entry is £12 for non-affiliated runners and £10 for affiliated runners. Or, get on your bike for our Essex County Bike Ride on 14th June. It's a 35 mile route through the west of Essex starting and finishing at Redbridge Cycling Centre - start times are between 7.00am-9.00am. Or we have a sponsored abseil off Harlow Water Tower on 3rd and 4th May if that's more your thing? Entry is £30 and the event is organised by the Harlow Rotary Club with your sponsorship money coming direct to the Hospice. Finally, if you feel you're up to more of a challenge, why not sign up for Ride 100: London to Surrey cycle ride? This is a 100 mile route and the event takes place on Sunday 2nd August. There is a £100 registration fee and participants are required to raise a minimum of £650 sponsorship for the Hospice. For more details or to sign up for any of these events, please go to our website www.stclarehospice.org.uk or call the fundraising office on 773750.



Sarah Calder
Tel: 07528 520016
Email: sarah.calder@stclarehospice.org.uk

Three, two, one, BLAST OFF! This month our theme was space and the children enjoyed helping to make a silver rocket to hang from our ceiling along with glittery stars and a UFO. They have also been making jet packs to wear so they can become astronauts, but the highlight has been launching balloon rockets into space from the nursery garden - they were enthralled! We recently had a special visitor at the nursery called 'Reg', a Chinese lion used in the lion dance as part of the Chinese New Year celebrations. The children loved playing the drum used to wake the sleeping lion and make him dance; the picture shows three of our Butterflies having fun with Reg and the drum.



We are very fortunate that some of our parents and grandparents come into the nursery to talk to the children about their jobs or undertake activities with them. One mum read a story to the children in Slovak, a nanny talked about her job as a health visitor and we had a dad baking bread with everyone. These opportunities are great for the children to experience and help to develop confidence and self-awareness. Finally, as the weather seems to be warming we have been focusing on developing the children's gross motor skills. We can access the school's large playground so have been getting out on the pedal bikes and balancing equipment, great fun! Birchanger Nursery is a preschool facility in the grounds of, but separate from, Birchanger Primary School. In our beautiful rural setting and well-equipped building we provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2½ to 5. To arrange a visit telephone our administrator Jen Munton on 810800, email: admin@birchangenursery.org or see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery.

Kirsty Moore
Birchanger Nursery Committee

MOUNTFITCHET HOUSE CARE HOME

Planning care for the future 12th May 2.00pm-3.30pm
Mountfitchet House is pleased to welcome Daniel Kern, Financial Planner at Ashcourt Rowan, who will give expert advice and guidance on funding long term care. There will be a question and answer session after the talk, as well as an opportunity to meet the team and take a tour of the home. To book your free place, please contact me.



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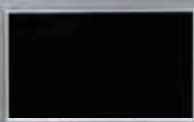
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STANSTED HEALTH CENTRE PROGRESS

A new health centre for Stansted has progressed to the next phase. The completion of formalities between GP Partners at Stansted Surgery and Hilton Properties took place on 17th February. The paperwork has been formalised and construction of the new facility on Lower Street continues. The health centre which is being developed by Hilton Properties will host GP services and will have space for a pharmacy, dentist, community health services, shops and flats. The new premises is set to open in Autumn 2016.



Pictured from left: Stansted Surgery GPs - Dr Chris Leeman and Dr Sue Humphrey, Ray Woodcock, Directory of Primary Care - Peter Wightman, Developer Sarah Hilton and ex-senior partner Phil Jones

Dr Sue Humphrey, GP at Stansted Surgery said: "I'm absolutely thrilled that now the lease is signed we can think about moving into the new facilities next year. This is an exciting time for Stansted residents as they can look forward to having a state of the art health centre on their doorstep. Not only will the new facilities improve people's experience of GP services but there are also plans for pharmacy and dentistry services to be available here too." Clare Morris, chief officer at West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group said: "We are delighted that all parties continue to back this project and that now the formalities are complete, development of the new facilities can progress."

Nathan Harrison
Communications Executive
West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group
Tel: 01992 566140 Ext: 1561

THE DEMENTIA CAFÉ IN STANSTED

The café is held on the second Tuesday of each month 10.00am-noon at The Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill. It is open to anyone worried about their memory or that of a loved one. It is a great chance to meet people, swap experiences, socialise, and gather information about Dementia Care services within the Alzheimers Society and the community. At each session there is a speaker who will talk about benefits and services open to people with dementia and their carers. Previous speakers have been: The Citizen's Advice Bureau, Family Mosaic, Community Agents, Care Agencies, Alternative Therapists, Solicitors, NHS dietician, etc. On Tuesday 14th April Jane from Pellys Solicitors will be speaking about the benefit of planning ahead, making a will and lasting power of attorney. Please feel free to just turn up or call our Dunmow office for more details on 01371 872519.

Debbie Baker

DOCTOR WHO?

Well the big news in the veterinary profession last month was that the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons has decided that Veterinary Surgeons in the UK can use the courtesy title 'Doctor'. The decision follows a consultation, where 81% of those able to vote were in favour of the change. The issue had been raised in a bid to align the UK with international practice, as most international veterinary surgeons use the title. I must admit I didn't vote and wasn't particularly bothered with the decision but it did produce a lot of hilarity in the practice with the nurses and receptionists saying they wouldn't be able to keep a straight face if they didn't quite hear a client asking for one of us vets and they had to say "Doctor who?" Use of the title is optional, so I don't think I'll be rushing to get a new brass plate made - I'm too used to plain old Mrs Pedler. I have to admit that one of the nicest things is when clients call me 'Mrs P', I see it as a sort of sign of familiarity and respect, although it could be because I have more than my fair share of grey hairs now and it sounds like something you might call an older person! What do you think? Would you find it strange calling us vets 'Doctor', or would it feel quite normal? I'd love to know your thoughts.



Ilse Pedler
Mercer & Hughes Veterinary Surgeons
Tel: 813780



THE J's HOSPICE
www.thejshospice.org.uk

Martin Day, of Heart FM's Breakfast Crew, has agreed, under duress, to take on a challenge on behalf of The J's Hospice - and will be pedalling 50 miles at their annual Pedal for The J's event on 3rd May in Chelmsford. The event offers experienced cyclists, beginners and families a range of routes through the beautiful Essex countryside, starting at Admirals Park. An anticipated 1,200 riders will be participating. Su Harrison, Martin's co-host has taken on several incredible challenges in the past - and even ran in the inaugural Chelmsford Marathon in 2014! Due to the friendly banter between the two of them, Su then set Martin a challenge to support The J's and take on one of the three distances available at Pedal: 15, 35 or 50 miles! With the distances hidden in three separate envelopes, Nikki Perry and Jess Dellow of The J's appeared on the show and gave Martin a blind choice; luckily for fans of Heart FM, Martin still picked the longest available route - 50 miles! Despite not being a keen cyclist or fitness enthusiast, Martin has generously agreed to get into training and take on the challenge. Martin has a 'Just giving' page to raise sponsorship; if every cyclist can raise just £50, Pedal for The J's can meet their target of £60,000 - enabling them to fund one and a half specialist nurses for a year, each with a case load of over 20 young adults with life limiting illnesses. Find out more about The J's Hospice on our website.

Nikki Perry
Communications Manager
Email: nikki.perry@thejshospice.org.uk

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CHILDREN'S RECIPE

Easter Buns

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4 level tablespoons caster sugar
2 tablespoons cooking oil
1 medium beaten egg
Paper cake cases
Bun tin



To Decorate:

Jar Nutella or similar chocolate spread

Packet chocolate mini eggs

Method:

1. Put flour, caster sugar, oil and beaten egg into a mixing bowl and stir until the mixture is smooth.
2. Place eight cake cases in bun tin and put a heaped teaspoon of the cake mixture into each case.
3. Cook in a pre-heated oven at 190°C for about 15 minutes until a light golden colour.
4. When cooled top each bun with a teaspoon of chocolate spread and the mini eggs.

Best eaten within two days



Farnham children had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day. We saw many creative costumes including Alice in Wonderland, Stick Man and Mr Stink. Children brought their books to school and were able to talk about the books they had chosen and their costumes. The entire school took part in a music celebration at Rickling Green School. Willow Class performed a vibrant version of 'I want to play in a band' with a mixture of vocals, actions, tuned and untuned percussion and even a little improvisation. Horse Chestnut Class performed Adele's 'Make you feel my love'. Children, parents and staff got involved in Comic Relief day with a sponsored dance-athon to 'Uptown Funk'. We held a themed funny faces and hair day in return for a small donation and children also competed for the chance to give two brave members of staff, Mrs Stovold and Mrs Haughey, a make-over! Mums and grannies enjoyed a Mothers' Day Picnic in the hall on 16th March. On 17th March the whole school was invited to visit the Science Action Centre at Bishop's Stortford High School and enjoyed all the hands-on science activities available and an exciting range of experiments. Farnham is a small school achieving excellent results. Several families in Stansted send their children to school at Farnham and are available to discuss the advantages with anyone who is interested. Call school reception on 771339 for more information or see our website at www.farnham-school.org.

Katherine Aiken

Friends of Farnham

Tel: 771339 (School reception)



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

When the steering group was working towards what became the Hundred Parishes Society, we took inspiration from the Chiltern Society. This charitable organisation has aims very similar to our own, and 2015 marks that society's 50th anniversary. Their excellent quarterly magazine illustrates how far they have come in the last half century. With 7,000 members and 400 volunteers, the Chiltern Society is the focal point for many activities in the Chilterns – leading regular walks and cycle rides, maintaining nature reserves, installing footpath gates and information boards, contributing to planning policy and much more. Whilst the Chiltern Society continues to show us the way, we will not run out of ideas for pursuing our own charitable aims here in the Hundred Parishes. We encourage everyone to check our website's *What's On* page from time to time. It is regularly updated and currently includes more than a hundred specific activities up to the end of 2015. We show only events that are consistent with our aims to increase knowledge, enjoyment and conservation of our area's heritage and countryside. You can select *What's On* from the menu at www.hundredparishes.org.uk. If you would like an interesting day out, our website includes route descriptions for 20 walks that start and finish at railway stations, whilst our parish introductions give ample food for thought that we hope may tempt you to explore somewhere nearby that perhaps you don't yet know very well. The Hundred Parishes area is full of interest.

Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226



In February, we enjoyed our New Year's Dinner with a delicious meal at the Chequers pub. Fifty-five members and helpers, including all our Committee, attended and a good time was had by all. As always we are very grateful to the staff at the Chequers for making us feel so welcome, and to the Ropkins family for hosting their annual summer fundraiser which fully funds the evening and ensures we can have such a good time. Following our winter break the Club restarted at the end of February with a games evening, where we played everything from Guess Who to Snakes and Ladders, and enjoyed some dancing, whilst catching up on everyone's news. We have since had a curling competition, always fiercely competitive, and by the time you read this, we will have celebrated Joanne and Andrew's birthdays with a joint party, including a fish and chip supper and a disco, which we all looked forward to. The Club has a full and busy timetable over the next few months, including a chemistry evening, with some exciting experiments designed by Fraser, one of our very dedicated volunteers, as well as a film night, a quiz and karaoke. We are also busy planning a day trip in the summer for the Club. Just a reminder, if anyone has any disco, karaoke or cinema equipment that we could borrow, please do get in touch – we would be very grateful! As always, we are looking for more drivers, mini-bus escorts or helpers. Please contact either Sandra Embleton (812627) or myself for more information.



Katharine Collis

Tel: 461270

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STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

We enter the final month of the season with our first team having enjoyed our highest points tally and league position in five years. The buzz around the Club these past few months has been one of excitement as results and performances have surpassed all our expectations and they give us a platform to build on for next season. It has not been difficult to analyse where the success has come from - the nucleus of the side has been together now for three seasons, plus some younger players have been brought in (one of these being just 16) to give that extra bit of pace and desire. This has meant that on the pitch we are now regarded as a tough team to play against. However the appointment of a new more experienced manager at this level, Paul Attfield, has given us that little bit more tactical knowledge which was missing in previous seasons. Paul has worked hard all season with the players, getting the very best out of them, therefore a great deal of credit should be down to him. For the Reserves, this season was always going to be a huge step up in terms of what level the players had previously played at. Some of the teams they have come up against are Ryman League second string sides, therefore to play and compete against such sides is more than we could have hoped for. The manager, Eric Foster, has to be congratulated for moulding a side together whilst giving opportunities to many local lads keen to play for Stansted FC. As this will be our last report until the August edition of The Link the Committee would like to say Thank You to all our supporters who came to watch the games - we hope you saw some good football, excellent results and recognise the continuous improvement the Club is making. Enjoy your summer - see you back at Hargrave Park in September. Below are our last remaining games in April:

4 th April	v	Tilbury Reserves	KO 3.00pm
7 th April	v	Southend Manor	KO 7.45pm
11 th April	v	Great Wakering Reserves	KO 3.00pm
15 th April	v	Canvey Island Reserves	KO 7.45pm



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842



STANSTED STARGAZERS

Stansted Stargazers is a new astronomy group in Stansted. It is a not-for-profit organisation open to all who live in or around, work in or travel through Stansted. From novice to expert, the group is free to join. We want to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience and also pass on knowledge to anyone who wants to know more about the origins of planet Earth, our closest planetary neighbours and everything beyond. We hope our membership will grow to be a significant local contributor to the education of others interested in astronomy, and provide an insight into how and where to look in the sky for the most intriguing objects. We seek to achieve this in a fun and relaxed environment. We had our first meeting on 3rd March at Bentfield Green. Local people and others from the surrounding area came and were treated to a view of Jupiter and our Moon. These

founder members are hoping that interest will continue to expand with further meetings planned for the near future.

I have always been keen to explore the universe, but until now I just never got around to it. I recently bought a telescope to have a look, and thought that there must be others locally who would like to do this. I joined Streetlife.com and posted a public message asking if anyone would be interested in starting an astronomy group in Stansted. The positive response was no surprise, so I contacted the Parish Council and asked if we could use Bentfield Green for the first 'Look-up' meeting. We set up four telescopes of varying sizes on the green. Despite the chill, we spent around two hours looking at various objects and chatting. It was a fantastic first meet. I am looking forward to building on the popularity of this pleasant pastime and hope we can get lots of others to come to future look-ups. If you would like to be involved, please contact me. Your email address will be added to the mailing list and you will be kept informed of dates and times of planned meets and special events.

Ady Wilkins

Tel: 07841 648845

Email: stanstedstargazers@yahoo.co.uk



Having taken part in the annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch for the last few years with very disappointing results, I was pleasantly surprised this year. All my 'regulars' and more, flocked to the garden in such numbers that I struggled to count them all. The starlings and sparrows arrived mob-handed to feed at the bird table, but the robin and blue tits managed to get a look in too as did the blackbirds and three collared doves. More recently I've noticed as many as five blackbirds in the garden at one time which I don't remember happening before. One pair did nest in the garden last year. Could they be back to nest again with their teenage offspring in tow because like many of our youngsters, they can't afford a home of their own? I have also heard that nationally starling numbers are down, but there are plenty around here.



The snowdrops were spectacular this year, but the crocuses in my garden were disappointing, and the daffodils a bit late in flowering. I'm hoping my favourites, the bluebells, will be as magnificent as they were last spring. There is much to see in the hedgerows, woods and fields right now while everything's bursting into life. Make the most of it.

Loki

David Fortune

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This term the children have been learning about growth, focusing on the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. The home corner at the pre-school has been converted into the giant's lair with the beanstalk growing around it. Green leaves have been painted by the children to decorate the stalk, and each child has been given a bean to grow at home and has been asked to document its growth with photos or drawings which will be displayed at the pre-school. The children were also busy creating Mother's Day gifts.



Rainbow Open Day Event 25th April 10.00am-noon

We welcome all future pupils as well as past and present. Please bring along the whole family to see what happens, refreshments will be available. You will have the opportunity to speak with the staff, parents and Committee members.

Rainbow Fun Day 17th May 11.30am-3.30pm

This year's event will be held at St Mary's Primary School, Hampton Road. Stall pitches available £15. Contact the Pre-school for details. More information to follow. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young to ensure a place. Contact Gill Purslove the Pre-School Administrator email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net or telephone 814242. Places for September 2015 are filling up fast!

Clair Rava
Parent/Committee Member



CAB HOME VISIT TEAM

www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk

Funding for the Uttlesford Citizen's Advice Bureau's Home Visit Team has been secured for the next financial year thanks to the Seabright Fund, administered by Essex Community Foundation. The Government is gradually replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with the new Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The new benefit will generally require an independent medical assessment and will last for a fixed time. Only those of working age are

affected; claimants over 65 will not need to reapply unless their circumstances change. About 1,200 working age people in Uttlesford who currently receive Disability Living Allowance are expected to be affected by the new scheme.

Lyndie Taylor of the Disability Benefits team has advised people who get a letter from the Department of Work and Pensions about change to the way their benefit is assessed and are worried, to contact CAB to arrange an appointment. One of our team of friendly experienced volunteers can visit and help with your application. We can also help with applications for Attendance Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, DLA applications for children and with getting additional support when it is needed. In 2014, 354 people were helped with benefits advice, resulting in payments of benefits worth a total of £987,378 per year as well as referrals for support on many other matters such as transport, safety, household adaptations, energy bills, befriending schemes, carers, and respite care.

The Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) offers a free, impartial and independent service, with a wide range of support available from general advice to specialist help dealing with serious debt problems, employment disputes, housing and family issues. Call or email for an appointment to speak to an experienced and friendly adviser in Stansted 9.30am-12.30pm Thursday (appointments only).

Tel: 01799 618840

Email: bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

First the bad news!!! England have been dumped out of the ICC World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. The players certainly underperformed and by the time The Link is read the press will have had a field day. Unfortunately cricket in this country is already under pressure. Not only is this under-achieving bad for the international team but also for cricket at the lower levels. Locally teams such as Fyfield, Rickling II, and Langley have decided that they can no longer run league teams during the 2015 season. Come back Andy Flower and Captain Cook all is forgiven – the Australians are coming!!! The good news of course is that summer is just around the corner. Wickets and outfielders are being cut, players are netting, and fixture cards are being printed (if you want one please contact me). Emily Smith will be joining our coaching team this season. Emily plays cricket in Melbourne, Australia and will be playing for Essex this summer. She is a batsman/wicket keeper and will also be doing some coaching in local schools. The Club's first fixture is against Bishop's Stortford College on 18th April with matches against Birchanger, Chesterfords, and Dunmow the following weekend. The junior fixture list is taking shape and the Club will be playing matches at U10, U11, U12, U13, and U15. West Essex League, Bardfield League, and Peter Coe Cup – plenty of matches together with Friday night coaching. New members are very welcome from 8 years – girls, boys, and seniors. Let's hope that the sun shines all summer and that the England team can show some improvement.



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FIRST RESPONDERS UPDATE



Stansted Community First Responders Group has been active for a few weeks now and have attended their first calls on behalf of the East Anglian Ambulance Service. We have had a couple of people express an interest in joining the group which is excellent news; the more days we can cover the better. Four hours per month on call is the minimum commitment and you choose the time to suit you.



As a First Responder we arrive before the ambulance and administer basic life support to the patient until they arrive.

These few minutes are vital for the patient and can make a huge difference to the patient outcomes. Training is provided by the East of England Ambulance Service and we meet for two hours each month for refresher training. If you think you can spare four or

more hours a month to help provide this important service in your community, or you would like further information, please contact me. Good news for Stansted, we have managed to secure a free defibrillator to be located at the Parish Council offices which has saved £777, so as soon as the cabinet is delivered we can get the public access defibrillator installed. Special thanks to James Mace, our co-ordinator, for organising that.

Matthew Jessup
Tel: 07787 523471
Email: matt@janeandmatt.co.uk



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Ladies' Night Monday 13th April from 7.00pm. All lady members (especially new ones) are welcome to play.

Mix 'n' Match Tournament

Congratulations to Simon Fox and Fiona Pye who won this winter's tournament, defeating Simon Playfair and Val Ashwood 6-2 6-3. Thirty two adult members have enjoyed playing competitive matches over the last six months.

Adult Club sessions

Sunday mornings, Wednesday mornings and evenings, and Friday mornings. All adult members are welcome to come along and join in. Members are encouraged to use the page on the website to indicate sessions they will be attending.

Tennis balls

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

Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574. For more information about Stansted Tennis Club, please visit the website.



Chris Hollis
Tel: 319155
Email: chris.hollis2@btinternet.com

STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Sports Journalist Sue Mott came to speak to us in February and enthralled us with stories of the many sporting personalities she has interviewed over her long career. Sue grew up in London during the 60s and 70s and was educated at a girls' school; but with a great love of football her ambition was to be a sports writer. She went to Nottingham University where she started on this quest. Finding it not that easy as a female in a mainly male profession she took to wearing fur coats and make-up to emphasise the difference! Starting work with the Hull Daily Mail she soon left to go to America where women sports writers and commentators were not discriminated against so much, and she was even allowed in male locker rooms for interviews - she remains grateful to the USA for this experience. She met and married her husband in the space of three weeks at the Mexico World Cup. Life changed after the birth of her two children and she concentrated on interviewing back in the UK. Among the people she interviewed and became friendly with were Andy Murray, Jimmy White, Jimmy Connors, Denise Lewis, Steve Redgrave and George Best, not long before he died; she described him as erudite, charming and gentle - when not drunk. She had so many interesting stories about them all, even Prince Phillip, whom she interviewed about the Olympics and discovered that he hated the b ... things! She has had a great career and we enjoyed a great evening with her. Dudley Chignall is coming back on Thursday 9th April 7.45pm at the Day Centre with his wonderful slides, and his talk this time is entitled 'About Anglia - the four seasons'. Visitors are always welcome so do come if this appeals,



Judy Colliver
President
Tel: 812470



Spring has sprung and our New Season begins

We are looking forward to welcoming visitors to our first main season open day on Sunday 19th April. The entertainment will be provided by the Dunmow Rock Choir who will be performing two sessions over the course of the afternoon - see website for times. We are looking forward to hearing their wonderful music in such a glorious setting. Delicious home-made soup, bacon baps and cheese rolls will be on sale until 2.15pm; hot and cold drinks, crisps and homemade cakes will be available all day. There will be children's craft and nature activities on offer and guided tours at 12.30pm and 2.30pm; as always, dogs are welcome on leads. Entrance fees remain a hugely reasonable £3.50 for adults with children still *free*. We also offer annual season tickets at only £10 for 12 months entry to the gardens on open days; again details are on the website or you can buy them at the gate. Gates open 11.30am-5.00pm, last entry at 4.00pm. For more information about open days and volunteer opportunities see the website, call 01371 876979 (recorded information but you can leave a message) or mail us on enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk

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THE CRAFTON ROOM

Well spring has well and truly sprung at the Crafton Room.



Following a slow start to the year with many of our regulars not able to join us due to the inevitable coughs and colds that follow Christmas, we are pleased to say that our customers are back in force. We have been inspected by Uttlesford Council's Environmental Health Officer and we have maintained our 5-Star rating and are ready with an exciting programme of events as well as our regular lunches.

Kicking off on **Friday 10th April** 12.00pm for 12.30pm, we will be holding our popular **Spring Lunch**. The hall will be decked out in daffodils; there will be drinks on arrival followed by a delicious meal of roast lamb and sticky rhubarb pudding (after a year of patiently waiting, our rhubarb in the garden is ready - hooray!!) There is cake to take home, and as it is Easter week there are bound to be a few chocolate eggs. Tickets are £7.50 all-inclusive and as always there will be lucky prizes. The following week on **Saturday 18th April** 7.30pm for 8.00pm we are hosting a **Musical Quiz** to raise money for Breast Cancer. Tickets £8.00 (available from me) and include a pizza and salad supper. The quiz is sure to have a round for everyone, including music from films and musicals, classical, and much more - so please come and join us to support this worthwhile cause.

Friday 24th will be the date of our monthly home cooked **fish and chips** at 12.30pm so what are you waiting for - come and join us! Call Julie or Jo for more information and look out next month when we will be offering an afternoon sing-along with high tea and an information event in partnership with Community agents Essex - also bound to involve tea and cake! We look forward to seeing you soon.



Julie Beck
Manager
Tel: 815091

Email: juliebeck1989@gmail.com

SPEED WATCH

Now that day temperatures are getting warmer would you like to re-start or become a Speed-Watcher in the village? We really do need more volunteers. Just a couple of hours every other week really would help us get out more and possibly save lives. For those who need to be trained or would like an update, a meeting has been arranged on Sunday 29th March 10.00am-noon. If you would like to attend, please contact me. You might save a life.

Ray Woodcock
Tel: 816468

Email: raymond.woodcock@btopenworld.com

GARDENING TIPS

Pests are really starting to shift into high gear now, so stop problems such as aphids building up on the young tips of your roses early, warm spring rains bringing a tide of slugs and snails up from hibernation amongst others. If you have winter flowering heathers, now is a good time to lightly clip them back. It'll encourage fresh new growth. Plants grown for colourful young foliage, purple leaved cotinus, berberis, sambucus, photinia, etc. can be pruned hard now to encourage the required fresh young growth. After pruning give them a feed with a general fertiliser such as fish, blood and bone or a general liquid based feed product. Forsythias will be going over and starting to shift into formation of new green growth, so they should be pruned back as soon as the flowers are past their best to encourage new flowers next year at an acceptable height, otherwise they will gradually rise over head height.

- Prune lavender and curry plant into shape, taking care not to cut into the old wood
- Remove frost damaged shoots from tender evergreen shrubs such as Choisya (Mexican Orange Blossom)
- Deadhead daffodils after the flower heads have faded from glory, this concentrates the bulb into preparing for next year; don't tie the foliage in a knot, it reduces photosynthesis within the plant
- Clean out the pond if it has not been done for a few years, lifting as much as possible of the excess mud up and out of the bottom along with decomposing leaves, and other debris, etc. Try to refill with the original pond water or rainwater

Terrific looking plants to watch out for in nurseries in April include cytissus, erysimum (wallflowers), aubretia, ribes sanguineum and pieris amongst others. Try to buy good quality healthy plants.

Paul the Gardener



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Windmill Open 5th April Easter Sunday and 6th April Bank Holiday Monday 1.30pm-5.30pm

I am pleased to report that our AGM went well and all the Committee members were re-elected, although we are still looking for a Secretary. The meeting was quite well attended and it was good to see so many people interested in our Mill. The nibbles and drinks were followed by an interesting quiz and we all enjoyed attempting to identify places in and around Stansted. Our thanks go to Tony Wellings for compiling and showing it on his projector.

As previously promised - with thanks to our Treasurer Richard Thomas - a Race Night has now been arranged for Saturday 11th April at the Day Centre, Crafton Green, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. We hope you will come along for what in the past has been an enjoyable fun evening. You never know, you may be lucky! The cost is just £10.00 per person which includes a very good fish and chip supper. Bring your own drinks. Tickets are now available from me, and other Committee members. I will be pleased to hear from you and delighted if you can come and help support the upkeep of your Windmill.



Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768

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