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Windmill Fête in
2012 by Mike Dyer

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The Link is delivered free to over 3000 homes and businesses in Stansted Mountfitchet. Further copies may be purchased for £1 each or £10.00 for the year, plus postage.

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

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

EDITORIAL



Producing the Link each month is very much a team effort relying on the dedication and hard work of everyone, including our contributors. Fresh faces and ideas are essential to sustain any successful community magazine and we welcome four residents who have recently volunteered their help; Paul who has joined our distribution team, Anna and Helen assisting on the editorial side and Sean who has offered his photographic skills. Aren't we lucky to have so many people in our community willing to volunteer and get involved?

The success of May's St John's Fête and July's Summer Fayre in Station Road (see pages 19 and 22) shows how local people support Stansted events, and hopefully this month's Windmill Fête will enjoy similar success – and similar good weather. Seeing the scope of activities and events listed each month in The Link it's no wonder so many families want to move into Stansted. Unfortunately, lots more people necessitate lots more housing which threatens the 'village feel' that attracted those people in the first place. It's up to us to make our views known regarding the current planning proposals for housing developments, to ensure Stansted remains the place we want to live in.

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

DISCLAIMER Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of the editorial committee, nor is any culpability accepted for work undertaken by advertisers.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I recently heard a radio report of an elderly woman whose home insurance had rocketed to more than £800 a year. Meanwhile new customers were being quoted about £200 for a comparable policy. A spokesperson for the insurance industry commented that, of course, the woman could 'shop around' for a better deal. This almost seemed to be saying it was her fault that as a loyal, long-standing customer she was paying four times more than a completely new customer. Choice is the great prophet in our consumer society. Interest-free deals to switch credit cards and unsolicited invitations to move from one energy provider to another are just a couple of ways people can exercise choice to get the best deal. Except what real choice is there when the best deal soon evaporates in the small print and you have to move on to the next credit card or energy provider to keep ahead?

The multiplicity of choices facing people betrays a fiercely competitive culture where the less well-off inevitably end up paying more if they are unwilling or unable to play the 'choose and change' game. Choice is clearly desirable but when it is predicated on treating people unfairly it is really no choice at all. Choice should be liberating but for many it is a straitjacket fashioned by huge corporations. If you can't make time to chase the deal, you pay. And where's the choice in that?



Jonathan Morrell
Stansted Quaker Meeting

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Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



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

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

Preachers for August

4th 10.30am Julie Finbow - New Directions
11th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble - Communion
18th 10.30am Denis Walker
25th 10.30am Don McGregor

Doug Bunting

We are sorry to announce the death of Doug Bunting on 5th July, aged 86. Doug, along with his wife, Maisie, and children, Geoff and Margaret, attended the church regularly from the 60s until Doug and Maisie moved to Cornwall in the late 80s. Doug is remembered with much affection, and was well known in the village through working at the family greengrocers in Lower Street.

The Place on the Hill

Our drop-in every Wednesday 9.30am-12.30pm is proving so popular, with new visitors arriving every week, that we are planning to also open on Fridays from September. See elsewhere in The Link for more details. All are welcome.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

From the Registers

June

Baptism
30th Arthur Eric John Herbert

Wedding
29th Nathaniel Frogley and Laura Wood

There were no funerals in June

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

In the latter years of the 19th century the parish embarked on the unusual project of repairing the dilapidated Parish Church of St Mary, and also building a new church in the centre of the village. The Pulteney family (better known for the bridge of their name in Bath) who then occupied Hargrave House, provided most of the money and the site. Work began in 1887 and was largely completed in 1889 with the tower following in 1895. W D Caroe was chosen as architect, largely due to his work on Truro Cathedral and locally the old Wood House together with designs for Croft House stables. The church is built of red brick from Birchanger brickworks, and Bath stone. The design owes much to the Arts and Craft movement with copious pinnacles, gargoyles and decoration.



The east window of 1902 shows the Crucifixion with side panels of St Alban and St Augustine, whilst the Lady Chapel window depicting Our Lady and those at the foot of the Cross was installed in 1929. The reredos displays fine carving and the gasoliers, now used as stands for flower arrangements, are typically ornate. By contrast the present lighting and chairs are modern and functional.

The font was Caroe's final contribution in 1904. The then revolutionary under-floor heating system still works well but requires forethought to ensure that warmth is there when required. In 1989, following the transfer of St Mary's Church to what is now the Churches Conservation Trust, St John's became the Parish Church for Stansted Mountfitchet.



From the 1970s onwards the church has required progressive renovation so that fundraising has become almost an everyday practice. These years have seen appeals, concerts and dances as part of church life and so brought up to date the medieval concept of the church building being a centre for the village. 'Music at Stansted' and an annual jazz evening have their home at St John's, while its Memorial Garden (thankfully maintained by the Parish Council) has provided passive recreation for everyone. The Garden itself had its disused cross-path removed in the 60s and a major face-lift at the beginning of this century. This year saw a May Fair, and it is, of course, the focus for Remembrance Day in November.

The church still has its original Gern organ but the cost of repair has led to its replacement by an electronic model. The choir, which now has a Junior section, is well-directed and has enjoyed recent recruitment; and the Tiny Tots are also strong.

St John's was the victim of lead thieves in 2012, so aggravating its financial position. The roof has been the subject of dire warnings by the Diocesan Architect for at least 30 years; the 130 year-old timber appears sound but the same cannot be said of the tiles. Wood-block flooring is another candidate for renewal. Nevertheless the PCC meets its challenges with visitors and worshippers alike being welcomed.

Derek Honour

Photos: Mike Howes



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

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

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

Church Hall Bookings: Susie Ball
Tel or text: 07972 373994
Email: stjohns.hallbookings@gmail.com

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer

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

Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the June draws:

£100 No 139 - Alan Corbishley
£ 50 No 117 - Anna Skingle
£ 25 No 133 - Laura Higley

Look out for the results next month of the draws for July carried out on Sunday 28th July as these will include the first of the year's extra draws of £200! The draws for August will be held on Sunday 25th August in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. Numbers are still available for anyone who may wish to join at a cost of £2 per month per number. Please contact me for an application form if you would like to be in with a chance of winning whilst helping to support the work of St John's Church.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562



The grand sum of £17,707.55 was the amount given by the residents of Stansted in Christian Aid Week. Thank you to the collectors, the Scouts and everyone who filled an envelope to support the communities helped by Christian Aid around the world. The focus this year was on the issue of hunger. It is a sad fact that one in eight people still go to bed hungry. The more positive news is that it is preventable. Christian Aid has joined with many other charities and organisations in the **IF Campaign** – its full title 'Enough food for everyone – IF'. The aim of the campaign is to encourage changes, which would lead to the eradication of hunger. One of these changes would be for large corporations to pay their fair share of tax, a subject which has had wide coverage here. It is even more vital in developing countries where the money due could be used to improve the lives of the poorest people. For more information on the campaign and to find out what the other 'ifs' are log on to www.christianaid.org.uk.

Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579



FAMILY FUN DAY

The event is on Tuesday 6th August at Audley End Miniature Railway from 11.00am-5.00pm, and will be hosted by the Hon Mrs Amanda Murray, Patron of Homestart Uttlesford. Entry is free, although normal train fares and fairy walk fees will apply. Cakes, gifts, jewellery and beauty products will be on sale, and along with the traditional fete games including tombola, there will be a US Army laser game and an intriguingly entitled 'Call the Midwife' obstacle race featuring Heidi Thomas! For the children there is to be a bouncy castle together with swing boats and roundabouts, plus children's circuit challenge, face painting and the Buffy Bus along with the new Sensory Bus. Carver Barracks Royal Engineers will also be at what promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable day. For more details please telephone 01799 542134 or visit www.Audley-End-Railway.co.uk



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Models in the Pews

Once again on Saturday 31st August in St Mary's Church, the Moorhen Model Boat Club will be taking advantage of an opportunity to exhibit their radio controlled model boats - from a Soviet Kiev class aircraft carrier to fishing boats. On show from other clubs will also be cars, aeroplanes, tanks, and the very popular lorries. The owners of the lorries will be completing demonstrations during the day. This year, we are hoping to add train layouts to the exhibition. As well as the exhibition, there will be a patchwork craft stall, tombola, and during the day you can purchase tea, coffee, a soft drink and a homemade cake or two!



In the last two years the exhibition has been successful in bringing the hobby to the people of this area, and also benefiting the church building as all donated funds go to the Friends of St Mary's, in aid of St Mary's Church. The Moorhen Model Boat Club also benefits as the Club gets increased exposure for itself which is no bad thing whilst raising funds for a good local cause. The Moorhen Model Boat Club is based in Harlow and sails in the marina of the same name on the outskirts of Harlow.



Do come along and support this event; the exhibition runs from 11.00am until 5.00pm on Saturday 31st August. Entry by donation. The exhibition is for one day only, with normal service (a pun there) being resumed on the Sunday. For more information please contact me.

Sally Argent
Secretary
Tel: 812418



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Lower Street Car Park
Saturdays 9 am - 3 pm

3rd, 17th & 31st Aug
14th & 28th Sep
12th & 26th Oct



Stansted Windmill
Open 1.30 - 5.30 pm
Sun 4th Aug
Sun 25th Aug

St Mary's Church open for teas

2 - 5 pm
Sun 4th Aug



St Mary's Church also open daily

Stansted & District NCT

Tea and Toys Teddy Bears' Picnic
Friday 2nd August
St John's Church Hall
10 - 11.30 am
Bring your favourite teddy or doll along!



Fun on the Recreation Ground
Monday 5th August
10 am
For all ages



VILLAGE EVENTS

August

2	Fri	NCT Teddy Bears' Picnic	St John's Hall 10 - 11.30 am
3	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
4	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
		St Mary's Church Open	2 - 5 pm
5	Mon	NCT Fun Morning	Recreation Ground 10 am
6	Tues	Homestart Family Fun Day	Audley End 11 am - 5 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
7/14/21/28	Wed	Wildlife Wednesdays	Hatfield Forest 11 am - 3pm
8	Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.45 pm
10	Sat	Bouncy Picnic	Recreation Ground 1 - 4 pm
11	Sun	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
14	Wed	Afternoon Tea	Windmill 2 - 4 pm
15	Thu	U3A Open Meeting	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
17	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
		Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
18	Sun	Pirate Challenge	Easton Lodge noon - 6 pm
23	Fri - 25	Sun Charity Event	Social Club various times
24	Sat	Lib Dem Cheese & Wine	45 Oziers, Elsenham 7 pm
25	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
26	Mon	Windmill Open & Fête	2 - 5 pm
30	Fri	Fish and Chip Friday	Day Centre 12.30 pm
31	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
		Models in the Pews	St Mary's Church 11 am - 5 pm



Family Fun Day

11 am - 5 pm Tue 6th Aug

at Audley End Miniature Railway

Face Painting ~ Games ~ Bouncy Castle
Swing Boats ~ Roundabouts
US Army Laser Game ~ Buffy Bus
Obstacle Race ~ Tombola

Entry FREE
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HATFIELD FOREST



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for children of all ages

7th Climb Trees & Build Dens
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www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfieldforest



Friends of St Mary's Church

Models in the Pews

Radio Controlled

Boats ~ Tanks ~ Cars ~ Lorries
Planes ~ Trains

11 am - 5 pm Sat 31st Aug

Entry by donation

Patchwork Craft Stall ~ Tombola
Refreshments ~ Everyone Welcome



Stansted Windmill

AFTERNOON TEA

2 - 4 pm Wed 14th Aug

~ ~ ~ ~

ANNUAL FÊTE

2 - 5 pm B Hol Mon 26th Aug

Teddy Parachute Jumping
Stalls ~ Refreshments
Pony Rides

All welcome to both events



Stansted Family Café

Bouncy Picnic

1 - 4 pm Sat 10th Aug

Recreation Ground

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FREE Hot Dogs

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Dr Sylvester Martens

If that clue means anything to you, we needed you at the Dog & Duck Quiz in aid of St Clare Hospice on 20th June! A packed pub was challenged by some great questions and puzzles and over £80 was raised on the night – thanks must go, once again, to landlord Griff and his staff for their continued support of the Hospice and to quizmaster Sarah. The answer is, by the way, 'Puss in Boots' – think about it! Thanks, too, to local funeral directors, DC Poulton, who are kindly acting as a collection point for donations of raffle prizes to St Clare Hospice. I have a wonderful selection of wines, smellies and jewellery which will make fantastic prizes at a range of future events – thank you to everyone who donated them. Poultons is also a drop-off point in our new recycling campaign and they have one of our big, orange boxes in their window – you can't miss it! We would love you to have a rummage around at home and to donate any old, foreign coins or banknotes, any broken watches, clocks or jewellery and any stamps. Simply pop into Poultons and drop your items into the box and they will be recycled to raise valuable cash for the Hospice.

And, finally, a huge thank you to the extended Corr family for their wonderful Family Fun Day which was held on 29th June in memory of Ann Corr and in aid of the Hospice. The magnificent sum of £12,500 was raised. It was a fantastic day with lots of entertainment for children and adults alike through until 10.30 in the evening – and the weather was kind! We really do appreciate the enormous amount of organisation and work that



went into making the event such an amazing success – congratulations and thank you again to all involved!

Our 'new look' Starlight Walk in Bishop's Stortford was launched on 11th July so do sign up to join us! Early registration may qualify for a discount! The event will be held on Saturday 21st September and will start from Sworders Field at 4.30pm. This year there will be a new one mile family walk as well as the five mile walk through the town. There will be entertainment and refreshments on Sworders Field, so we are keeping our fingers crossed for fine weather and a really fun family event, raising as much as we can for St Clare Hospice – come along and be a 'Stortford Star' for the evening!



Sarah Calder
Community Fundraiser
Tel: 07528 520016

Email: sarah.calder@stclarehospice.org.uk

SAD NEWS

Douglas Bunting, a well known ex resident of Stansted passed away peacefully on 5th July. Many will remember Doug, his wife Maisie and children Geoff and Maggie. A more detailed tribute will follow in due course.

Dick Pollard

Ten years after her death at the age of 105, the Stansted Quaker Meeting Room was packed with people who wished to remember this remarkable and much-loved local figure. A resident of Ugley all her life, Nancy never married and never had paid employment. Far from the quiet, parochial existence this might suggest, unshackled by the normal duties which bind most of us, she travelled widely, was active in the Women's Institute at national level and pursued her interests in music and gardening to levels of national recognition. This last activity was undertaken in partnership with the love of her life, Humphrey Waterfield. All these aspects of her life were explored during a fascinating morning, led by Nancy's great-niece, Margaret Birley. Margaret started by telling us about Nancy's first memories of hearing the church bells ring in Hoddesdon to celebrate the end of the Boer War. She then painted a vivid picture of her great aunt by relating stories of Nancy's extraordinary life, interspersed with selected readings from Nancy's own written accounts of her life, including the family's holiday spent rowing along the Seine before the First World War; her meeting with Hitler, and the time when she danced with the man who killed Rasputin in a night club in Vienna! Margaret had to pause from time to time to wait for the laughter in the room to subside, and periodically gave way to her own amusement, particularly at Nancy's own sharply observed accounts of various events.

We then listened to extracts of a recorded interview with Nancy a couple of years before she died. It was wonderful to hear Nancy's thoughts and stories in her own voice. She spoke a lot about the gardens and Humphrey. She spoke of her Victorian aunts' (brought up in an age of chaperones) disapproval of her running around with a young man. Nancy also spoke of Humphrey's work during World War II in the Friends' Ambulance Unit, and although he did not actually become a Quaker, this was the means by which Nancy was introduced to Quakerism. She also spoke of Humphrey's tragically early death as a result of a car crash and how she thought she would never recover. Margaret then related the touching story of how Nancy had kept Humphrey's artist's palette in her bedroom, and when she died, the family put it in her coffin and buried it with her. The final portion of the morning was spent by members of the audience giving their own recollections of Nancy. It was delightful and thought-provoking, and all present felt temporarily transported back into Nancy's world. The general feeling was that Nancy had valued each individual she came across, showing unending interest in other people, and was able to create a welcoming atmosphere in her home and garden, a relaxing oasis. Everyone remembered it as being always warm and sunny at The Chace which was clearly a metaphor for Nancy's success as a hostess. We are very grateful to Margaret for returning to the area where her family lived to speak about a much loved member of our Meeting and of the communities of Ugley and Stansted.

Jane Mitchell
Stansted Quakers

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SUMMER EXPEDITIONS OF THE JUNIOR PLANT HUNTERS

Backpack? Check. Map? Check. Magnifying glass? Check. Binoculars? Check. Passport? No! There's no need to go anywhere near an airport, because intrepid young explorers can discover plants from all over the world in the Botanic Garden. And, with the support of Microsoft Research Ltd, each week this August we will be launching a new plant-spotting activity trail to inspire young Darwins on their summer holidays.



The four trails all reveal just how many weird and wonderful stories plants have to tell. *Be a Bee* comes first: spot all sorts of different bees on the flowers they love best in the Rose Garden and Bee Borders, but also can your mini Darwins observe bees collecting up propolis from pine trees, which they use as a glue to patch up the hive, or perhaps the nibbled notches from the soft furry leaves of lamb's ear, which carder bumble bees like to use to line their homes made in old mouse nests! The following week we say PAH! and look at the interactions between Plants, Animals and Humans. On a journey through the Glasshouse Range, look out for the 'shrew loo'. This tropical pitcher plant lures shrews with a rich nectar source to perch above the pitcher which they use as toilet, thus supplying the plant with essential nutrients! And did you know that the female poison arrow frog climbs high into the rainforest canopy and plops her tadpoles into the protected paddling pools of water collecting in the base of bromeliad plants? In the third week, young explorers can rate the superpowers of plants in the Garden from most poisonous to most explosive and play plant battle cards.

Finally, collect up a plant passport and travel the globe in the Garden, collecting stamps and finding out just how far some of these plants have travelled to get here. On the way, try to spot the names of some famous explorers commemorated in the plant names. The mountain flax that has come 11,630 miles from New Zealand is called *Phormium cookianum*, named after Captain James Cook who mapped the islands on his first voyage (1768-71). Who knows how far a journey around the Botanic Garden might take you this summer! Swap over day is Friday, with new trails coming out on 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd August and supplied in totally overhauled backpacks kitted out with everything a budding naturalist might need, which are available to borrow free of charge from the ticket offices.

The Cambridge University Botanic Garden is open 10.00am-6.00pm April-September. Admission is £4.50, Giftaid admission £4.95 or join the Friends, get free admission and help the Garden grow! For news and events, detailed information about the Garden or to discover this week's Plant Picks from the Head of Horticulture, please visit the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk.

Juliet Day
Development Officer



HATFIELD FOREST SNIPPETS

Hooray, we finally have some well-deserved hot sunshine at Hatfield Forest. With Andy Murray winning Wimbledon and temperatures soaring it's like someone has flipped a switch to summer. Our visitors have been bringing picnics, taking out rowing boats, hiring push bikes, dog walking and enjoying many other recreational activities. Have a think about what you like to do here - we have lots of different types of visitor at Hatfield Forest and they all come for different reasons. Some seek tranquillity and relaxation, some visit for health reasons, some want to explore, families want to picnic, couples come for lunch and kids want to play. We are lucky to have such a vast area to accommodate you all. If you want to explore different areas of the Forest let us know and we can recommend new walks or show you where our marked trails are. We also have our new multimedia app which you can hire for free from the shop (driving licence required as ID) to help you explore further and get more out of your visit. Don't forget we also have the new '50 things to do before you are 11¾' scrapbook available from the Forest Shop. Please make sure that when you are exploring you shut all gates behind you as we have recently had a couple of incidents; one where the herds and bulls have mixed and the other where 30 cows came through into the lake area which resulted in a full evacuation. When walking past cattle please make sure your dog is on a lead and you walk through calmly.

Coming up at the Forest we have our Bookworm Book Sale from 27th July-4th August. We are once again collecting good quality second-hand books, so if you have any please bring them to the lake area or to the main estate office. I am also looking to borrow some bookcases, so if you have one you could loan us for book week, please contact me. - it would be much appreciated. Also in August we will have the Company of St Joseph's recreating their medieval village on 3rd and 4th, and we will be running Wildlife Wednesdays every Wednesday through August from 11.00am-3.00pm. We hope you are enjoying the sunshine and look forward to seeing you all at the Forest soon.

Hannah Morrice
Visitor Experience
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The noticeboards that I mentioned last month are now in place. It has taken time but the boards are of high quality, a good size and should last many years. I note a few questions regarding their use so I thought it worth stating the official guidelines provided by the Parish Council – “The boards are for displaying Parish Council notices along with those for local organisations to publicise their events. They are not for commercial use”. Recently I have found myself having to dodge the overgrowing branches, bushes and brambles walking down Church Road so I have mailed the Parish Council to see if they can ask the Uttlesford Highway Rangers to cut the foliage back here and in a few other areas around Foresthall Park.

On the social side, a few Foresthall Park residents continue to play mixed tag rugby (along with a number of others from the village) on The Rec every Thursday evening through summer. If you fancy joining us then please get in touch - it's very social and normally ends with a drink in the pub. As you can see in the photo below (courtesy of Tudor Owen) most of us are walking so it's not overly strenuous!



We also thought we'd take part in another pub quiz evening. If you fancy joining me and a few other residents on the evening of 25th July (if you read this in time) for a quiz at The Cock then please let me know. If you would like to promote any other (not for profit) social activities for Foresthall Park residents then I would be happy to put something on our website.

Stephen Berry (Chairman)
Tel: 647652
Email: s.berry@mac.com

BOUNCY PICNIC ON THE REC

Last year's picnic with inflatables was very popular and once again all Stansted families are most welcome. This year's event will be held on the Recreation Ground on **Saturday 10th August** from 1.00pm-4.00pm. Bring your own picnic and enjoy free inflatables (for under-12s) and hotdogs. Please remember there is no parking at the Rec so either plan to arrive on foot or park in Crafton Green car park and walk through Spencer Close. Organised by Stansted Family Cafe/Stansted Family Church. For more details contact me.

Ros Page
Tel: 810813

By the time you read this, the Huw Johnson Club will be on its summer break until September. The last few weeks have been busy; we had a games evening, playing everything from dominoes to table football, and our now termly curling championship. Our Sports Evening, kindly hosted by the Lentons in Burton End, was a bit damp, thanks to the wonderful British summer weather, but we managed an indoors version, with activities including hoopla, bean-bag throwing and practising our ball skills ... Rio 2016 here we come! We also had a treasure hunt, based in and around St John's Church Hall, which saw members and helpers alike searching out flowers, drawing pictures and counting lamp-posts; and our annual BBQ and disco at St Mary's School in Foresthall Park, thanks to the Embletons. Although we won't have Club evenings over the next few weeks, we are planning a trip to the theatre to see the Buddy Holly Story at the Harlow Playhouse at the end of August which we are all looking forward to. We are already planning our programme for the next term starting in September.

We also have a request for your support. The Huw Johnson Club has been chosen as a recipient of Bishop's Stortford Waitrose's Community Matters scheme. So, if you are in Waitrose in Stortford over August, please support us and donate any green tokens you get given at the checkout to the Club, to help fund our general running costs and so that we can get planning on our Christmas pantomime trip. Thank you and we will let you know how we do! If you want to learn more about Club or would like to come along, do get in contact with either Sandra (812627) or myself.

Katharine Collis
Tel: 461270



18th August – Public Open Day and Pirate Challenge

This month, as well as the usual attraction of this beautiful garden, there will be something extra to keep our younger visitors occupied during the school holidays; a Pirate Challenge. Would-be buccaneers can make their way around the gardens solving the puzzles that will let them claim their treasure from the Pirate King! All the other delights of the gardens will be there for our less adventurous visitors to enjoy in the (we hope) sunshine. Entry: adults £3.50, children free. For all main season open days gates open from 12.00 noon-6.00pm (last entry 5.00pm). There will be two complimentary guided tours (usually at 1.00pm and 3.00pm) giving some of the history of these fascinating gardens. Bacon rolls will be on sale at lunchtime. Hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes and cream teas will be available all afternoon until 5.30pm or when they run out! There will be a selection of craft and nature activities for younger visitors each week. More details on www.eastonlodge.co.uk or email enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk.

Helen Carter
Trust Administrator
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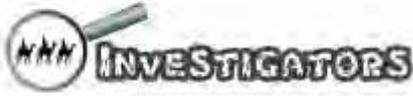
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ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

Investigators is a new group for children starting in September on Fridays from 6.15pm-7.45pm, based at the Free Church Hall. Investigators sessions will include a regular mix of games, activities, bible stories and lots of different topics from the local area and across the world - but above all it will be ... FUN! All leaders are members of local churches and are CRB/DBS-checked, experienced in working with children, and trained in best practice. The group is aimed at 7-10 year olds but there will be some flexibility over the age-range, particularly for younger siblings, as long as they are of school age and confident enough to mix with a group which is predominantly 7-10 years old. Activities on a given week might include anything from craft/art projects to drama or music, exploring the natural world, or practical challenges such as working out how to design and build something from paper and card to fulfil a particular function. There will be opportunities to 'quiz a visitor' once a month – perhaps someone with an unusual job, or who has been on an exciting trip or done something unusual which is of interest to children. To register your child/children for a place in the first session on Friday 13th September please contact me. There is no cost for attending but limited places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis in advance of the first session (to enable us to plan good adult/child ratios), and then any further children will be placed on a waiting list until more spaces become available. Why not contact us during August (preferably by email) to secure your child's place and receive dates and further info?

Ros Page
On behalf of the Investigators Team
Tel: 810813
Email: rospage@music@yahoo.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

August is a busy month for the Windmill. We are open on Sunday 4th August 1.30pm-5.30pm and then on Wednesday 14th August from 2.00pm-4.00pm when we are having afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome and we will serve tea, coffee and cakes etc at a cost of £1.50 per person. Entrance will be free for anyone wishing to look around the Mill although we would appreciate any donation they feel happy to make in our 'Donations Bottle'. Then follows our Bank Holiday openings on Sunday 25th August 1.30pm-5.30pm and our annual Windmill Fête on Bank Holiday Monday 26th August 2.00pm-5.00pm. There will be the usual stalls plus some new attractions and lots of things for the children, including pony rides and teddy parachute jumping from his new hoist designed and made by Terry Clark. Everyone is welcome and we do hope you will come along and support our Ancient Monument. If anyone has any bric-à-brac they would like to donate for the Fête please contact me. We very much look forward to seeing you all during August.

Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768

During a hectic final month of the Rotary year we learnt about the fantastic work done by the Portland Children's Contact Centre which provides a welcoming, neutral and safe environment where children of separated families can enjoy contact with one or both parents and often other family members. We marked the recognition of the local foodbank when Mione Goldspink, who co-ordinates the work, welcomed local MP, Mark Prisk, to the distribution centre at the Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church. We were acquainted with the Pupil Premium by Philippa Roy-Chowdhury, Head Teacher at Thorn Grove Primary School, Bishop's Stortford but, more importantly, given an insight into the challenges of running a primary school in today's pressured society with staff (particularly the Head) feeling that that they have spent almost as much time on social issues as on education and the curriculum. Today increasing numbers of pupils are coming to school with poor communication skills, reflecting home environments where parents are pressured, in middle class as well as deprived families. Then we were shown by Averil Leimon, a clinical psychologist, how we could come to believe we had the potential to do better, to be better, and that more positive attitudes would benefit all aspects of our lives.

However, for David Scott's final evening of his two-year presidency of our Club, we relaxed at a stylish and convivial evening at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, with a particular focus on enjoying and informing on good food and wine. Sue Fishpool, from the Lemon Tree, guided our discernment through the tasting of a selection of foods to the accompanying wines and a beer, but she frequently emphasised that food and drink are for enjoyment and if an unconventional combination suits you, you should savour it and never



be afraid to reject received convention. In the picture, with wife Dottie, President David is in very relaxed mode discussing a point with Sue Fishpool.

Rotary provides the opportunity to enjoy convivial activity whilst supporting a range of good causes and anyone wishing to be involved with our new look club please contact me or visit our website www.stortvalleyrotary.com. We meet on Tuesday evenings at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford.

Peter Latham
Tel: 507294

A DAY OUT IN BURNHAM-on-CROUCH

My family hasn't lived in Essex for very long and Burnham-on-Crouch was suggested as a place worth a visit. A chance, I told Sam (who, being a teenager, would always prefer mates and the cyber world over any day out with me), to 'find out more about the county we're living in now'. Tom Dyckhoff in *The Guardian* visited in January 2010 and described the town as: "... a smudgy watercolour, half-solid, half-liquid, all salt marsh and sky ... a Dickensian lucky dip of white (Essex weatherboard) cottages, Georgian bay-windowed inns and Victorian terraces." Out on its own on the Dengie Peninsula, he didn't hold out much hope ... should the floods come. I will be honest; smudgy watercolour is not really Sam's thing. Like most teenagers, he's probably more a Clacton sort of boy (amusement arcades, fairgrounds, multiple burger outlets and KFCs). I wasn't hopeful that 'views over the River Crouch to the Wallasea Island Wildlife Reserve' would be enough to get him through the front door. But the sun was shining so I thought I'd try.



The River Crouch

A quick visit to www.burnham.org.uk persuaded me that there would be plenty going on to pass a pleasant afternoon. There were three Yacht Clubs (the Royal Corinthian, the Royal Burnham and the Crouch), two RNLI launches, an Essex Police Marine Unit, sailing clubs, a ferry, a small beach and, if we were really lucky, seals. Yes, an important breeding population of grey seal can be found at the mouth of the River Crouch estuary.

Getting There

It got better; Burnham-on-Crouch is less than an hour's drive away, SE of Chelmsford. Also, much of the parking in the town is free. We took sandwiches but there were many pubs and cafes selling good food, particularly along the Quay, where you can sit outside and watch the sailboats bobble past.

Things to Do

We hadn't planned anything in advance but it is possible to hire dinghies, book fishing trips, river cruises and even charter a yacht. You're also supposed to book the ferry by phone or at www.burnhamferry.co.uk. Explaining that I hadn't booked, Jon Scott, one of the brothers who run the service, offered to take us across the river anyway. It wasn't

cheap (£14 for two return journeys lasting around ten minutes or so) but it was well worth it and the same journey by car would take over an hour.



Wallasea Island (and Floods?)

The Other Side turned out to be Essex Marina, which had a bar with a terrace looking back over the river to Burnham. It was lovely. We walked for half an hour towards the sea although the raised pathways were overgrown and not easily navigated; you're better off on the water. On the way back I asked Jon Skipper if Burnham had ever flooded, and he said not in the 30 years he'd lived there. I also asked him if there was much 'wild swimming' in the River. But he explained that with the strong tidal currents it wasn't advisable. The water, being an estuary, was better suited to cultivating oysters than swimming.

Burnham Week Regatta

The big thing for kids, apparently, is crab fishing. Sam knew about dangling bacon on a string to catch crabs, and learnt from Jon Skipper that there would be a competition on Quay Day, 26th August; the first Monday in Burnham Regatta Week, which everyone's welcome to join in.



It was late afternoon when we left. Sam is pleased to report that the chicken and chips from the Burnham Grill was excellent. My home-made vanilla ice cream cone from The Cabin was amazing and we will definitely be visiting again; hopefully for the Regatta.

Emilia Pound

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Stansted Cricket Club

After ten weeks of the season the 1st XI stand 6th in Div 1 with five wins. The 2nd XI are 7th in Div 5 with four wins. The Sunday XI have had two wins, two defeats and two draws from six matches. In Round 2 of the Cup we defeated Langley by eight wickets to reach the semi-final, where we lost to Hockerill.

Home fixtures for August are:

Sat 3 rd	1330	2 nd XI v Ilford Catholics II
Sun 4 th	1400	Sun XI v Great Chesterford
Sat 10 th	1330	1 st XI v Farnham I
Sun 11 th	1400	Sun XI v Snitterfield
Sat 17 th	1330	2 nd XI v North Weald
Sun 18 th	1400	Sun XI v Hockerill II
Sat 24 th	1330	1 st XI v Hockerill I
Sat 31 st	1330	2 nd XI v Stansted Hall & Elsenham II

Recent outstanding individual performances have come from J Monk (105 no), B Baker (103), M Allen (85), C Kirby (84 no, 61), K.Thivakar (80), D Ayres (56), B Sammons (53 no), and S Peachey (51). Best bowling returns have come from J Baker (6-60). 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 me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.

David Hedge
Hon. Secretary
Tel: 812509



The Place is becoming so popular that we have decided to also open on Friday mornings, starting on 6th September. All the usual attractions will be on offer - comfy sofas and armchairs, Fairtrade ground coffee or one of our selection of teas and soft drinks, light refreshments and fresh fruit. Also good company, WiFi internet, computers, a place to 'chill out' and escape the telephone, somewhere for the kids to play, books to read and borrow. However, we are also offering Art for All (adults and children) on the first Friday of each month 10.00am-noon, and Story Time on the third Friday of each month at 10.00am and 11.00am.

The Place is open from 9.30am-2.30pm on both days, so why not come along to the foyer of the Free Church? No need to bring your purse, everything is free of charge. A warm welcome awaits you at *The Place on the Hill*. For more details please contact the Free Church Team: Marion and Mike 814059, Fran 812748, Catherine 813579 or Betty 813977. We look forward to seeing you.

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THE CRAFTON ROOM

www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk

It is with great pleasure that I write this month, as we are currently preparing for three days of events to include our customers, the wider community and of course our marvelous volunteers in celebrating 30 years of the Stansted Day and Community Centre. By the time you are reading this, the celebration will be past and I am sure I will report the happenings in September's issue of The Link, but for now I would like to share with you a little about the past.

Opened in 1983, the construction of the Day Centre was made possible by the huge contribution made by Mrs Rita Humphreys, the then Chairman of the Parish Council, and I am sure many of you remember Brenda Scarr who offered over 20 years of leadership and voluntary service to the cause; I am sure you will agree this is an outstanding commitment. I have also been lucky enough to have spent some time with Mrs Jane Sell who has also been involved with the centre for the whole 30 years - many years as a volunteer, and now as one of our lovely customers. Jane has fascinating scrap books covering the complete history, charting the ups and also the downs of the fantastic place. Looking at old photos showing Christmas lunches with 80 guests, and many other happy social occasions, I realised how many of our customers have played their part volunteering over the years. It is a privilege to be organising the events of this weekend and the sense of support and community is still as strong as ever. Without fantastic volunteers, customers, and committee rallying around, cooking literally hundreds of scones, providing transport, baking cakes, donating items for raffles and tombolas, tending the garden, manning stalls and all the work that goes on in the background, none of this would be possible. I would particularly like to thank the five students from MMCC who worked so hard on their community day in June to paint our shed and create a herb garden for us. So let's celebrate and say "Cheers - here's to the last 30 years and looking forward to the next 30, long may the Day Centre be at the heart of the village and the community."

If you would like to join us please call in, see our website or phone for more details, and don't forget our increasingly popular Fish and Chip Lunch will next be held on Friday 30th August. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Julie Beck
Centre Manager
Tel: 815091



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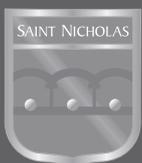
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GUESS WHO I AM

I was born in Brighton and lived in Hove until I was five years old when my father, who worked in a bank, was sent to London and we moved to Wanstead E12. I went to school in Wanstead up to the age of 16 having had a thoroughly enjoyable time but left 'without troubling the scorers' as the saying goes!

My first job, which lasted for 22 years, was with British Telecom. This included seven years in an underground telephone exchange in London where we had provisions to stay down there for three months if things had got nuclear! Leaving home in my early twenties I moved to North London where I gained a blue judo belt, along with my house mates, and we got ourselves in to the Guinness Book of Records for a 24 hour judo session. I also, just once, jumped out of an aeroplane and floated gently and safely to the ground; although I landed on the runway, with aircraft waiting to take off.

My wife and I moved to Stansted 25 years ago, and we have two children. I love music; either listening to it on my very good Hi Fi, singing 30s songs or occasionally church music. I like a good pint ... or two and I have been known to run a quiz night.

Claim To Fame: I once had my own radio programme for a small station in Harlow. Guess who I am!

Answer below



Next season's programme of concerts, which all take place in St John's Church, has now been confirmed and is one of the most exciting for some years:

Saturday 19th October The Alborni String Quartet who inaugurated the Club at the first concert in 1996!

Sunday 15th December Cambridge Chorale make a return visit

Sunday 26th January Louise Alder soprano and John Paul Ekins piano

Saturday 22nd March Kammerphilharmonie Europa - an absolute coup! This famous chamber orchestra, founded in Cologne, is comprised of talented young musicians from 18 European countries and will be on tour in the UK at the time.

Subscriptions are now invited for membership for the whole season. Door prices for all four concerts total £58, but membership is now available for £38 (concessions £36). To join or re-join, please send a cheque payable to Music at Stansted, together with a note of your name(s), address, telephone number, and email address (this really helps us to keep you informed throughout the season) and a stamped addressed envelope for the return of your membership card, to: The Membership Secretary, c/o 25 Chantry Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2SD. Check out our website www.musicatstansted.com for general information or if you have a specific enquiry please email us on info@musicatstansted.com.

Alan Corbishley
Tel: 816318



GROVE COTTAGE NURSERY

Appeal Update

Since my last update, we have had some truly fantastic news. Essex County Council has awarded our nursery a grant of £30k. This has removed any immediate threat of closure and allows our fundraising to get well under way to avoid closure in the future. This was possible due to support from local MP, Sir Alan Haslehurst. Thank you! Our Vintage Tea Party was a wonderful success. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket, baked cakes, helped on the day or had a stall – we couldn't have done it without you! I'm delighted to say we raised around £1000 for our nursery! Fifty guests enjoyed afternoon tea in the glorious grounds of Debden Antiques. Everyone was thoroughly entertained by brilliant local band JJ & The Swordfish, whilst they enjoyed sandwiches, cakes, scones, loose leaf tea and sparkling wine. Lots of guests really got into the spirit of the event, dressing in their best vintage finery.



Photo by Rebecca Callaghan Photography

Guests were also able to get some Hollywood glamour with 'siren lips and eye flicks' courtesy of Nicci Jackson, professional make-up artist. Rebecca Callaghan provided professional photography of the event and there was a wonderful vintage market, selling everything from restored furniture to handmade children's clothes and vintage china. We have been asked by lots of people to do the event again next year, so if you want to see how much fun it was and come along, please like our Facebook page www.facebook.com/grovecottagevintageteaparty.

Claire Cook
Tel: 814782

Who is 'resting' this month?
Martin West of Skywatch fame,
GUESS WHO I AM ANSWER



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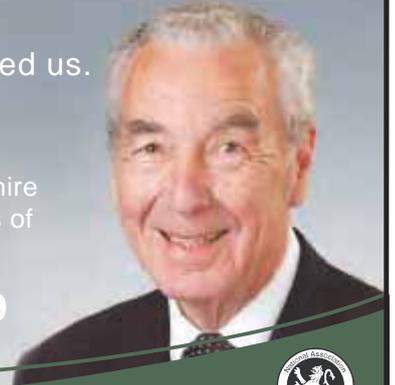
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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Various sites are, or have been, the subject of planning applications by developers, so here is an update on the Parish Council's current position.

1 Bentfield Green (Taylor Wimpey)

We fought and we won. See Dist Cllr Alan Dean's article for a detailed report, but our thanks and congratulations to the hundreds of people who objected to this planning application.

2 Elms Farm (Gemmill Bros Ltd and Knight Developments)

As mooted last month, Gemmill Brothers Ltd are working up a revised planning application for this site which is supported by the Parish Council for reasons already explained. The number of houses proposed will be reduced by 5 to 53, and there will be none along the Church Road boundary of the site. We hope that the special circumstances of this site will result in approval by the planning committee at Uttlesford.

3 Walpole Farm (Bloor Homes and Martin Grant Homes)

The planning application for approx. 160 dwellings, 600m² B1 commercial floorspace, 0.45ha for educational uses, 7 allotments, paddock, community woodland area and associated works has been submitted to, and verified by, Uttlesford District Council.

Whilst the Parish Council has not yet studied the detail of the application, nor submitted our formal comments, it is our policy to object to any development on this site in the open countryside. It seems to us that, apart from the Conservation Area issue, the reasons given for the refusal of the Taylor Wimpey application apply to this site also.

We would urge ALL parishioners, if they share our views, to submit objections to the planning department at the earliest opportunity. Whilst the closing date for on-line comments was Friday 19 July, you can still send e-mails to planning@uttlesford.gov.uk, quoting reference number UTT/13/1618/OP - land at Walpole Farm, Cambridge Road, Stansted. Comments submitted via e-mail or letter will be accepted until the application goes to committee, we believe in September.

4 Land at Pines Hill (Pines Hill Consortium)

Known locally as the old Christmas tree site, south of The Old Bell, members have attended a site visit with the prospective developers, but no formal planning application has yet been submitted.

STANSTED BUSINESSES SUPPORT SUMMER

FAYRE

The inaugural Stansted Summer Fayre was held on Saturday 6th July in Station Road and the weather was very kind to the crowds who turned up to support the event organised jointly by Councillor Iris Evans of the Uttlesford District Council, by the Parish Council, and by the newly established Stansted Business Forum (SBF), which was set up in early 2013 to give a formal voice to businesses based in and around Stansted and to provide them with support to improve trade in the village and surrounding areas.

There were over 50 stalls representing a wide range of local businesses and community groups including Arts & Crafts; Travel Agents; Stationery; Restaurants; Food & Beverages; Schools; Church; Health; Sports Clubs, Stansted Fire Crew and many more. The Scouts provided a BBQ and entertainment was on offer from the Master of Ceremonies and DJ Tim Bass, plus singer Ben "Jammin" Smith and the Saffron Walden Capoeira dance group.

Thanks go to all who took part in the event and also to the Parish Council, Councillor Evans, the Stansted Business Forum and to the staff at Murdochs Solicitors and Property Shop, whose support helped to raise the profile of local businesses and made it a fun day for all. See page 22 for photographs.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

As sure as night follows day, the Christmas Fayre will follow the Summer Fayre! Over the next month or so we shall be contacting some of the stall-holders from last year, along with those at the Summer Fayre who expressed an interest, and sending out the booking forms.

We have ordered some Christmas lights for the lamp posts on Lower Street and Station Road. This should add to the Christmas spirit generally and give the local businesses and the Fayre a boost too.

We have sourced some Gluhwein mugsin Germany! We are planning to have them printed with Stansted Mountfitchet Christmas Fayre 2013, but will also be buying some that are without the date. A non alcoholic gluhwein will also be available and if you do not want to purchase a mug you can have your "wein" in a Christmassy disposable cup!

The Stansted WI are organising this year's table decoration and best mince pie competitions and you will be able to enter from the November edition of the Link, where you will find an entry form.

Tim Atkinson is beavering away at getting a range of performers for inside the hospitality tent and outside when the Steam Organ is resting. We are hoping to get sponsorship to produce a free programme of events for this year to include adverts promoting local businesses and this will go to every household in Stansted. The interest in having a stall in the main marquee is continuing to grow and there looks to be a really good variety this year.

Thank you to Lino Thomas for their donation towards setting up, it is greatly appreciated. Any ideas or offers of help will be warmly received, contact us at the Parish Council Office on 813214 or e-mail parishcouncil@stansted.net.

UTTLESFORD'S HIGHWAY RANGERS

Thank you to everyone who contacted us having read about the Rangers last month. We have now submitted a lengthy list of jobs to be undertaken around the village. Please do keep us informed if you find any more.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

The 4th of July was a red letter day for Stansted. The planning application by Taylor Wimpey for 140 (or more) homes adjacent to Bentfield Green was **REFUSED** by Uttlesford's planning committee by seven votes to one.

Never has there been such elation from a massive delegation of residents from Stansted who attended the planning meeting. Eleven of us spoke and appealed to the committee to refuse the application. The delegation of speakers against were three District Councillors, one County Councillor, four Parish Councillors, two other residents of Stansted and a professional planner representing the Save Stansted Village Group.

It was an impressive display of unity because the speakers were supported by many other people from Stansted who helped to fill up the public gallery.

The committee had a recommendation from the Council's planning officers to APPROVE the application. The primary argument put forward by the planners was that the council does not have a proper plan in place and can't demonstrate it has sufficient land planned for housing growth over the next five years; so, said the planners, under national planning guidance the application should be approved.

In many different ways all speakers said that this attitude was wrong; that it was flawed logic. I made the point that sports facilities at the same location were rejected by a planning inspector at an appeal in 2009 because of damage to the Bentfield Green conservation area and the surrounding countryside; so how much worse damage would be caused by the same sports complex PLUS 140 (or more) houses.

The grounds on which the application was refused were [i] maintenance of existing development limits, [ii] protection of the countryside, [iii] protection of the conservation area and [iv] protection of agricultural land.

The 4th of July was the day a battle was won. It is not the end of what many people have called the Siege of Stansted. At the end of July we will be fighting to keep Cambridge Road as an employment and service area by trying to stop yet another 14-home planning application on the former London & Stansted You're Furnished site. In September, the Bloor Homes application at Walpole Farm will come before the planning committee. So, there will not be much relaxation this summer for the council, its councillors and the people of Stansted, I am afraid.

Cllr Alan Dean

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are no meetings during August

4 September	Open Spaces
11 September	Full Council

CONTACT DETAILS

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Margaret Ambrose	814675 maggielincoln@aol.com
Maureen Caton (Vice Chairman)	813914 m.caton@hotmail.co.uk
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Catherine Dean	813579 catherinemarydean@btinternet.com
Samantha Dunn	810859 samanthadunn@talktalk.net
Jo Freeman	812524 j.freeman195@yahoo.com
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489 john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk

Peter Jones	813252 peter@lowerstreet.com
Denise Oliver	814335 denise@olivers.uk.com.
Frances Richards	812748 frannie.richards@gmail.com
John Salmon	814789 sam@salmonfamily.me.uk
John Savopoulos	817687 johnsav8@gmail.com
Geoffrey Sell (Chairman)	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
Valerie Trundle	813433 prtvt@btinternet.com

Uttlesford District Council Members

Alan Dean	813579 cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk
Iris Evans	815848 cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Salmon	814789 cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk
Joe Rich	813112 cllrrich@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding	813103 cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk
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Member of Parliament

The Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
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 alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk

Police - PC Tom Bastendorff
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Neighbourhood Watch
 www.stanstednhw.org.uk

Parish Public Transport Representatives

Valerie Trundle	-	813433
Joy Thomas	-	813871

STANSTED SUMMER FAYRE



See pages 19 & 20
for a full report



There were over 50 stalls
representing a wide range of
local businesses and
community groups.

Thank you to all who
supported, helped and
donated.



A reminder that the 2013
Christmas Fayre is on 7th and
8th December. If you have any
thoughts or comments about
last year's Fayre please email
the organisers on
parishcouncil@stansted.net or
write to the Council Offices.



Photographs by Lyndon Mcneil and Judy Colliver

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

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Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	Rainbow Tots (age 1½-rising 3)	Tina South Tel: 814371
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
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Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	U3A	Christine Chair Tel: 817587
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Inner Wheel Club	Lynn Rutt, President Tel: 654537	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 01371 873156/ 07920 466923
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: info@musicatstansted.com		
NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		
Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Contact: Kathy West Tel: 816293 Email: kewest@btinternet.com		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in 'The Link', please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk or send the details to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG. Details must be submitted by the 11th of the month for publication the following month.



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STANSTED NCT

With the Summer holidays upon us we have a calendar of events aimed at children of all ages, **please remember that all our activities are open for members and non-members**, the more the merrier! Below is a full list of events that we have planned with coffee mornings also running as normal throughout August. Due to weather changes please call me to confirm timings of our events or check updates on our Facebook page. Picnic lunches are also a good idea to bring along if the sun is shining. Our tea and toys event has a teddy bear picnic theme with biscuits and squash for the children; ensure your children bring with them their favourite teddy or doll to take part in the picnic fun. Other highlights in our event calendar are the wonderful Discovery Centre at Great Notley, if you have not visited, this is a must but please bring along a bucket and spade for the large sand pit and change of clothes as if hot, I am sure the water play will attract the children! Audley End is also a wonderful place for the children with the railway and a fairy walk available for extra costs.

During the month of July we have had a couple of wonderful events including paddling pool fun, with the main attraction being the sun! Yvonne Lorraine also took some wonderful portrait shots of our NCT children at our monthly tea and toys, they are a gorgeous bunch! We would love to listen to any suggestions you may have for our autumn calendar of events, please contact us and send your ideas as we want to put on events that children of all ages will enjoy. Have you liked our Facebook page? All our events are updated on this site for our members with information about local events or classes relevant for mums to be, babies and pre-schoolers. Our coffee mornings are an informal gathering held in a member's house, so if you fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates why not pop along. We would love to meet you and it is a great way of making new friends. Monday mornings are for toddlers from walking till three years and Wednesday mornings are for pregnant bumps and babies up to walking age. Contact me for further details of our weekly events.

Additional events being held this month:

Friday 2nd August 10-11.30am St Johns Church Hall For all pre-schoolers – Teddy Bears Picnic themed Tea and Toys

Monday 5th August from 10.00am For all ages – Fun in the Recreation Ground at Stansted

Wednesday 7th August 10.00am For all ages – Hatfield Forest walk, meet at the first car park with bikes or scooters

Thursday 15th August from 8.00pm For all parents and carers – social branch meeting, call for location details

Friday 16th August For all ages – Audley End Miniature Railway, Audley End. Meet in the car park 1.00pm

Tuesday 20th August For all ages - Discovery Centre Great Notley, meet at the café at 10.30am, take swimmers or change of clothes if hot

Wednesday 28th August For all ages – Van Hage at Great Amwell, meet at the reception area from 10.00am

Anna Sedgbeer
Tel: 812257



MOUNTFITCHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



It's Official: The Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College Is a 'Good' School!

MMCC received a visit from an Ofsted inspection team for two days during June. As ever, the days were intense, with all teachers being observed, interviews with staff and students, observations of social interaction (including a focus on behaviour), visits to assemblies and scrutiny of an immense amount of data. It has been well known for a long time that the ethos at MMCC is one of positivity and encouragement for all. However, sometimes there is some confusion as to what makes a good school and matching the national league tables is not always the most appropriate method to use. The journey that each individual child makes, coupled with the opportunities and challenges offered to them both inside and outside the classroom, are what gives a child the potential to succeed. Ofsted have confirmed that the experiences a child has at MMCC are good. They recognise that the school has made significant strides in the past three years and clearly feel that the journey can and will continue until the school is judged to be outstanding: an expectation identified by the present Headteacher, Catherine Anderson, back in September 2010.



"The headteacher and senior staff have led a transformation at this school ... they have reversed the trend of previous poor performance by relentlessly checking that the standard of teaching and students' learning remains high. As a result, the school has improved rapidly." All staff, students, parents and carers are deservedly proud of their achievements and are ready to enter the next phase of the journey. With the change in name to Forest Hall School in September, the scene is set for Stansted Mountfitchet to have a school which every parent or carer wants to send their child to.

Victoria Owen
Student & Community Administrator
Tel: 813384



**STANSTED & DISTRICT
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

Wine and Cheese Evening

Saturday 24th August 7.00pm at 45 Oziers, Elsenham CM22 6LS. Wine, cheese and raffle! More information and tickets priced £10 from Rory Gleeson on 07849 131934.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I would like to thank Anna Nolan for a very interesting account of the history of the land on which Old Bell Close is now built (see July edition of The Link). However, I can only assume that Anna lives in one of the cul-de-sacs mentioned in the article as she states that this is a 'safe thoroughfare'. As I live on the main thoroughfare I have to say that unfortunately this is not safe and completely unsuitable for the amount and type of traffic that it carries. There are three blind bends within 150 yards of each other, all on an incline. HGVs and courier vans usually need to mount the pavement to negotiate these bends which they often do at speed, and the road is frequently referred to as a 'rat run' with many vehicles travelling on the wrong side of the road. We also have the nervy motorists who insist on sounding their horn on approaching the bends, and sections of the road are inaccessible for three/four days at a time during icy weather.

I have witnessed numerous near misses and at least two accidents all on the bends and due to speed. These views are shared by some of my neighbours whose properties are also situated facing the road.

PS

Apologies!

The 'safe thoroughfare' mentioned in my article should have read 'safer thoroughfare' for cars trying to exit onto Silver Street (as opposed to the dangerous exit from Stoney Common next to the Old Bell). I agree with PS that the 'rat run' does cause problems for residents which need to be addressed by the relevant authorities.

Anna Nolan

STANSTED SUPERS HANDBALL CLUB

We are currently on our summer break but will be back in action in September and are looking for new male and female members. Come and try the sport that took the Olympics by storm and join the only village handball team in the UK! For more information check out **Stansted Supers Handball Team** on Facebook, or call Olly Pocknell on 07875 391701. Training takes place at the Romeera Leisure Centre on Saturday mornings from 10.00am-11.00am.

Alison Bell

LAST MONTH IN THE NEWS ...

We read that 15 year old Stansted high jumper Laura Armorgie has been selected for England; Stansted dad Paul Chambers is driving the 10,000 mile Mongol Rally for Cry and Cool Earth; 'Stansted's Answer to Glastonbury' – MITP was a sell-out and you can meet your local Fire Fighters on Saturday 7th September in Chapel Hill.

Source: Herts and Essex Observer

SAVE STANSTED VILLAGE (SSV)

Taylor Wimpey (Bentfield Green)

Thanks to an overwhelming campaign and an unprecedented number of objections since the proposed airport expansion, the UDC Planning Committee voted 7-1 against Taylor Wimpey's proposal at Bentfield Green. Many thanks to all the 835 people who wrote and objected, the 1056 people who signed the petition, all who attended the site visit and the Planning Committee and everyone else who helped in any way. It is likely that Taylor Wimpey will appeal the decision but we will cross that bridge when we come to it. Meanwhile we face the next challenge:

Bloor Homes and Martin Grant Homes (Walpole Farm)

This application for 160 houses and other elements went live with UDC on 20th June. The deadline for online consultation comments will have passed when you read this but we urge you to **continue to make your opinions known to UDC by email or letter**. It is not clear as we write whether this application will be considered at the 31st July Planning Committee or at a later date. What is clear is that this application would open up the entire area bounded by Pennington Lane, the B1383 and Rainsford Road to potential future development – an area larger than the Foresthall development!

Donations – please keep the funds coming

Further donations of any amount, large or small, are vital to cover the costs of our campaign to protect our village from inappropriate, unsustainable large scale housing developments. Cheques to 'Save Stansted Village' can be sent to the Parish Council address below or to 20 Bentfield Green. Thank you once again for all your continued support, both moral and financial.

Email: bentfieldgreen@hotmail.com
Post: SSV Campaign, c/o Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AE
Telephone: 813214
Facebook: www.facebook.com/savebentfieldgreen
Website: www.savestanstedvillage.co.uk

Simon Thompson

FLY TIPPING

One day in June, whilst enjoying a walk along Pennington Lane, one of our protected lanes, I came across this rubbish.



Just along the road was another lot, both with lots of smashed glass. If you see any fly tipping, please let our Parish Council know and take the registration number of the vehicle, and any other information which will help the police identify the culprits and prosecute them.

Ray Woodcock

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STANSTED SPARKS NETBALL TEAM

The many benefits of playing netball

If you are looking for a quick way to boost health and fitness levels but hate the gym, local netball team Stansted Sparks will show you the many benefits of playing netball and invite new players to come along and try out a new sport. No matter what your ability or fitness levels, netball provides an exciting opportunity to have lots of fun and get fit. Many of the team are back-to-netballers and local mums who haven't played since school; so as well as, and perhaps more importantly than, the obvious physical benefits, netball is a great way to build team skills, meet new people and increase your confidence (and social calendar!) and unlike going to the gym, you will receive loads of support and encouragement from the rest of your teammates. Through regular training and matches, you will find that netball helps build your upper body strength, leg muscles and improve your cardiovascular system.



It also helps to:

- Reduce stress levels
- Burn calories and lower body fat (if played regularly)
- Improve upper body strength, working key arm muscles
- Improve hand-eye co-ordination, with precision passing and shooting
- Tone leg muscles and increase your core strength and stamina (due to netball's mixture of brief bursts of sprinting and longer jogging)
- Firm up bottoms and develop your cardiovascular
- Improve the body's flexibility and nimbleness, as it requires quick changes of direction and speed

Stansted Sparks are sponsored by local airplane repair and refurbishment specialists IMT Aviation and Great Dunmow hairdressers Hunters Hair. They train on Wednesdays 7.30pm at Leventhorpe. Contact me for further information.

Gemma Snelling
Secretary

Tel: 07894 944242

Email: gemmasnelling@me.com

BRIAN TREMLETT



Happy 80th Birthday Brian! With love from all your family and friends in Stansted. Brian moved to the village 15 years ago. He first lived in Cannons Mead and last year moved to Norman Court. He regularly attends the Day Centre and the coffee mornings at Norman Court and is well known and loved in the village.



**STANSTED
BOWLING
CLUB**

Herts & Essex Senior League: Good support for all fixtures.

Ladies' Friendlies: Great to see Ann and Lynda taking part and enjoying our Thursday Friendly Ladies' games.

Ladies' Monday Night League: Most competitive games taking place.

Mens' North West Essex League : Continuing to fulfil all fixtures.

Weekend Friendlies: Close games most weekends.

Cawkell Cup: This was won by Stephen, with a very close second and third place, well done to you all.

Stansted Summer Fayre: We were glad to participate with a stall in Station Road, many thanks to Yvonne, Stella and Pat for helping.

As this goes to press we have the Charles Wilson Cup on Friday 19th July, followed by a BBQ hosted by Stephen. July is a very busy month plus the first two weeks in August with lots of home games; if you would like to come and see bowlers in action you would be made more than welcome. We are pleased to report that work has now started on Stansted Bowling Club car park, with funding made available from Uttlesford Jubilee Fund and also Viridor Credits Environmental Company. This has been a long time coming but will greatly enhance our facility.

Doreen Scraggs

Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178

Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net

CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Chicken Pasta Salad

Try this salad as a delicious alternative to sandwiches in your picnics this summer.

Ingredients

- 100g pasta shapes
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1 baby gem lettuce
- 1 carrot
- 1 tomato
- ¼ cucumber
- 100g cooked chicken
- 2 tbsp low fat mayonnaise
- Handful of chopped coriander (optional)



Method

Cook pasta as per packet instructions. Drain, drizzle with olive oil and leave to cool. Meanwhile shred the lettuce (children can tear the leaves), grate the carrot, and chop the tomato and cucumber into small pieces. Put these into a bowl and mix with the cooled pasta. Chop up the chicken and add, along with the mayonnaise, stirring well. Add the coriander if desired. Enjoy!

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

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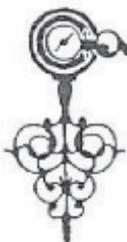
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Stansted Tennis Club



STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



President's Cup Tournament

This took place on 30th June. Twelve players competed in the two group round-robin stage. In the semi-finals Joe Hollis and Daphne Lunnon beat Rick Lim and Sue Simpson 6-1 and Matt Hollis and Lisa King defeated Chris Hollis and Felicity Shakespeare 6-2. In the final, Joe and Daphne proved too strong for Matt and Lisa, winning 6-2. A delicious ploughman's lunch was enjoyed by the players. The photo shows Daphne and Joe with their trophy.



Ladies' Nights

Monday 12th August from 7.00pm - all lady members are very welcome to come along and join in!

Date for your diary Sunday 18th August at 2.00pm Wilby Adult Doubles Tournament.

Stansted in Bloom



The Tennis Club has entered this year's village competition. Thanks to Sarah Hollis, a new flowerbed has been created behind the Clubhouse, which is now coming into bloom. Sarah has also nurtured several colourful hanging baskets. Please feel free to come into the Tennis Club garden to see the flowers at their peak!

Club Tournament

A reminder that the quarter finals need to be played by 11th August. Please come and support this year's Finals Day, which will be held on Sunday 8th September.

Coaching

Please contact me or Martyn Taplin on 816386 (Monday night adult coaching session). I currently have the following vacancies:

Mondays 4.30pm-5.45pm - ages 13-16 (girls)

Thursdays 4.30pm-5.00pm - ages 9-11 (1 place)

Used tennis balls £1 per tube of four from Jan Hollis 812073.

Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions:

Wednesday from 9.00am and 6.00pm

Friday from 9.30am. Sunday from 10.00am

Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574, Catherine Hodgen (Membership Secretary) 656151. Website: www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk.

Chris Hollis
Tel: 319155

Our booked speaker for June was unable to come, so instead of hearing about teapots and teacups, we were drawn into the realms of teaching with Brian Carline and his 'Amusing Account of Life in our Schools'. Brian finished his 37 years of teaching as an Assistant Head in an Essex School - he wisely didn't say which one! Early in his career he appeared on 'New Faces' in a double act, which although they came last in front of 18 million viewers, encouraged him to teach by day and be funny at night for a while. Some of the humour from the daytime job must have crept into his Act. He confessed that he actually never did any teacher training and was accepted for his first post on the strength of his degree and a willingness to take cycle proficiency classes. He taught 1st to upper 6th years, stressing that the trick was to keep one step ahead of your pupils. One of his stories that I liked was his attempt to make a small girl feel more relaxed by saying "What a lovely name, I don't hear that often", to which she replied "Well I do!" One of his first forays into WI speaking was at an afternoon WI in Manchester where he was disconcerted to find ladies walking out at regular intervals during the whole talk. He asked afterwards if he had been that bad. "Oh no" was the reply "we have the chiropodist in today and they like their feet done!" Asked if he missed the job, he said he did, especially the primary schools at Christmas time. He finished by reminding us that we always remember our good teachers; we also remember good speakers and Brian Carline was one.

In July we visited 1 Myddylton Place in Saffron Walden, which has been renovated by the current owners, and enjoyed a conducted tour and cream tea. Our first meeting in the Day Centre in June attracted a lot of visitors who we hope will continue to come and bring their friends! The August Meeting is on 8th at 7.45pm in the Day Centre, and is entitled 'I had a Dream' by Lyn Croot, who learnt to scuba dive in Tobago and is also interested in conservation.



Judy Colliver
President

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET SOCIAL CLUB

We are holding a charity event on 23rd-25th August at the Social Club in aid of the air ambulance and the local cubs and scouts. We would like to welcome all members of the village, including non-members, to come in and help us raise money for these worthwhile causes. We will be holding lots of entertainment over the weekend and we will also be celebrating the Club's 125th anniversary. We begin with overnight charity darts from 7.30pm on Friday 23rd until 8.00am on Saturday 24th; evening entertainment from 7.30 pm on Saturday 24th; and a singer from 4.00-7.00pm on Sunday 25th.

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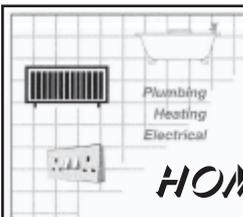
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494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

Hello from 494! Another few months have passed up here on the business park and we are still making great strides forward with the activities the cadets are up to as well as helping and supporting the local community. In June, cadets and staff went up to the Elsenham fete and helped out with the car parking, ensuring that all of the visitors to the day were parked safe and sound, and on 3rd July we went and helped out with Race for Life at North Weald. Well done to all! The aviation side of activities has been in full swing, with cadets and staff getting the opportunity to go to Southend Airport and visit the Vulcan. They spent the morning clambering inside the aircraft and then managed to watch a few fly past by the RAF for Trooping the Colour.



On 27th June we enrolled four new Junior cadets onto the Squadron, so Cadets Leeman, Howard, Hubbard and Wescomb have joined Tornado Flight. Let's hope they take every opportunity which is available to them!



Armed Forces Day was celebrated in Bishop's Stortford on 28th July but unfortunately we were not involved this time! The 1096 (Bishop's Stortford) Squadron and the marching band of 309 (Sawbridgeworth) Squadron were there and represented not only the ATC very well but were also a fantastic footprint for the Royal Air Force as a whole. Next year we will definitely be there! With the cadets on the road to finishing school, the summer programme is starting to grind its way into action, with summer camps, overseas camp and outdoor activities all on the cards. Watch this space for more updates! If you would like any information about joining the Air Training Corps, joining 494 as either a cadet, a member of staff or as a member of our Civilian Welfare Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the Squadron on 681559 and leave a message on the answerphone or email oc.494@aircadets.org.

Flt Lt Gemma Martin RAFVR(T)
Commanding Officer

It is the last few weeks of the summer term and we would like to wish all our 'older' group children success and happiness at the next stage of their educational career. Everyone has been enjoying the good weather playing outside in the shade of our 'big' umbrella with a water chute to send balls down and a 'canal' to float boats along. We held a craft morning during May half term and everyone who came had a great time and we would like to thank **Millway** for their generous donation of crafty bits and pieces. We had a stall at the village Summer Fayre, weather was great and there was a great buzz. Thank you to everyone that spent money with us and to **Steve Golding** for supplying us with a fabulous fruit hamper for our summer raffle. All monies raised are going towards a 'mud kitchen', which we hope will be installed over the summer holidays ready for September. Sadly, we have to say farewell to Lindsey Green who has been one of our staunch volunteer helpers for over 10 years. We will all miss her.



Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising five. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website (www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk) for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young to ensure a place. Places for September 2013 and 2014 are filling up fast!

Gill Pursglove
Administrator
Tel: 814 242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Shirley Perkins, a member of NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) was the speaker and demonstrator at our recent meeting. In the space of just 45 minutes she not only managed to create four beautiful, very different flower arrangements from her box full of floral goodies which included pink roses, aspidistra leaves, ferns, gerberas, alstroemerias, carnations, chrysanthemums and gypsophilla paniculata, otherwise known as 'baby's breath' - but also entertained us with anecdotes about her training to become a NAFAS demonstrator. One was not allowed to 'pop' flowers in - one had to 'place' flowers in position, and female demonstrators were advised to wear bright red lipstick as this was an aid for those in the audience who lip-read. The four beautiful arrangements that appeared before our eyes like magic were given to our raffle and much enjoyed by the lucky winners. Our very enjoyable afternoon ended with some delicious homemade cake and a good cup of tea.

Other highlights on the horizon include a talk on Victorian and 20th century needlework in September, a talk on Fair Trade in October, a musical afternoon with Woodwind of Bishop's Stortford in November, and to round off the year, a magical afternoon with Peter Gardini of the Magic Circle in December. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in Ugley Village Hall. **Note:** Our August meeting will be held at the home of our President, Mrs Dorothy Wallace, Bycullah Poultry Farm, Old Mead Lane, Henham CM22 6JH.

Andrea Fitt
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THE WONDER OF BEES

Honey at last! Despite the delay to the start of the season, my bees have now produced some of my award winning honey (I never like to mention that my honey won the best in the area two years in a row!). I am pleased to say I have already sold the lot. More to come I hope.

This month my topic will be what bees produce: honey, pollen bread, royal jelly, beeswax and propolis. Honey is made from the nectar of the flowers that bees visit. Each bee will visit only one type of plant on each flight from the hive, so if there is an abundance of a particular plant, the honey will smell and taste of that plant eg heather. The bees start to make honey from enzymes as soon as they start the flight back to the hive. When placed in the honeycomb, the bees will flap their wings to reduce its moisture content to about 18%, a point where it won't ferment. Once this level is reached the honeycomb is capped with wax and stored as food for the mature bees in winter. During its lifetime of six weeks, each bee will produce a maximum of half a teaspoon of honey, so just work out how many bees have worked to make your pound of honey. Whilst collecting nectar, pollen will stick to their legs, which they mix with nectar and their saliva to produce 'bee bread' which they carry in pollen baskets on their legs. This is stored in honeycomb on return to the hive and used as food for the larvae. However, all larvae are fed on royal jelly (a creamy substance produced in the glands of bees) for their first three days before going on to bee bread. Only those small number of larvae chosen to be raised as new queens will stay on royal jelly until maturity.

Honeycomb is made from beeswax, and beeswax is another product made by mature bees in their glands, who must eat ten parts of honey to produce one part of beeswax, and jointly fly 150,000 miles to produce 1lb of wax. Wax requires a temp of 35° C to remain useable, so the hive is kept at this temperature, summer and winter. In summer the bees will flap their wings to air condition the hive and in winter will 'shiver' to maintain its temperature. If there is a frost at night in the winter, it is fascinating to see that the roof of my hives will be clear due to the maintenance of this temperature by the colony. Finally, propolis, a sticky substance made by bees from resin, balm, wax, essential oils, pollen and minerals. It is a highly effective disinfectant, and the bees cover every surface with it, including using it to fill gaps. This ensures that the hive does not develop any bacteriological growth in the ideal conditions for this to happen (35° heat and 90% humidity). This means both natural honey and honeycomb are not only safe to eat but have many beneficial properties; however modern health and safety advice does not recommend feeding natural honey to babies under one as their digestive system is not mature enough to deal with any bacteria if it were to occur. So this is a brief summary of the wonder of bees as a multitasking, multifunctional creature working in perfect harmony to ensure the continued survival of its colony – building it, feeding it, sustaining its population and ensuring its hygiene.

John Dockerill

Email: training@stortfordbees.org.uk

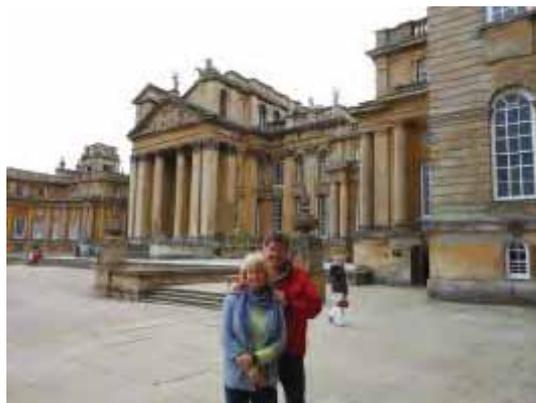


STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

The August meeting on Thursday 15th August at St John's Church Hall at 2.00pm will be an Open Day for members, friends and anyone thinking of joining. U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun. Why not come along have tea and a chat with friends and find out about our group activities? Refreshments are free.

Blenheim Palace

What a blooming good day out for the members. Sampling a vast range of tasty treats in the food marquee almost negated the need for lunch! The variety of plants, shrubs and herbs for sale was very tempting whilst the gorgeous displays, some also up for sale, provided breath-taking arrangements. After a tour of the State Rooms and the Churchill Exhibition in the Palace, afternoon tea was a must while overlooking the spectacular fountains and gardens. Clutching bargain purchases, the blooms and foliage in pride of place in the coach, the trip home was a sunny one with beautiful views of lovely rolling English countryside in rural Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex.



Groups

Cherry, the Activities Co-ordinator, is working very hard to support the Group Leaders with ideas and practical help and continuing to meet with each activity. After members expressed an interest in attending Yoga classes, Cherry is pleased to announce a weekly Yoga class starting on Wednesday 11th September. The class will be run by a U3A member who is also an experienced Yoga teacher. Please contact Cherry on 817140 if you would like to join. Also starting in September, there will be an Art/Theatre Group for people who would like to see plays in and around Stansted, Bishop's Stortford and Cambridge. Thirty people have shown an interest and the list will be available at the next meeting. If there is a particular interest that you have and would be willing to lead on it please also contact Cherry. Your ideas are most welcome. Visit our website for further information www.stanstedu3a.org or please contact Chris (Chair) 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) 814304.



Caroline Bore



A REWARDING WEEK FOR MANUDEN GUIDES

The last week in June was a good one for Manuden Guides. Helen Carter, Taylor Green and Skye Whatling attended the Jack Petchey Awards Ceremony at the Queen's Theatre to receive certificates and medallions in recognition of their contribution to Guiding and the community.



All three girls have played leading parts in Manuden Guides, and now Rangers, by being patrol leaders and taking a full part in all activities, outings, camps and holidays, as well as always turning up to help out with events in the village such as fetes, the Fun Run and service projects. It was a great, fun-filled evening, and we were so proud of our girls.



On Sunday 30th, a group of guides went up to Madame Tussauds, using Skye's Jack Petchey award money to pay for the tickets. Four girls, including Skye and Helen had achieved the highest award in Guides, the Baden-Powell Challenge Award, and they, along with Taylor and Kimberley, had chosen to have them presented at Madame Tussauds - Helen, Kimberley and Skye by Shrek, and Emmie by the Queen! Another proud moment for us at Manuden, and another great occasion, much enjoyed by us all.

Glynis Prothero
Manuden Guides and Rangers

LINK ADVERTISING

Bookings are now being taken for our new printing year which begins in November. Colour ads start from as little as £400, and black and white from £125 for the whole year! See www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising or if you do not have internet access call 814059

CAR JOURNEYS – EASING THE BOREDOM

You're relaxing, taking in the new sights and smells of the countryside, here in the UK or abroad, when: "Are we there yet?" Of course, it's the six year-old in the back seat, piping up again for the nth time. Many families invest in the luxury of a Nintendo DS or integrated DVD screens - most settle for old-fashioned intellect games. Here are a few suggestions:

I Spy with added features

As a family, agree on the number of points pre-determined objects, vehicles, landmarks or buildings, attract eg tractors, Eddie Stobart lorries, or yellow cars five points each, helicopters, post office signs, unusual pub signs 10 points each, and speed signs, which are common, one point. Keep a written tally to avoid squabbles over the scores!

Licence Plates

Who can spot the most licence plates from different countries or states?

Bing Who?

This is a good one for kids versus adults. The children shout out a first name and the adults have to think of a famous person with that name. If they manage to think of someone, they get the point; if they're stumped, the kids get it.

Pub Cricket

Each player has a turn at 'batting', counting the number of legs on every pub sign passed scoring one point for each leg, animal or human pictured. Their turn continues until they come to a sign with no legs, eg The Rose and Crown. The person with the highest score wins.

Sausages

The object of this game is to try to answer all questions asked by other players of the group with a ridiculous word, without smiling or laughing. For example, "What is your name?" "Sausages." "Where were you born?" "Sausages" and so on.

I Went to Market

The object of this game is to recall an ever-growing alphabetical list. The first player begins with something beginning with A eg aubergine, the next player will repeat the first player's item and add their own word to the list with something beginning with B and so on eg "I went to market and bought an aubergine and a billy-goat." Anyone who omits previous items or cannot think of a suitable word is out!

Sequences

Each player chooses a number between 10 and 99, and the first one to spot their number on a registration plate wins.

Who Am I?

Each player takes a turn thinking of someone – famous or not. The others ask questions that can only be answered by 'yes' or 'no'. For instance, Harry Potter: "Are you a real person?" "No." "Are you a girl?" "No." "Are you a boy?" "Yes." Another version involves thinking of an object instead, only giving yes and no answers.

Incredibly, there are entire books available on this subject, offering a plethora of stimulating and lively games for easing the boredom. Happy holidays!



Anna Nolan



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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

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Coach outing to Suffolk

The morning stop was at The Walled Garden at Langham Hall. On arrival we were met by Sue Wooster of Bellflower Nursery who gave a brief history of the gardens. From evidence unearthed by The Suffolk Gardens Trust there has been a walled garden on the site since at least 1705 and the earliest surviving map of the garden shows that its layout then is very similar to that found today. The walled garden covers an area of approximately 3.5 acres. Its wall, built in the Georgian period, is 16ft high in places and is divided in two. One side is Bellflower Nursery which has herbaceous borders, rose arches, a summerhouse and an enormous and very old wisteria. This area also houses Sue Wooster's national collection of Alpine campanulas - the largest range of campanulas in East Anglia. In 2012 Bellflower Nursery was awarded a Gold Medal at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show and the Nursery was also featured in a BBC TV Programme showing the smaller specialist nurseries that would be exhibiting at the Hampton Court Show. Old and new varieties of campanulas were on sale and everyone took full advantage of buying that extra special plant (or two or three) to take home. The other side of the dividing inner wall was Langham Herbs - two acres of vegetables, fruit trees and bushes and herbs and a traditional bothy. All of the vegetables were in tip-top condition, and the owner was making up fresh vegetable boxes to sell as we walked round. The intention of Langham Herbs is to recapture the spirit of the golden age of walled gardening, whilst running it as a commercial small scale market garden.

After a short drive, we reached Wyken Hall for our afternoon visit. The Head Gardener gave a short talk about the gardens, how they have evolved, the influence of Mississippi-born Carla Carlisle and its future plans. The garden is made up of 'rooms' - topiary, rose garden, hot borders, herb garden, cottage garden, vegetable garden, orchards, a woodland walk and acres of wild flower meadows. The Vineyard at Wyken was planted in 1988 on a south facing slope, which is believed to be the site of a Roman vineyard. The vines thrive on the sandy loam over chalk and in recent years the wines produced have been named English Wine of the Year. Another area of the Estate has started growing malting barley for making its own beer. The day was finished by a drive home through the Suffolk and North-East Essex countryside - missing out the notorious A14/M11 at rush-hour on a Friday evening!

July Meeting

With the longer evenings, July's meeting was held at Snares Hill Cottage, Stebbing. We were welcomed by owners Pete and Liz Stabler who have lived and gardened here for 16 years. The 1½ acre garden surrounds a Grade 2 listed cottage. Hidden down a narrow driveway, this valley garden is a hidden gem, just full of surprises - gardening on different levels with hidden areas where you find sculptures, ponds, and garden features, at every turn. There is a natural swimming pool (which Alys Fowler of 'Gardeners' World' swam in on TV), a fernery, vegetable patch, orchard and a beach area. Fed by natural springs, a bog area at the bottom of the garden leads onto a mixed woodland area.

Next Meeting Wednesday 7th August

The Club will be welcoming back Mr Richard Ford who will be speaking on 'Ornamental Grasses'. Doors open at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. All are welcome - membership available or day visitors £2.50.

Maralyn Harris

Tel: 07919 478144 or website contact tab

CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS

August is the month to harvest onions, shallots and garlic. On a dry day lift them with a trowel and leave them on the ground to ripen off. After a couple of days gather them, remove any soil and leave spread out in a shed or somewhere airy for a couple of weeks. It is also the month when you can dig up your potatoes, if they are for storing check that the skins are set. Time also to take cuttings of plants like geraniums and fuchsias, use strong, young shoots preferably with no flowering buds on them, if they have, take them off. Also keep an eye on flowering plants that are overhanging the lawn, cut them back before they kill the grass.

Cyril Stoneham



Nature Notes

This has been a sad year so far for wildlife and the harsh winter and late spring made life difficult for nesting birds. We have seen only one young blackbird and one young robin in the garden this year, and the tits, finches, wrens, hedge sparrows and even the pigeons have failed to raise a single brood. This could be partly due to the lack of insect food and partly due to the predatory magpies, jays and crows which are now ever present in the gardens round our road. The only wasps which I have seen at the time of writing were a few repairing their nest in Pennington Lane which had been partly dug out by a badger. It must have been disturbed by traffic or a late night dog walker because a badger would normally finish the job and scoff the lot. Also I have yet to see a honey bee; the pollination of the fruit blossom in the garden seems to be done by bumble bees.



Talking of bumble bees, the weather has suited the lime trees in Cooper's Alley which have born a mass of blossom and when you walked under them on a warm, sunny day you would be enveloped by the scent of the flowers and the hum of the bees and for a few yards all seemed right with the world.

Felix

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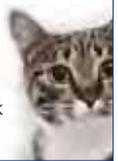
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