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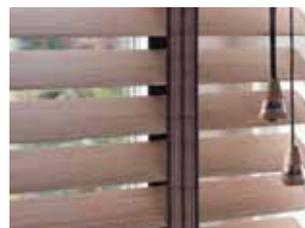
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editor@stanstedlink.org.uk
by **noon** on **11th January** for February issue

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



Traffic issues, new housing developments and the Health Centre have been the main issues of the year in Stansted. Traffic problems are likely to increase once Sainsbury's opens, but we can all do our bit to ease the situation by leaving our cars at home whenever possible and by parking legally and considerately when we do have to use our vehicles. There are other ways we can help; by joining the Community Speed Watch team and by getting involved in putting together the 'Neighbourhood Plan' (see pages 19 and 20). Various other village organisations in this issue of The Link are also looking for new volunteers. If you're recently retired, a part-time worker, or between jobs, starting the New Year with a new challenge through volunteering could be the best step you've ever taken. It's an enjoyable and rewarding way of making new friends and it's not a bad thing to have on your CV either! As to Stansted Health Centre – we'll just have to be patient for a while longer! In the meantime keep warm and healthy this winter and please keep an eye on those around you who may need extra help during the colder weather.

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A man once told an Anglican Bishop that the reason he didn't go to church was because it was full of hypocrites. "Well", said the Bishop, "there's always room for one more".

The word hypocrite is said to derive from actors in ancient times who wore masks during their performance. Let's be honest, most of us wear metaphorical masks much of the time. We often portray to others that we have it all together, that our lives, jobs, homes, families are all great and that we are content and satisfied with our lot. In truth most of us are uncertain about the purpose of our lives, worried about our mortality, concerned about the quality of our relationships and unfulfilled by the constant pursuit of more and more stuff. The Bible says that "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble". Remarkably, one of the few things God opposes is people who are unwilling to admit they have needs. On the other hand, one of the great joys of the Christian gospel (good news) is the truth that, through Jesus Christ, God is happy to embrace us, warts and all. As we leave 2014 behind, and look forward to the New Year, there is an opportunity to take stock of our lives and consider changes we need to make. Perhaps it is a good time to consider removing our masks and revealing our needs to God. When we ask for God's help, He is ready to pour His goodness and grace into our lives. Why not take off the mask and see what happens!



Howard Page
Stansted Family Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St Therese of Lisieux (Roman Catholic)

Tuesday 16th 7.30pm Penitential Service and confessions

Sunday 21st 2.00pm Parish children's service followed by party in Church and Parish Centre (please book first)

Christmas Eve 6.00pm Family Mass
10.00pm Vigil Mass (no Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day 10.00am Mass

Friday 26th No Mass this day

St John's (Church of England)

Sunday 7th 9.30am Christingle

Christmas Eve 3.00pm Children's Christmas Eve Service
(Come dressed as a character from the Christmas Story)
7.00pm Blue Christmas (A Service for those who don't feel like celebrating)
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30am Family Communion for Christmas Morning

Sunday 27th 9.30am Holy Innocents

Free Church

21st 10.30pm Carols & Gift Service

Christmas Day 10.30am

Society of Friends

21st 10.30am Meeting for Worship

28th 10.30am Meeting for Worship



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

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

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

Preachers for December

7th 10.30am New Directions with Pilots
14th 10.30am Rev'd Charles Martin - Communion
21st 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Carols & Gift Service
25th 10.30am Rev'd Christine Fowler - Christmas Day
28th 10.30am Julie Finbow

Preachers for January

4th 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe
11th 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins
18th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Covenant & Communion
25th 10.30am Faith Paulding

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AE

Clerk Sue Moloney
5 Chatter End, Farnham Geen
Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 771405

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am



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

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

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

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

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday

9.00am St John's Tots

Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening 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

Celebration of Christmas

All are welcome to this annual family event in St John's Church on Saturday 20th December at 3.00pm. There will be a collection for the Huw Johnson Club and the Red Cross Ebola Appeal. We are inviting people to sing in 'the choir'. It is great fun and we usually have about 40 people leading the singing - it would be good to have even more this year! There are two rehearsals, both in St John's, on Thursday 4th and Thursday 18th December 7.30pm-8.15pm. If you enjoy singing and would like to take part, come along and join us.



Alan Corbishley

Carol Singing round the Village

Come and join in the fun, especially if it's snowy! We meet each evening at 7.30pm, and the singing is followed by refreshments at around 9.00pm.

- Monday 22nd December meet at the junction of Mountfitchet Road/Church Road and finish at Old Lane House, Church Road
- Tuesday 23rd December meet at the Windmill and finish at 49 Recreation Ground

We are always looking for more singers - there is no rehearsing, just come along. We also need collectors, as we will be collecting for the Huw Johnson Club and the Red Cross Ebola Appeal. Please support us – thank you!

Mike Dyer Tel: 814059
Helen Baker Tel: 814865

Food bank

For the last two years, thanks to the generosity of their individual congregations, CTS has been running a food bank for residents within the parish of Stansted who find themselves, for a variety of reasons, in a crisis situation with no money to feed themselves and/or their families. Referrals for a food parcel are received from Spangles Children Centre (where families with children under five are involved), the Citizens Advice Bureau in Saffron Walden, or other recognised professional bodies, such as doctors, district nurses, social workers etc. If anyone finds themselves in such a dire situation, there is help at hand! The CTS Food Bank can provide emergency food parcels by receiving a request from a professional body. It is vital to go through an organisation such as the CAB as they can provide the necessary assistance to resolve the problems that gave rise to the crisis, such as a delay in receiving benefits, etc. The CAB has an office at Spangles on a Thursday morning but it is necessary to ring the Saffron Walden office to book an appointment. If you are worried how you will manage to eat due to a genuine emergency situation, don't delay – contact the CAB on 01799 618840 who will arrange for us to make a food parcel available and will give you the assistance you need to get you back on track. We wish everyone a happy, peaceful and well-fed Christmas.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562

From the Registers

September/October

Baptisms

September

7th Leo Alexander Peter Fernand Collie

October

5th Imogen Bradley
12th Harry James Gulliford
Jack Edward Gulliford
26th Georgina Crundwell

Funerals

Baby Rosie Knight - at St Mary's
Vera Ansell - at St Mary's
Mary Francis - at St Mary's
Pamela Blake - at Parndon Wood
Barry West - at St John's

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the October draws:

£100 No 214 - Brian Needham
£ 50 No 265 - Margaret Hill
£ 25 No 268 - Beryl Sears

The draws for December, including the second of the year's extra draw for £200 will be held on Sunday 28th December and the following draw on Sunday 25th January, both in St John's Church following the 9.30am service.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane
Stansted CM24 8LQ



www.stanstedfamilychurch.com

Priest Father John Garrett
Tel: 814349

Office Tel: 816889
Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood..org

Masses Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 10.00am
Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9.00am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

This photograph shows the display used at the Remembrance Mass on Sunday 9th November at St Therese's Church. The statue of Our Lord was retrieved from the mud of the Somme during the First World War, brought back to England, and eventually given to Fr John for safekeeping by one of his elderly parishioners many years ago. It has become a very poignant reminder of those brave soldiers of 100 years ago who were also lost in the mud during one of the most horrific battles of that War.



Eileen Quinn
Tel: 812109



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

We look forward to welcoming many visitors and friends to our annual Celebration of Angels and Christmas Trees on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December 10.00am-5.00pm, and especially to have a great congregation to join us in singing carols on Saturday at 3.30pm or on Sunday at 11.00am when we will host St Clare Hospice's 'Light Up a Life' service. We will be pleased to provide transport to St Mary's on either day; we should have names and addresses in good time so that our drivers are organised. Please telephone Ray Rogers on 814210 or myself to book your lift. Forest Hall School have kindly offered us the use of their car park for the weekend.



Audrey Rodgers
Tel: 812162

Contacts

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

Our Christian beliefs are conventional, we are just doing church differently.

In December our @27 meeting (contemporary worship, bible-teaching and discussion) will be on Wednesday 3rd at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. For details about this month's venue, topic etc please contact us using the information above. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

ST MARY'S ELSENHAM FABRIC FUND

Christmas Tree Festival Sat 6th and Sun 7th December 10.30am-5.00pm

The above weekend heralds our sixth festival and, to us, this feels like the beginning of Christmas. St Mary's celebrated the nine hundredth anniversary in 2010 and we felt the Christmas Tree Festival would be a 'one off' but it is just so beautiful that it returns year after year, with even more Christmas trees each time. This year we hope to have over 40, each depicting a club, organisation, business or an individual contribution. There will be refreshments available all weekend, and this year, there will also be reindeer looking for a good and kindly home! Please do drop by and spend some time in our Church. Should you come at dusk the Church is quite magical with all the lit trees. Entry is free but we do rely on donations. We look forward to seeing you.



Lyn Segar
Tel: 813289



Shalom

Our Christmas party is on Monday 8th December – bring and share some finger food and a reading, poem or a piece of music. We resume on Monday 26th January with our 'At Home'. Both meetings are 8.00pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens and all are welcome.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Holy Trinity Church, Littlebury on 13th and 14th December 11.00am-4.00pm. There will be refreshments and lunch time music for organ and flute on both days – all in aid of the Friends of Holy Trinity Church.

Janice Rust
Secretary

MUSIC QUIZ

in aid of Stansted Skatepark

8 pm Sat 6th December

Kings Arms, Lower Street

Tickets £7.50 incl hot supper

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Raffle & Games



St John's Church

3 pm Sun 7th December

Victoria Davies (Harp)
Elena Vyaznikova (Flute)

3 pm Sun 25th January

Adelia Myslov (Violin)
Craig White (Piano)

Tickets £15 (under 18s free) from Absolute Travel;
Sonia Levy 815282; or at the door



St Mary's School PTFA

Christmas Shopping Evening

6.30 - 8.30 pm Fri 12th Dec

Christmas Stalls ~ Hot Food

Children's Crafts ~ Raffle

Santa's Grotto

Entry £1 includes glass of fizz

Children free

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

December

1/8/15 Mon	Magna Carta Embroidery	Day Centre 1.00 - 3.00pm
3 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
4 Thu	Stansted History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
5 Fri	Stansted Christmas Market	Crafton Grn & Day Centre 4 - 8 pm
6 Sat	Stansted Christmas Market	Crafton Grn & Day Centre 10 am - 4 pm
	Conservatives Supper	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
	Skatepark Quiz	Kings Arms 8 pm
7 Sun	Green Waste Skips	Lower Street Car Park 9 am - 1 pm
	Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
	music@stansted	St John's Church 3 pm
8 Mon	Shalom Party	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
9 Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog & Duck 8 pm
10 Wed	The Place Christmas Event	Free Church 10 - 11.30 am
11 Thu	Christmas Party	Spangles 10 am - noon
	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
	WI	Day Centre 7.45 pm
12 Fri	PTFA Shopping Evening	St Mary's School 6.30 - 8.30 pm
	Huw Johnson Carols	St John's Church 7.30 pm
13 Sat/14 Sun	Angels & Trees	St Mary's Church 10 am - 5 pm
13 Sat	Herts & Soul Concert	St John's Church 7.30 pm
	Manuden Singers Messiah	St Mary's Manuden 7.30 pm
14 Sun	Herts & Soul Concert	St John's Church 3 pm
16 Tue	Rotary Santa	Forest Hall Park from 5.30 pm
18 Thu	Rotary Santa	Mountfitchet & Croasdaile from 5.30 pm
20 Sat	Celebration of Christmas	St John's Church 3 pm
22 Mon	Carol Singing	Mountfitchet Rd/Church Road 7.30 pm
23 Tue	Carol Singing	Windmill 7.30 pm
30 Tue	Day Centre Drop In	Day Centre 10 am - noon

January

5/12/19/26 Mon	Magna Carta Embroidery	Day Centre 1.00 - 3.00 pm
7 Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
8 Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.45 pm
	Stansted History Society	Free Church Hall 8 pm
10 Sat	Christmas Tree Recycling	Lower Street Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
11 Sun	Link copy in due today	before 12 noon
14 Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog & Duck 8 pm
15 Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
17 & 31 Sat	Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
25 Sun	music@stansted	St John's Church 3 pm
26 Mon	Shalom At Home	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
30 Fri	Fish and Chip Friday	Day Centre 12.30 pm



Huw Johnson Club

CAROL CONCERT

7.30 pm Fri 12th December

St John's Church

Admission Free

All welcome

Followed by Refreshments



Friends of St Mary's Church

Angels & Christmas Tree Festival

Sat 13th & Sun 14th December

10 am - 5 pm

Carols for All 3.30 pm Sat

St Clare Light up a Life 11 am Sun

Refreshments ~ All Welcome

Entry Free ~ Donations Welcome



COMMUNITY CHOIR

Christmas Concerts

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3 pm Sun 14th Dec

St John's Church

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Carol Singing

Mon 22nd Dec 7.30 pm

Meet Mountfitchet Rd / Church Rd

Finish Old Lane House, Church Rd

Tue 23rd Dec 7.30 pm

Meet Windmill

Finish 49 Recreation Ground

Collecting for Huw Johnson Club & Red Cross Ebola Appeal

Singers & Collectors Welcome

Refreshments about 9 pm



Celebration of Christmas

Carols, Music, Readings, and Poetry

3 pm Sat 20th December

St John's Church

Collection for the Huw Johnson Club
and Red Cross Ebola Appeal

All welcome to this annual village
event celebrating the birth of Jesus

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VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER



The Free Church's rendition of a very serious 'Cinderella'



The entertainment at this year's Harvest Supper was deemed to be the best ever, with a small selection shown here.

Finley Peel from St John's astounded us all with his energetic dance routine.

If you were not there you missed a real treat – both the food and the entertainment. See you next year!



Sophie Yates from St Therese's performed Jenny Joseph's 'When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple'

Photos by Alan Wheeler

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Thursday evening on 6th November saw five of us from Stansted and one other attached to Stansted but living in Henham at Uttlesford District Council offices in Saffron Walden to receive our Community Achievement Awards, along with over 20 other volunteers. We were supported by the Chairman of Stansted Parish Council, which was really nice. All of us were reluctant to receive awards but we put on brave faces and had a very enjoyable evening! Wine to start with to give us dutch courage, interesting citations, very friendly presentation and a super buffet to round it all off. So thank you Stansted for your nomination and thank you Uttlesford District Council for a splendid evening.

Stansted Volunteer

BIRCHANGER WOOD IN WINTER

There are only a few conifer trees growing in the Wood retaining their leaves throughout the year making them easy to spot. Most of the Wood's trees are deciduous and in winter, because there is insufficient sunlight to sustain growth and the environment is stressful, the tree saves energy by dropping its leaves encouraging its own dormancy. The Wood remains alive, although some animals like hedgehogs will be hibernating under fallen leaves, whereas squirrels and deer still need to forage to survive. It is not proven that badgers hibernate; they are less active in cold winter months and draw upon their reserves of fat to survive long cold spells. Now is a good time to spot the resident birds, as the trees are devoid of leaves; also the ground is clearer, so those birds searching under fallen leaves for insects and worms, or bugs in the dead and fallen trees, can be more easily seen. Many of the birds will be familiar as they also visit local gardens for food. Not only can you hear sounds from the wildlife during the winter, but more easily identify the object making the noise. When you hear the same sounds in the summer you may be able to remember and identify the bird even though you are unable to see it. Try and distinguish the screech and chatter made by the squirrel from similar noises made by the birds. When I first heard a squirrel I was amazed at the variety of sounds they are able to make.

Finally, there are many dog owners and their dogs using the Wood regularly and acting responsibly, but we all need to remember that large and enthusiastic dogs can easily overpower a child or an elderly or frail person simply by bowling them over. Birchanger Wood and its paths are provided freely for persons of all ages and abilities in the local community to use for exercise and for solace, so please make certain that everyone can safely do so and that your animals are under your control at all times. Please continue to enjoy our lovely Wood this winter.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Secretary and Trustee

Email: secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org

LAST RECOMMENDED POSTING DATES FOR CHRISTMAS 2014

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STANSTED SUPERS

At the end of last season Stansted Supers had a coaching session by GB Olympic Handball player Louise Jukes. Based in Ipswich, Louise is now the Handball Development Officer for Suffolk and Essex, and with her help the Club has gained funding from Essex Sportivate, which helps the Club move forward with grants for coaching and equipment. They are also working with Forest Hall School providing after school coaching until Christmas. Handball is a contact sport, which



has aspects of netball, basketball and rugby, and is great for fitness as it is a very fast paced game. It is open to men and woman of all ages and ability and we field mixed teams. We also have a few juniors aged 14-18. The Club is always looking for new members and is also looking for a goal keeper for future matches, which includes fixtures with Essex University, Ipswich and London GD in the Copper Box. Training is Friday 7.00pm-8.00pm at the Romeera Leisure Centre. For more information see Stansted Supers Handball Team on facebook or call Stuart Thomas on 07789 555843.

CHRISTMAS RAP

Come on all you Labradors don't let me down,
Christmas is coming and the Turkey's in town.
There's lots of good things that you might want to eat
but keep your paws to yourself and off of those treats.
There's chocolates and raisins and a big Christmas cake
better leave them alone
'cos they'll make your stomach ache.
There's grapes and cheese and little mince pies;
I know you've been sniffin' them, don't tell me lies.



There's a tree indoors, I know it doesn't make sense,
when you cocked your leg, didn't mean no offence
but try and stay away or you'll find your master fuming
we need peace on earth with the special day looming.
The baubles are sparkly and they give a nice crunch
but keep your teeth in check or you'll spoil Christmas lunch.
The presents smell nice and are meant to be unwrapped
but don't get caught, or at least blame the cat ...

Do you think you understand, have I made myself clear
about all the temptations at this festive time of year?
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if you can't keep your paws off that Christmas booty.
She'll be having dinner with her nephews and nieces
but will still be around to pick up all the pieces.
She'd rather sing some carols or play Monopoly
than star in an episode of doggy Casualty.
So come on all you Labradors and all the other pets
don't spoil your Christmas with a visit to the vets!



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Last month the favourite word of the management team was 'consistency' as both teams suffered with excellent results and performances one week followed by defeats against sides we would have expected to beat, although player injuries of which we are carrying a few of late has not helped as the team management juggle the selection on a game by game basis. Approaching the Christmas and New Year period our league has decided that for the first time in a number of seasons the league will not shut down for its two week break meaning we have scheduled fixtures on 27th December and 3rd January both away, so the players will be requested not to eat too much turkey this year!!!

The popularity of the Stansted Veterans continues to thrive under the leadership of Gary Cook, with scheduled friendly games played over the past months bringing interest from a number of new players wishing to be involved. The Management Committee, Team Management and the Players offer our sincere best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our followers. We all really do appreciate the level of local support given to the club, and let us hope that in the second half of the season the improvement witnessed so far this year continues.

Upcoming Home Fixtures

6th Dec 3.00pm Stansted v Tower Hamlets League Fixture
9th Dec 7.45pm Stansted v Newham League Fixture
20th Dec 3.00pm Stansted v Basildon League Fixture
10th Dec 3.00pm Stansted v Enfield 1893 League Fixture
31st Dec 3.00pm Stansted v FC Romania League Fixture

Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842



Christmas Events

We are all getting quite excited about our special Christmas event planned for **Wednesday 10th December**. The Place will be open as usual from 9.30am, with planned activities between 10.00am and 11.30am. There will be seasonal craftwork including making Christingles, which will become the focus for a short time of reflection on why we celebrate Christmas. This will be followed by fun and games and of course a visit by Father Christmas! Everyone is welcome, even if you have never been before. There are no age restrictions, so whether you are 1 or 100 please do come and join us. Then on **Friday 12th December** from 10.30am we shall be decorating the crib and Christmas tree in the church, and we invite anyone, young or old, to help us!

The Place on the Hill is a free drop-in held at and organised by Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, which is open every Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Do come and join us - all ages are welcome. Please note that we will **not** be open on Wednesday 24th and Friday 26th December.



Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059
Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



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West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group
Tel: 01992 566140
Email: weccg.comms@nhs.net

care TISSUE VIABILITY TRAINING DAY

Mountfitchet House Care Home is holding two free training sessions on Tuesday 9th December 9.30am-12.15pm and 1.00pm-4.15pm. All are welcome but please contact me to book a place.

Sharon Butler
Tel: 818230
Email: sharon.butler@careuk.com

STANSTED IS WELL READ

Our December meeting is 8.00pm on Tuesday 9th at the Dog and Duck. Our book will be 'Lying under the Apple Tree' by Alice Munro, which is a collection of short stories. Copies are available for book club readers in Stansted library. Our January meeting is on 16th – book to be confirmed. New people are very welcome. For further information please contact Victoria North email: vnorth63@gmail.com.



SKATEPARK MUSIC QUIZ

The Kings Arms is hosting a music quiz on Saturday 6th December to raise money for the Skate Park. Teams of up to six people. Tickets £7.50 which includes a hot supper.



Please telephone 812948 or call in to reserve a table as there are only a few left. Raffle and games. The fun starts at 8.00pm.

Jackie Dale



www.musicatstansted.co.uk

We have two concerts coming up. On Sunday 7th December at 3.00pm, two members of the chamber group Ensemble Elvisa (flute and harp) will be performing Bizet's **Carmen** fantasy, **Winter** from Vivaldi's Four Seasons and music by Bax, Ravel and Tchaikovsky.

Our concert on Sunday 25th January at 3.00pm, sponsored by Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers, features violinist Adelia Myslov accompanied by pianist Craig White. Their programme ranges from the cool sounds of Bach's unaccompanied Partita No 3 to the sultry heat of Sarasate's Spanish Dances and the Gypsy passion of Ravel's Tzigane. In between we will hear the Russian fire and the romantic warmth of sonatas by Prokofiev and Brahms. Adelia was



born in St Petersburg but moved to England to study at the Yehudi Menuhin and Purcell Schools of Music. She has given concerts at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Royal Festival Hall and 10 Downing Street, and has toured in France, Spain, Italy and Germany.

Craig studied with Michael Dussek and Diana Ketler at the Royal Academy of Music, followed by two years as a Junior Fellow of Piano Accompaniment at the Royal College of Music. He has worked with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Jonathan Papp. In 2011 he conducted London Youth Opera's production of The Magic Flute. Both concerts are in St John's Church. Tickets, adults £15 (under 18s free) from Absolute Travel; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy (815282) or at the door. See our website for more information.



Alan Corbishley



HATFIELD FOREST HIGHLIGHTS

After such a hot summer, Poppy the dog and I are looking forward to walkies in the cooler winter weather. Frosty mornings, crunchy leaves underfoot and a warming cuppa; I love this time of year. We have made some changes to our entrance car park, with a wider gate for pedestrians and wooden bollards to aid the flow of traffic. In the spring we will have brand new signage, so bear with us while we have the temporary ones in place. The winter is our busiest time for conservation, as there are no nesting birds and the trees are in their dormant stage. In the woodland beside the entrance road you can see where our coppice volunteers are working. This team work alternate Saturdays and carry out the traditional woodland management technique of coppicing. The Rangers are busy restoring an area of wood pasture by removing scrubby plants like hawthorn and bramble. In October we lowered the level of the main lake to assess the condition of the dam. The level will gradually rise, especially after a heavy rainstorm. For the first two weekends in December, Father Christmas will be visiting us. Tickets must be booked in advance to ensure the elves make enough gifts. Visit our website or book by telephone on 0844 2491895.

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Huw Johnson Club

In December, Club celebrates the 40th anniversary of our first Club meeting, bringing to an end our year of celebrations. In the last month, we held a curling competition, with members and helpers fighting it out for the coveted title of Club Champion, and we created poppies to place on our wreath for the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial. Our Halloween party was a great success, with some very spook-tacular costumes and some scary dancing! By the time you read this, we will have had the Ukulele and Woodwind Bands coming to play for us, and held our annual Fireworks Party at the Ropkins' house. Our Christmas Carol Concert is on Friday 12th December 7.30pm at St John's Church, with mince pies and drinks afterwards. We would love to see you so please do come. We also have a trip to the Pantomime and our annual New Year's Dinner at the Chequers pub in Ugley to look forward to in early 2015. As we come to the end of what has been a very busy year for the Huw Johnson Club, we would like to thank all those who have contributed to making our 40th year such a special one. So on behalf of the Club, we would like to say a huge Thank You to everyone who has driven, volunteered, sat on Committees, baked, hosted fundraising events, given up their evenings, raised money and donated towards the Club, and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year. As always, we are looking for more drivers or helpers. Please contact either Sandra Embleton on 812627 or myself for like more information.



Katharine Collis
Tel: 461270



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Lucy Allen - stunt woman extraordinaire - was the speaker at our last meeting, who enthralled us with anecdotes of her professional life. A daughter of actors, she graduated with a degree in drama and worked as an actress and circus performer before embarking on her perilous career. She began her talk in a very dramatic way, giving us a demonstration of bursting into a room on fire, crashing through a blazing window, and then went on to explain about the detailed preparations that go into stunts. If a window scene is involved a decision has to be made on whether or not to use real or sugar glass. If real, a technical team is required to put explosives into the glass to shatter it; to protect her face and body she had to wear protective gel and flame retardant underwear. She brought some of her special padded clothes to show us. She ended her fascinating talk with a roll-call of the stars of stage and screen that she had doubled for: Helena Bonham Carter, Prunella Scales and Julie Walters to name just a few! She has performed in TV favourites such as *Casualty*, *East Enders* and *Peak Practice* - in which she had to jump from a 65ft high cliff, and appeared in a car chase, shooting out of both windows whilst doing a 360 degree turn - amazing! Our festive finale, looking at Christmas around the world, is 2.15pm on Wednesday 3rd December at our President's home, Bycullah, Old Mead Lane, Henham, and our January meeting is on 21st at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

FOREST HALL SCHOOL



Remembrance Day



At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, Forest Hall School staff and students came together to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War and to show our respect for all those who have given their lives in conflict during the subsequent years. Mrs Claire Gannon and many students have spent hours creating our own tribute in keeping with the Tower of London installation and it was this which we gathered around for the two minute silence. It was an emotional occasion which was observed with maturity and dignity.

Catherine Anderson
Head Teacher
Tel: 813384

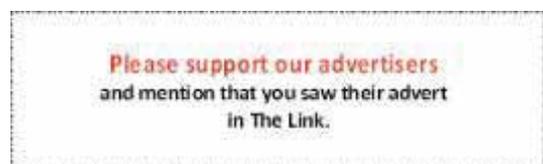
Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge Regional Final

In November the Glee Club took part in the Final at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. All the students were very excited and had worked very hard for the big day. The competition was tough and costumes were amazing, especially some of the wigs! They had to perform two songs that they had been working on tirelessly. We spent the day either rehearsing and running through the staging or changing from one outfit to the other!! As the performance time arrived all our hearts started to beat quickly with nerves, but the students went on stage and performed the best they ever had. Everyone was so proud of them.



The students' parents, Miss White (Head of Expressive Arts) and I had moments of tearfulness. The students were exemplary ambassadors for the school, complimenting other groups and helping individuals when they got lost to find their group again. While they were disappointed they didn't go through to the final, they were positive about their performance and just eager to repeat the experience. So now it is just onwards and upwards to next year when we start all over again....

Mrs J Lysons
Music



THE MANUDEN SINGERS

For our 30th anniversary, as for our 25th, Handel's Messiah will feature in our Christmas concert. The support of the local Manuden Players has enabled us to bring some of the great works to our church, such as Handel's Messiah, Bach's Christmas and Easter Oratorios and Bach's St John Passion. We have raised over £30,000 for local charities, including Manuden Church, the Gilfrere Trust, Grove Cottage, Air Ambulance and St Clare Hospice. In 1984 a small group of singers met in Cleeve Hall, Manuden directed by Charles Eve. Graham Savage later took over, followed in 1997 by Ian Priest. He established the practice of donating concert proceeds to local charities, and instigated three concerts a year, one being the now famous 'Village Glyndebourne' when the audience bring their picnics, some including candelabras! The first Glyndebourne in 1997 was very memorable, as clouds rolled on the horizon and thunder echoed, but the audience voted to stay put, so both singers and audience got well and truly soaked. The choir finished the piece they were singing entitled 'The Mermaid' before rushing dripping wet into the house clutching some very soggy music! The next item on the programme just happened to be 'Somewhere over the rainbow'...! Sadly this year they were thwarted again and the audience had to retire to the church amidst bursts of thunder and lightning. The concert is on **Sunday 14th December 7.30pm** in St Mary's Church, Manuden. Tickets £10 (£5 children) from 812157, or on the door. Proceeds to the Church.

Teresa Priest
Tel: 647050

CORRECTION

Last month's article entitled 'Recollections of Stansted' was incorrectly attributed to Graham Treacher, instead of Malcom Treacher. Sincere apologies to Malcolm for the error.

Link Production team

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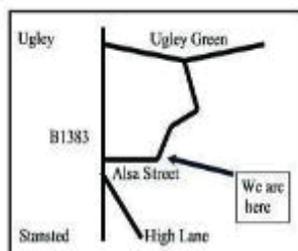
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PLAY REVIEW



Beckett Trilogy: Not I/Footfalls/Rockaby

Plunged into a black room, our eyes claw at any light source and come to rest on a single lit pair of lips, apparently spewing a stream of rubbish at machine gun pace. Unknown to us, Lisa Dwan is blindfolded, hooded and strapped to a contraption, reduced to the character 'Mouth' with all vestiges of personality stripped away. "Out ... into this world ... tiny little thing" squawks Mouth, mocking God as she prattles on and continually questions her own essence "Who? No ... She?" punctuates this play regularly as the audience tries, in the darkness, to find a form and structure that will make sense of the experience. 'Not I' Beckett calls his play. For Dwan's character 'Mouth', is this an affirmation? - a question to herself? - or a denial that the catastrophic experiences mentioned are anything to do with her? Not that we can grasp the coherence of the text until we read it for ourselves in the manuscript we can buy in the foyer. The onslaught is reduced to a mesmerising pacing as 'Not I' subsides and a ghostly woman emerges from the blackness. You sense her mother is lying in a room behind her.

As the girl's 'Footfalls' repeat time and again across the front of the stage, one wonders who is this - the old woman's lost youth? - a ghost of a child long deceased? Yet it is clear that a nursing situation is being referred to. Offers of injection, bathing and pillow re-positioning are rejected by the mother with the response "It is too soon". One senses a mystery here to be untangled. Why should the administration of comfort be too soon? As the play continues further enigmas are laid before us. The young woman starts as May and concludes as Amy. Or so it appears or is some other person referred to? As the powerful scene recedes we are left with thunderous sounds stabbing the dark until the final playlet, 'Rockaby' commences. None of the sweetness of the nursery rhyme is presented or am I misremembering the rhyme? After all didn't the bough break and down come cradle and baby? Clearly the old lady in the rocking chair is confronting death and loneliness. A second voice or alter ego seems to relate a life of repetition and pointlessness interrupted at several points by the cry "More". It is almost as if the old woman is defying death and gasping for a little more of life.

After 55 minutes we leave the theatre wondering if we have even come near to understanding. Is Beckett fooling us? Is this pretentious nonsense? Can we really believe that this



brave playwright who stored munitions in his backyard for the French Resistance is not writing with deadly seriousness? At any rate we won't see the likes of this at the Cambridge Arts Theatre for a long time as it resumes its normal fare of Noel Coward, John Cleese and Oklahoma so the disquiet of

these ante-rooms of death can quietly slip from our mind to allow tame old entertainment back in again.

Picture of Beckett - Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Alan Wheeler
Tel: 813745

FRONT COVER COMPETITION

We invited the pupils of Bentfield Primary School to design the front cover of this month's magazine, and as you can see they came up with some very colourful images. It is obvious that a lot of work was put into the lovely artwork, and everyone who submitted entries deserves a pat on the back! It was really difficult to select just one to put on the front cover, but the Link committee eventually selected Chloe Fitzpatrick aged 5. Those who came close are printed below.

2nd



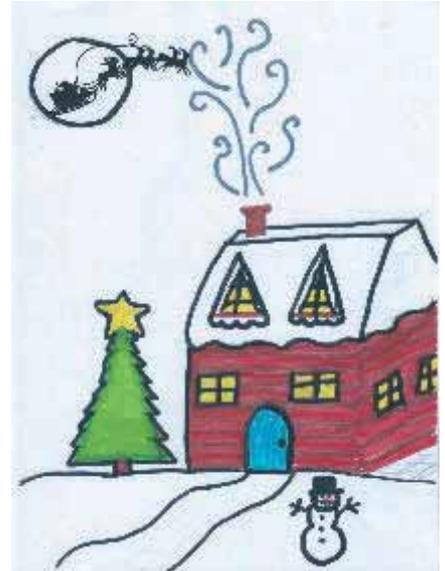
Florrie Gee
Aged 9

3rd



Alex Steadman
Aged 4

Highly Commended



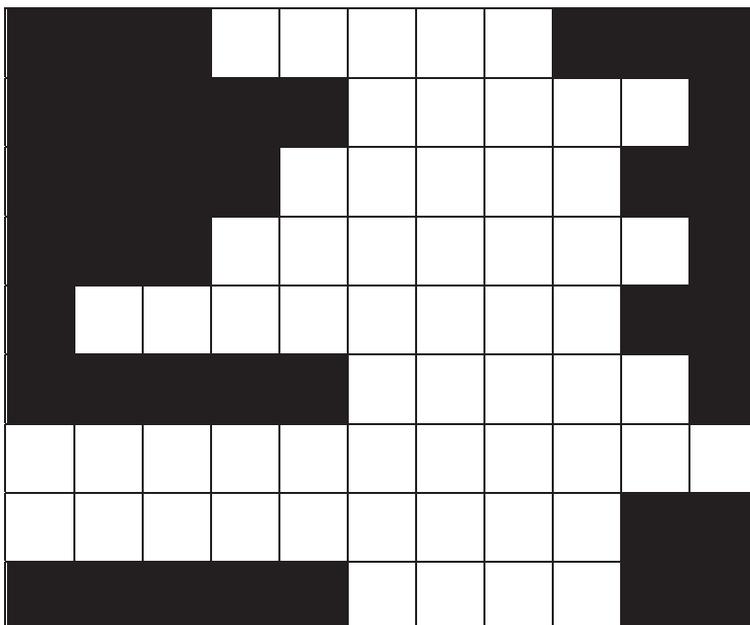
Serge Nolan
Aged 8

Thank you to the Headteacher of Bentfield Primary School, Mr Rogers and to all who participated in the competition. Congratulations to Chloe and to the other finalists for your splendid pictures.

Editor

A SEASONAL PUZZLE

Answer the clues and find a nine-letter seasonal word running from top to bottom



- A hot drink
- Has prickly leaves
- A coward is not this
- Hang about on freezing days
- Our village
- A fierce animal
- A deep blue colour
- Might take you to hospital
- The magi followed this

Answers on page 29

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Members were given an insight into 'The Art of Garden Photography' at our November meeting by Michael Howes, a member of The Garden Media Guild, CILIP & Association of Photographers. His work covers all aspects of garden photography – plant portraiture, photos of practical garden work, planting combinations, vistas and advertising campaigns. Bringing along three of his cameras - a 'point and shoot', a moderately priced manual adjusting lens camera and a very expensive and heavy top of the range (Lens £2000 Body £4000+) - he explained about the different types of lens, the equipment used to improve the end result and how, in modern digital photography, the pixel count can make a vast difference in the finished quality. Many tricks of the trade were passed on to help us improve our photos: how to visualise the shot, using props, fading the background, colour combinations, improving the lighting, having rolls of thin wire to stabilise the flower head, down to using washing pegs to keep clothing in the right position! Having a library of thousands of photographs, Mr Howes explained that his are used on posters and in magazines, books and travel literature in the UK and throughout Europe. A recent survey he undertook surprised him though, especially as Britain is known as a nation of gardeners ... the UK has 12 gardening magazines, but France has 32!! The Members' Green Bowl Photographic Competition was won by Sonia Girling – many congratulations. The title was: Art in the Garden – Anything 'arty' from Mobiles to Statue. As a bonus, Mr Howes talked about each photograph in turn, pointing out both good and bad points and giving hints on how to improve .

3rd December is the Members' Christmas Bring and Share Party, when Sheila Bowles will tell us about 'The Pantanal – the lesser known Wetland Area of Brazil'. There is **no** meeting in January, so the first meeting of the New Year is on Wednesday 4th February 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre, when we welcome Christine and Keith Hayward, subject: Glorious Canna. We wish all Link readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144



Christmas Celebration!

Come and sing and raise funds at our charity Christmas concerts in St John's Church on Saturday 13th December at 7.30pm or Sunday 14th December at 3.00pm. The festive programme includes Christmas Carols (with audience participation) and Christmas songs. Tickets £6 adults (under 13s free) from Ray Smith, email: raysmith9@btinternet.com, telephone 813270, mobile 07920 000940 or from choir members. Mince pies and wine will be available during the interval on Saturday, with tea and biscuits on Sunday.



Liz Jennings



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

The current main thrusts of Society activity are to ensure our website is up to date and to get people to make use of the website. We particularly encourage regular use of our What's On page. There is no shortage of interesting local opportunities. We include only activities that are consistent with our charitable aims of learning about, experiencing or conserving our local heritage, countryside and culture. We ask event organisers to tell us about such forthcoming events so we can give them additional, free, publicity. Our website also offers plenty of downloadable walk routes, all starting and finishing at a railway station. Alternatively, we encourage people to go to a new parish and simply wander around, perhaps with a camera and with a little bit of guidance from our parish introduction page. Every parish has something worth seeing and most have a welcoming tea room or pub. Our volunteer researchers who have created the introductions to each parish are gradually filling the gaps. All parishes have an introduction, whilst the gaps are those that do not yet include a commentary on their history, etc. Each introduction is reviewed by at least two of the Society's trustees before it is added to the website and we welcome feedback to ensure they remain up to date. In order to raise the profile of the Society, we have taken delivery of some eye-catching leaflets which are being put on display in tourist information centres, museums, libraries and visitor attractions, etc. We aim to get them displayed initially in locations or at events that have a good number of visitors. Don't forget to check out www.hundredparishes.org.uk/whats-on.

Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

18 LOWER STREET

After only three months of trading and the devastation the floods left back in February, Store 18 thought it would never open its doors again, but seven months later on 3rd



October the Gentleman's Outfitters did just that! With a complete refit and restructure the store looks even better than it did before, with solid wood floors throughout stained in a rich dark walnut, the use of new and reclaimed wood used for shelving and cabinets housing anything from jeans, jumpers, T-shirts, coats and leather jackets, shoes, suiting, accessories

and even male grooming products. To complete the new look the store has also changed its name to 18 Lower Street and offers a unique concierge service (07808 845639) offering the customer the choice of opening the store at a time to suit or even visiting the customer at a venue of their choice. Opening hours are Monday-Wednesday 10.00am-6.00pm, Thursday and Friday 10.00am-7.00pm, Saturdays 9.00am-5.00pm and Sundays by appointment. Tel 816060.

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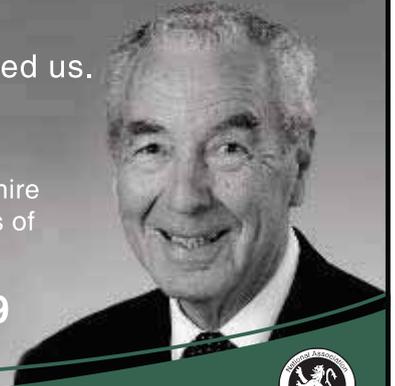
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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES

No community ever knows when it might face an emergency or disaster situation and it is good practice to have some plans in place. The Parish Council maintains the Village Emergency Plan and this is reviewed at least once each year to keep information up-to-date.

The Plan contains fairly basic information but includes details of local residents who may have particular skills and/or equipment to offer and would be prepared to be contacted to help out in the case of an emergency. If you feel that you have something to offer, please contact the Council Offices. In particular we are looking for:

- people who are fluent in a foreign language
- people who can sign BSL and Makaton
- contacts with heavy lifting equipment
- doctors/nurses/midwives

FLOODING

Thankfully all the businesses that suffered in the floods of 7th February have now reopened but the memories of events of that day are still very vivid. Hopefully the weather will be kinder this winter but the Parish, businesses and residents need to be prepared if the risk of flooding recurs. The Environment Agency is undertaking a feasibility study to try to find a long term solution that prevents flooding and we expect their report to be available early in 2015; but in the short term it is vital that all parties work together to minimise the impact of any flooding that does occur and we are working to put the following measures in place:

- A flood alert system so that if water levels reach a critical point, designated people will receive a phone call
- The Parish/District Council are seeking the authority to close Lower Street. We are purchasing signs to be placed on all access roads and looking at ways of putting barriers on roads to prevent vehicles entering flooded areas. This should stop the damage done by the backwash as vehicles drive through flooded areas which then forces water into properties.
- We want to establish a group of volunteers who are prepared to act as Flood Wardens and help safeguard the area if flooding threatens. If you are prepared to offer your services please email: ruth.clifford@stansted.net

14 CAMBRIDGE ROAD PLANNING APPEAL

The appeal against the decision to refuse planning permission on the site at 14 Cambridge Road has been dismissed. The key reasons for the rejection were:

- Garden amenity space of five of the houses would be "well below the level that would be reasonably expected"
- Lack of visitor car parking spaces
- Lack of car parking for proposed commercial units

If you want to read the inspector's judgement in full you can find a link on our website www.stansted.net

GARDEN RUBBISH BAGS

Garden waste bags can be purchased from the Parish Council Office at a cost of £1.20. Uttlesford will collect these on the same day they collect your brown kitchen waste caddy.

SPEED WATCH VOLUNTEERS

The importance of the activities of the Speed Watch team was highlighted by the comments of the Judge who sentenced the driver involved in the tragic accident on Cambridge Road. The driver concerned was "slightly" above the speed limit but this was a major factor in the "catastrophic" incident. Ray Woodcock, Chairman of the Speed Watch team said "I know we all volunteer as much spare time as possible to Speed Watch. If only there were more volunteers, enabling us to get out more often, this young life may have been saved." If you are interested in volunteering your services please contact Ray by email:

raymond.woodcock@btopenworld.com

AUTUMN LITTER PICK

There was a very good turn out for the recent Litter Pick. We would like to thank all the volunteers and also express our appreciation of the support from Churchill's who provided a complementary meal to all participants.

VILLAGE BONFIRE

Despite a torrential down pour of rain an hour before the bonfire was due to be lit over a thousand people turned out for the bonfire and firework display. Thankfully the rain eased and had more or less stopped completely by the time the firework display was ignited at 7.30. The organisers were really pleased with the positive comments they received as people made their way home as everybody seemed to have a really good evening. An event like this couldn't happen without a lot

of people being prepared to support village activities, so we would like to say a big thank you to all those who have given up their time to help organise and prepare the event. In particular we would like to thank James Deeks and his team for the firework display, Mike Byrne and his helpers who built the bonfire, Ian Jonas who laid on all the electrics and lighting, the Air Cadets for providing the marshals, and the Scouts for taking on all the catering arrangements. The whole process of setting up and clearing away this event was made easier in particular by Jon Frans who gave up a lot of his time.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The attendance at this year's Service of Remembrance was really impressive with over four hundred villagers gathering in the Memorial Gardens to join in with the Choir, Clergy, Uniformed Organisations and Parish Councillors who had paraded from Crafton Green. We were also very pleased to welcome service personnel from the nearby Carver Barracks.

NEW SKATEPARK DESIGN

After consultation with the Skatepark Action Group the Parish Council selected a design and build company called Free Style as Preferred Contractors for our new skatepark. Their design won them unanimous support from The Action Group. The majority of the funding is now in place and we are hopeful that construction work will start in May 2015 and that the park will open in July next year.

VILLAGE POND

Despite the rather inclement weather a group of willing volunteers gathered at the village pond on Sunday 2 November. The pond has become somewhat overgrown and in an attempt to encourage a wider variety of wildlife we decided to clear some of the vegetation that had overtaken the pond. We were supported by The Essex Conservation Volunteers who provided expert advice and the tools for the job.



By the time we finished work for the day we were able to see some open water.

We plan to organise another working party in the Spring and to try and

establish a group to manage the pond and organise quarterly clean up events.

If you would like to lend your support in the future please email: trevor.lloyd@stansted.net

MAGNA CARTA 800-DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Parish Council will be organising a dedication of the stained glass window which has been funded by an anonymous donor, with the Rev Paul Wilkins officiating (date to be confirmed). Following the ceremony they will be hosting a "liberte" tea party to celebrate Magna Carta 800. The Parish Council will also be planting some of the Magna Carta roses in the flower beds at the Memorial Gardens and sponsoring the bell ringing on the weekend of 13/14 June.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The public meeting on Tuesday 14 October was well attended and there seems to be a consensus that a Neighbourhood Plan would be beneficial to Stansted. The next stage is to establish a steering group to push the project forward. A number of people at the meeting indicated that they would be willing to contribute to the work of the steering group so it is hoped we can establish the group and start work in the near future. The Parish Council are looking to recruit a suitably qualified and experienced person to provide administrative support to the the steering group and to draft the documentation.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

From Cllr John Salmon

The Cabinet unanimously recommended to Full Council that as from January 2015 all employees of Uttlesford District Council will be paid the Living Wage. The Council will in due course hope to get accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation. It is hoped that this might encourage other employers in the district to do likewise. It was also agreed to accept the Bentfield Green Conservation Area appraisal.

From Cllr Alan Dean

I attended UDC's annual housing conference in early November. It was looking at what new ways can be found to meet the growing need for homes to rent, especially (relatively) affordable homes for those unable to afford to buy or rent a home in the private market. One question that came up was whether Uttlesford should accept new council houses as part of planning agreements or stick with a proportion of new homes on all larger developments being built by housing associations. The latter usually deliver up to 40% of the total as housing association (HA) properties. The developer provides the land at below market price and HA pays to build the properties. At the proposed Walpole Farm scheme in Stansted the developer is offer-

ing to provide the land and the houses to the council as council houses for rent. The catch is that there would be about half the number, though the rents should allow UDC to build more council homes in future years. After many years of building no council properties, Uttlesford has started to build again in small numbers. It has not yet been decided which way to go, so if you have any views, please let me know so I can take them to a future housing board meeting.

One interesting piece of evidence I picked up at the conference: in a national survey 80% of people accept that there is a housing crisis in England; but only 42% of people agreed that there is a problem near them. Is that why we have a housing crisis; that collectively we all think it is someone else's problem somewhere else?

FESTIVE CAR PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

Uttlesford District Council have decided to introduce:

- Free parking on all Council managed car parks EXCEPT Fairycroft/Waitrose from Christmas Eve to Friday 2 January
- Free parking all day on Saturday 6 December in the Lower Street car park in Stansted due to the Christmas Market
- 'Free after 3pm' on all managed car parks from 1 to 23 December (except Fairycroft/Waitrose).

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

December

10th Finance and General Purposes
17th Full Council

January

14th Open Spaces
21st Full Council

SIR ALAN HASELHURST SURGERY DATES

December 5th

Guildhall, Thaxted 5.45-6.30pm
The Old Armoury, Saffron Walden- 7.00-7.45pm

January 19th

Village Hall, Boreham 5-15-6.00pm
Town Council Offices, Dunmow 6.30-7.15pm

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

Member of Parliament

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

Police

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

Neighbourhood Watch

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

Parish Public Transport Representatives

Valerie Trundle 813433 Joy Thomas 813871

Stansted Christmas Market

Friday 5th December 4-8 pm and Saturday 6th December 10 am -4 pm

Crafton Green Car Park and Day Centre

Hopefully you will have seen the publicity for an event we were calling The Frost Fayre and have Friday 6th and Saturday 7th December marked on your calendars. In response to feedback from residents we have changed the name of our event to more accurately reflect what will be on offer, so from now on it will be known as **Stansted Christmas Market**.

We are pleased to report that we have a good variety of stalls booked for both days but there is still some spare capacity, if any additional traders would like to have a presence at the market on either day. Booking forms are available on our website or you can contact the council office.

There will be a good selection of festive food and drink including the German Gluh Wien which many of you enjoyed last year. There are rides and other entertainment for the children, including a visit from Santa on the Friday evening. It will also be a good opportunity to do some Christmas shopping with original presents from local craftspeople. We are locating all the charity stalls in the Day Centre so you can support some of the local good causes. Hot drinks and refreshments are also being served in the Day Centre so you can socialise and warm up in comfort.



There will be festive music on Friday evening provided by local primary school choirs, and on Saturday the senior school choirs will be supporting Emily Yar-row. Capoeira will be demonstrating some dance moves you may want to incorporate into your routines for the Christmas Party season.

Keith Honour is bringing along his steam engine and fairground organ which are always a popular attraction and adds to the festive atmosphere.

There is free car parking in the Lower Street car park on Friday evening and all day Saturday, and City and Country have generously agreed to make their car park in Bentfield Road available on the Saturday.

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Wednesday 31st December

Thursday 1st January

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Your Parish Councillors and Staff wish all our parishioners a

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK	Contact: Kathy West Tel: 816293
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Email:kewest@btinternet.com
Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	Pilots (age 5-18)	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbow Tots (age 1½-rising 3)	Tina South Tel: 814371
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net
Craft Club	Sam Debbah Tel 07866 185704 Email: tuftydawn@googlemail.com	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1 @btinternet.com
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Inner Wheel Club	Brenda Cox, President Tel: 812191 Email: brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk	U3A	Christine Chair Tel: 817587
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.com		
NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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As every year, we have included the theme of Remembrance in our curriculum and as one of our assembly themes for November. Parents and the school are proud that our pupils help to read the names of the fallen during the Remembrance Sunday service. This year we have also created our own memorial

to local people who lost their lives, and children included names of their own relatives. The children enjoyed a visit by two soldiers of the Royal Engineers, from Carver Barracks, who spent the morning in school to speak of their experiences, equipment and to share our remembrance assembly.



The theme for indoor PE last half term was Dance. The outcome of a six-week block of work was each class performing a dance they had created to music of their choice. We made a super day of this by staging a Dance Share. All the children were able to watch the other classes perform their dances, and there were additional performances by the Dance Club and the Baton Twirling Club. It was a thrilling end to the half term!

The PTFA are arranging a Quiz Night for Saturday 29th November. Look out for the flyers for details on timing and how to buy tickets. Christmas is already on the horizon. Music has been planned, scripts written and glitter has begun to appear on the carpets! The school will be taking part in a Christmas concert at Forest Hall School and also the CTS Celebration of Christmas in St John's, as well as our own Christmas events and services. Thank you to all those parents who took up the invitation to visit St Mary's to see the school at work. If any prospective parents have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Christine Tonkins
Headteacher
Tel: 812212

Email: admin@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk

ST MARY'S SCHOOL PTFA

Christmas Shopping Evening

Friday 12th December 6.30pm-8.30pm. Stalls, Santa's grotto, raffle, children's crafts, hot food. Entry £1 per adult to include a glass of fizz, children free.

Angela Madigan
St Mary's PTFA



UTTLESFORD CAB UPDATE

www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk

Are you ready for winter?

If money is tight, it's tempting not to turn the heating up, even when it's really cold. As with everything – it's getting the balance right. Keep the part of the house where you spend most of the time warm (18-21 degrees). Shop around for the best energy deal. Check that you are getting all the benefits you are entitled to. See if you can make savings elsewhere to cope with your bill. Ring our **Money Doctor Service** for advice on 01799 618840.

If you live alone or are caring for someone, it's really helpful to talk over what you would do if there was a power cut or you became ill when the weather was bad. Contact our **Disability Home Visit Team** on 01799 618848 for information and details of the help on offer – from making sure you get help in a power cut to working out who will clear your path after it snows! If you know somebody of pensionable age or who is registered disabled, has a hearing or visual impairment or has long-term ill health, they should be on the **priority services register**. This is a scheme which offers extra free services; contact us or your energy supplier for more information.

Look out for the 'Keep Warm in Uttlesford' leaflet that has a free room temperature card and loads of helpful, local information.

New Year, new challenge!

Are you looking for an opportunity to get more involved in your local community and help make a difference?

- **Trustees** - We are currently looking for a volunteer trustee with fundraising experience and great communication skills to lead our exciting new fundraising campaign, requiring occasional daytime and evening meetings and a time commitment of approximately two days per month.
- **Press Officer** – If you have copywriting experience and can spare a few hours a month to write or edit articles and press releases for us, then we would love to hear from you.
- **CAB Champions!** – We would like to build up a network of supporters across the district prepared to top up leaflets, put up posters, post updates on social network sites and be willing to meet with or write to Parish Councillors/representatives to support our applications for funding. Contact us for more information.
- **Language Friends** – Could you help someone in need of advice who struggles with language? If you are fluent in a foreign language and would be happy to go on our database please get in touch.

Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau offers a free, impartial and independent service, with a wide range of support available from general advice to specialist help dealing with serious debt problems, employment disputes, housing and family issues. Call or email to arrange to speak to an experienced and friendly adviser. Appointments available in Stansted on Thursdays 9.30am-12.30pm.

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Nature Notes

As the days get shorter and chillier, I would like to transport you to Italy, to the long warm autumn days in northern Tuscany. In the extreme north-west, lying between two mountain ranges, is the Garfagnana. This region has one of the highest rainfalls in Italy (generally in winter) and its limestone mountain slopes are densely covered with deciduous woods. Sweet chestnut on the lower slopes gives way higher up to beech with its spectacular autumn colours. These woods are very beautiful with the sunlight filtering through the trees. Above 1600m the trees become more stunted and peter out. This area is the meeting point of two vegetation zones, Mediterranean and Alpine. Two thirds of Italy's known species of flora are found here. Even in October a casual walker will notice the great variety of flowers: cyclamens in the woods, campanulas beside the woodland paths, pinks growing between the rocks, autumn crocuses, harebells, scabious, chicory and viper's bugloss in the fields round the villages. Scented herbs such as thyme and marjoram grow on the limestone and there is a particular species of mountain thyme locally called pepolino.



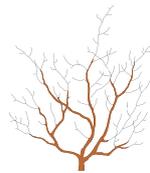
Higher up, as you climb above the treeline, you find bilberries, bearberries and heather. Juniper and broom grow in the open grassy areas and on the rocky summits are alpine plants such as rock jasmine, small cushions with tiny pink stalkless flowers. Now and again you spot the unmistakable blue of a gentian. At the end of September and early October near the village houses, walnut trees shed their nuts and small stretches of vines bear ripening red and white grapes. These are for the use of their owners as wine is not produced commercially here. One farmer grows saf-ron between his vines, making use of the spare ground.

The area is rich in wildlife. Red deer live in the woods and here too you find moufflon, the ancestor of our domestic sheep, with their horns and shaggy brown coats. They climb through the woods up onto the rocky summits. Marmots too inhabit the upper slopes of these mountains. They are rodents belonging to the squirrel family and are a protected species. When alarmed they emit a whistle and rapidly disappear into their underground system of tunnels and burrows. Their worst enemy is the golden eagle. At present there are five pairs in the Garfagnana. This is an optimum number making it unnecessary for the young to seek new territories.

Rosina Kirkwood

WINTER GARDENING TIPS

Winter months, as well as being cold, can be too wet to venture outside; therefore it is a good time for planning planting ideas and other changes. Extremes of weather require care and maintenance for vulnerable plants, so a sojourn outside the warmth of the household will be necessary. Clear damp leaves from plant crowns. Check newly planted trees and shrubs, heavy frosts can cause the root-balls to lift and loosen, firm these as required. Protect plants vulnerable to wind and cold. If we receive any snow, brush heavily laden trees and conifers to reduce the risk of branches breaking or collapsing. Protect any terracotta or glazed pots that are vulnerable to cracking when frozen, bubble wrap works well. Earth up and firm in tall Brussels sprout stems to support them, they taste better after they have been exposed to a frost too, and harvest from the bottom upwards. Deciduous trees and shrubs can be pruned to create an open shape to encourage healthy growth in summer. Complete pruning of Japanese maples, birch, walnut, lime trees and grape vines by the end of December to reduce risk of bleeding from the bark (caused by early rising sap). When the lawn is not too wet, spiking with a hollow tiner or a fork can provide a route for oxygen to get down into the root zone and provide a healthier rooting environment. Prune taller bush roses by half to reduce the risk of winter winds rocking them and breaking branches. Avoid over watering house plants and plants that have been brought under cover



for their own protection, barely damp is the optimum soil condition for most plants in a protected winter environment. If the soil is wet and sticky enough to stick easily to the boots, then stay off it!

Paul the Gardener

RED CROSS AUTUMN FAIR



The October fair at Parklands, Quendon raised £9,200 for the British Red Cross. Thank you to everyone who came and to those who helped to make it such a successful event.

Rosina Kirkwood
Tel: 816916

NATURE NOTES APPEAL

The Link is looking for more people to join the rota for our regular, and much loved Nature Notes feature. Currently each of our enthusiastic 'nature noters' contributes once every three months, but of course if more people get involved it could be as little as once or twice a year. You don't need to be an expert, just have an interest in the natural world around us. It's an ideal opportunity to share your observations and thoughts with the rest of us. Please contact me for details.

Yvonne Ayres
Tel: 814706
Email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

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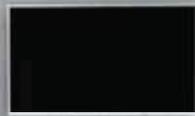
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We have enjoyed a flurry of fundraising to round off 2014 and would like to thank everyone who has supported St Clare, in

whatever way. We literally could not keep offering the care that we do to local families without your help. The Manuden Charity Lunch in October raised £1,621.71 - a testament to the hard work put in by volunteer organiser, Peter Heap - when guests enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the wonderful team from Manuden WI. We had a quiz night organised by Laura Halsey of DC Poulton and her cousin, Kelly. Their first event, the girls raised a fabulous total of £1,452.81, so congratulations to them and everyone involved. Troupier that she is, Laura was out again, with her mum and auntie for our bucket collection at the Stansted Firework Display and, despite unpromising (!) weather, raised £167.40 which was brilliant! Our Stansted Supporters will be holding their annual Christmas Bridge Drive on 21st December so we are hoping for a good turn-out for that! Look out for our stall at the Stansted Christmas Market - we are in the Day Centre on the evening of Friday 5th December, so do come and say hello! We are holding a 'Light up a Life' service at St Mary's Church at 11.00am on Sunday 14th December. This is an opportunity for local people to come together to remember loved ones at what can be a very difficult time of the year. All are welcome and further details can be found on our website by going to www.stclarehospice.org.uk/light-up-a-life.html. And, finally, a reminder about how you can support the Hospice by giving a home to one of our cute Christmas reindeer. If you would like a box to sell within your local church, community group or even to family and friends, do get in touch!



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

The 2015 SSE popular Community Calendar is now on sale, featuring beautiful views of homes and heritage in the shadow of Stansted Airport. All proceeds will be used in the continuing campaign by SSE to fight off the threat of an extra runway or runways at Stansted Airport. The A3 calendars, priced £6, are on sale at 20 shops across the area (see website for details), as well as from a sales team drawn from SSE's members. The campaign office can also arrange gift mailing at a small extra charge. In December 2013 the Airports Commission appointed by the Government under the chairmanship of Sir Howard Davies published its interim report. It recommended that there should be one extra runway in London and the south-east by 2030, and it drew up a short-list of three options on where that runway should be. Two of the three were at Heathrow, one at Gatwick, so Stansted is not immediately in the firing line. However we cannot relax; the Commission is only advisory. It will publish its final report in the summer of 2015, after the next general election, but it will be open to the Government to reject its recommendations - and we have seen plenty of U-turns over the years. Also it is possible that at some stage the owners of Stansted Airport will apply for an increase in the numbers of passengers and flights authorised on the existing runway at Stansted. So our campaign continues.



www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



We are celebrating the centenary of the WI in England and Wales in 2015 and all this year a specially designed baton has travelled around the country, collecting 12 selected photos, on a memory stick, from all the 69 federations in the country. Each federation has planned a special event which will represent all WI members and their local areas. These pictures will form an archive of this time in the history of the WI and our countryside; so very different from 100 years ago, but still a place to find friendship and fun. The baton is coming to Saffron Walden on 30th November and the Institutes in this area are having a stall as part of the Christmas Market, an exhibition in the Town Hall, and also a Service in St Mary's. The baton will end its journey next June at our AGM in the Albert Hall.

Last month we enjoyed a visit from Brian D'Arcy, a Yeoman Warder, who lived in the Tower of London for 23 years with his wife and son. The 25ft thick walls were designed to keep people in or out and the Tower was originally built as a defence fortress. Many famous people have been detained in the Tower and at one time, before execution, the prisoner would be taken to the Tower Inn for a flagon of ale and invited to have 'one for the road'! Princess Elizabeth was kept in the Tower for four months and released when no charges were brought, to be crowned Queen four years later. During the last war Rudolf Hess was imprisoned in the Tower and one bomb fell into the moat - I don't think these two events were connected! It is thought that the Tower will crumble if there are no ravens there, so they keep at least six; Brian said they are quite vicious and can live for 30 years. He loved escorting schoolchildren around and regaling them with bloodthirsty stories. On 11th December we are having an evening of Christmas crafts led by members, and on 8th January the return of local singer Emily Yarrow. Visitors are always welcome, so come if you can. We meet in the Day Centre at 7.45pm.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470
Email: judycolliver@uwclub.net

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

The recent 60s/70s dance at Forest Hall School was a great success. The theme **'Saturday Night Fever'** evoked some great outfits befitting the era. The live music was performed by Archive and, of course, the delectable duo, Maggie and Jan, as Vintage Velvet, singing popular songs from Abba and the Drifters amongst others. There were two winners of the champagne this year for the best outfits; those fantastic bell-bottoms certainly brought back memories! I guess, too, there may have been a few aching limbs the following morning.



Jenny kindly laid the wreath on behalf of the Stansted U3A membership at the Remembrance Service at St John's Church, which is always a moving tribute to our war heroes. Local children read out the names of local soldiers who gave up their today so we could have tomorrow.

Journey into Space!

The U3A seminar programme is very excited to announce that Dr Carolin Crawford, Professor of Astronomy at Gresham College, Cambridge, has agreed to present a special Thursday evening Astronomy Seminar for us on 26th February at the Day Centre. Carolin is well known to members of Bishop's Stortford Café Scientifique as a speaker who enthral her audience with her knowledge and her fantastic pictures of Space, many taken from the Hubble Space Telescope and space mission probes. More details will be sent to U3A members in January and will be on the village noticeboards. The event is open to all in the village. Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members from Alan on 07790 213510 or email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com.

A four day holiday is planned for 4th-7th September to the Dorset Coast and Country staying in Bournemouth at a cost of £215 (£220 single supplement), bookings being taken at the November meeting. The next meeting is on Thursday 11th December in St John's Hall, doors open at 1.30pm. There will not be a speaker at this meeting, but members will be able to enjoy a coffee or tea with a mince pie. A festive quiz may also be on the cards. Be prepared for a fun afternoon! The Christmas lunch is fully booked. The following meeting is Thursday 15th January at 1.30pm in St John's Hall, speaker to be confirmed. The U3A will be decorating a Christmas tree at the Festival of Angels and Christmas Trees at St Mary's Church on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December 10.00am-5.00pm. Visit our website for full details and watch out for new activities at the meetings. For further information please contact Chris (Chair) on 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) on 814304.



Caroline Bore



STORT VALLEY ROTARY

www.stortvalleyrotary.com

At the beginning of this month, we began our preparations for Rotary Santa to visit the streets of Stansted with his sleigh and carols. Santa's first event of the year is to Stansted Christmas Market on Friday 5th December where he is in attendance from 5.00pm-7.00pm. On Tuesday 16th December from 5.30pm Santa will make his way through the streets of Forest Hall Park and on Thursday 18th December again from 5.30pm to Mountfichet Green and Croasdale Road. We know from past years what excitement these visits bring to children of all ages as Santa comes along the roads in his illuminated sleigh with Christmas music playing, so please have warm clothes and shoes ready for the children to dash out to tell Santa their Christmas wishes and receive some sweets from him. The main purpose is to bring to local children something of the magic of Christmas, but we also use the occasion to collect for local charities. Last year, we gave donations to Great Hallingbury Friendship Club (which provides small outings and social interaction each month to elderly people often living alone), Stansted Working Men's Club, Stansted Hall Cricket Club Juniors and the Birchanger Wood Trust, amongst others. Finally, thanks to Hatfield Forest Explorer Scouts who give fantastic help to Santa in making his rounds in Stansted and, of course, a Happy Christmas to you all from Rotary! We invite you to visit our website where you can find out about our Club and also read the latest edition of our lively award winning newsletter and get a flavour of our range of activities and our Club's speaker programme. We meet on Tuesdays, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2JZ.

Jan Durkin
Tel: 01799 516186
Email: jandurkin94@gmail.com

MAGNA CARTA 800



A Tournament of Champions in full costume will be displayed as **Jousting** is added to the Falconry at the Baron's Medieval Fayre. Long Bow Archery will also bring a spirit of competition and whet the appetites for a Hog Roast to follow. Our distant cousins in Montfiquet, Normandy, have kept in touch and are excitedly arranging a representation to share in next year's celebrations.

We are now able to confirm the following 2015 dates:

- 14th June Commemoration service and BBQ
- 19th June Unveiling of Stansted Magna Carta embroidery
- 19th June Exhibition of Magna Carta Facsimile
- 22nd June 10.30am arrival of our Herald, Lance Allan, who is cycling to all of the 25 barons' main caputs symbolically bringing our Sheriff the copy Magna Carta
- 27th June The Baron's Medieval Fayre.

Nigel Collingwood
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Well this year has gone by so quickly, and we had our last business breakfast of the year on 7th November at Linden House. We have gone from strength to strength with our membership constantly growing. Kevin Deamer of KMD Private Wealth management gave us a really interesting insight into what they do as a company. He talked about life planning in retirement. We also learnt a new word 'Decumulation' which is about the return of our money when we retire, under controlled conditions. Jo French of X-Press Legal Services does a fantastic job looking after our Facebook page and also Twitter. She helped to demystify social media for members so that those who are a bit reluctant to advertise their companies could understand how important social media can be for their businesses.



At the meeting everyone has a slot to stand up and tell everyone what they do. The good news is that a lot of members recommend other businesses for work. Peter James of Murdoch's Property Shop, who is the Secretary of the Forum, won the prize for recommending over seven businesses for work. Hopefully you have all received a copy of the Business Forum Directory. Let us know if you have not received yours as we have some fantastic businesses for you to choose from when you make your future purchases. So a big thank you to all our members who have supported the Forum over the past year and to Linden House for providing such wonderful breakfasts. Next year we will introduce you to some of our businesses with a spotlight on some of our members. We will also be busy planning our summer fayre which was a huge success this year. So we wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. We will be at Linden House celebrating on 5th December.



Iris Evans
Treasurer
Tel: 815848



Christmas Party

The Ladies Circle are kindly supporting Spangles this Christmas by organising a special Christmas Party for families with children from 0-5 years. The party will be on Thursday 11th December 10.00am-noon and places are limited. To join in with the fun you will need to book a free ticket by asking at our weekly Stay and Play sessions on Thursday mornings or calling 812348.



Lesley Murdoch
Community engagement and
volunteer coordinator

THE CRAFTON ROOM

www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk

Hello Wembley - well at least Stansted - just in time for the start of the Christmas social calendar which is fully booked here at the Crafton Room. I am very pleased to say that we have had our new, long-awaited sound system installed. Whether it is background music you are looking for, hearing loop access, wireless or desktop microphones, we have it all, so meetings at the Day Centre should now be a pleasure for everyone. I would like to thank James Playle at Stortford Audio for the excellent service he provided us with from advising on a suitable system to installation and user support. With something always going on here, mid-November saw myself and a coach full of our customers enjoying a trip to Loughton to see a performance of 'Songs that Won the War'. With a talented cast including our very own cook Jo Halladey and her daughter to entertain us, and sausage and chips for lunch, a lovely afternoon was had by all. On the subject of lovely afternoons, on Friday 12th December we will be having our annual Christmas lunch; please call to book your place but be advised that places go quickly for this popular event. We will be closing for Christmas after lunch on Tuesday 23rd December and reopening 10.00am on Friday 2nd January, but if you would like a bit of social interaction between Christmas and the New Year we will be opening our doors on Tuesday 30th December between 10.00am and 12.00pm for a morning of company, coffee and homemade cake; this will be a free, informal, drop in event so come and join us. Don't forget that Fish and Chip Friday will be back on 30th January at 12.30pm. Wishing you all a Peaceful Christmas.



Julie Beck, Centre manager
Tel: 815091
Email: juliebeck1989@gmail.com



**STANSTED
MOUNTFITCHET
WINDMILL**

Our 'Flog It' evening in October was well attended and our supporters obtained some very good bargains. The evening raised over £350 for our charity thanks to the sterling work of our Auctioneer, Sue Hitchmough, to whom we are very grateful. We are all ready for our winter coffee morning and are also preparing for the Christmas Market on 6th December, 10.00am-4.00pm, when we will be in the Crafton Room. Do come and see us - we have some new items this year including some goodies for the children. Thanks to the good offices of Sheila Clark, the Windmill will be displaying a Christmas tree, with many others, at St Mary's Church and we hope you will be able to go along to support the church. All the above will show that we Millers are very active Fundraisers. Make a New Year's resolution to become a Miller; come to our AGM on 6th March and you will see it can be fun! Last but not least I would mention that, for family and personal reasons, our current Secretary is unable to continue in that post and consequently we need to find someone else to fill that voluntary role. Could this be you? If you are interested and willing to help please give me a call. Come and see me. It may just be for you! A Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful 2015 to you all from the Windmill Committee.



Molly Clark
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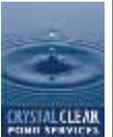
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Our little Birchanger caterpillars and butterflies were very lucky to have a mud kitchen installed recently, all thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Committee members, parents and fundraisers. The children have had great fun



measuring, mixing and concocting some marvellous mud pie creations but we are still a little short of some essential kit for the kitchen. If you happen to be having a

clear out we are looking for plastic jugs, wooden spoons, sieves and the like and we would be extremely grateful for any donations of these items. Here it is in all its glory!!

Christmas is such an exciting time of year for our little ones and we have so much to look forward to. Firstly our annual Christmas party for the children is taking place on 11th December at Birchanger Village Hall. We're sure the children will enjoy the fun and games, not to mention all the party food! Secondly, our older children will be participating in the Christmas nativity where parents are invited to watch their little stars (or shepherds) perform. It is a wonderful opportunity to see how the children have blossomed since joining the Nursery and it can be quite emotional. January will see us welcoming the next set of children into the Nursery; we have many exciting topics planned and can't wait to see you all in the new year. We provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2½ to 5. To arrange a visit see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery or telephone Jen Munton on 810800 or email: admin@birchangernursery.org.

Kirsty Moore
Birchanger Nursery Committee



www.saffronhall.com

Second Concert Date with Nicola Benedetti

Saffron Hall is pleased to announce a second date with star violinist **Nicola Benedetti**. Originally scheduled for just one concert on 28th February (now sold out) with elite period-instrument ensemble La Cetra Barockorchester Basel and conductor Andrea Marcon, there was such demand for tickets, that the programme of Italian Baroque concertos, including Vivaldi's beloved *The Four Seasons*, will also be given on Friday 27th February. Tickets are selling fast, and are available from the website or the box office tel 0845 548 7650 (Mon-Sat 10.00am-5.00pm). More information about Saffron Hall from the website or telephone 01799 512190.

Samantha Walker



BEEKEEPING

How disappointing! I have had no feedback since my piece in last month's Link challenging our Parish Council councillors to lead the way in the Call for Action on pollinators, by finding a sponsor to distribute a packet of wild flower seeds to each household for residents to spread around the village. As a result, my bees have had a meeting of the Hive Committee and decided to withdraw all pollination activities in Stansted from next spring (only joking, the Hive Committee is too busy arranging their Christmas lunch at the moment). On a more serious note, I would like to illustrate how vulnerable our bees are, by letting you know of a situation which developed recently here in Stansted. I am mentoring one of our members in Stansted who came on the Beginners Course this year and is now keeping bees in their garden. At the end of the summer, she noticed piles of dead bees in front of the hive. I said this was normal, as the male drones were ejected from the hive in autumn as the female workers reduced the need for food in winter, and the drones are expendable, but she found more and more dead bees. No-one in our Association had an answer, so she called the National Bee Unit, and they suggested it might be Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus. The symptoms of this are that the infected bees become black and shiny and 'shake' or 'shiver'. The other healthy bees notice this and eject the sick bees to save the colony from further infection. In extreme cases, if this battle is lost, then the colony will die and we lose another set of pollinators. The unit is due to send their local Bee Inspector to confirm this is the problem, and suggest solutions. So here in Stansted, we have had an illustration of the vulnerability of our pollinators, and how seriously the Government is taking this through the support given by the National Bee Unit. Do the Parish Council want to think again about supporting the Call for Action? We really do need our pollinators!



John Dockerill
Chairman
Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association
Email: training@stortfordbees.org.uk



STANSTED CONSERVATIVES

Stansted Conservatives will be holding their Annual Christmas Supper on Saturday 6th December 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre. This is a popular event and early booking is advisable. Tickets £15 from Bridget on 814440 or Joan on 814854. There will also be a raffle.

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This term has been full of fun and surprises. Laura, a young Dutch friend, spoke about her life in The Netherlands, and encouraged the children to ask her questions about her activities there and here. William Frogley, part of the Pilot team, shared stories about his young ventures. The children were very excited to try on William's actual flying jacket that he wore, aged 10, when he went flying with his father. As usual, Pilots were represented at the Remembrance Day Service around the War Memorial, when some children carried the Club's flag and laid the poppy wreath.



Pilots are looking forward to an evening of celebration following the recent prestigious award to their leaders. It was a proud moment when Councillor Keith Artus presented Valerie and Peter Trundle with the 'Service to Children and Young People' award in recognition of 40 years working with children and young people in the community. Michelle King, their daughter, who was also present at the ceremony, became a Pilot aged six, and remembers the tremendous dedication of her parents to the Club.



Nicola Grieves will help to prepare towards the Sunday 7th December 10.30am gathering at Stansted Free Church, when the Pilots will receive their Log books and Seals (badges), which represent their achievements and commitment over the past year. Children over five are welcome to join Pilots one Monday a month. We always have a fun time. Regular updates of the Club can be found on www.facebook.com/pages/Stansted-Pilots. If you are interested, please contact Valerie Trundle on 813433 or email: sanjukta@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk.

Sanjukta Ghosh

Stansted Tennis Club



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Cayless Chilli Tournament

Twelve players competed in this annual Tournament in October. The final was won by Chris Hollis and Rick Lim who defeated John Nichol and Felicity Shakespeare 6-0. A delicious bring-and-share chilli lunch was enjoyed by the players after the tournament. It was great to have Honorary Member Fran Cayless both playing and also presenting the trophy to the winners.

Junior Ladder

Congratulations to all 25 junior members who have competed so enthusiastically over the summer. Lots of matches have been played giving the junior players a great opportunity to develop competitively. The trophy winners for the three age groups were Sam Philp, Jonny Philp and Finley Slater. Prizes were awarded to the top three in each section as well as in categories for the most matches played and those with the most number of overall wins.

Ladies' Nights

Monday 8th December and Monday 12th January at 7.00pm. All lady members (especially new ones) welcome to play.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 10th February 8.00pm at 105 Cambridge Road. All Club members are warmly invited.

Club sessions

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

Contacts:

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574. If you would like to find out more about Stansted Tennis Club, please visit the website.



Chris Hollis



*Stansted
Cricket
Club*

A group of 20 members and guests attended the HECL Presentation Evening (Dinner and Dance) on Saturday 25th October, at which the Club received three team trophies and three individual trophies. The speaker was the ex-England and Gloucestershire bowler, Jon Lewis. Finance has been obtained for several closed-season improvement projects: installation of a glass washer; phase two of the bar renovation; and new roofs on the pavilion, and work is expected to start shortly. No other Club activities are planned until the resumption of indoor nets, probably next February. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact me. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



David Hedge, Hon Secretary
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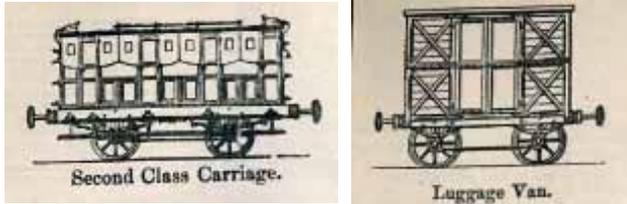
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DID YOU KNOW?



On Wednesday 30th July 1845, our railway line opened from Bishop's Stortford to Cambridge and thence to Ely and Norwich. The following Monday, 4th August, the 11.30am from London, a 'Quick Train', left Shoreditch on time. It was composed of two 2nd class and three 1st class carriages and behind the engine a luggage van and horsebox containing two horses; at the rear another truck and horse box.



The train proceeded as booked, calling at Broxbourne, Bishop's Stortford and Wendon, where the rear truck and horse box were detached. The train now seemed to travel faster than previously producing a violent oscillation. Entering a cutting near Littlebury station the passengers sustained a slight shock followed by a most violent one, accompanied by an explosion. A torrent of fire, dust, dirt, and steam enveloped the train and the roaring of the engine was so frightful as to terrify the passengers. The engine, breaking away from the tender, crossed the track, lying bottom upwards, a complete wreck. The tender was some distance in advance doubled up, whilst the horsebox and van were on fire. Many passengers were taken from the train apparently dead and others much bruised but all survived. The mail guard, John Cauldwell, riding on top of the carriage was found laying on his back the wheels having passed over one of his legs, shockingly crushing it. He was transferred to Addenbrookes Hospital, but died on Friday night.

The guard sent passengers to Littlebury to summon help. The scene was unparalleled in railway accidents; both lines for 200 yards were torn up. The engineer was found alive, little injured; but his stoker was discovered to be lying under the engine, one of his hands being just visible. In about an hour a pilot engine arrived from Cambridge and dragged away the wreckage. With jacks men lifted the engine and extracted the remains of the unfortunate Richard Peake whose body was burnt and scalded to a frightful extent, recognition was impossible; he was removed to the Falcon Inn, Littlebury to await the Coroner's inquiry. The Coroner's verdict was: "Accidental death, and a deodand of £150 on the engine". The Jury hoped that no 'Quick Train' would be allowed to run on any part of the line till it had become much more consolidated. Damage was assessed to be about £6,000. After a further derailment between Waterbeach and Ely the reason for the catastrophe was found to be the locomotive, originally built for a 7ft gauge but reduced to the Eastern Counties 4ft 8.1/2", which disastrously altered the profile of the wheels.

Ralph Phillips

At our November meeting, Paul Winspear treated us to a very enjoyable lighthearted evening, giving us a voyage through time over the last 150 years, touching on local and international events as seen through our local paper, The Observer, with plenty of illustrations. Around 1861 was the golden age in publishing. With technical advances in printing, duties on newspapers had been abolished as well as tax on advertising. Conditions were ripe for the launch of a newspaper in Bishop's Stortford, so on Saturday 6th April 1861, on the eve of the 1861 Census, the Bishop Stortford Observer was first published by 28 year old Thomas Belsey who had been appointed postmaster of Bishop's Stortford the year before. Note that the 's on Bishop's Stortford did not appear until the renaming of the town to Bishop's Stortford in 1886. Just to give an idea of the era, Abraham Lincoln takes office, sparking the American civil war; Charles Dickens had just completed Great Expectations; and the world was without cars, planes and electricity!! The full title of the Newspaper was 'Bishop Stortford Observer and Harlow, Hatfield Broad Oak, Dunmow, Stansted, Sawbridgeworth, Hadham and Thaxted Advertiser' which in a few weeks added Newport and Saffron Walden and promised "Truth, fairness and impartiality". It consisted of four pages, with six columns to a page, costing one penny. Paul then took us on through all the prominent points in past history showing us how the Observer covered the stories with illustrations including the deaths and coronations of four monarchs, the Boer Wars, both world wars, and the advent of cars, powered flight, the telephone, cinema and television. Other local memorable events covered were: 1902 The death of Cecil Rhodes, the Stortford man who became a South African politician and founding member of Rhodesia and formed De Beers Diamond Co; the death of Camille Holland at Moat Farm near Clavering by Samuel Dougal, in which the Observer carried a detailed account of his hanging; the expansion of Stansted Airport and the M11; and in February 1970, the Rooks Farm Kidnapping and murder case in Stocking Pelham.

Next meetings: 4th December at the Crafton Centre at 8.00pm, and 8th January in the Hall behind the Free Church on Chapel Hill near Millways, also at 8.00pm. All welcome.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

Email: stephenleaney@gmail.com

Poppy Appeal

I cannot give a full report this month as The Link deadline is 11th November, Armistice Day! Services will be held throughout the country to mark this.

The Poppy Appeal has only just closed, but the feeling is that there has been a marvellous response. The centenary of the start of World War I (the War to end all Wars) together with the breath-taking and moving display of Ceramic Poppies at the Tower has brought the appeal to the forefront with wonderful results. I will give a full report on the District Appeal in the next issue, but I must thank you all for your support.



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Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser
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Animal Care	Debs Dogs	26	Hairdressing	Barnet Fayre	12
	Mercer & Hughes	OBC		Lino Thomas	OBC
Art and Craft	Millway Stationery	IFC		Nicky & Co	OBC
Building	A C Wright Building Contractors	36	Halls for Hire	Forest Hall School	10
Services	Bareham Overy (Architects)	36		Ugley Village Hall	10
	Churchills General Builders	36	Household	Ken Carpet Fitter	32
	D S Designs (Architects)	IFC	Furnishings	Stort Blinds	IFC
	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	36	Household	D C Alarms	28
	David Fortune (Builder)	34	Installations	Mediacomms	28
	Vester Property Services	36		SDS Aerials	28
Carpentry	Furniture by Design	34		Stortford Audio	28
	Gillson Carpentry & Joinery	36	Hypnotherapy	Glynis Cheers	12
	Nouvelle Carpentry & Building	34		Helen Bartram	12
Cleaning	Chimney Sweep & Stoves	16	Jeweller	John Wilson	16
	Clear Ovens	16	Leisure	Elsenham Golf Club	IBC
	Domestic Goddesses	IBC	Motor Services	Bikes Wanted	18
	Ecaterina Domestic Cleaning	16		D Bonney & Sons	28
	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	16		Conway Chauffeur Drive	IFC
	Herts & Essex Carpet Cleaning	16		Hilton Rental	24
	Oven Bright	16		J & R Cars	24
	Village Chimney Sweep	16	Painting &	Ada Decorating	32
Community &	Hearing Help	12	Decorating	Brown's Painting & Decorating	32
Care	Helpline	16		David Duncan Decorating	32
	Mountfitchet House Care Home	24		Lesley Anne (Decorating)	32
	Native American & Cavalry League	10		MWR Interiors	32
	Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club	26		Ray on the Hill	32
Computing	MCM Computer Services	10		Shutes Painting & Decorating	32
	Taylor Computer Services	10		T F Plastering	32
Dance	Graham School of Dance	8	Personal	Essential Gem (Beauty)	12
	Mitchell School of Dance	8	Services	George Cooper (Physiotherapy)	6
Dental	Simply Teeth	12		R Handford (Chiropody)	6
Education &	Adult Community Learning	IBC		Julie Golden (Chiropody)	10
Children	Jan Rickwood (Baby Massage)	10		Lower Street Clinic	6
	Music Lessons	10		Stansted Chiropractic	6
	Monique's Childminding	10		Stansted Psychotherapy	12
	Rainbow Pre-School	18		Williams (Osteopath)	6
	St Nicholas School	8	Photography	Photosound	26
	Tuition	10	Pilates	Back to Basics (Pilates)	8
Electrical	Albury Electrical Services	30		Tone Pilates	8
	Ethical Electrical	30	Plumbing &	Harpers Plumbing & Heating	OBC
	Stansted Electric	30	Heating	JDW Gas Heating Specialist	34
Financial	Greenways Financial Planning	26		Jones & Co (Plumbing & Heating))	30
& Legal	Lever & Co Solicitors	18		Knight Plumbing	30
	Mansell & Co Accountants	IBC		KS Group Heating & Plumbing	30
	Mosby Financial Service	26		Newman's Home Services	30
Food	Crimson 8 Chinese	24		Orion Heating	30
	Lower Street Brasserie	IBC	Printing	Stansted Gas Services	30
	Pino Pizzeria & Grill	24		CZ Design & Print	28
	Sonargow Indian	24	Property	Aaran Glass	36
Funeral	Daniel Robinson & Sons	18	Maintenance	Bishop's Stortford Guttering	34
Services	J Day & Son	16		Do-It-4U	34
	D C Poulton & Sons	18		Fairweather Windows	IFC
Garden	N W Brown (Landscapes)	38		Finch and Son	OBC
Services	Cox Farm & Forestry	38		Garden & Property Maintenance	36
	Crystal Clear Ponds	34		Herts & Essex Window Doctor	36
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC		Todd Welding & Fabrication	36
	H2O Plants	OBC	Retailers	Family News (Londis)	10
	Steve Hall Garden Services	38		Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts)	IFC
	Lawn Supremacy	38	Spiritualists	Arthur Findlay College	18
	Mowtivated	38	Travel	Absolute Travel	IBC
	Gill Owen (Gardening Services)	38	Will Writing	Herts & Essex Wills	24
	The Secret Gardener	38		The Will Practice	IBC
	Uppercut Trees	38			

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