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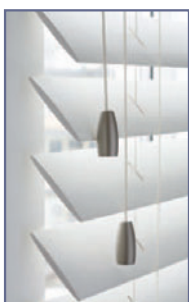


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Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

Editor

Yvonne Ayres
01279 814706
editor stansted in .or .u

Advertising

Mike and Marion Dyer
01279 814059
ad erts stansted in .or .u
or check on website for prices

Distribution

Emily Winter
01279 812216
distri ution stansted in .or .u

Reasurer

Andrew Sheriff
01279 815663
accounts stansted in .or .u

Directors

Derek Honour (Chairman)
Susan Bone
Katharine Hurford
Dick Pollard
Ruth Rawlinson

Printers

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EDITORIAL



There is a lot to interest our younger readers in this month's 'Link', with news of various activities taking place during the school holidays, plus a children's story. Also useful advice for all 'sheddies' from Essex Police is on pages 19 and 20 concerning shed security, especially important for those planning to go away for a summer break.

Navigating the leafy lanes in and around Stansted must be quite difficult for visitors at this time of year (even with Sat. Nav.) as most road signs seem to be partially, if not totally, obscured by foliage. It used to be the norm for regular trimming to take place along our highways. A case of the relevant authorities cutting back - by **not** cutting back perhaps?

Another reminder to everyone planning future quizzes, jumble sales, coffee mornings, fêtes and any other fundraising events, to enter the details in the Village Diary at Stansted Library. The Diary is there to help prevent any clashes of dates but sadly continues to be a much under-used resource. One item that definitely is in the Diary is this year's Windmill Fête on Bank Holiday Monday. This is always a very popular village and family event upon which the sun nearly always shines. So make sure it's in your diary too!

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CRC

The Link is delivered free to nearly 3000 homes and businesses in Stansted Mountfitchet. Further copies may be purchased for 50p each or £5.00 for the year.

C R B S

by email *pre erred* to:
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

or by hand to:
7 Blythwood Gardens,
Stansted CM24 8HG

5 Greenfields,
Stansted CM24 8AH

by **noon** on 11th August
for the September issue

by **noon** on 11th September
for the October issue

Cover photograph by David Harrison. For more details please see page 3.

Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

One of the least popular of the Ten Commandments is the one which says 'Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates' (Exodus 20:9-10 KJV). Perhaps because the church has failed to present the positive aspects of a day of rest this commandment has been seen as imposing a dreary restriction on what people can do rather than being a liberating enactment. And yet it is a liberating command. Even slaves (the manservant and maidservant) are to have a day off each week! No one is to be forced to work 'all the hours God sends', everyone is to be allowed time off from **doing** for simply **being**.

Jesus seems to have been particularly keen that his disciples enjoyed times of rest and relaxation. On one occasion we hear him say to them "Come away and rest awhile" (Mark 6.31). We hear this story because it didn't quite work out as Jesus had planned, but I suggest it reflects many occasions when it did. After all, one of the things that Jesus promised to those who came to him was rest (Matthew 11.28). In this holiday month of August make sure you get a rest at some time or another. It's awfully tempting to fill the time with work, stress and busyness but if you do you'll miss out on one of the things God intends for you, the joy of not being your role, your job or the object of others' expectations but of simply being yourself. May God bless you all.



Paul Wilkin
Rector of St John's Church



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Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for August

7th 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
14th 10.30am Rev'd David Thompson - Communion
21st 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch
28th 10.30am Rev'd David Thompson

Rev'd Allen Morton (our URC minister) is currently on long-term sick leave, so all enquiries to Rev'd David Keeble.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

Masses Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 10.00am
Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm
Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



Thank you, Stansted.

The amount collected in the house-to-house envelope collection this year is £1575.45. Thank you to all who contributed and to the collectors, and also to the Stansted Scouts, who delivered some of the envelopes. The letter of acknowledgement from Christian Aid says the following:

Christian Aid works globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. We are part of a wider movement for social justice and provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

Thank you for being part of this.

Catherine Dean



All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
Tel: 815243
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com
Office hours: 9.00am-12 noon, Monday,
Wednesday, Friday
Administrator: Mrs Sally Chapman
Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btck.co.uk

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

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

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

St John's Diary Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-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-Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

ST JOHN'S ADMINISTRATOR

1st July was the end of an era at the Church Office as we saw the retirement of Liz Jennings from the role of Parish Administrator which she had filled for 13 years. We wish Liz every blessing in her retirement and thank her for the unstinting devotion she has given to her work. We now welcome Sally into the Parish Office. She's got some big shoes to fill, so please be patient with her if you can as she is still learning.



Rev'd Paul Wilkin

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the June draws:

£100	No 153 – Hazel Smith
£ 50	No 182 – John Elliott
£ 25	No 219 – Ray Smith

I will, of course, be reporting next month on the results of the July draws taking place on Sunday 31st July, which will include the extra prize of £200. The draws for August will be held in St John's Church following the 9.30am service on Sunday 28th August. There are still numbers available so, if anyone would like to join the scheme with an opportunity to win a share of the £2,500 prize money for the year, at a cost of £2 per number per month (maximum of five numbers per household), please contact Francine Cope on 814562 or Rosemary Thomson on 815551 for an application form.

FRONT COVER

The front cover for August, September and October, is a slightly more unusual view of St John's Church. This 1887 vestry door is typical of architect W D Caroe's early style – subtly decorative but solid, and hopefully good for at least another century.

Derek Honour



Shalom

There are no meetings during August. We start again with our At Home at 8.00pm on 26th September at the White House, Ugley Green.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

From the Registers

June

Baptisms

5th Joshua Andrew William Collie
Emily Louise Jane Lushington
12th Luke Ryan Paule Serle

Funerals

15th Magdalena Cundall, age 64 - at St Mary's
16th Cynthia Brook, age 88 - at Parndon Wood
22nd Robert Osborn, age 66 - at St Mary's

DISTRIBUTOR NEEDED

The 'Link' requires a dependable person to distribute copies of the magazine in the last week of each month (except December) on the Foresthall Development. The present number of occupancies is 362 and is likely to rise to some 750 over the next two years. Further details from Derek on 647213 or June on 812216.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

By the time this magazine appears the cap and sails should again be in turning mode. The first year's movements necessitated some resettlement adjustments which the millwrights dealt with in July. Having a part-working mill brings both opportunities and increased maintenance for us, and almost certainly enhanced costs. The Parish Council as a Trustee provides a fixed sum each year but in view of the stringency faced by all councils the Millers will be expected to make good whatever the balance may be. This, of course, is an unsubtle way to introduce the Windmill Fete which every year takes place on August Bank Holiday - this year on the 29th at 2.00pm. Stansted folk have supported their mill over the years so we look forward to seeing you all again for the tombola, barbecue, bouncy castle, children's games, raffle, et al, plus teas and cakes of course and, this year especially, an outstanding collection of near-antiques and objets d'art to tempt the discerning home-owner. It is definitely the place to be, so do come along, meet your friends, sample what you see, and make the village come alive. The mill itself will be open, and unusual sights will be descending by parachute from an upper window!

The windmill is also open on Sundays 7th and 28th August from 1.30pm-5.30pm.

Derek Honour
Tel: 647213

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S



The Churches Conservation Trust Tea Party which is now established as an annual event in St Mary's Church was enjoyed by several hundred visitors. We were delighted with the response to our request for photographs of 'Married in Stansted'. The display gave great pleasure to many family groups, but outstanding were the three or four generation photographs taken in all our Stansted churches. Support for Saturday evening's concert by our Stansted U3A Singers was disappointing. A very small audience listened to a well chosen and varied programme of songs performed by a versatile choir who so obviously love to sing. Director Isabel Bradshaw is inspirational and she should be very proud of her choir. We all enjoyed their performance immensely - if you weren't there you missed a treat.

Sunday afternoon began with the ever-welcoming sound of St Mary's bells, this time rung by a team from St Mary's, Saffron Walden. Several hundred visitors joined us for tea and cakes over the weekend, but Sunday was the day for reunion, some of us meeting up for the first time for many years. We were united, not only by a sense of place but by music, thanks to Keith Turner and his talented circle of friends and family. Through his years as organist and choir-master, Keith has established such a good company of music-makers. We were truly 'moved with concord of sweet sounds' by the recorder group of Sutton - such an appropriate choice in our ancient church. Our old friend, Richard

Pollard's vintage monologues, gave just the right Edwardian touch to the programme. If not all the 200 or so audience were as musically talented, we made up for it by bringing the concert to an end with our enthusiastic singing of 'Jerusalem'. It was hard work; these events always are, and my thanks go to all those who gave considerable time and effort to make it a success. So to cleaners, printers, furniture movers and transporters, flower arrangers, mounters of photographs, cake makers and all who filled cups and glasses steadily throughout the weekend, please accept the gratitude of the Conservation Trust. Our St Mary's events are always a very special meeting of old friends and, we hope, the making of new ones with our growing Stansted population. The Friends of St Mary's Association were pleased to gain a number of new members. Lastly our thanks to all our generous supporters - we raised £650 for the Conservation Trust's work.

Audrey Rodgers

Radio Controlled Model Exhibition

The Moorhen Model Boat Club of Harlow has agreed to come along and display all their radio controlled boats.



Tanks, cars, lorries and even some aeroplanes, all remote controlled, will also be on display. All of these models are made by hand and take hours and, in some cases, years to build. So please come along to St Mary's on **Saturday 3rd September** 11.00am to 5.00pm. There is something for all the family to enjoy. Entry is free but donations in aid of St Mary's Church will be gratefully received, as this is why the exhibition is taking place. Teas and coffees will be served at a very small charge.

Sally Argent
Secretary
Tel: 812418

Email: argent62@btinternet.com

Please note: St Mary's Church is now open daily from 11.00am to 3.00pm.





Stansted Windmill

Open Days

1.30 - 5.30 pm

Sun 7th & 28th August

Mon 29th August
(with Fête)

Sun 4th September



St Mary's Church Open

2- 5 pm Sun 7th Aug

Teas Served

Parish Magazines on view

Also open daily 11 am - 3 pm



ST CLARE
HOSPICE

CHARITY FUN DAY

from 12 noon Sun 28th Aug
The King's Arms Hotel

Steel Band ~ Bouncy Castle

Face Painting ~ Children's Games

Tombola ~ Raffle

Curries ~ Caribbean BBQ

Evening Music Sounds of the 80s

All Welcome ~ Proceeds to St Clare's

E E E S

August

3 Wed Mountfitchet Club
Mountfitchet Garden Club

5 Fri NCT Photographer

6 Sat/7 Sun Skips

7 Sun Windmill Open

St Mary's Church Open

11 Thu **Link copy due in today**

11 Thu WI

20 Sat/21 Sun Skips

28 Sun Fun Day for St Clare's
Windmill Open

29 Sun Windmill Open & Fete

Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

7.30 for 8 pm Day Centre

St John's Hall 10 am

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

1.30 - 5.30 pm

2 - 5 pm

before 12 noon

St John's Hall 7.45 pm

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

King's Arms 12 noon onwards

1.30 - 5.30 pm

2 - 5 pm

September

1 Thu Local History

3 Sat/4 Sun Skips

3 Sat Radio Controlled Models

4 Sun Windmill Open

St Mary's Church Open

7 Wed Mountfitchet Club

Mountfitchet Garden Club

8 Thu WI

16 Fri Walk for St Clare's

Day Centre 8.00 pm

Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm

St Mary's Church 11 am - 5 pm

1.30 - 5.30 pm

2 - 5 pm

Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

7.30 for 8 pm Day Centre

St John's Hall 7.45 pm

B Stortford Rugby Club 8 pm



Stansted Windmill

ANNUAL FÊTE

2 - 5 pm 29th August
(Bank Holiday Monday)

Stalls ~ Bouncy Castle

Bric-à-Brac ~ Books

Parachuting

Tombola ~ Raffle

BBQ ~ Teas ~ Cakes

Children's Games

and the rest

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20th & 21st August

3rd & 4th September

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Sunday 25th Sept

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Friends of St Mary's
Church

Exhibition of

Radio Controlled Models

*Presented by The Moorhen Model
Boat Club, Harlow*

11 am - 5 pm Sat 3rd Sept

Entry free - donations to

St Mary's Church welcome

Refreshments ~ Everyone Welcome



ST CLARE
HOSPICE

STARLIGHT WALK

8 pm Fri 1st September

5 mile sponsored walk
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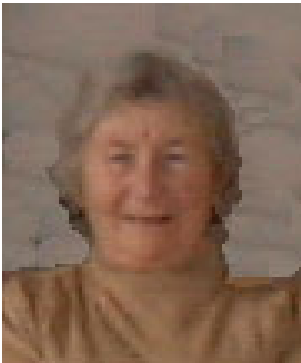


IN MEMORIAM

EILEEN BARRETT

28th March 1927–23rd May 2011

Eileen Barrett (nee Barrow) was born in Scarragh, near Mallow, County Cork and was the eldest daughter of Jack Barrow and Ellen Ahern. During a recruiting drive for nurses in the UK, Eileen and her sister Margaret came to England for State Registered Nurse training. They passed an exam held in Wales and came to Haymeads Hospital (now known as the Herts and Essex) in Bishop's Stortford for the SRN three year training course. Looking after people became Eileen's mission in life. She worked at Southend Hospital before moving back to Bishop's Stortford and marrying Gordon in 1955. Gordon and Eileen had two children, Jeremy and Gillian, while living in Stansted. When the children started school Eileen returned to Gloucester Ward in Bishop's Stortford until her retirement, and for many years ex-patients bumping into her in Bishop's Stortford would greet her as 'Staff Nurse Barrett'.



Eileen was a founder member of the Catholic Women's League in Stansted and was responsible for significant fund-raising for the purchase of St Theresa's original church next to the windmill. She used to organise toy fairs, cake stalls and raffles as part of the fund-raising. In the '60s and '70s Eileen was very active in teaching catechism to the children of St Theresa's. She washed,

starched and ironed the cottas and altar linen, and sometimes the washing line looked like it was strung up with altar boys blowing in the breeze. For many years she was on the flower-arranging rota using flowers from her own garden. She was very busy helping with the First Communion breakfasts every year and well known for her sponge cakes and quiet organisational skills. Another more daunting task was cooking lunch or an evening meal when the Bishop visited.

When the Ecumenical movement reached Stansted in the early '60s, Eileen, together with two members from the United Reformed and Anglican churches, ran a joint children's Christmas Party. In later years she maintained these friendships within the Shalom Group. Eileen loved travel. Highlights included visiting the Vatican City and attending mass by Pope John Paul II. She also went to the Holy Land, staying in Jerusalem, and even paddled in the Dead Sea. Other memorable holidays were a trip to Jamaica for their Silver Wedding and climbing up the waterfall in Dunsfield. Other trips included visiting her daughter in California and visits to France with her cousin Peg, 'Sister Margaret' (a nun).

Eileen also loved her garden and transformed a flat empty piece of land into a paradise of flowers, fruit and vegetables. She liked to add a bit of mystery and interest to the garden, so the paths led you on a journey of discovery around straw-

berries, grape vines, potatoes and bright orange poppies. She could dig for hours without complaining of backache, and even 10 years ago she used her labouring skills to help transform Gill's garden. She had wonderful healing powers and was skilled in the repair of birds with broken wings using matchstick splints, and torn open crops, which were sewn up. The birds were then nursed back to health and watched with great satisfaction as they flew off.

Eileen was a quiet, gentle person, who had an excellent memory for birthdays and never needed to write out shopping lists, so it was of immense frustration to her when she became aware of her increasingly poor memory. However she continued to be a gentle soul who was unfailingly polite to the end.

Stansted Tennis Club



Tournament results

Unfortunately, the Clower Boys' Singles tournament, which should have taken place on 12th June, had to be postponed due to bad weather. The replacement date will be on Sunday 18th September, starting at 12.45pm. Twelve boys participated in the Clower Boys' Doubles tournament, on 26th June. This year's champions were Conor Hutchinson and Robert Lawson who defeated Felix Rutherford and Sam Watts 6-1 in the final. Pat Clower presented the trophies to the winners and runners-up.

Working party

Many thanks to all Club members who took part in the two further working parties which took place at the Club in June and early July. The hard work is really making a difference to the general appearance of the Clubhouse, courts and surrounding area.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 14th August 12.30pm - Wilby Adult Tournament.
Sunday 28th August - Essex Small Clubs One Day Tournament at Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club

Ladies' Night

The next Ladies' Night will be on Monday 8th August between 7.00 and 10.00pm. All are welcome!

Club Tournament

A reminder to all who are still involved that the quarter final rounds need to be played by Saturday 13th August.

Hospital Cup

Players are reminded to continue arranging matches to avoid a backlog.

Coaching

If you are interested in finding out more about coaching at Stansted Tennis Club, please contact either Chris Hollis on 319155 or Martyn Taplin (Monday night adult coaching session) on 816386.

Chris Hollis
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July was a period of end of term activities. The adult clubs had a strawberry and cream tea and a 'Mama Mia' evening, the younger clubs have had outings and a visit by an entertainer. Everyone joined together for our annual summer barbecue in a farm on the outskirts of Hatfield Forest. Music was provided by Woodwind of Stortford and the hard work of erecting marquees and cooking the burgers was done, as always, by the Rotary Club.

Each Wednesday during the school holidays our holiday club takes about 18 children with learning disability out for the day. The club operates all through the year but of course summer is a busy period for our staff. The picture shows one of our children in the sea during a day trip to Clacton. The children have a great time while the parents have a break and, in some cases, have an opportunity to spend time with their other children. Caring for a child with learning disability is a tough job and the parents need some respite.



We take advantage of the summer holiday period to maintain our building. This year we have upgraded the fire safety arrangements and will be replacing our 20 year old heating system. As always there is loads of painting for volunteers to do. Although we do as much as possible ourselves, maintaining a 100 year old building requires constant fundraising. We are very grateful to The Manuden Singers and their supporters for donating the proceeds of their Village Glyndebourne. Once again the picnic concert was a great success and we are very grateful to Ian and Teresa Priest for the use of their lovely garden.

David Scott

Here is our programme for 2011-2012. This year we have put the emphasis on prominent local people and families. If you are interested in any of the topics please come along - new members are always welcome.

1st September

'Ninety Wasted years' – George Culling.

The struggle for literacy in the 18th and 19th centuries.

6th October

'The East Wolds Waggoners' – Stan Sutherland.

The Yorkshire farm labourers who took supplies to the front line in World War I.

3rd November

'William Douglas Caröe, Architect' - Rosalind and Roger Peck.

The designer of St John's Church and other buildings in Stansted Mountfitchet.

1st December

Our Christmas Members' evening.

If you have any items of interest for this meeting, whatever the subject, we will be more than happy to hear from you.

5th January

'Winston Churchill' - William Tyler. A Study in Leadership.

2nd February

'The Reverend Conrad Noel' - Bruce Munro

The very controversial Christian Socialist Vicar, founder of The Thaxted Movement.

1st March

'Gilbey, Blyth and Gold' - Jen and Richard Allaway

The success story of one Stansted family

5th April

'The Middletons' - Roger Plumb.

A North Wales family who made good in Hertfordshire and Essex, seven of whom, in the 17th century, became Lords of the Manor of Stansted Mountfitchet.

3rd May

Annual General Meeting, followed by a presentation by Peter Sanders.

The season's meetings are held in the Day Centre, off Chapel Hill on the first Thursday of each month at 8.00pm. Members, £8 for the year and Day Members, £2. We look forward to seeing you there.

David Harrison

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We are now taking bookings for both colour and black and white advertisements for our new printing year which begins in November.

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We look forward to hearing from you!

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Stansted Cricket Club

Our successful league season has continued with the 1st XI top of Division 2 with nine wins and one abandoned match after the first 11 Saturdays. The 2nd XI is fourth in Division 6 with seven wins and two rain-abandoned matches. After a series of cancellations the Sunday XI won its second match on 26th June, beating Little Hallingbury by six wickets. Personal batting achievements this month include I Parsons (105 no), M Chambers (90), M Baldock (88, 51 no), C Kirby (74, 55), B Baker (60 no) and M Johnson (60 no). Best bowling performances have come from C Kirby (5-27), D (McGregor) Roach (5-35) and M Carter (5-49). Junior training sessions continue on Friday evenings.

Our planning application to build a new kitchen and disabled toilets on the north end of the pavilion was passed on 10th June. We hope to start work in early September and are currently seeking finance for the project and evaluating tenders from interested builders.

Home fixtures for August are:

Sat 6th Aug	1.30pm	1st XI v Dunmow II
Sun 7th Aug	2.30pm	Sun XI v Thorley
Sat 13th Aug	1.30pm	2nd XI v Potter Street II
Sun 14th Aug	2.30pm	Sun XI v Hatfield Heath
Sat 20th Aug	1.30pm	1st XI v High Roding II
Sun 21st Aug	2.30pm	Sun XI v Hockerill II
Sat 27th Aug	1.30pm	2nd XI v Birchanger II
Sun 28th Aug	2.00pm	Sun XI v Chrishall

The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis to contact the secretary. Any adults wishing to join the Club should contact David Hedge on 812509; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.

David Hedge
Hon Secretary

Coffee Morning

Fortunately the sun shone on 14th June and we managed to raise the fantastic sum of £602. Thank you to all who came on the day, all who helped man the stalls (and kettle) and a big thank you to Barclays Bank who have generously offered to 'match' our total.



Sandra Ayres



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

'All for your delight' the motto of Billy Butlin's Holiday Camps, set the tone for our evening with Norman Jacobs, when he came along in June to tell us the history of the one in Clacton. Norman has memories and photographs of happy holidays there when he was a little lad. The first of Butlin's Camps was opened at Skegness, and Clacton followed in 1937 with a funfair - having the largest Big Wheel in the country - and in 1938 the Camp. It was greatly welcomed by the local community as local produce and services were used and brought money into the area. The Holidays with Pay Act came in that same year, so that Butlin's was advertised as 'a week's holiday for a week's wage' - about £3.10s. This was, of course, for each person, but did include four huge meals a day!

Billy Butlin invented Redcoats who were there to get everyone organised and to help clear the bar at night! There was horse riding, keep-fit classes, boxing training courses, ballroom dancing, swimming pools and, of course, a wonderful theatre. Many top-rate artists appeared there including Elsie & Doris Walters, George Robey, Mantovani, Gracie Fields, Jimmy Tarbuck, Arthur English and, later on, Cliff Richard, who had his first ever professional engagement - but not to everyone's delight; Rock 'n Roll being a bit new. Two and a half thousand people would be there at any one time in its heyday, which is mind boggling - I did wonder if they ever actually got to see the sea, after all the organised games and competitions that went on, though Norman assured me that you could go off for a bit of peace and quiet if you liked. Even marriages and christenings took place as well as church services twice a day. Billy Butlin retired in 1968 and when single teenagers started to come, the whole family aspect changed and eventually it closed in 1983. Rene Sanders brought along a lovely photograph of herself and friends all dressed up for the ballroom from when she stayed there after the War.

We had a successful tea-party to which we invited members from our Group Institutes as well as our own, where we ate dainty sandwiches, loads of cakes and scones and fresh strawberries and talked in time-honoured WI fashion! Pearl Wellings was away that day busy representing us at the AGM in Liverpool, which proved to be quite unusual as one of the proposed resolutions, regarding the practice of factory farming, was rejected by the members. They were unwilling to vote as they objected to the wording. This has caused a bit of a dilemma as most of the delegates had been given the instruction to vote for it and not given any other guidance. It has been said by the National Chairman that this is the first time that WI members have rejected a vote on a resolution topic at an AGM.

The WI currently has 204,000 members; why not be one too and come along and join us? The August meeting is on Thursday 11th at 7.45pm in St John's Hall.



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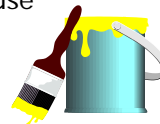
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ST CLARE HOSPICE

Last month, St Clare Hospice held an Open Day inviting the architects, builders and staff who recently refurbished the In-Patient Unit to meet with fundraisers, volunteers, past Trustees and friends of the Hospice. The guests were invited to a presentation and a tour of the very modernised bedrooms which each boasts mood lighting, super comfy self-remote beds and a beautiful deluxe en-suite bathroom. The six figure grant was allocated to the Hospice to enhance patient care and the patients and their families are extremely complimentary about the results. The day to day running of the Hospice is dependent on the support from its area throughout West Essex. All the services are free to its patients and families. Therefore, if you are able to hold an event or participate in an event, the Hospice is most grateful for your support in this way.

Mr Cyril Stoneham very kindly opened his garden for all to see and although quite a small one, his garden was rather special. A total of £130 was raised by Cyril for St Clare; many thanks for your kind generosity. Last month also saw the launch of its first Starlight Walk in Bishop's Stortford. The five mile walk will take place on Friday 16th September at 8.00pm from Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club. The event in Loughton last year raised a whopping £13,000! For further details please contact Laura on 01279 773750.

August Bank Holiday is a busy one in the village. The King's Arms is holding a charity fun day in aid of St Clare Hospice on Sunday 28th August including the infamous bike ride in the morning. The Hospice is very appreciative of all the hard work undergone by those involved at the pub and we wish them every success on the day.

If you or your family or a friend would like to know more about the Hospice and the services available please visit their website www.stclarehospice.org.uk or call 01279 773700 for further information. St Clare Hospice is your local hospice.



Caroline Bore
Secretary
Stansted Friends of St Clare Hospice

TIGER! TIGER! TIGER! Part 1

We have, for some time, wished to see tigers in the wild, so it was with anticipation that we travelled on an overnight flight from Heathrow to India. On arrival in Delhi we met our tour guides, Dhanya and Harish, and fellow tour members. Following lunch we had our first excursion, a visit to Sultanpur National Park, on the outskirts of India's capital. Known for its birdlife, we saw 74 varieties in just a couple of hours. Our favourites? Most probably the white-throated kingfisher, painted stork and hoopoe. We also saw rhesus macaques and five striped palm squirrels. Next morning, we all met in reception and boarded the coach for a whistle-stop sightseeing tour of New Delhi, before lunch in a restaur-

rant; then we boarded the train at Delhi station for the overnight railway journey to Jabalpur (an unforgettable experience!) and then minibus the next morning to our ultimate destination, Kanha National Park where we hoped to encounter Royal Bengal tigers. The park is one of the few remaining areas of India where tigers in the wild are protected and as it's the size of Hertfordshire it's obvious that the task of preventing poaching isn't easy. Experts will tell you that within five years the Royal Bengal tiger could become extinct if poaching is allowed to continue!



We arrived at Tuli Tiger Resort, our home for the next seven nights, and had lunch. Dhanya explained that we have 14 jeep drives whilst we were at Kanha. Our first was that afternoon. Each jeep carried four people plus driver and naturalist guide and we picked up a park guide at the park entrance.

We drove into the park stopping to admire the many birds and other mammals on the way, including langur monkeys, gaur (a large bison), spotted sambar and swamp deer. We had to be out of the park by 6.30pm, the sun was low in the sky and still no sign of tigers. We arrived at an area of open grassland and saw another jeep that had stopped. As we approached, suddenly our guide shouted "Tiger, tiger, tiger!", and there, right in front of us, was a huge male tiger lying down with his head up on a ridge not 20 metres away - our first tiger on our first drive and a fabulous view as well! Far better than we ever thought we would get. Many photos were taken! Elated, and not a little overcome, we then raced back to the gate to make the deadline.



We got back to our room feeling very dusty. There was just enough time to shower and dress before 7.30pm, when those that wanted to, gathered in the dining hall to recap on the afternoon's sightings, updated our tick lists and ordered a beer. Dinner followed at 8.00pm. Soup to start followed by buffet Indian dishes, eat as much as you like style with freshly cooked naan bread. Dhanya then explained the plans for the next six days: a wakeup call at 4.30am! Coffee served in reception and off in the jeeps to get to the park for opening time at 6.15am. Breakfast

will be taken in the Park and back to the lodge for lunch at 1.00pm, and on to the jeeps again at 3.00pm. We then return again to the lodge by 6.45pm for dinner at 8.00pm. Hectic or what?!

More next month!

Sheila and Alan Bowles

TOM AND THE DRAGON EGGS

"It's not fair. It's my computer. So why does he get to use it all the time?" Tom stormed off, running down the long thin garden heading for his den, Nintendo in hand. "I can't hear you", he shouted when his mother called after him. Angry tears were scrubbed away as he stared at the mass of thorny brambles that had sprouted since his last visit to the den. Cautiously Tom pushed his way through. Inside there was room to stand up. It was like a large upside-down nest, warm and protective and surprisingly waterproof. He pulled out the wooden box he kept there to sit on, sighed happily and switched on his Nintendo. He didn't know what made him turn and look into the corner where the box had been, but what he saw surprised him. Two pale golden eggs were sitting there. Not gold like metal, but translucent, shimmering in a shaft of sunlight, the shells barely veiling the life within. Far too large for a wild bird, far larger than the dainty little eggs their pretty bantam hens laid! So what creature had laid such magical eggs? To the mind of a nine-year old boy there was only one creature that could lay such eggs – a DRAGON.

These eggs needed looking after! Tom had seen how the broody bantam tended and turned the eggs in her care. Nintendo forgotten he went rushing back up the garden to get an old jumper to keep the eggs warm, and find his dragon book to read while he watched over them.

"Tom!" His mum stopped him as he hurtled into the kitchen. "Jack's finished with your computer. I'm sorry I shouted at you love, but Jack needed it for his homework."

"S alright Mum. I'm playing with my Nintendo." As his mum was obviously feeling bad about the computer thing, Tom thought it a good time to ask a favour. "It's a bit cold in the garden, could I have that soft toy thing you heat up in the microwave like a hot-water bottle?"

"Sure. You go and find it and I'll warm it up for you." Slightly puzzled, it wasn't like her son to feel the cold, she smiled, pleased he was no longer sulking. Tom rushed off, found the old jumper he wanted and the soft toy. He put the jumper on and another one on top, so there wouldn't be any awkward questions, and rushed back to the den as soon as the toy was heated. The eggs were still there! He laid out the heated toy and the jumper, then carefully picked up the eggs and snuggled them into his homemade nest. Tom watched the eggs as he read the book, now convinced more than ever that they belonged to a dragon. It was a long afternoon! There had to be a better way to keep the eggs warm and safe than watching them all the time. Would Mum let him stay in the garden all night? Probably not. Then he had an idea! He turned his box into a nest, filling it with some of the bantams' straw and the warming toy, then covered the eggs with his woolly jumper.

Tom had a restless night with vivid dreams, full of unruly dragons who wouldn't obey and caused havoc. He dreamt of the knights who stood guard to the north and south entrances to the village, coming alive to fight the dragons, and woke shaking with fear. Why had the ancient people been so afraid of dragons? What would happen if they fought with each other or terrorised the village? Tom couldn't wait for morning. As soon as the first bird started singing he was up

and dressed and down the garden. In his mind the dreams still swirled around. Perhaps the eggs should be destroyed? But as soon as he saw those shining living things he knew he couldn't harm them. They had survived the night, still warm. Carefully he turned each egg, then put the jumper back in place, while worrying about the problems there might be. Should he tell his mother of his find? She was the only person he could trust not to destroy the eggs. He'd wait until tomorrow, then tell her. That evening Tom went to check the eggs one last time. Both were showing signs of cracking. One had a hole and through the hole peeked something strange! He couldn't deal with this alone. So he cautiously lifted out the egg with the hole, and carried it up to the house.



"Goodness, Tom! What have you there?" asked his mum.

"Yes Tom, where did you get that?" demanded Jack, as any older brother would.

"It's a dragon's egg and it's hatching."

"Don't be silly, there's no such thing as dragons." Jack chided with all his 16 years of wisdom as he stared warily at the egg.

"Leave him alone Jack," his mother said. "Let me look at it love," and she gently lifted it out of her younger son's hands. "It's certainly a beautiful egg."

"There's another one."

"Another one!" Jack screeched. "Where. Show me." Reluctantly Tom led Jack down the garden, and allowed him to carry the other egg back to the kitchen.

"Your dragon has hatched Tom." His mother greeted them at the door, cradling a large golden chick, with huge webbed feet. Its feathers were already drying and fluffing up. "Here hold him. He's much more beautiful than any dragon." Tom gently took the chick.

"It's a big duck!" he sighed with relief.

"No it's a gosling – a baby goose. It'll guard us better than any dragon."

"It's much better than a dragon. Can we keep them. Please?"

"Well I don't see why not."

"We can fatten them up for Christmas dinner," said Jack.

"No way! Mum ...!" stormed his little brother.

Meg Morris



10th Anniversary!! Music in the park

Party revellers were up and about early on to the dance floor and dancing continued all afternoon and evening, with great sets from regulars to the event, *Bamboo Loud* and *All of a Sudden* who kept the crowd thoroughly entertained with their superb cover versions, with the latter performing a great version of Celo Green's hit 'Forget you'.



As was fitting for our 10th anniversary Music in the Park, the sun once again shone down on us. Opening this year's event were *The Real Reason*, followed on stage by *Rockamici*, a band whose drummer may well have been familiar to some of the crowd...yes, it was Dr Leeman from Stansted Surgery.

The children were kept entertained this year by the huge bouncy slide and face painting, with many of the crowd visiting Olly Pocknell at the BBQ area, where lamb wraps and burgers had sold out by late afternoon. This year there was a debut for the Snapping Crocodile/Bucking Bronco where every person who purchased a ticket for the ride was also entered into a draw to win an Xbox 360 Kinect Console, which was kindly donated to us by Gem Distribution Ltd.

The evening drew to a close with the introduction of a new headline band *The Midnight Slot*. Playing to a swaying crowd in front of them they finished their set with a rendition of 'I get by with a little help from my friends'.

here are so many people to thank: Bentfield School PTA, our sponsors, the bands, those who helped run stalls, those who set up and cleared away the event and those who bought tickets which helped raise money towards our schools funds. We would also like to thank The Rose and Crown and The Cock public houses who both donated barrels of beer.

As soon as we know the date for next year's event we will let you know.



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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

CABINET STRUCTURE IN OPERATION AT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Since May, Uttlesford District Council is governed in a different way. There is a small cabinet of five portfolio holders who are central to making and executing policy. However, key decisions still require the approval of the council.

The five portfolio holders are listed below together with their main responsibilities and contact details.

Name/email address	Portfolio Held
Howard Rolfe <i>cllrrolfe@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Community Partnerships & Engagement
Sue Barker <i>cllrbarker@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Environmental Services
Jackie Cheetham <i>cllrcheetham@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Deputy Leader of Council & Ch of Development Control
Julie Redfern <i>cllrredfern@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Housing
Liz Godwin <i>cllrgodwin@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Ch of Scrutiny
Robert Chambers <i>cllrchambers@uttlesford.gov.uk</i>	Finance & Administration

If you have issues or problems you should contact either your local district councillors (contact details on p.20) or the relevant portfolio holder or both.

PARISH COUNCIL SPENDING

Unfortunately this month, due to a lack of space, we are unable to tell you more about how the Council spends your money! An article about the Finance and General Purposes Committee will be published next month.

PLANS TO CREATE BETTER PLAY AREAS

As readers may be aware, the Council has plans to improve the play areas at Bentfield Green, Recreation Ground and Mountfitchet Green. Several schemes were drawn up and consultation carried out with the local schools. Those results were used to narrow down to a shortlist of three equipment providers. Who were invited to revise their layouts and quotations.

These have now been considered by the Open Spaces Committee and bids for grant funding are being prepared. The cost to refurbish each area will be high, and we can only proceed if third party funding is received, so fingers crossed!

SKATEPARK REPAIRED AND IMPROVED

We are pleased to report that the ramps at the skatepark have now been repaired and the facility is open again.

One of the ramps has also been adjusted, at the suggestion of the youngsters who use the park, to make it more "user friendly"!

LINDEN HOUSE - LICENSING DECISION & WELCOME

Following a Hearing at Uttlesford District Council at the end of June, Linden House was granted its licence for alcohol, music and dancing - subject to conditions. (These can be viewed on the UDC website under Licensing).

We welcome this new business to the village and wish Mr and Mrs Foster every success in their venture.

UNDERSTANDING HOW LICENSING WORKS

Uttlesford District Council is the Licensing Authority for this area. When an application is submitted for a new premises or a full variation, a notice giving details of the application applied for, which includes times and licensable activities, must be displayed in a prominent position at the premises. This notice must be displayed for a minimum of 28 days and must be reinforced by an advertisement in at least one local newspaper. The advertisement must be published within 10 working days of the licensing authority declaring the application to be valid.

The Parish Council is notified of the application but this is not required under the Licensing Act 2003. However, the licensing authority for Uttlesford have decided in their policy to notify town and parish councils as best practice. In addition, the policy also includes notifying businesses or residents whose premises are adjacent to the

premises in question or are directly opposite. Any person residing in the vicinity of the premises may make application to the licensing authority as an objection providing it is based on one of the four policy objectives:

- 1 Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- 2 Public Safety
- 3 Prevention of Public Nuisance
- 4 Protection of children from harm

REVIEWING AIRPORT POLICY

The Government is consulting again on aviation policy - "Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation". The details are available at www.dft.gov.uk and responses must be sent by 30 September to aviation.policyframework@dft.gsi.gov.uk. The Parish Council will be submitting comments, so if there are any points you would like us to consider, please contact the Clerk or Cllr Peter Jones by the beginning of September.

STANSTED IN BLOOM

On Saturday 2nd July, the Judges for this year's competition were out and about the village looking at the gardens that had been entered. The standard was high considering the dry spell that we have had recently and those who entered produced some beautiful displays and arrangements, making use of some very novel ideas.

First place went to Cyril Stoneham, second place to Jenny Wraith and third place to Mandy Telford. The remaining entries ranged from fourth to eighth with a tie for sixth place, only a few marks separating the last places.

On the Wednesday previous to the judging day, Mrs Joy Thomas and myself walked around the village and identified several other gardens that we considered to be worthy of recognition and therefore these gardens will be eligible for one of our new certificates that have been designed by pupils of the MMCC. The Prize Giving was held on 16 July in the Free Church Hall and a report will appear in the next edition of the Link magazine, including a list of all businesses who kindly donated the main prizes. The local schools have contributed their usual input into the competition, with St Mary's producing the colourful posters that advertised the event.

A big thank you to all the judges, some having travelled a distance to be with us.

Cllr Valerie Trundle 01279 813433.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PUBLIC MEETING

We had a successful NhW meeting, held on 25th May, which was attended by 26 members of the public.

The Chairman's Report covered various aspects of NhW that have occurred during the few months since our last meeting in September 2010.

The success of our local group is mainly due to the hard work of our area coordinators and that of our many members who deliver the 'Observer' leaflet.

The minutes of the above meeting can be found on our NhW website - www.stanstednhw.org.uk or alternatively a hard copy can be supplied on request from myself.

After the meeting refreshments were provided and there was a time for people to meet together and discuss any issues.

Contact: Cllr Valerie Trundle 01279 813433.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCIL URGENT - ARTICLE 4 CONSULTATIONS

People in Stansted may currently be concerning themselves with the Local Development Framework (LDF) and other matters mentioned in our last column (and perhaps the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan). This month, however, we would like to draw attention to the Article 4 Directions currently being proposed by Uttlesford.

Article 4 directions are issued by Councils where specific development control is needed and are commonly applied to conservation areas whose character is perceived to be threatened. Directions are applied over an area rather than individual properties and are registered as Local Land Charges - they remove permitted development rights, necessitating planning applications for anything which might ordinarily be allowed.

Uttlesford will shortly be consulting on the question of whether Article 4 directions should be made in three conservation areas in Stansted (Lower Street, Recreation Ground and Bentfield). For further information on this matter, see www.uttlesford.gov.uk or contact the Council direct on 01799 510510.

Cllrs John Salmon and Jonathan Rich

As I write in early July a new set of road layout plans has been submitted to Essex Highways by the prospective developer of a health centre/shopping complex at the former Hilton Cars in Lower Street. The first design was considered not to be safe or capable of handling the expected volumes of traffic. A planning application could be submitted to Uttlesford by the time Link is published, though I am always cautious about over-optimism.

During July it is likely that residents in the three conservation areas at Bentfield, around Woodfields and in Lower Street will receive council letters advising them of the intention to introduce so-called Article 4 Directions on their properties. These orders withdraw normal rights of permitted development that apply to most properties; i.e. works for which planning permission is not required. This means that planning permission will have to be sought to alter walls and railing, replace doors and windows and change other features that would detract from their appearance within the conservation area. These orders would have been issued four years ago but for staff shortages. I am trying to amend the rules so that garden fences and solar panels are excluded from these orders. Residents will be able to raise their own concerns with UDC. One consolation for home owners is that planning applications in these circumstances are free of charge.

At June's south area forum we heard from the district council about Neighbourhood Plans. Uttlesford is trying to encourage Stansted to produce one of these bottom-up plans, which form part of proposed 'localism' planning by the coalition government. The catch seems to be that Neighbourhood Plans are only supposed to be worth doing – they cost £20-50,000 – in areas expecting major growth (housing, etc) BEYOND what is already planned. With upwards of 700 new homes – a 30% increase – already planned and being built at Foresthall Park, I am advising my fellow district and parish councillors and others to tread with caution along this path. Readers can keep abreast of this issue on my blog (see below).

Cllr Alan Dean

Web-blog: <http://alandean.mycouncillor.org.uk/>

NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

One of the areas for which Essex County Council is responsible is a subject that is little talked about and gets little publicity yet it is an area for which Essex has been well regarded for some time. The subject is Youth Offending.

The recent discussion that came from Ken Clark's comments around the length of custodial sentences is very relevant in this matter and whatever the readers view on the efficacy of prison as a deterrent, as a punishment, or simply as a means of keeping criminals off the street it is evident that when it comes to young people we need to think rather differently. We all know that the problem with sending a young person to a Young Offenders Institute or Prison can easily mean that their association with other criminals will hone their attitudes and set them on a life of crime to the detriment of everyone.

With that in mind it is important that we employ, to use the jargon, early intervention, since it is often evident from the fact that young people come from a problem family, that peer group pressure is having an adverse effect on them, that they are not attending school and that they are starting to get into trouble. Action at that stage can often mean that we break the pattern of offending long before it becomes too serious and hopefully we can ensure that those people live happy productive lives.

The trouble with all this early intervention is that it costs money and it is important that the money is spent in the right places. Custodial sentences for young people are extremely expensive and they certainly mean, not only that we as a society have failed, but that the resources are taken from the process of prevention.

One of the initiatives that ECC has been progressing is YOUTH BUILD and we have two centres, one in Clacton, where young offenders are given training in building skills to enable them to start careers. However, whilst these are not unintelligent young people they often suffer from a very low educational age and this is almost always the result of poor attendance throughout their school life.

It is obviously better to spend the money on getting them to school rather than locking them up.

NEWS FROM ESSEX POLICE

Thieves have made off with several thousand pounds-worth of tools and equipment from shed burglaries across the Uttlesford district, and local Crime Reduction Advisor, Peter Caulfield, warns that these offences could continue for the foreseeable future. "In the past," he said, "shed break-ins have usually been confined to Autumn and Spring, but now all the signs point to them continuing through the year, and as usual, they generally happen overnight." Mr Caulfield said that

thieves usually target insecure or poorly maintained sheds, but in some of the recent offences, the sheds had reasonable security in place, which suggests that the thieves were unusually determined.

Here are his "Top-Ten Tips" for keeping your property in your possession, not the burglar's:

- * Site your shed as close to the house as possible.
- * To prevent snooping, white-out the windows or fit net curtains
- * If you have opening windows in your shed, then screw them shut.
- * Fit a "close-shackled" padlock and a heavy-duty hasp and staple. Do not use screws, but ensure that they are bolted in place. If you have a substantial door, then fit a 5-lever mortise lock certified to BS3621.
- * Drill out the hinge screws so that they cannot be easily removed.
- * If the door is suitable, fit hinge-bolts. they are inexpensive and easy to fit.
- * Secure tools, mowers, cycles etc with a steel security cable.
- * Visibly mark all removable items with your house number or name, and postcode.
- * Fit a shed alarm. These cost from £6.00 to around £25 and can provide great peace of mind.
- * Do not think that it can't happen to you - it can happen to anyone.

Please can we remind residents to lock their cars and to keep any valuables in the car out of sight. Over the last couple of weeks we have suffered a number of thefts from insecure vehicles. Thieves are taking advantage of these easy targets and stealing items such as, Sat Navs, any other electrical items and money.

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are no scheduled meetings during August. The first meeting in September will be Open Spaces on 7 September.

CONTACT DETAILS

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Catherine Dean - V/Chairman 813579
catherinemarydean@btinternet.com

Iris Evans	815848
iris.evans9@googlemail.com	
Jo Freeman	812524
j.freeman195@yahoo.com	
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489
john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk	
Peter Jones	813252
peter@lowerstreet.com	
Janice Loughlin	812346
cllr_loughlin@uttlesford.gov.uk	
Tudor Owen	812825
tudor@tudorowen.com	
Ruth Rawlinson	814222
ruthrawlinson@tiscali.co.uk	
Jonathan Rich	813112
joerichlaw@aol.com	
John Salmon	814789
cllr_salmon@uttlesford.gov.uk	
Geoffrey Sell - Chairman	815925
sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk	
Bill Stiles	813172
candbstiles@tiscali.co.uk	
Valerie Trundle	813433
prtvrt@btinternet.com	

OTHER CONTACTS

Uttlesford District Council Members

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

Essex County Council Member

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

Member of Parliament

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

Police

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

*** Please note that there is a new national non-emergency number for the police - 101- Essex is one of the first forces in the country to introduce this.**



1ST STANSTED CUBS

What a fantastic outdoor summer of fun we have had at 1st Stansted Cubs. As our summer activities draw to a close, we look back at another term packed full of fun outdoor activities in this our 100th year. Not one evening in our summer has been too wet to go charging around the countryside.

Hatfield Forest, the villages and the surrounding woodlands have featured prominently in the calendar this year, with compass trails, scavenger hunts, water fights and archery, wall climbing, whittling with big knives, planting then harvesting our own crops (which we cooked on open fires, and even had enough to send home with the parents) being just some of the activities. But everyone agrees our Mega Camp was best of all. Thirty three youngsters and helpers went to Skreens Park, with 2,000 other cubs from around Essex, where we had to endure every kind of weather - pouring rain, buffeting wind, Glastonbury style mud, and on Sunday 30 degrees of baking sun! Whilst there we enjoyed some 30 different activities as diverse as the climbing wall, kayaking, caving, backwoods cooking, a science lab, ten of the largest bouncy castles I have ever seen and so much more. While camping we were pleased to have Liz, our new district commissioner, on site to bestow the highest award possible to Alfie and Kieron - the silver award. She also invested four new cubs and three new leaders; well done to all. Thank you to the leaders and parents who got all the gear and food needed for 33 people for three nights' camping and put up all those tents. On a personal note, may I say thank you to the cub and scout leaders and the parents who have helped run cubs during this last year.

Akela



Huw Johnson Club

The Huw Johnson Club will have its last summer meeting on 14th July before our summer break. During August we will, however, enjoy a day trip to Dunwich with a fish and chip lunch at Flora's Tearooms. We are also saying thank you to all our drivers, with an afternoon tea at the home of Hannah, Chris and Joanne at Great Easton. Hannah and Chris will once again host a grand lunch in August to raise funds for the Club. Plans are also in hand for a visit to Braintree Bowling Alley. We really miss our bowling sessions now that Bishop's Stortford's alley has been closed. We continue to have lots of teenagers coming to help and they prove very useful when we have bingo or line dancing.

And now an appeal for help; because of a change of address one of our drivers can no longer do the return trip to Saffron Walden. Members are picked up at 8.45pm for this trip and your turn would occur once in every four weeks. It involves dropping off three members, all of whom live in the same road. This weekly outing means a lot to our members so please volunteer for this trip.

Marion Johnson
Tel: 812284



1st STANSTED BROWNIES

1st Stansted Brownies are now enjoying their summer holidays but we thought we would update you on our activities since the last article. We had a fun filled Pack Holiday over the Easter weekend with fabulous weather which enabled us to really make the most of our outside activities. Pedal karting, grass sledging and crazy golf were a real hit and our theme of 'Toy Story 3' included activities such as pin the tail on Bullseye, word searches, making and decorating 'Alien' cup cakes and fabric painting shoulder purses with characters from the film. Our three teams of Buzz, Slinky and Woody took turns to help cook, lay tables and clear away and everyone competed to win the prize for the best kept bedroom. The Brownies were a pleasure to be with and we look forward to planning our 2012 holiday.



Since then we have built and launched rockets, made Father's Day cards and gifts, walked around Stansted ending with a nice hot portion of chips, joined 2nd Stansted and Manuden Brownies for team games in Manuden village hall and finished the year with a great barbecue. Our special activity, however, was to complete a set of challenges with a wedding theme to gain a unique Royal Wedding Challenge Badge. Well done to all our Brownies who have achieved so much this year, goodbye to those who have left us and gone to Guides and other pastures new and welcome to our new Brownies. A big thank you also to all the Mums and Dads who have helped at our meetings. Enjoy the summer and we look forward to seeing everyone again on 14th September. Enquiries to Sue Pollard, Brownie Leader on 813734.

Sandra Wesley
Assistant Leader



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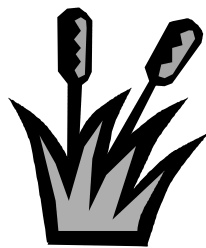
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ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

On 27th June we celebrated our President's Night and 30th Anniversary. An impressive array of guests attended including many visiting Rotarians. The reception was an enjoyable affair with drinks in a balmy atmosphere on the patio of the Bishop's Stortford Golf Club overlooking the course bathed in evening sunshine. A fine meal in a convivial setting was followed by brief formalities including the handover by President Allan Dick to David Scott our President for the 2011-12 year. Lauren Ashley entertained us in her own style - a very professional accompaniment in the background set the mood for Lauren's very up front and alluring singing act. This was the hottest day of the year so far and the audience and singer soon moved outside onto the patio and a magical evening ensued with quite a number becoming very animated on the dance floor.



On 5th July 40 members and guests attended David Scott's Inaugural Meeting as President. There was a lively air of anticipation as the members and guests assembled for drinks before sitting down to an excellent meal. Harry Payne, who is helping to form the Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery, then made his presentation. The facts concerning slavery in the 21st century are staggering and largely unknown. There are an estimated 27 million people living in slavery today and we wear, eat, kick or strike items that are in part produced by slaves. No country in the world is spared involvement in people trafficking.

We meet Tuesday evenings at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford. For more information please contact me.

Peter Latham
Tel. 507294

Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net

NORWICH DAY TRIP

Just a reminder about the trip to Norwich on 19th November. We still have some seats costing a very reasonable £13 to £14. If you haven't been to Norwich before, then you are in for a real treat. There's lots to see and do with a wide range of shops to suit all tastes, from the modern chains to small individual boutiques around The Lanes area of the city. This outing is organised by the WI but everyone is welcome. Give me a call to book a place.

Pearl Wellings
Tel: 813614



Messy play can make an enormous contribution to babies' and young children's all-round development, but the word 'messy' is often given a negative meaning and subsequently can lead to 'messy play' being undervalued. By providing the materials and encouraging your child to have a go, parents can experience first-hand the pleasure and creativity that their child is experiencing. Children will recognise their own work and it is important to let them focus on the doing rather than the end result. Below are some activities that can be placed in trays or shallow containers and could be used outside:

Whipped snow

2 cups warm water

1 cup pure laundry soap or flakes

Pour the soap flakes and warm water into a bowl and beat with a whisk until it becomes fluffy, add food colouring or paint for a coloured 'snow'.

Depending on the age of the child, you can add less water and to make a thicker 'snow' that can be moulded or squeezed from the corner of a small plastic bag.

Clean mud

1 bar soap

1 roll toilet paper

1 gallon of warm water

In a large tub or bucket, layer the toilet paper and grate the soap over the top. Add the warm water and leave overnight. The mixture can then be shaped with hand into any sort of creation.

Talk about what you are doing and encourage language by using descriptive words like 'squeeze', 'drip', 'slime'; praise your child for their participation and display the work, in a scrapbook if wall space is limited; allow your child to be creative and above all else HAVE FUN! These are just two of the messy play ideas from a free booklet produced by the Pre-school Learning Alliance and available at Spangles Children's Centre. We also have more ideas for use with small babies too so do drop in and see us. Also watch our website www.spangleschildrenscentre.org for dates on a new art/craft/messy play session.

Mandy Fitchett
Tel: 812348

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A GRAND (KIDS) DAY OUT

It's school holidays again! "Mum, Nan, what can we do?" I have several grandchildren who always enjoy a fun packed and inexpensive day out in Saffron Walden. We park in Swan Meadow, view the ducks on the pond (heeding the notice about feeding them of course) before wandering through the town, purchasing a bag of duck food as suggested, then we go on to the common and the turf maze. Once they have conquered the maze, the children like to spend time on the various apparatus in the play area. The common is also a great place for a sit down (for Nan and Grandad) or games of football, rounders or cricket.

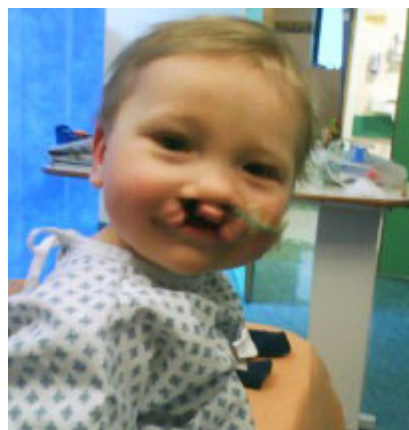


Next on the agenda is normally the museum, just a short distance away. Children go free, and adults pay a nominal amount. It's exciting looking out for the 'Lion' and interacting with the exhibits, and there is often an organised event to join in. By this time the grandchildren are invariably hungry so we go across the road and down a small pathway to Bridge End Gardens, a great place for a picnic. Here there is plenty of space for the children to run about, and in the bushes at the lower end is a raised viewing point. Conveniently situated on the upper area is a toilet (which is always needed) and a bin for rubbish. After lunch there is a formal walled garden, and a hedge maze to explore. The children find the maze wonderful as they race to reach the middle, a raised platform above the hedge, before their Grandad! Then, of course, they have another race as they run around trying to find their way out. If they still have energy left, there is another play area on the far side of the maze with opportunities to climb and 'zip wire' (huge fun). By now the grandchildren might be having too good a time to want to leave, so to encourage them back to Swan Meadow, and the car, we just remind them that we've still got the ducks to feed, with the food we bought earlier. It usually does the trick. A whole day out for the cost of car parking, museum entrance for parents, and duck food - well worth it. Enjoy. (Only 47 more days to fill.)

S Clark



My name is Mandy Elsley and I live in Stansted. I am currently fundraising, but instead of climbing a mountain or hosting a party I have decided to raise funds and awareness of CLAPA, the Cleft Lip and Palate Association, by doing something a little more permanent - getting their logo tattooed on my forearm! CLAPA is a charity which aims to represent and support all people with, and affected by, cleft lip and/or palate in the UK, and works closely with specialist cleft teams around the country. Around one in 700 babies is born with a cleft in the UK, and CLAPA aims to be there for them and their families from diagnosis onwards to adulthood. Visit www.clapa.com for more information. I hope to raise £2,000 in sponsorship for CLAPA.



My son David was born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate, and before his first birthday he had both a nasogastric tube and an emergency tracheostomy due to difficulties eating and breathing. At this time, I and my family lived in the hospital with our son David for eight months.

Having recently celebrated his third birthday, David has had both his cleft lip and palate repaired, as well as having his tracheostomy removed after an airway reconstruction. Throughout all of this David has been incredibly brave and cheerful, and I praise CLAPA's work in what has been a very difficult few years. With all the help and support CLAPA has given us we want to give something back and help other families.

I hope that the money I raise with my tattoo will help other children like David and I am collecting sponsorship online. To read more about my son's story and to help me reach my ambitious donation target, visit my Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/david-elsley.

Mandy Elsley

KING'S ARMS CHARITY FUN DAY

Soak up the sun and the atmosphere this next Bank Holiday weekend at The King's Arms Hotel as we host our Charity Fun Day on Sunday 28th August in support of St Clare Hospice. Starting us off is the almost legendary sponsored 20 mile bike ride. Please contact us if you are interested in taking part. From 12 noon, we open our big tombola; with oodles of prizes you are unlikely to miss out! This will run throughout the day until the last prize has gone. The Wade Austin Steel Band will be setting the scene with some typically tropical melodies to accompany our delicious array of foods from West Indian curries to our Caribbean Barbecue, with dishes such as rum'n honey glazed pork and jerk chicken! During the afternoon children can have fun on the bouncy castle and visit our face painter for a makeover. Summer drinks and cooling Pimms will be available from our cocktail bar, shaken and stirred! A charity auction will be held late afternoon, with some great lots promised - which leads us to our evening music with sounds of the '80s from our solo artist, WIZ in the lounge and a Champagne Magnum Draw! The whole day will be very community focused and should have something for everyone and we would like to thank our sponsors in advance who have helped to make this possible:

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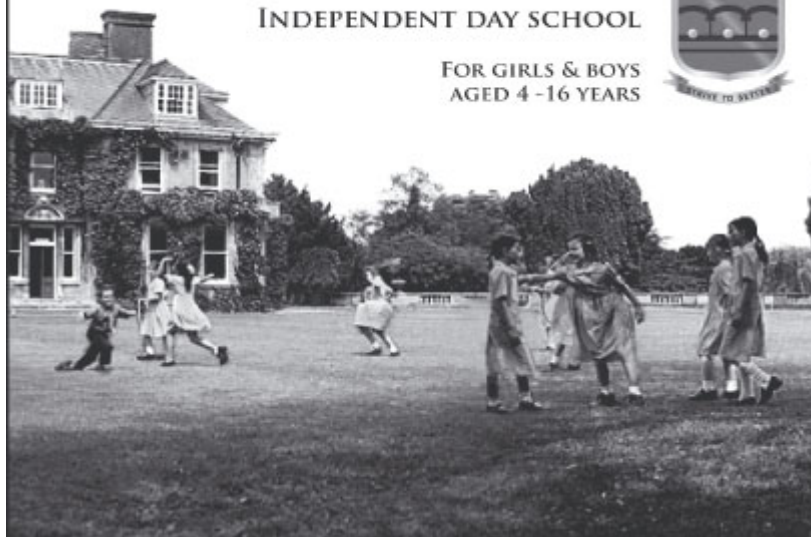
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494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

In the last month 494 Squadron has had an intake of 12 new recruits who are currently learning the fundamentals of the ATC and the RAF. They have started to learn the basic drill manoeuvres that are essential, if they want to be the same standard as the rest of the Squadron, which was demonstrated when we won the West Sector Drill Competition. This means that our Squadron and Bishop's Stortford unit (second place) will compete in September against the rest of the units in Essex that came first and second in their sector.

On the first of the month, seven keen cadets who have recently been enrolled, took part on a basic skills weekend, learning the key skills required for camping outdoors. They covered things such as cooking ration pack meals on stoves and learning how to put up the Squadron tents, where they slept on both Saturday and Sunday nights. The early mornings did not faze them in the slightest! In addition to this, four cadets attended a field craft skills weekend where they learnt how to navigate using compasses and maps in groups. They were also taught how to apply camouflage paint and conceal themselves. The weekend also enabled four younger cadets to complete the practical element to their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The group walked a total of 30km over the Saturday and Sunday. They had to cook for themselves and use their skills to navigate the way to the end, which I have no doubt they were very glad to see!

Last month, CWO Alice Brooks was invited, alongside eight other cadets across the country to attend an award ceremony for completing her Duke of Westminster Award. All the cadets from the ATC, ACF, SCC and CCF had lunch at the RAF Club before appearing at the ceremony. They had lunch with very important people including the London and South East Region Group Captain, Group Captain Hakin and celebrities such as Dannii Minogue. To top off the fantastic day, they were invited to take a tour of Number 10 Downing Street! As a Unit of the Air Training Corps, we are incredibly proud that one of our senior NCOs could be a part of this day.



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

Cadet Sergeant Alex Haughey
494 Sqn ATC



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Summer Outing

Our annual trip to one of the RHS gardens took place on 25th June when members and friends of the Club visited Wisley in Surrey. Although overcast when we set out, by the afternoon the sun had broken through and it was a glorious day to wander around the gardens, glasshouses and trial grounds. The weather this year has been quite strange and many plants were in flower much earlier than usual. The glasshouse borders, the cottage garden and the mixed borders were particularly colourful. The gardens are constantly evolving and changing, and since our visit last Autumn, the new Bowes-Lyon rose garden (named after the late Queen Mother) has been built on Weather Hill and was having the final touches made to it before its opening by The Queen in July. Wisley has something for everyone – be it vegetables, fruit, alpines, herbaceous borders or tropical orchids. It was in 1903 Sir Thomas Hanbury, a wealthy Quaker and keen gardener, presented the Wisley Estate (around 60 acres) in trust to the Society for its perpetual use. Since then it has become a world famous garden, with trial fields, research facilities and an extensive library – it is said that you can visit Wisley every month of the year and see something different each time!

July Meeting – A Visit To Woollards Ash

In order to take advantage of the light evenings our July meeting was a visit to Woollards Ash near Hatfield Broad Oak. The members were welcomed by Mr Herbert who explained that the three acre garden was divided into five areas divided by hedges of beech or yew with arches and walks leading you into the different areas. Members enjoyed wandering around the various garden 'rooms' where roses, shrubs and herbaceous plants grew. An opening in one of the hedges led members to a well stocked kitchen garden, and hidden behind another hedge was a peaceful walled pool garden. The view from the patio area was over unspoilt countryside. Unfortunately a fox had killed a number of the fowl which wander around the gardens but members were able to catch a glance of the chocolate coloured sheep which feed on the meadow the other side of the ha-ha.

August Meeting

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 3rd August when we will be welcoming back Mr Robin Carsberg who will talk to us about 'New Zealand and Plants of the Southern Hemisphere'. The members' competition is 'A teaplate of home grown fruit and/or vegetables'. The meeting is at the Day Centre, doors open at 7.30pm for refreshments with the talk starting at 8.00pm. Visitors are very welcome (£2.50 entry) and membership is available.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144

CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS



There is no tip from Cyril for August, so take the opportunity to sit back, relax, and enjoy your garden; there'll be plenty to do next month!

Editor

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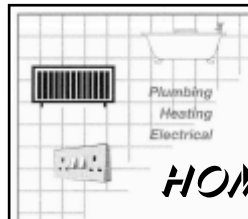
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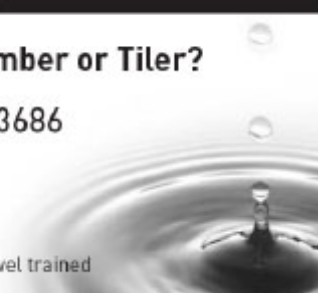
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ME S S E E

Snap out of it - pictures without a camera was the intriguing title of a talk enjoyed by our members recently. Christopher and Janet South, a couple who had travelled around at least 40 different countries, explained that they launched the series of talks after the dreadful Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004 in order to raise funds for its forgotten victims and others in urgent need in Southern Sri Lanka. The introduction over, we were issued with a pamphlet listing mysterious titles of anecdotes that we could select from for our tailor-made talk; I shall draw on just a few to give you an idea of what was on offer to us.

Chinese babies beat the system. In China 30 years ago, everyone was dressed the same in their Mao suits, there were few cars on the road and the bicycle was king. This was also the era of the one pregnancy rule and, of course, boy babies were prized over girls. Our speakers attracted some attention as it was unusual to hear English voices, and one lady in the crowd pointed very proudly to her pram, proving that she had beaten the system; the pram contained two babies - twin boys!

The bottom line in Israel. Our speakers had lived in a kibbutz for a period of six months in a community of around 1200-1500 - a community where everything is shared, nothing is personally owned. The regime is a very strict one and the community have to vote on the provision of any extras that anyone may have a need or desire for. In this anecdote, one of the community - a very beautiful young woman - was cursed with a very large rear. A cosmetic surgeon in Tel Aviv would reduce it for her at a great cost and so, according to the strict regime, she had to go and plead her case for the funds for the operation, which were fortunately granted!

Princess Diana and darkness in Hyderabad. I'm sure we can all remember the photo of Princess Diana sitting alone in front of the Taj Mahal, taken on her visit in her capacity as Patron of Help the Aged. Our speakers were also in India in connection with the visit and were installed in a newly built hotel. It was so new that it hadn't been officially opened. To while away the time before the Princess's arrival they decided to travel into the city, but night began to fall and they had great difficulty in getting a taxi to take them back to their hotel, as it was so new that no-one had heard of it. Eventually they did find someone to take them, but rather frighteningly they were driven into some very dark, sinister and polluted areas and hadn't a clue where they were going. Finally, and to their immense relief, they spotted a hotel and asked the driver to stop there and thankfully managed to get a taxi from there back to their hotel and all ended happily!

So ended another entertaining afternoon for our members. Other highlights on the horizon include 'Aloe Vera - the medicine plant' in August, 'A tour of Grandad's garden' in September and the Nazeing handbell ringers for a festive finale. If this sounds like your cup of tea, why not come and join us; you would be very welcome! We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Andrea Fitt



RUGGERBUGS. "Have you caught the bug yet?"

Ruggerbugs is delighted to announce, in partnership with Spangles Children's Centre, its launch at the Stansted Centre this autumn. Classes will be held on Friday mornings for pre-schoolers (18 mths to 4 yrs) at Spangles and on Saturday mornings for the 4 yrs-6 yrs at The Romeera Leisure Centre. An informal yet professional programme, Ruggerbugs gives young children a fun, safe and non-competitive indoor environment to enjoy a weekly activity, make new friends and develop a love of sport. Established in early 2007 Ruggerbugs has grown from one class in 2007 to 33 classes in 11 centres, and growing, with over 500 children across Herts, Essex and Kent every weekend.



The Ruggerbugs 'Head Start' programme assists with a child's foundation stage development and centres on developing basic motor skills through running, jumping, throwing and catching games. Social interaction is also a key concept giving young children confidence, and self-esteem. The newly launched Sidney Skills Awards give parents a unique opportunity to track their child's development as they move through the programme and, along with the fantastic class sticker collection, each child receives

a colourful certificate for every stage completed. Ruggerbugs also has fantastic associations with all the local rugby clubs to ensure that children can move into mini/junior rugby with ease.

For further information about forthcoming classes in Stansted, availability, or to reserve a space call 08456 432462 or email info@ruggerbugs.co.uk. Alternatively, for more information visit www.ruggerbugs.co.uk or contact Mandy Fitchett at Spangles on 812348.

Andy Peasey

BURGLARY AWARENESS

It was wonderful to see our local PC on foot patrol at 11.30pm in our road recently. Unfortunately he had bad news for me. Apparently there have been several burglaries at the new Forest Hall Road development on both the Croudace and Taylor Wimpey sides. Although I feel extremely safe here, meeting PC Osborn made me realise I need to be a lot more vigilant. So please keep your valuables safe and your car keys well hidden and report any unusual activity you may see.

A resident of Felstead Crescent

BRIDGE THE GAP – CHARITY WALK

The 10th annual walk, giving everyone the opportunity to stroll through parts of Cambridge colleges that are not normally seen, takes place on Sunday 11th September starting at 9.30am from Jesus Green, Cambridge. Entrance for the 16s and under is free but they do need to be accompanied by an adult, 17s and over £15 (£10 if registering before 31st August). Register online at www.bridgethegapwalk.org or contact The Cambridge Building Society on 01223 723115.

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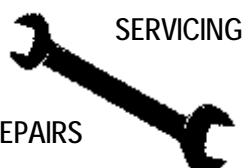
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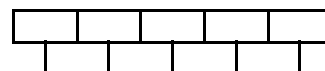


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Year 9 Trip to Belgium

If you drove past MMCC at 5.15am on 17th June you would have seen 46 students gathering for a long but exciting history lesson: the Year 9 trip to the World War One battlefields and cemeteries of Ypres in Belgium. During the day we visited the Hyde Park Memorial and the grave of Albert French who died aged just 16, only two years older than our Year 9 students. A visit to Hill 62 gave them an experience of the horrors of the trench system, and the largest allied cemetery in the world, Tyne Cot was where one of our students found her great, great uncle's name on the wall. We held a short service of remembrance, followed by the last post and students laid wooden crosses. We also visited the German cemetery at Langemark where 44,000 German soldiers lie. At the stunning Menin Gate one of the girls located her great, great grandfather's



name, as her brother had done in 2009. No visit to Ypres would be complete without a visit to the chocolate shop! Peter, the shop owner, is always **very** pleased to see us, and even sends us a Christmas card! This trip never fails to move me. It helps our students understand and truly appreciate what soldiers, some not much older than themselves, gave for their country. All 46 students were a credit to themselves, their families, our College and the community of Stansted.

Mrs M Smith
Head of Humanities

Business Breakfast Meeting

On 5th July, the College held its second Business Breakfast Meeting of the year. This was organised through the MMCC Trust Fund Committee and aimed to highlight the growing need for partnership working between education and employers in relation to preparing young people for the world of work. Over a dozen businesses were represented and many ideas were discussed. One such idea was to offer students an interview in a real life business setting rather than on the 'home turf' of the College site. Several businesses signed up for this and will offer their premises and the staff to conduct these interviews in the Autumn term. We look forward to working on more ideas with local employers and would encourage anyone interested in supporting this partnership to get in touch.

Ms C Anderson
Headteacher

Community Day

Students in Years 7-9 took part in MMCC's first Community Day. The youngsters threw themselves into a huge variety of activities, including performing songs, poetry and stories at pre-school groups, repairing wickets at the local cricket club,

litter-picking in the village, refurbishing the College wild-life garden. Many local people praised their efforts, including mothers of pre-school toddlers who were especially impressed with two boys who were exceptionally good with the children, and Gerard Frogley, Stansted's litter collector, said "The student litter-pickers did an excellent job and were a credit to the community". If anyone has suggestions of activities for next year, please contact me.

Mr P Smith
Deputy Headteacher

Healthy Schools Week

The College held its inaugural Healthy Schools Week between 4th and 8th July. Students worked in the community taking part in a number of workshops based around the four areas of Healthy Schools: emotional wellbeing; healthy eating; physical activity; and personal social and health education. The launch event involved all staff and students running or walking a mile together. The students participated enthusiastically in all the workshops and learned a great deal about some new aspects of health education.



Mr S Balaam
Assistant Headteacher

Spanish Day

On Tuesday 5th July, as part of its Community Day, MMCC welcomed 160 Year 5 students and staff from local Primary Schools to a day of activities with a Spanish theme. The Year 5 students learnt how to make tapas, dance some flamenco steps and perform their own version of 'Habanera' from Bizet's 'Carmen'; they learnt how to ask for food and drink in a café, numbers, a Spanish clapping game and about the geography of Spain; they sang a Spanish song and designed menus with great creativity. A group of enthusiastic Year 9 students joined in the community spirit by helping with the preparations for the day, acting as guides, playing games with small groups of students and supporting them through the various activities. This was much appreciated: Feedback from Primary School colleagues was extremely positive: 'The children really enjoyed themselves and were keen to share the different things they found out about Spain and the new skills they learnt.'

Miss S Foster
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

Forthcoming events

Open Morning Tuesday 20th September 9.15am-11.00am. Drop in for an informal tour of the College, no appointment required. Open Evening follows between 6.00pm and 9.00pm.

Prize Evening Thursday 29th September 7.30pm by invitation only.

PTA Boot Sale 25th September from 11.00am – 2.00pm
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One of the highlights of the summer term has been our Music Week. The children tried out a wide selection of instruments from classical orchestra to hand bells to rock band, and listened to music of all types both inside and outside throughout the week. We had a concert from the Classic Buskers, made our own instruments, composed music using IT and performed for parents at the end of the week.



The summer term is always particularly full of events, with Sports Day, class visits, Open Afternoon and a variety of



concerts. Apple class turned chicken farmers for a while! They incubated eggs and hatched nine baby chicks. This was very exciting for the class and also everyone else – visitors to the school included! There was a group of interested people in the classroom at every opportunity.

If you are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school, please give us a ring on 812212 to arrange a visit. You can also visit our website.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher



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The summer holidays are now in full swing and if you are looking for ideas and inspiration on how to keep your children occupied over the next six weeks, your local NCT have organised a myriad of events for children of all ages. Have a look below at our additional activities. At Tea and Toys on 5th August at 10.00am in St John's Church Hall, we have Bishop's Stortford based portrait photographer Yvonne Lorraine who will be taking photos of children for those parents who are interested. There is no obligation to buy. This event is always very popular, so NCT members will

have priority when booking a slot with Yvonne. Fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates? Why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings, which are informal gatherings held in members' homes? Each age group is individually tailored for: Bumps and Babes, Toddlers and Pre-school. We would love to meet you and it is a great way to make new friends.

Additional events for members and non-members please contact me for details.

For all ages – Monday 1st August Recreation Ground, Stansted 10.00am for Playground Fun

For all ages – Wednesday 3rd August Discovery Centre, 10.00am meet at the car park entrance

For all Pre-schoolers and Pregnant Mums – Friday 5th August Tea and Toys with Yvonne Lorraine 10.00am St John's Church Hall

For all ages - Tuesday 9th August 10.00am – Fruit Picking at Cammas Farm

For all ages – Wednesday 17th August Trip to Van Hage's, meet by the entrance

All ages – Thursday 25th August 1.15pm Ugley Teddy Bears Picnic contact Jane 812180 for details

These activities are weather dependent; please call to confirm.

Anna Sedgbeer
Tel: 812257



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

The weather continues to shine upon us for which we are very grateful. Two of our recent Club Cup Matches - Cawkell Cup and Bert Grub Memorial have now taken place - Dave Hunt won the Cawkell Cup, Del Sharp (our illustrious captain!) and Dave Hunt (again!) won the Bert Grub Memorial. Other Club Cup Matches for your diary are Charles Wilson Cup – Friday 22nd July at 6.00pm and Emerson Cup - Saturday 10th September at 2.30pm.

North West Essex Competitions are continuing; we have Del Sharp, Stephen Hill and John Scraggs still in the singles so good luck to all of them.

Our green is looking wonderful; so many thanks go to Tony and Dave Hunt for all their hard work, not forgetting all the other club members who give up time to help voluntarily. Once again we invite you to come along and try your hand at bowling any Friday evening at 6.30pm you will be made most welcome. More good news - our Secretary, Ed Taub, will be taking back the reins after his recent spell of ill health, and we are looking forward to welcoming him back.

Doreen Scraggs

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SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



July is not a particularly good time for looking at the night sky; complete darkness lasts barely two hours and at a very inconvenient time. Yet we are going to talk about telescopes.

Any telescope can be used to see more of the sky but an astronomical telescope is different because the image is upside down and for a very good reason. To make the image the right way up you have to insert another lens. Lenses are essential but each lens absorbs some of the light going through it and when you are looking at stars and planets there is very little light to capture. Using an astronomical telescope does take some getting used to. Looking at a star through a telescope can be disappointing to start with as the star still looks just like a dot and that is because the stars are so distant (the third closest star is around 53 million million miles away and the two closer stars are so dim you need a telescope to see them). But the stars will be much brighter and you will be able to see stars that are invisible without a telescope; which highlights one of the two functions of a telescope. Not only does a telescope magnify but it gathers more light. The bigger the objective lens (the big one at the front) the brighter the image.

Ah, you may be thinking, 'How much?' Well not too much to start with anyway. Buying secondhand is usually very good because a decent telescope is usually well looked after. But if you are going for brand new, then various retailers, mainly photographic shops and catalogue shops, will sell you a remarkably good telescope for around £150. As with many things, the more you pay the more you get, and with astronomy you can go up to several thousand pounds. But even those who do go the whole hog have usually started fairly small and fairly cheap. But when you can float across the Moon: see her mountains and planes, the rocky architecture, the 'Terminator', which is the line where the Moon goes from light to dark, and see the rings of Saturn and the colours of Jupiter and up to four of Jupiter's many Moons, the phases of Venus, the nebulae, patches of light which are multi-coloured clouds of gas millions of light years in volume, you will be entranced ... and probably cold. Crisp, cold nights are the menu of the astronomy addict.

Martin West



Fly parking is always worse in the summer months and if you're experiencing problems you should report them to the airport's fly parking hotline on 0800 731 2385 with as much information as you can. You may also want to contact your ward councillor and/or the enforcement team at the district council too – good local intelligence and evidence is very helpful in supporting enforcement action which can be a slow process at the best of times.

Carol Barbone
Campaign Director
Tel: 07775 523091

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CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

For a little treat this summer, let the children make this easy cheesecake for you!

Easy Strawberry Cheesecake – Serves 6

Ingredients

125g digestive biscuits
50g butter melted
400g soft cheese
240ml double cream
Seeds of one vanilla pod / few drops extract
75g icing sugar
100g strawberries plus extra for decoration

Method

Put biscuits in a plastic bag and crush to crumbs using a rolling pin. Tip into a bowl and add melted butter. Mix thoroughly and then tip them into a 20cm spring-form tin and press down firmly. Chill for 1hr in fridge to set. Whip cream lightly. Add soft cheese, icing sugar and vanilla and mix until combined.

Chop strawberries into small pieces and add to mixture. Pour mixture onto chilled base and smooth top with the back of a spoon or spatula.

Chill until set and decorate with strawberries.

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



Nature Notes

Scanty scientific knowledge need not prevent any of us from being fascinated by an ever-changing Nature. Random observations of our local bird population are an example. What is it that has reduced our owl, flycatcher and warbler numbers? Why are there numerous house sparrows in some parts of Stansted, and almost none only 200 yards away? We seem to have fewer swifts and martins, but more raptors like sparrowhawks and buzzards. Is there a connection? We are all aware of whole armadas of pigeons but not so apparent are fewer thrushes and finches. Conversely, increasing urbanisation seems to have boosted rather than reduced the sightings of fallow and muntjac deer and badgers, while foxes are almost commonplace; voles are scarce (hence the owl shortage) and stoats are seen less frequently despite a too-healthy rabbit population.

Maybe your observations are different again, especially if you contribute to one of the wildlife surveys. In some cases the reasons are identifiable but in others they are not, and that can stimulate our curiosity. I am intrigued by much larger numbers of bee flies, those bee-like hovering insects suggesting a miniature humming bird with a long proboscis. They give an almost exotic atmosphere to the garden.

What have you noticed? It would be good to have one month's Nature Notes given over to readers' sightings. I believe that our understanding Editor would facilitate this, so please respond and do not be afraid of seeming too trivial.

Derek Honour
Tel: 647213

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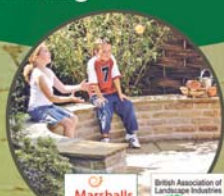
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